Mobile Design for the Future That is Here Already

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Why Mobile?



Why Accessible?

- Are UW Web sites a "public accomodation" under the Americans with Disabilities Act?
- Do Washington state guidelines apply?
- Do you have a contractual agreement with your customers?
- Do you have obligations to your funding source?

Our Project

- Works across a wide range of devices
 - Smartphone
 - Tablet
 - Laptop
 - Desktop

Works will with common assistive technologies

- VoiceOver
- NVDA
- Voice Command

Project Goals

Be usable and intelligible to as many people as possible, including...

- People not able to use a mouse
- People navigating by touch and sound
- Be interpretable by assistive technologies
 - Standard
 - Structured
 - Semantic

Mobile First

Start with the mobile design

Simple, Succinct, Actionable

Scale up to larger screen sizes, keeping it SSA

Do not start big and try to squish it small

As you go to larger sizes, add only what truly contributes and what is appropriate for the size

Responsive Design



My Suggestions

- Do not build a smartphone only site
- Do build a responsive site that will work across a range of devices
- Be skeptical of native apps
 - Hard to maintain across multiple devices
 - Same functionality may be possible with Web apps
 - Web apps are much easier to update

Step 1: Standards

- Create or use standards based code
- Validate it against the standard (often)
- If using pre-built frameworks, study them thoroughly to understand their design approach
 - HTML or XHTML
 - HTML5 Lite (no semantic structural elements)
 - HTML5 Rich (semantic structural elements)

HTML5: Lite? Or Full?

```
<nav class="navbar navbar-fixed-top">
   <div class="navbar-inner">
     <div class="container">
       <a class="btn btn-navbar" data-toggle="collapse" data-target=".nav-collapse">
          <span class="icon-bar"></span>
          <span class="icon-bar"></span>
          <span class="icon-bar"></span>
         </a><a class="brand" href="#">IT Connect</a>
         <div class="nav-collapse">
           class="active"><a href="#">Home</a>
             <a href="#about">Accounts</a>
             <a href="#contact">Email</a>
             <a href="#contact">Help</a>
             <form class="navbar-search pull-right">
                <input type="text" class="search-query" placeholder="Search">
                  </form>
            </|u|>
          </div><!--/.nav-collapse \rightarrow
        </div>
     </div>
  </nav>
```

Step 2: Top Blockers

- Image ALT tag
- Page and document headings
- Headings and Sub Headings
- Link text
- Table headers and captions
- Form Labels
- Video captions and audio transcripts

Other Issues

- Contrast and luminosity
- Color issues
- Font legibility
- Reading order
- Scalability (user-scalable=yes)

Step 3: Know Your Components

- Evaluate components in any scripting libraries or frameworks being used specifically for accessibility before using them in the design. Only use the components that are understood by assistive technologies.
 - Apple's VoiceOver is a readily available voice browser. Can your pages be meaningfully navigated and used through VoiceOver's touch and swipe methods?
 - Have someone on your project learn VoiceOver

Step 4: Add ARIA

 Add ARIA roles to declare behaviors such as Has Popup to inform assistive technologies of changes in page content.

Menu

Step 5: Use Semantic Structural Elements

 If using HTML5, utilize its features that support accessibility, including semantic structural elements



Every Step: Test, Test, Test

- Test as much as possible throughout the development process
 - Run accessibility validators
 - Test with voice command software such as Dragon Naturally Speaking
 - Test with voice browsers such as VoiceOver, NVDA, or WebAnywhere
 - Can you fully use the functionality of the site

 Develop and understanding of interacting with your site in non-visual ways

Resources

- Accessibility of UW Information Technology http://uw.edu/accessibility/
- Web Accessibility in Mind (WebAIM) http://webaim.org/