How to Inject Accessibility Into Your Organization

(when you can't just stop everything until you get it right)

Visa

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John Slatin AccessU 2018 May 15, 2018 Austin, TX

Today's Agenda

- Introduction
- Background
- The Problem
- Visa's Solution
- Your Solution
- Questions

Introduction

James Green

- Leads Visa's Global Accessibility and UX Research teams
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Background

What is Accessibility vs. Usability?

- Usability is the science and art of reducing visual, mental, motor, and memory load on users.
- Accessibility is Usability, with a focus on users with disabilities.
- Accessibility (abbreviated a11y) simply adds Personas to our list.
- The implementation is sometimes different, but the idea is the same: Understand your users, and design for them.

While Usability is often focused on making things easier, Accessibility is often focused on making things possible.

Digital Accessibility

Making web and mobile technology accessible is about making products and information available to... **everyone**, **everywhere**.



Diverse User Needs

There are multiple audiences who benefit from accessibility but the short answer is, everyone benefits. When we design and develop products for everyone we improve the experience for everyone.

Vision

- Blindness
- Color Blindness
- Low Vision
- Screen Glare/sunlight

Hearing

- Deafness
- Hearing Loss
- Noisy Environments

Cognitive

Attention Deficit

- Short Term Memory Loss
- Limited Problem-Solving Skill
- Limited Comprehension/Language
- Cognitive Overload

Physical

- Limited Mobility
- Slow Movement
- One Handed Mobile Use
- Reduced Dexterity
- Limited Fine Motor



Temporary Disabilities

Temporary disabilities can occur at any time of life for a variety of reasons including injury or illness.

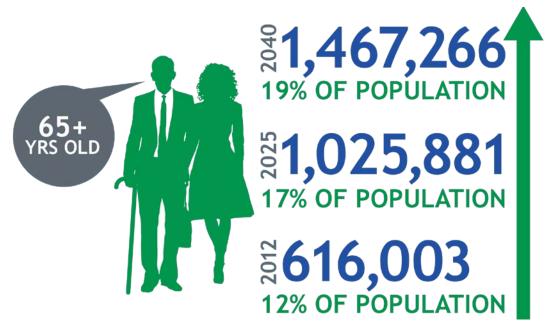
Clear Vision vs. Vision with Detached / Torn Retina



The Aging Population

As we age the likelihood of experiencing a disability, or change in ability, increases.

- Vision loss
- Hearing loss
- Decreased mobility
- Cognitive changes



Source: Colorado State Demographers Office, 2013

Assistive Technologies

Many user needs are addressed through assistive tools including hardware and software

- Screen Readers
- Closed Captioning
- Audio Description
- Screen Magnification
- Voice Dictation / Speech to Text
- Input Devices
- Keyboards
- Braille Display

Digital Inclusion – the right thing to do

Accessibility fits directly into Visa's corporate goals around financial inclusion. Developing a culture of inclusion at Visa is where it all starts.

We enable and inspire

- Inspire success
- Remove barriers
- Value inclusivity and diversity

Laws and Regulations

Making products accessible isn't just the right thing to do, sometimes it is the legal thing to do.

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)
- European Accessibility Act
- International laws

Most international a11y laws require WCAG 2.0 AA conformance

Web Accessibility lawsuits continue double digit growth

Some governments have laws that require accessibility for both public and private companies Public awareness of and demand for human rights issues continue to grow

The US DOJ prosecutes web accessibility cases under the ADA.

Market Opportunity

Beyond ethical and legal reasons for accessibility there are also significant economic benefits and business opportunity.



In annual disposable income*

57+M

2B

3B

24%

PWD in USA

PWD worldwide

Friends and Family of PWD

U.S. companies address accessibility

The Problem: You need a sustainable, scalable accessibility program.

To solve that problem, you need to ask a lot of questions...

Sustainable progress needs a strategy. To make one, you must understand:

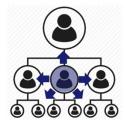
- Level of Accessibility of your Product(s)
- Leadership Support and Vision
- Current and Future Stakeholders
- Resource availability (budget, staff, tools, etc.)
- Skills and role mix among staff
- Processes and how they can change
- ❖ How much time you need/have

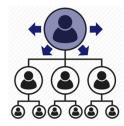
Where are you with Accessibility Leadership?

Consider...

