

Badges: A Component of Conformance

How Badges are Earned

Badges are earned by completing pre-defined sets of requirements. For example, completing all Bronze requirements (Success Criteria, Outcomes, etc) associated with contrast could earn a Bronze Contrast Badge.

How Badges can Encourage Working Toward Basic Conformance Levels

There may be a Basic Conformance level below Bronze, or Bronze may be the lowest level. Either way, teams could earn and display Badges for completing small sets of requirements, as they work toward Basic or Bronze. This can encourage ongoing work and encourage reporting progress without displaying something like a VPAT listing many cases of “Does not Support”.

How Badges can Encourage Aiming for Higher Conformance Levels: Quality Badges

If products automatically earn quality badges for higher levels of conformance while they complete lower levels of conformance, teams may be encouraged to pay more attention to higher levels of conformance.

Although, in the recent exercise on conformance, Option 4 devoted Silver entirely to quality, this is not necessary to gain this benefit from Quality Badges:

- **Bronze Quality** badges could be earned for requirements in a Basic Conformance level.
- **Silver Quality** badges could be earned for requirements in a Bronze Conformance level.
- **Gold Quality** badges could be earned for requirements in a Silver Conformance level.

How Badges can Encourage and Help Guide Innovation: Innovation Badges

WCAG 3 could include some methods or techniques that are not yet considered technologically feasible or practical and so are listed as “Innovation Methods.” Innovation Badges might be earned for accomplishing any one Innovation Method. For example, there may be 15 or so haptics-related techniques that are marked as “Innovation Methods” in WCAG 3.0. Completing even one of those might earn a “Haptics Innovation Badge.” The methods or techniques that are part of the innovation set may change with different WCAG 3.x point releases.