Accessibility at Scale

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Introduction



- Multi-disciplinary background
- 17 years in disability/accessibility space
- Medium 2020 UX Collective Author of the Year
- Founded McDonald's and VMware Accessibility programs
- Co-founded the Disability@VMware employee resource group
- Magnification and keyboard only user with a deaf daughter

Agenda

- Introduction
- Disability and accessibility basics
- What happens when you try to scale accessibility
- How to defeat enemies of accessibility at scale

Accessibility is about visible disabilities









Accessibility is about hidden disabilities











Who needs accessibility? You do (or will)

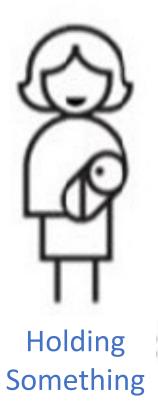
Permanent

Temporary

Situational





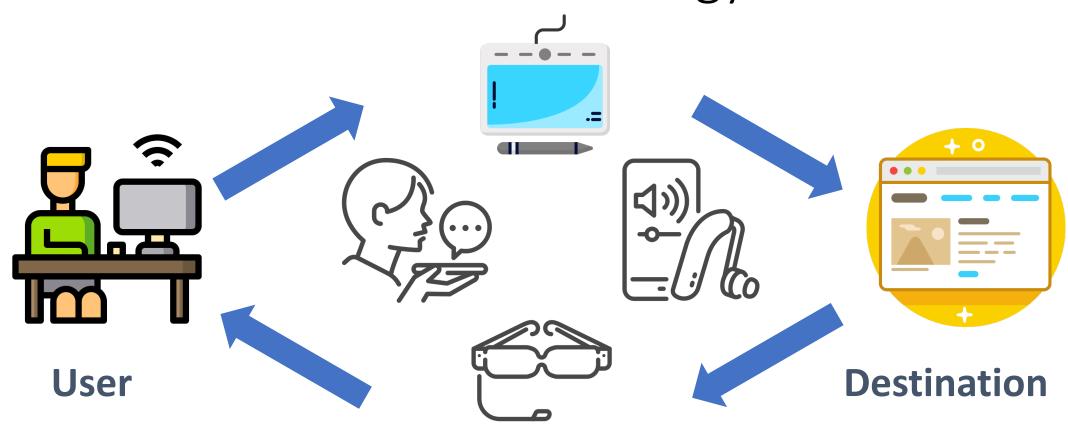


From the Microsoft Inclusive Design Toolkit Accessibility Persona Spectrum

People with disabilities use software via assistive technology



How does assistive technology work?



Assistive Technology

What accessibility standards apply to my org?

- World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
 - 2.0 released 2009
 - 2.1 released June 2018
 - 2.2 coming June 2021
 - 3.0 coming 2023
- 3 Increasing levels of compliance
 - A, AA, AAA where AAA is the strictest
 - Most regulations and courts have settled on AA
 - US Public Sector sales decided on 2.0 AA July 2018
 - Other countries, settlement agreements use 2.1 AA

Common accessibility guidelines

- Captions
- Color
- Magnification
- Language Settings
- Dyslexia-specific needs
- Alternatives to visuals that convey information
- Links
- Keyboard
- Status changes

How is accessibility validated?

30 %



Code inspection

4-20 %



Machine learning review (data and patterns)