- Who is leading / will lead this effort?
- Why you are doing this.
- How far up does awareness/support currently go?
- Organizational culture
- Change management
- Long term, securing support from higher up is key







What are your Stakeholders' needs and timeframes?

Consider...

- Who are your stakeholders now and later?
- Are you under external pressure to do this?
- Legal, governmental, client, customer pressure?
- Are there hard deadlines?
- How long can/will they wait to see progress?
- Do they trust you?
- Are they mad at you?
- Do you anticipate any of these above things to happen?

Do you have the right funding, staff, skills, and tools?

Consider...

- Getting expert help to size this effort.
- Who does your design and development now?
- Do you have the right skill set on your team?
- Who does testing now? Will they need to add this to their plates?
- Do you have enough people?
- Do you have the tools needed to develop and test accessible code?
- ❖ Do you even have the expertise to get the support you need?

How will your process need to change to adopt A11y?

Consider...

- How does your process work now? Is it ideal?
- What is your development methodology?
- Where are your team(s) located?
- ❖ How disciplined are the teams? Is quality already an issue?
- How motivated are the teams? Will adopting new requirements need process change?

- How cooperative are the teams? If you don't have authority (sometimes even when you do) you'll need to influence.
- How will you be sure that code is accessible?
- How will you make sure it stays that way?
- How will you claim accessibility to stakeholders?

How accessible is your product today?

Consider...

- ❖ What is your product? This will determine your requirements.
- ❖ You don't want to be comprehensive in testing yet, but you need enough accurate data to get support and funding and make a realistic plan.
- Run automated tools* and do quick testing on key pages/templates to get a feel for how bad things are.
- Don't freak out. Existing products that didn't consider accessibility are going to be bad. Maybe very bad.
- Accessibility is great to add right before a front end redesign. Retrofitting is possible, it's just more painful.

Once you know how things stack up...

Be ready...

- Leadership and vision are necessary to drive this but it can be done at any level of the org.
- This is primarily a organizational culture issue.
- Stakeholders must be managed carefully as jobs, deals, fines, or worse may be on the line.
- ❖ Accessibility is extra work and takes extra time.
- ❖ You have to be thoughtful and careful training, hiring, and/or procuring resources.
- ❖ Your product might look great, but your team may be just getting by. Adding accessibility to the process will show just how messy things really are.

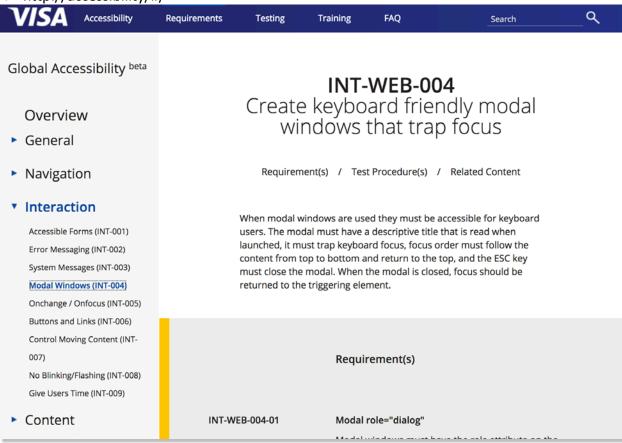
Visa's Solution: What we did to make WCAG usable for our design and dev teams

Accessibility Team Origins

- First Project: Visa Debit Gift Card Web App in 2006
- Trained by Knowbility, worked with WC3
- ❖ World's First WCAG 2.0 AA Major Commercial Website in 2007
- Next Project was Section 508
- More Projects Followed as Demand Grew
- ❖ Decision Point: Grow or Scale? 2012
- UX problem to solve
- ❖ WCAG is written for policy makers, not developers
- The VGAR is first released: 2013

Visa Global Accessibility Requirements (The VGAR)

- Technical requirements for web, iOS, and Android
- Mapped directly to WCAG 2.0 AA
- 1:1 Test Scenarios with Videos
- 90 Minute Training Module
- FAQs
- Available to all Visa Teams
- http://accessibility/#/



Why the VGAR?

Early on we realized that in order to scale accessibility across Visa we needed a program approach that would equip product development teams with little to no experience implementing accessibility.

