

# 50 Online Accessibility and Usability Tools

## Color Tools

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Usability and accessibility go hand in hand with conversion rates, customer satisfaction, targeted traffic and the list can go on. That's why we provided a list with 50 online tools to improve your web site usability and accessibility in order to reach the objectives mentioned earlier.

Please note that this is not a final list. If you know other great free online usability or accessibility tool not listed here, it'd be great if you could [send us a notification](#) with the URL.

### Color Contrast Analyzer

Statistics show out that 1 to 20 people have some sort of vision color deficiency and for those it's hard to distinct and read image documents or web pages that do not respect the usability and accessibility standards. It is recommended and you are required by law that you test the documents on your website beforehand so that they can be addressed to almost all kinds of customers. Find out more about choosing the right colors for your web site.

Check the contrast of two colors using the W3C's color contrast algorithm by specifying the colors directly.

1.	<a href="#">Color Contrast Analyzer Juicy Studio</a>
2.	<a href="#">Color Check Etre</a>
3.	<a href="#">AccessColor - Access Keys</a>

## Color Blindness Simulator

Many resources on the web are colored in such a way that it's difficult for users with sight deficiencies to comprehend them.

Some frequently diseases are:

- **Protanopia:** The lack of the long-wavelength sensitive retinal cones that are required to distinguish between colors in the green-yellow-red section of the spectrum.
- **Dueteranopia:** The lack of the medium-wavelength retinal cones that are required in order to distinguish between colors in the green-yellow-red section of the spectrum.
- **Tritanopia:** The lack of the short-wavelength retinal cones that are required in order to distinguish between colors blue-yellow.

Try these online tools to check how people with disabilities see your web sites

4.	<a href="#">Colour Blindness Simulator - Etre</a>
5.	<a href="#">Colorblind Web Page Filter - Color Filter</a>
6.	<a href="#">Color Blindness Check - Q 42</a>
7.	<a href="#">Vischeck</a>
8.	<a href="#">Accessibility Color Wheel - Giacomo Mazzocato</a>

## Content Tools

### Content Size

From an usability point of view it is recommended to avoid creating web pages which are less than 200 words as they are unlikely to provide a large amount of information; users will usually need "to surf" for more detailed explanations.

We recommend an online tool providing information about the size of the page (in bytes), the size of the content and the percentage of the page's weight devoted to text content in order to check this aspect.

9.	<a href="#">GetContentSize</a>
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### Content Readability

In search engine optimization process we all know the importance of the content but have you ever wondered how readable your site is? Readability stands for a measure of how easy it is to read and comprehend a document. Gunning Fog, Flesch Reading Ease and Flesch-Kincaid are reading level algorithms that can help you decide how readable your content is. Let's take a look at each of them:

- **Gunning-Fog** will indicate you how many years of "schooling" will need for some to understand the content. The lower the number, the more understandable the content will be to your visitors. Results over seventeen are reported as seventeen, where seventeen is considered post-graduate level.
- **Flash reading ease** is an index number that rates the text on a 100-point scale. The higher the score, the easier it is to understand the document. Authors are encouraged to aim for a score of approximately 60 to 70.

- **Flesch-Kincaid grade level** is similar with Gunning Fog index and it's a rough measure of how many years of schooling it would take someone to understand the content. Negative results are reported as zero, and numbers over twelve are reported as twelve.

Check these tools and decide whether your content is readable or not:

10.	<a href="#">Readability Test - Juicy Studio</a>
11.	<a href="#">Tests Document Readability - Online Utility</a>
12.	<a href="#">Readability Check - Literacy Trust</a>
13.	<a href="#">Readability index calculator - Standards Schmandards</a>

## Image Analyzer

If users can not see a picture, they need a way to understand what the images represent. To correct problems with images and image maps that cannot be interpreted by screen readers, you have to add an ALT tag to every image.

The tools we recommend examine all images found on a web page to check for any accessibility issues such as: alt, width, height, longdesc.

14.	<a href="#">Image Analyser - Juicy Studio</a>
15.	<a href="#">Flickering and Photosensitive Epilepsy</a>

## Spelling checker

Checking spelling errors of the text on your web site is very important to ensure good content accessibility and readability for your readers, and also, better crawl ability and indexing for search engines.