50-66 %

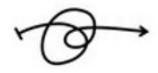


Human interaction with Assistive Technology

Accessibility complexity increases exponentially at scale



Get something accessible



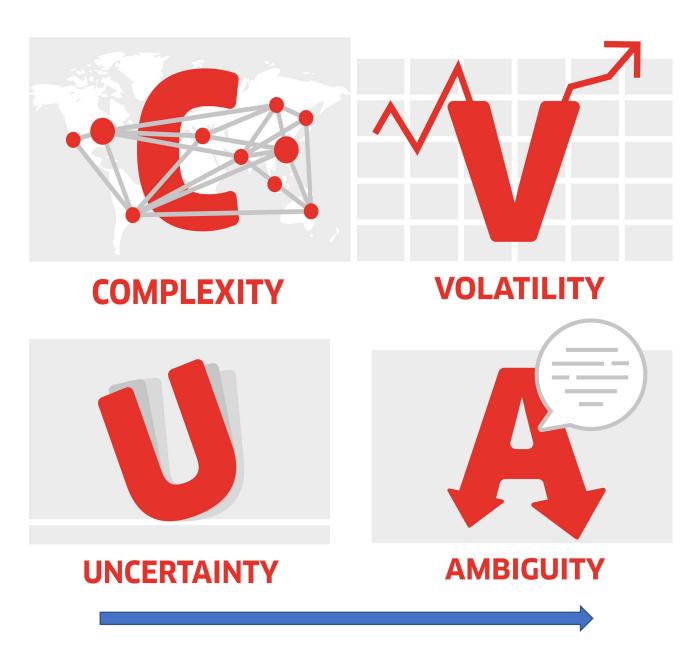
Keep something accessible



Keep something cloud-based accessible

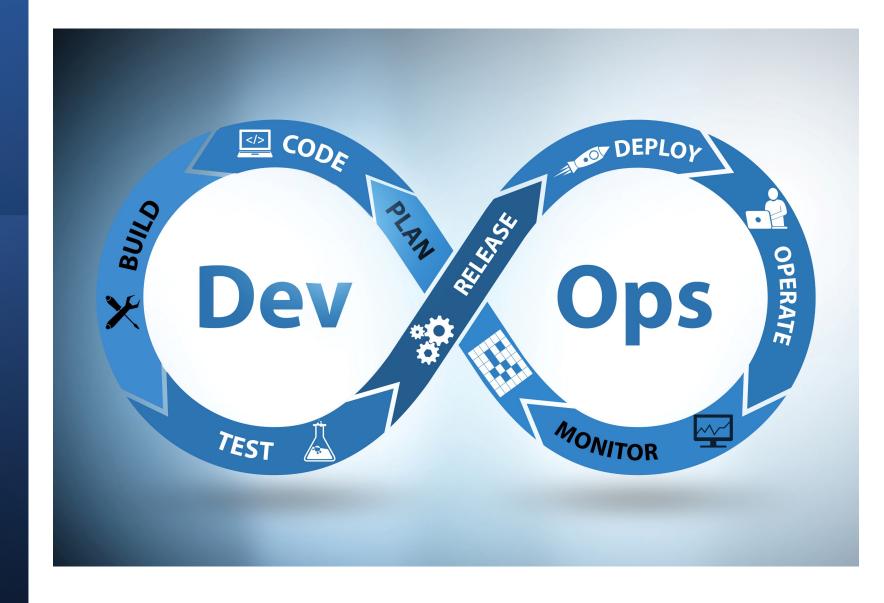
Accessibility at Scale can put you in "VUCA World"

Outcome unpredictability

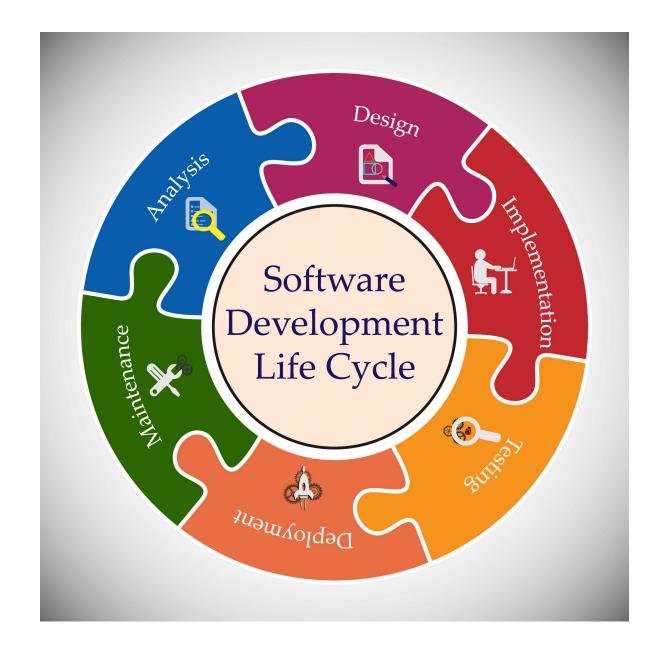


Less Knowledge Visibility

Use the Dev Ops infinite loop to reduce volatility



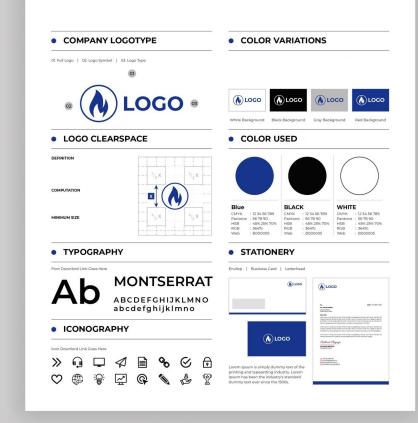
Established software principles reduce accessibility uncertainty