WCAG is Complex

- Over 1,200 pages
- Vague at times
- ❖ Requires SME
- Requires interpretation

Developers want Simple

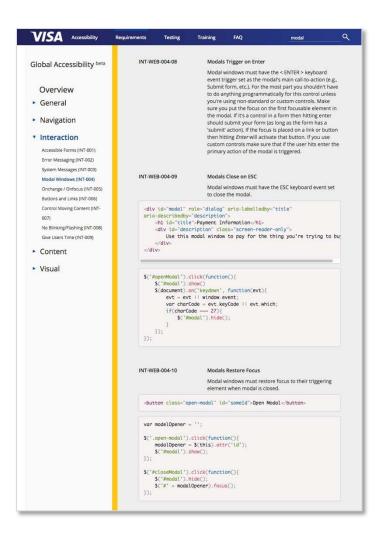
- ❖ Workflow
- Code Snippets
- Components
- Clear Requirements

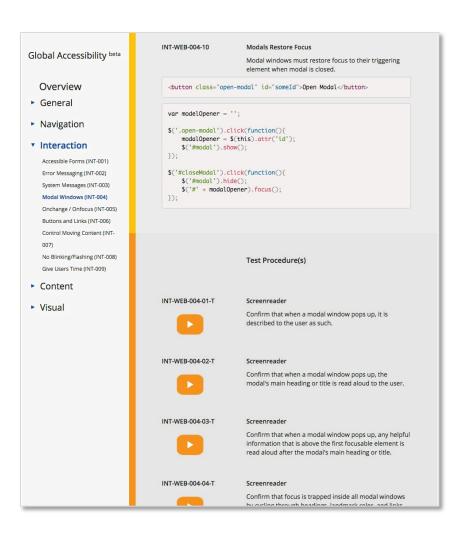
Challenges to Face

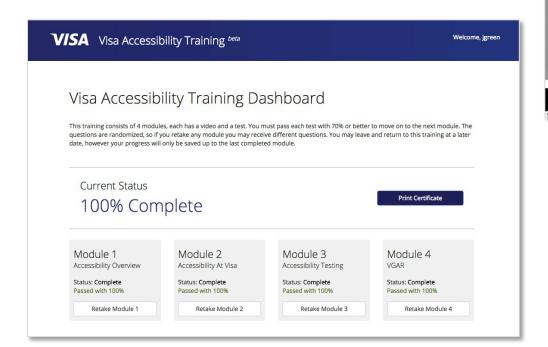
- We were few
- ❖ WCAG is scary
- Lack of Confidence
- Lack of Skills
- Self Service vs. Coaching

