WCAG Guidance, Conformance Model, Regulatory Environment

WCAG Guidance

- Non-normative guidance on accessibility concepts, structure of document, how to use, etc
- Non-normative guidance on user needs, functional performance criteria, considerations, etc
- Normative text outlining the requirements (whether methods, outcomes or whatever)
- Non-normative guidance (aka Understanding documents) on interpreting normative parts of WCAG
- Non-normative ways of achieving requirements (methods, techniques,protocols)
- Non-normative tests for measuring and assessing success
- Non-normative guidance on user testing involving users with disabilities
- Non-normative material showing how to assess, how to sample, how to report
- Normative (?) method for how to measure conformance

- Standards for delivering accessible outcomes, including
  - Methods applicable to a variety of technology implementations
  - 'Objective' tests
  - 'Subjective' test guidance / protocols
  - Accessibility-supported?
  - Guides for various audiences to support application of the standards

Ability for people with different roles, different abilities, to use the WCAG guidance in their daily work. Example: content creator, developer, business analyst, project manager; person with limited vision, person with cognitive disabilities, etc.
- A person can say after reviewing it "I know what I need to do, how this applies to my work"

Conformance Model

Optional statements of conformance. **not mandatory?
Ensure that content is usable by wide range of people with disabilities - if you can conform but users can't use then it defeats purpose of model.
Structure of the model that can lead to unintentional discrimination
Indications of how to go beyond basic conformance.
How a user without expertise in accessibility can choose between products/sites. (Visual indication that sites can use when they conform, divided by disability category)
Reporting

- Need input from the global community
  - Regulatory including representatives of different types of legal regimes
  - Community (people with disabilities)
  - Content authors
  - 'Vendors'
  - [not all inclusive]
- Need to consider equity in the conformance model to ensure that different disabilities are not excluded from consideration
- How to respect the prerogatives of regulators but also optimize global harmonization of standards since the web is international and organizations need harmonization across regulations

Regulatory Environment (Compliance)

Information on how to use WCAG as part of regulations.

Explanation of why to adopt WCAG3 over WCAG2.x

Make clear what is normative and non-normative.
Allow for versions that regulators can adopt as WCAG 3 will be updated

WCAG 3.0 (defining a subset as baseline accessibility)
Maturity Model (maybe as a safe harbor from ADA lawsuits for violations of WCAG 3.0)
ATAG (if we draft an implementer guide, this will be more important because lawmakers and regulators will understand the importance of authoring tools in modern web dev)
UAAG (hopefully, with an implementer guide, there will be more political will to hold user agents accountable for their role in furthering a11y)

How do we hold framework/component library creators accountable? Are those ATs?

We need to clarify the role of third parties in our implementation guidance (holding organizations making poor procurement choices accountable)

What about IOT and new tech? How can we draft guidance for the web of tomorrow (or at least anticipate a regulatory environment that would try to use WCAG to solve for new tech a11y)?

- Defining "reasonable effort" to address issues of oversight/bugs, to overcome the issue of "zero failure" (current WCAG model) or trying to define complex scoring methods
- Defining "reasonable accommodation" for content that is archived or too much to be made accessible by default (e.g. satellite images being published X times per second)
- Defining locus of responsibility and levels of accountability, for example between content author, supplier, and user (e.g. streaming service, movie producer, and user reviews)

Whether the conformance model applies to small businesses
** I think the above should be left to regulators - guidance to regulators can be given though to help them make decisions

People with disabilities being able to use the information to support requests for compliance.

- Need input from the global community
    - Regulatory
    - Community (people with disabilities)
    - Content authors
    - 'Vendors'
    - [not all inclusive]
-