

Accessible WordPress Theme Development

AccessU 2011

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Is WordPress Accessible?

- **Front-end:**
 - Controlled by your theme.
 - Is as accessible as you make it.
- **Back-end:**
 - Controlled by WordPress core-developers, contributors, and you.
 - Can be customized by you via your theme's `functions.php`.

Front-end accessibility

- **Know where you want to be**
- **TwentyTen (soon to be TwentyEleven)**
- **Developing a Child Theme:**
 - **Must check the parent theme's accessibility, too.**

Back-end accessibility

- **Room for improvement.**
- **Greater difficulty, but can be done**
- **Avoid modifying core files (files outside your theme)**

WordPress is listening

<http://make.wordpress.org/accessibility/>

You can contribute...

Ready to go?

Improving the theme

- **Improve the WordPress search form**
- **Links**
- **Comment Form**
- **Read More links – excerpts**
- **Internationalization**

Improving the Back End

- **Add a Skipnav to skip the administrative menu**
- **Improve the CSS for link focus & outline**

WordPress' Search Form

```
<form method="get" id="searchform" action="<?php echo home_url( '/' ); ?>">
  <input type="text" class="field" name="s" id="s" placeholder="<?php
esc_attr_e( 'Search', 'twentyeleven' ); ?>" />
  <input type="submit" class="submit" name="submit" id="searchsubmit" value="<?
php esc_attr_e( 'Search', 'twentyeleven' ); ?>" />
</form>
```


More accessible search form

```
<form method="get" id="searchform" action="<?php echo home_url( '/' ); ?>">
<label for="s"><?php _e("Search the site");?></label>
<input type="text" class="field" name="s" id="s" placeholder="<?php
esc_attr_e( 'Search', 'twentyeleven' ); ?>" />
<input type="submit" class="submit" name="submit" id="searchsubmit" value="<?php
esc_attr_e( 'Search', 'twentyeleven' ); ?>" />
</form>
```

More accessible search form

```
<form method="get" id="searchform" action="<?php echo home_url( '/' ); ?>">
<label for="s"><?php _e("Search the site");?></label>
<input type="text" class="field" name="s" id="s" title="<?php _e("Search the
site");?>" placeholder="<?php esc_attr_e( 'Search', 'twentyeleven' ); ?>" />
<input type="submit" class="submit" name="submit" id="searchsubmit" value="<?php
esc_attr_e( 'Search', 'twentyeleven' ); ?>" />
</form>
```

CSS for the form

Still allows for “clean” design, but doesn't remove elements from assistive tech:

```
#searchForm label,
```

```
#branding #searchsubmit {
```

```
    position:absolute;
```

```
    margin-left:-9999px;
```

```
}
```

Links

- **Tendency to not underline links.**
- **Rarely is the `:focus` selector used**

Links – CSS

TwentyEleven:

```
a {  
color: #1b8be0;text-decoration: none;  
}  
  
a:focus,a:active,a:hover {  
text-decoration: underline;  
}
```

Links – improved

```
a {color: #1b8be0;text-decoration: underline;}
```

```
a:focus,a:hover {color:#800;}
```

```
a:active {color:#c00;}
```

```
a:visited {color:#122b61;}
```

Outline

- Outline is set to 0 by default.
- Use `:focus` pseudo-class

```
:focus {outline:1px dotted #000;}
```

Comment Form

- Called by function `comment_form()`;
- Can be customized in your `functions.php`
- Copy the `comment_form` function in `comment-template.php` (in `wp-includes`)

Read More...

- **An excerpt ends with [...] by default.**
- **You may need to customize this.**
 - **excerpt_more()**
 - Replace the [...] with text, links, …, etc.
 - You can replace “Read more...” with something more descriptive
 - **excerpt_length()**
 - Control how long the excerpt is (in words).

Internationalization (I18n)

- For words that are in your theme templates, make them translatable.
- `__() $foo = __('Hello World');`
 - Content that is being passed to another function
- `_e() <label><?php _e('First Name'); ?></label>`
 - Content that is rendering on the page

Bonus Round

- **Making changes to the back-end**

admin_enqueue_script();

- **Inject code into the head of the admin**

```
add_action('admin_enqueue_scripts', 'access_fix');
function access_fix() {
    echo '<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css"
href="'.get_bloginfo('template_directory').'/access.css" />';
    wp_enqueue_script(
        'access',
        get_bloginfo('template_directory') . '/js/access.js',
        array('jquery'),
        '1.0',
        false
    );
}
```

```
add_action('admin_enqueue_scripts', 'access_fix');
function access_fix() {
    echo '<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css"
href="' . get_bloginfo('template_directory') . '/access.css' />';
    wp_enqueue_script(
        'access',
        get_bloginfo('template_directory') . '/js/access.js',
        array('jquery'),
        '1.0',
        false
    );
}
```

Skipnav on the backend?

```
add_action('admin_menu', 'my_admin_menu');
function my_admin_menu() {
    $page_title = '';
    $menu_title = 'Skip to Main Content';
    $capability = 'read';
    $menu_slug = '#wpbody-content';
    $function = '';
    $icon_url = '';
    $position = '0';
    add_menu_page( $page_title, $menu_title, $capability,
    $menu_slug, $function, $icon_url, $position );
}
```

Resources

<http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>

<http://make.wordpress.org/accessibility/>

<http://codex.wordpress.org/Accessibility>

http://codex.wordpress.org/I18n_for_WordPress_Developers

http://codex.wordpress.org/Function_Reference/comment_form

http://codex.wordpress.org/Function_Reference/get_search_form

http://codex.wordpress.org/Administration_Menus

http://codex.wordpress.org/Creating_Admin_Themes

Available online at

<http://slash25.com/yourls/2e>