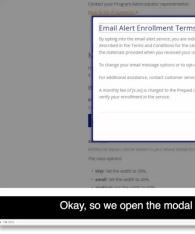
Screenshots of the VGAR

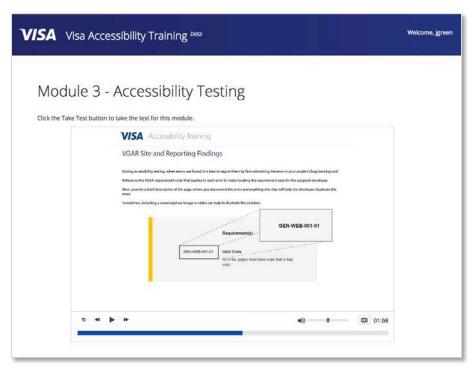


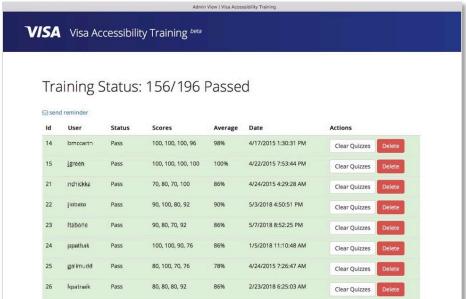


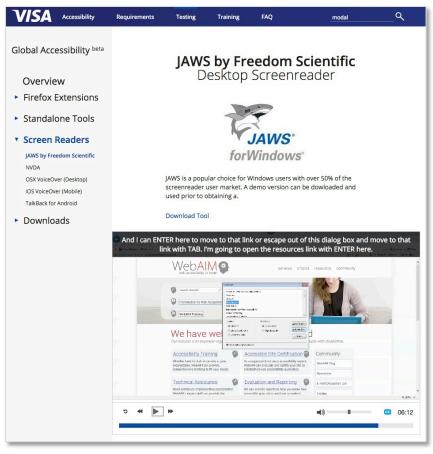


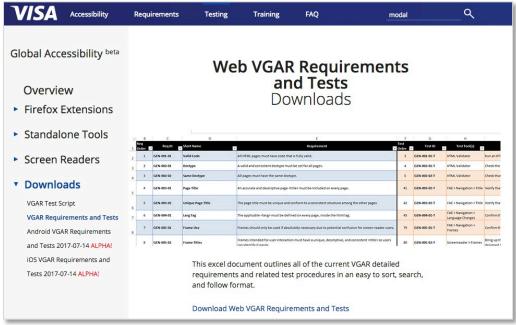


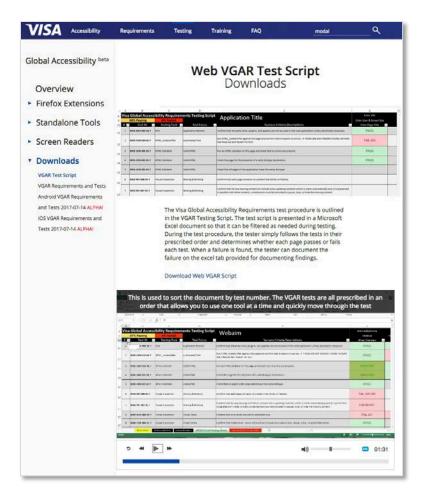












The Visa Accessibility Process

Implementing accessibility successfully requires contribution from everyone involved in the development lifecycle.

To consistently integrate accessibility across Visa's products accessibility must be integrated each phase:

- 1. Plan
- 2. Design
- 3. Develop
- 4. Test

Roles and Responsibilities

Leadership

- Executive Support
- Consistent Mandate
- ❖ Legal & Risk
- Global Commitment

Partnerships

Product

- Requirements
- Governance
- Setting Expectations
- Learn User Needs
- Issuer / Merchant

Design

- ❖ Inclusive Design
- UX Research
- Learn User Needs
- Research
- Web vs. Mobile

Development

- ❖ Accessibility API
- ❖ WAI-ARIA
- ❖ iOS / Android
- Automated Tools
- Ongoing Training

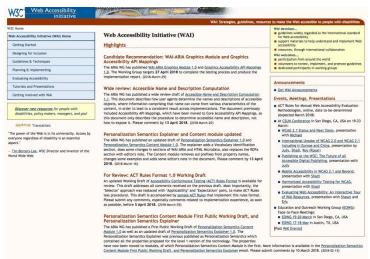
Test and QA

- Assistive Technologies
- Testing Process
- Automated Tools
- Manual Tools
- Ongoing Testing

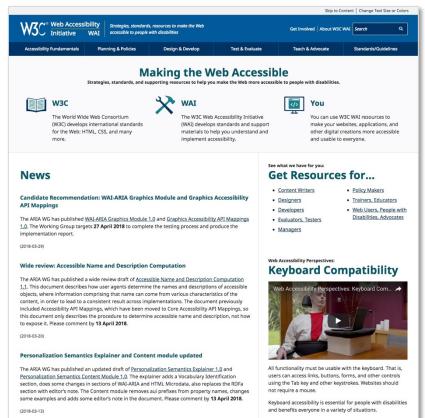
Contributing to the Cause

Speaking about the Accessibility & the VGAR

- ❖ Volunteering with W3C
 - Education and Outreach Working Group (EOWG)
 - ➤ WAI Website Redesign (PM, UX Research, IA, Visual Design)



Old Design:



- New Design:
- Moving the VGAR to developer.visa.com in 2018!

Your Solution: Where do you start?

How can you inject accessibility into your organization like we did?

- Gather the answers to those questions we asked earlier.
- Get GOOD help! Hiring and Procurement Matter!

- Write requirements and test cases that work for your team and product (you can start with the VGAR)
- ❖ Distribute these somewhere centrally and begin talking about them. A lot.
- ❖ Make the case for accessibility to anyone who will listen.
 - Financial Opportunity
 - Corporate Responsibility
 - > Financial and Reputation Risk
- ❖ Keep going for years. Accessibility is about influencing culture, not changing process.

Team culture is what you need to change. Tell your team this:

- Accessibility is not extra, not new, and not hard.
- It's not an add-on or a burden.
- It's your job.
- Your job description was incomplete before.
- Now you get to do more and for good reason.

Questions