Use these online spell checkers that will help you spell check the body of your web page:

17.	<a href="#">Spell Checker</a>
18.	<a href="#">W3C Spell Checker</a>
19.	<a href="#">Orangoo Spell</a>
20.	<a href="#">Spell Check Tool - IM Translator</a>

## Browser

### ToolBars

21.	<a href="#">Web Accessibility Toolbar</a>
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Web Accessibility Toolbar is provided by the Accessible Information Solutions (AIS) team of Vision Australia. It consists of a range of functions that: identify components of a web page, facilitate the use of 3rd party online applications, simulate user experiences, provide links to references and additional resources.

22.	<a href="#">Web Developer</a>
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A toolbar designed for Firefox, Flock, Mozilla and Seamonkey, with various web developer tools which help you test online how your website looks like with disabled page colors, java script or java, styles; it will help you resize window, validate local accessibility, html, links, section 508 etc.

23.	<a href="#">Firefox Accessibility Extension</a>
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Mozilla/ Firefox Accessibility Extension can be used to check the structural and styling markup that support functional web accessibility.

24.	<a href="#">T.A.W.</a>
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FireFox extension helps you check the accessibility of the web site you visit

## Browser Screen Resolution Checker

It is important to test a web site in as many ways as possible: view it in different screen resolutions, various computer platforms and different browsers. Find out how your web page looks like with the viewer's monitor set to different screen resolutions as you want to be sure your visitor can see everything or at least the important navigation links:

25.	<a href="#">Browser Screen Resolution Checker - Markhorrell</a>
26.	<a href="#">Screen Size Tester - AnyBrowser</a>
27.	<a href="#">Screen Resolution Checker - AndyLangTon</a>

## Different browser check

The same web page may look different depending on which Internet browser is being used for viewing. In order to ensure that all your visitors are seeing your web page as they are supposed, it is recommended to use a different browser checker. We suggest using:

28.	<a href="#">BrowserCam</a>
29.	<a href="#">BrowserShots</a>

## Other

### Online General Accessibility tool

These tools provide general information about your web site accessibility. They deal with aspects like: links, images, colors contrast.

30.	<a href="#">WAVE 3.0</a>
31.	<a href="#">TAW3 Online</a>
32.	<a href="#">Watch Fire</a>
33.	<a href="#">Cynthia</a>
34.	<a href="#">Section 508</a>
35.	<a href="#">Truwex</a>
36.	<a href="#">Web Accessibility Checker</a>
37.	<a href="#">Run FAE</a>
38.	<a href="#">Site Check</a>

### Page validators

Although it's not yet a fact that W3C validation gives you better search engine rankings, it's sure that errors in your code can cause you a lot of trouble. Converting your website pages to XHTML will help you reach more customers, as your site will work better in more browsers and on "non-traditional" devices. Read more about this topic in our article: Does your website need W3CF Validation

In order to see if you're CSS files or HTML code turns out to be valid use these tools

38.	<a href="#">W3C Markup Validation Service</a>
39.	<a href="#">W3C CSS Validation Service</a>
40.	<a href="#">W3C Link Checker</a>

41.	<a href="#">HTML Validator (based on Tidy and OpenSP)</a>
42.	<a href="#">Relaxed HTML Validator</a>

## Web site speed check

It's important to consider how fast your pages load because users will shy away from sites they can't navigate quickly and easily. Additionally, smaller pages are indexed by Google and other search engines easier.

43.	<a href="#">Link Vendor</a>
44.	<a href="#">Website Speed Test - Web Hosting</a>
45.	<a href="#">Website Speed Test - iWebTools</a>
46.	<a href="#">Website Speed Test - WebSite Goodies</a>
47.	<a href="#">Web Page Speed Report - Web Site Optimization</a>
48.	<a href="#">Loading time checker - Website load time test - 1Hit</a>
49.	<a href="#">Load Time Check - NetMechanic</a>
50.	<a href="#">Internet Speed Test - Visual Ware</a>

*The primary goal of usability is making sure that the intended users are able to interact properly with the web site while having a positive and convenient experience. By developing this list we provided you a starting point which is going to help you keep your customers happy and satisfied.*

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This article was written by a Web Marketing Executive at Avangate B.V. The author has in depth knowledge of internet marketing services and website analysis applied to the software industry and e-commerce development.

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More information can be found on the corporate website, at [www.avangate.com](http://www.avangate.com)

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