



A Beginner's Introduction to WAVE

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What is WAVE?

- WAVE is a free web accessibility evaluation tool provided by WebAIM.
- It is used to aid humans in the web accessibility evaluation process.
- It will provide a user friendly report rather than a complex one.



WAVE versions

- Online Server: Most common and used WAVE version. Available at wave.webaim.org.
- WAVE Toolbar: A Firefox add-on.
- Dreamweaver Extension: Will display the results inside Dreamweaver.



How does WAVE work?

1. Choose between the web page address, a file, or code.
2. WAVE will download the HTML of the page.
3. The Mozilla rendering engine (think Firefox) will generate a virtual representation of the page.
4. The page is then checked against WAVE rules.
5. Appropriate WAVE icons and descriptions are inserted into the original document.
6. The modified document is then shown to the user.



WAVE Demo

The screenshot shows the Utah State University website homepage. At the top left is the Utah State University logo. To the right are navigation links: USU home, A-Z index, MyUSU, calendars, directory, contact. Below these is a search bar labeled "Search USU". A secondary navigation bar contains links for Future Students, Current Students, Alumni & Friends, Faculty & Staff, and Community & Visitors. The main content area features a large group photo of debaters on a staircase, with the headline "USU Debaters take Sweepstakes Award at National Tournament" and a "read more..." link. Below the photo are four columns of links: "Welcome" (About USU, Campus Map, Campus Safety, College Portrait, Parents, Regional Campuses, Visit the Campus), "Information" (Academics, Administration, Admissions, Athletics, Distance Education, Extension, Graduate Studies, Library), "Featured Links" (Academic Calendar, Colleges & Schools, Commencement, Financial Aid, Job Opportunities, Make a Gift, Museums & Arts, Registrar's Office), and "Utah State Today" (What is the Value of 'Utah State Today' to You?, USU Students Continue a Nine-Year Winning Streak at the HR Games).

skip navigation | about | contact/feedback | english | español



WAVE this page!
or upload a file

Errors, Features, and Alerts | Structure/Order | Text-only | Outline

icons key | toolbar | help | blog

Uh oh! WAVE has detected 10 accessibility errors

disable styles

This screenshot shows the same Utah State University website as above, but with WAVE accessibility error overlays. A red cursor points to the search bar, with an error message: "for='search*'". Below the main content area, several error messages are visible: "*USU Debaters take Sweepstakes Award at National Tournament*", "h1 Welcome", "alt=alt", and "? alt".

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Interpreting the results

- WAVE will present your page with embedded icons and indicators.
- Underlying accessibility information



What does all the icons mean?

- The report section at the top of the page indicates if WAVE detected any errors or not.
- **RED** icons.
- **GREEN** icons.
- **YELLOW** icons.
- The other icons.
- Trapezoidal icons apply to images.



Did my page pass the WAVE test?

No automated tool can tell you if your
page is accessible

Your page is never “WAVE approved”



Types of reports

- Errors, Features, and Alerts
- Structure/Order View
- Text-only View
- Outline View



Errors, Features, and Alerts

Default view with most WAVE features enabled.

Notice that because of the complexity of this view, reports for some complex, CSS-powered layouts may become difficult to read.



Other Views

- **Structure/Order View** displays your page with a different set of icons and indicators that show the overall structure of the page.
- **Text-only View** provides only the underlying text of the page.
- **Outline View** shows only the headers that are within your page.



What guidelines and standards does WAVE use? Section 508, WCAG, or both?

- WAVE does not prescribe to any one set of guidelines.
- It also goes well beyond guidelines.



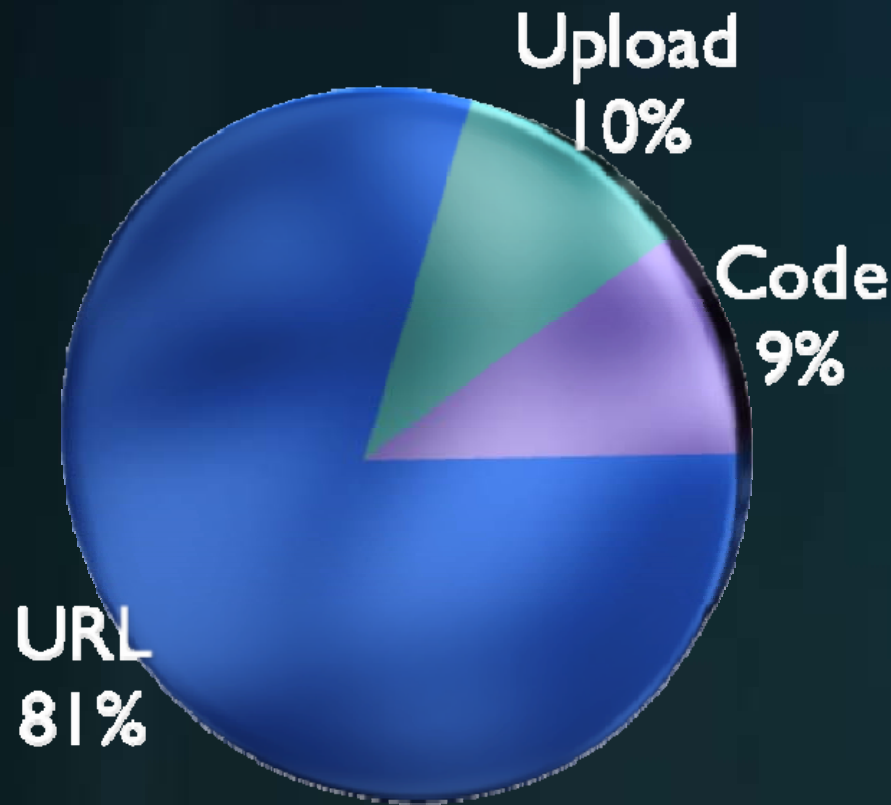
WAVE is cool. Why?

