

1.4.12 Text Spacing

Original WCAG verbiage

In content implemented using markup languages that support the following [text style properties](#), no loss of content or functionality occurs by setting all of the following and by changing no other style property:

- Line height (line spacing) to at least 1.5 times the font size;
- Spacing following paragraphs to at least 2 times the font size;
- Letter spacing (tracking) to at least 0.12 times the font size;
- Word spacing to at least 0.16 times the font size.

Exception: Human languages and scripts that do not make use of one or more of these text style properties in written text can conform using only the properties that exist for that combination of language and script.

NOTE 1: Content is not required to use these text spacing values. The requirement is to ensure that when a user overrides the authored text spacing, content or functionality is not lost.

NOTE 2: Writing systems for some languages use different text spacing settings, such as paragraph start indent. Authors are encouraged to follow locally available guidance for improving readability and legibility of text in their writing system.

Applying SC 1.4.12 Text Spacing to Non-web Documents and Software

Guidance - Introductory paragraph

Option 1: Current Editor's draft text:

This applies directly as written and as described in [Intent from Understanding Success Criterion 1.4.12](#) (also provided below) replacing "In content implemented using markup languages" with "For non-web documents or software content implemented using markup languages" and replacing "that support " with "in a way that supports modification of".

Option 2: PROPOSED CHANGE to introductory paragraph:

This applies directly as written and as described in [Intent from Understanding Success Criterion 1.4.12](#) (also provided below).

SC Text

Option 0: Current Editor's draft text:

[For non-web document or software] content implemented using markup languages [in a way that supports modification of] the following [text style properties](#), no loss of content or functionality occurs by setting all of the following and by changing no other style property:

Option 3: Proposed change - have NO word substitutions or insertions

(Since the SC applies as written, all of the SC text would be deleted from the document. We would instead add a note to cover the caveat that this would only apply when the markup language supports user modification of these text style properties listed in this SC. See proposed text for NOTE 3 below.)

For reference, the WCAG language is:

Archived proposals

Option 1: Proposed in GitHub issue #216

[For non-web documents or software] content [implemented using markup languages or **software in a way** that supports modification of] the following text style properties, no loss of content or functionality occurs by setting all of the following and by changing no other style property:

Option 2: Proposed in GitHub issue #216

[For non-web documents or software] content [implemented using markup languages, or that supports modification of] the following text style properties, no loss of content or functionality occurs by setting all of the following and by changing no other style property:

With these substitutions, it would read:

[For non-web documents or software] content implemented using markup languages **[in a way that supports modification of]** the following [text style properties](#), no loss of content or functionality occurs by setting all of the following and by changing no other style property:

- Line height (line spacing) to at least 1.5 times the font size;
- Spacing following paragraphs to at least 2 times the font size;
- Letter spacing (tracking) to at least 0.12 times the font size;
- Word spacing to at least 0.16 times the font size.

Exception: Human languages and scripts that do not make use of one or more of these text style properties in written text can conform using only the properties that exist for that combination of language and script.

Notes

***MJM EDITOR'S NOTE: I think we still need to include Notes 1 and 2 from WCAG so our note numbering makes sense. Numbering is done by the script that generates the document, so if the WCAG notes were eliminated our notes would be numbered 1 and 2. That might cause confusion thinking we are replacing the WCAG notes - which we are not doing. ***

WCAG notes

Added the following missing notes into the editor's draft on 26 Feb.

NOTE 1: Content is not required to use these text spacing values. The requirement is to ensure that when a user overrides the authored text spacing, content or functionality is not lost.

NOTE 2: Writing systems for some languages use different text spacing settings, such as paragraph start indent. Authors are encouraged to follow locally available guidance for improving readability and legibility of text in their writing system.

Note 3 - Proposal for a new note

****** Need a note that covers “in a way that supports user modification of” that used to be inserted into the SC text.

Option 2: New note proposal

This Success Criteria only applies to non-web software and documents that are implemented using markup languages and allow the user to modify these text spacing properties.

Archived options for the new note 3. The Friday sub-group settled on Option 2 above to take to the full TF.

Option 1:

This Success Criteria would only apply in cases where the user agent, platform, or application exposes these text spacing properties implemented using markup languages in a way that a user can modify them.

Option 3: (Mary Jo’s take)

This Success Criteria only applies to non-web documents and software that are implemented using markup languages that support these text spacing properties, and allow the user to modify these text spacing properties.

Option 4:

******** *INSERT PROPOSED TEXT HERE* ********

Note 4 (Currently Note 1 in WCAG2ICT editor's draft)

NOTE 4: "Content implemented using markup languages" includes parts of software that use markup internally to define a user interface. Examples of markup languages that are used internally to define a software user interface include but are not limited to: HTML (e.g., in [Electron](#) applications or iOS application Web views), XAML, XML (e.g., in Android application layouts), and XUL.

Note 5 (Currently Note 2 in WCAG2ICT editor's draft)

NOTE 5: There are several mechanisms that allow users to modify text spacing properties of content implemented in markup languages. For example, an eBook technology may have an available user agent that allows users to override document text styles, or a software application may provide a "user style sheet" facility to modify the appearance of the software's own user interface. This Success Criterion does not require that documents and software implement their own mechanisms to allow users to set text spacing; however, when such a mechanism is available, the Success Criterion requires that content respond appropriately to it.

SC Problematic for Closed Functionality - 1.4.12 Text Spacing

Option 1: Current content

- [1.4.12 Text Spacing](#) — In closed functionality software the ability for users to modify line, paragraph, letter, or word spacing is rarely supported. However, if encountered, the Success Criterion applies as noted in the [Applying SC 1.4.12 Text Spacing to Non-Web Documents and Software](#).

Option 2: proposed changes

- *Insert your proposed changes here*

References

Some background on the surveys and conversations regarding the need to make changes to our consensed language in 1.4.12.

- [Issue 216](#) - Inconsistency between 1.4.12 Text Spacing and 4.1.3 Status Messages
- [Survey results](#) on initial review of proposed changes and response to issue 216
- Discussion regarding the survey results on 16 Feb.