Accessibility style guides reduce ambiguity

Accessibility Brand Guidelines



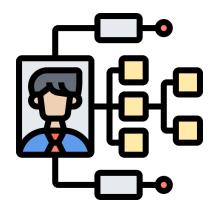


Accessibility at scale requires integration at all levels of the organization

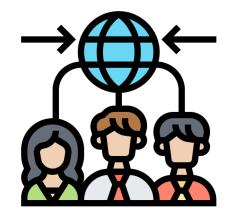


Accessibility must be part of every product conversation, MVP and definition of done





Executive Support



Centralized Resources



Champions program



Accessibility Goals/OKRs

What adds accessibility into conversations?

What adds accessibility into conversations?



- 1) Hire more employees with disabilities
- 2) Listen to our lived experience
- 3) Include disability into all JEDI discussions



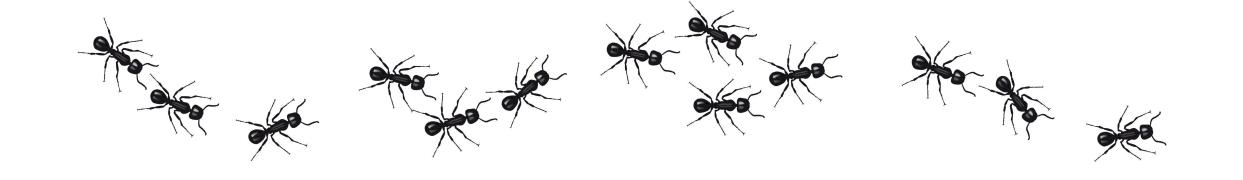






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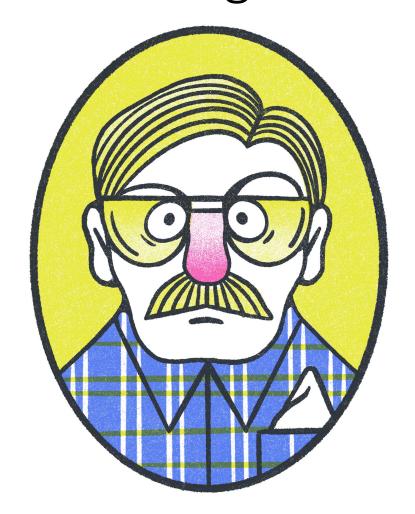
Disabled employees need to feel like they are included and belong



Treat accessibility defects the same as other product defects

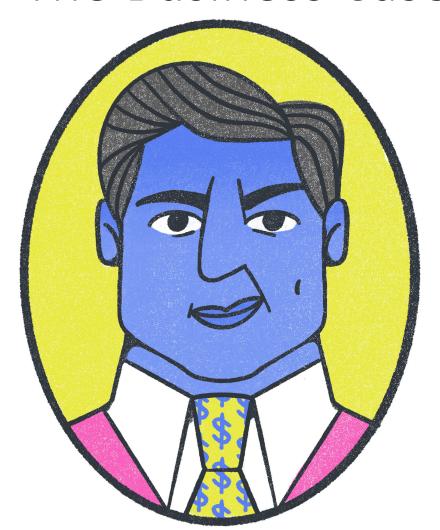
Bugs are bugs

Enemies of accessibility at scale The Change Haters



Solution: Find out what motivates them and appeal to that

Enemies of accessibility at scale The Business Case Demanders



Solution:

a) start with the civil rights argument. If that doesn't work

b) give them a business case

Enemies of accessibility at scale The Feature Lovers



Solution: Give them a financial incentive by creating OKRs that include accessibility

Enemies of accessibility at scale The Trivializers



Solution: Quantify the numbers

- a) Do user research with people with disabilities
 - o) Make sure your surveys are accessible

Enemies of accessibility at scale The Excluders



Solution: Explain this is a logical fallacy

Enemies of accessibility at scale The Box Tickers



Solution:

- a) Don't use overlays or checklists.
 - b) Build accessibility organically into your organization

TL; DR

Accessibility at scale requires:

- Executive support.
- The willingness to modify product development processes.
- Internal accessibility resources combined with participation from every department in the organization.
- Processes that are repeatable and when possible, automatable.

Thank you!

If you enjoyed this talk please consider:

- 1) Subscribing to my Medium blog
- 2) Connecting with me on LinkedIn
- 3) Reading my free book "Giving a Damn about Accessibility"

- Sheri Byrne-Haber