Top 5 things

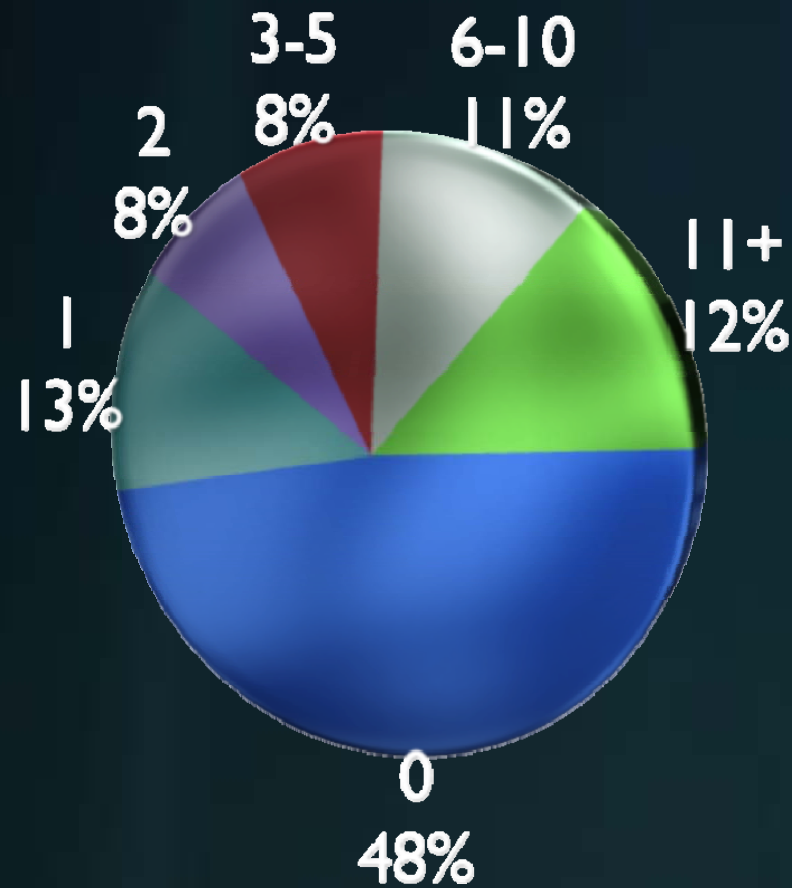
1. WAVE is the only major tool that does everything we've talked about.
2. Can be accessed from any computer with Internet at wave.webaim.org
3. Gives very accurate feedback and feedback goes beyond any guidelines.
4. Renders your page, so what is evaluated is the your final page, not just a file or code.
5. It is provided as a FREE service by WebAIM.



Nearly **one million** WAVE reports in one year, ~2800/day.



Number of Errors Detected



It is also good to know that...

- WAVE is also available in Spanish.
- In the online version scripting is removed.
- Better when used by accessibility experts.
- We are currently developing WAVE 5.
- Disable Styles and shortcuts.

