

W3C Web Accessibility Initiative

The Internet has all the answers, one has only to find it, many people say, and this is true for most fields of life. Everybody, who learned how to use the Web effectively, can find this information. Or isn't it that simple?

Often we do not think about how different we all are, how different our abilities and possibilities are. A good illustration for one person can be an incomprehensible bit-sequence or a ten minute long unnecessary transfer to the other. A table for one person is a serialised set of data to the other. The same thing can appear large on one screen while too small on another. One person sees many different coloured lines and the other indistinguishable grey ones.

The W3C made a recommendation (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines), which helps homepage developers build pages that are comprehensible to people with disabilities.

The Department of Distributed Systems (DSD) of the Computer and Automation Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA SZTAKI), as part of the W3C, set the goal to ensure that newly developed sites are accessible to everyone, and fulfil the W3C Web Accessibility Guidelines (WAI). Creating such pages is not always easy, because the different groups have different needs, but our experience shows that with a little care all needs can be fulfilled. The presentation will be about our experiences while developing such sites.