



HighWire

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Accessibility in the scholarly information space

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Standards

- WCAG
 - Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
 - <https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/>
- Change from WCAG 2.0 to WCAG 2.1
 - 2008: <https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>
 - 2018: <https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/>
- List of success criteria
 - Each one mapped to a conformance level: A / AA / AAA

Example WCAG success criteria

- Example level A success criterion:
 - **1.4.1 Use of Color**
 - Color is not used as the only visual means of conveying information, indicating an action, prompting a response, or distinguishing a visual element.
- Example level AA success criterion:
 - **1.4.3 Contrast**
 - The visual presentation of text and images of text has a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1
- Example level AAA success criterion:
 - **1.4.6 Contrast**
 - The visual presentation of text and images of text has a contrast ratio of at least 7:1

Legal

- Long-standing US law
 - <https://www.section508.gov/> (published 2000, last updated 2018)
 - Mapped to WCAG 2.0: <https://www.access-board.gov/ict/wcag2ict.html>
- Long-standing EU law
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EN_301_549
 - Adopted WCAG 2.1 AA in 2018
- Recent UK law
 - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/accessibility-requirements-for-public-sector-websites-and-apps>
 - Sites must meet WCAG 2.1 AA by September 23rd 2020
- Recent Canadian law
 - <https://www.aoda.ca/>
 - Sites must meet WCAG 2.0 AA by January 1st 2021

The rise of the VPAT

- Voluntary Product Accessibility Template
 - <https://www.section508.gov/sell/vpat>
 - 4 editions: US / EU / WCAG / INT
 - HighWire has been using the WCAG edition at AA level

Challenges

- Standards evolve
- Technology evolves
- 3rd party tools get updated
- Accessible versions of features can be more expensive
- Hard to achieve full compliance

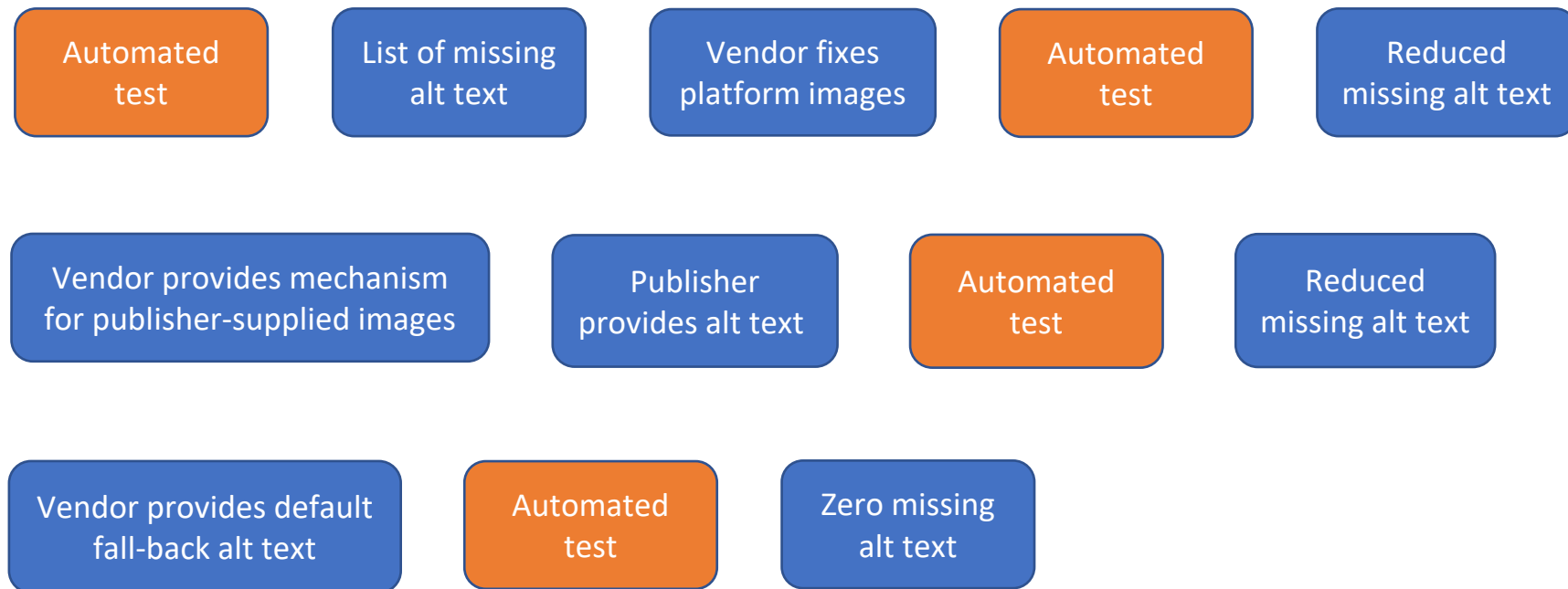
HighWire approach

- Accessibility testing built into new site builds
- Designs tested at an early stage
- Regular accessibility testing of all hosting platforms
- Accessibility developments built into hosting product roadmaps
- Site-specific audit and VPAT service
- Combination of automated and manual testing

An example accessibility journey

- 1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A)
 - All non-text content that is presented to the user has a text alternative that serves the equivalent purpose
- Basic interpretation
 - All images must have alt text

An example accessibility journey



An example accessibility journey



Summary

- WCAG 2.1 AA is where it's at
- Ensure accessibility testing is part of your regular processes
- Use manual testing on top of automated testing where you can