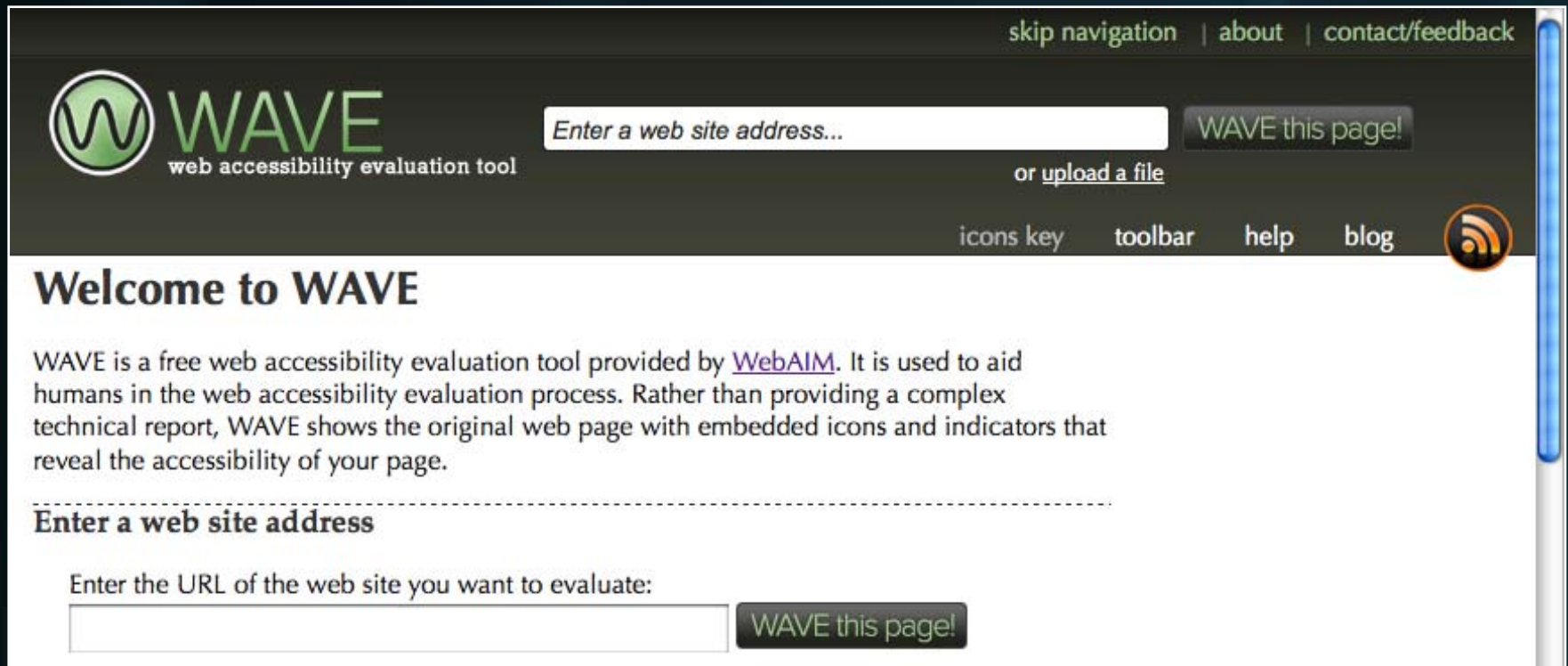


WAVE Toolbar

- The WAVE Firefox toolbar evaluates content as it appears within your web browser.
- Can evaluate private, intranet, password protected, dynamically generated, or scripted web content.



WAVE Demo



The screenshot shows the WAVE web accessibility evaluation tool interface. At the top right, there are links for "skip navigation", "about", and "contact/feedback". The WAVE logo, featuring a green circle with a white wave, is on the left, with the text "WAVE web accessibility evaluation tool" below it. A search bar contains the placeholder text "Enter a web site address...". To the right of the search bar is a button labeled "WAVE this page!". Below the search bar, there is a link "or upload a file". At the bottom of the header, there are links for "icons key", "toolbar", "help", and "blog", along with a circular RSS icon.

Welcome to WAVE

WAVE is a free web accessibility evaluation tool provided by [WebAIM](#). It is used to aid humans in the web accessibility evaluation process. Rather than providing a complex technical report, WAVE shows the original web page with embedded icons and indicators that reveal the accessibility of your page.

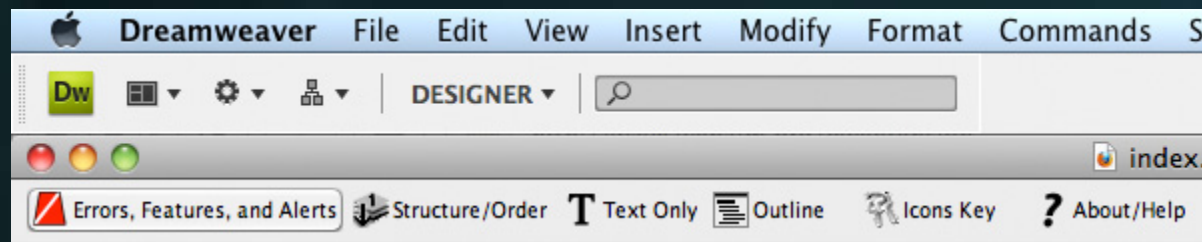
Enter a web site address

Enter the URL of the web site you want to evaluate:



Wave Dreamweaver Extension

- This extension allows you to evaluate the accessibility of content using the popular WAVE web accessibility evaluation tool directly within Adobe Dreamweaver.
- The Dreamweaver extension is in beta right now.



Thank You!

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<http://webaim.org>



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