



Accessibility Foundation uses PDFReactor® for accessible reporting

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About Accessibility Foundation

The Accessibility Foundation is the knowledge center on digital accessibility in the Netherlands. In Europe, we are an important provider of expertise in the digital accessibility domain and active in many European and local projects. We research, test and develop accessibility solutions. We provide support, consultancy and accessibility audit services for websites and apps. We are involved in the development of international standards on digital accessibility. We work for large organizations like the Dutch Government, banking and insurance industry, online retail companies, public transport organizations and many others.

Starting Point

The Accessibility Foundation supports their customers to make their websites and apps accessible. This is done by performing accessibility audits on websites or mobile apps. The resulting reports are presented in an accessible PDF document.

The reports are important documents for us and our clients. Therefore, these documents should be well structured and easy to interpret. Another important aspect is that the documents are fully accessible. This

means that the document must meet the WCAG 2.0 guidelines. It should include a correct header structure, correct tables, images with text alternatives and bookmarks.



Why RealObjects PDFReactor®?

Manual preparation of these reports takes a lot of time and error-prone. For each completed report it must be manually checked for accessibility of the PDF document. With PDFReactor® we have optimized the process and have it partly automated. In our internal reporting system our researcher registers his findings. Other information such as customer data will also be added. At the end of this process our reporting system generates an accessible PDF document with the help of the PDFReactor® engine.



Realization

To achieve this, we start with a set of JSON data which is generated by the W3C WCAG-EM Report Tool. This data is enhanced with information from Accessibility's own system, resulting in a dataset which contains all the information required to create the report. We send this data to a server running node.js + handlebars.js. The server has a set of templates available for various reports. The JSON data is inserted into one of these templates, resulting in a complete report in HTML+CSS format. This HTML report is then given to the PDFReactor command-line Java tool. To make sure the resulting document is well formatted, awesomizr.js is used to generate adaptive page breaks and a table of contents. We're using PDFReactor®-specific CSS commands to make sure pages are correctly numbered and have headers / footers on the right pages.

The resulting PDF document is downloaded into the Accessibility back-office system, which from there is sent to our customer.

Because we run various types of audits it is important that we can switch quickly and

easily between different templates. Through PDFReactor® we can easily design and customize the layout of different kinds of reports.

Conclusion

By integrating PDFReactor® we have an automated workflow to generate well-formed accessible PDF/UA documents from our own datasets. Because the input is clean HTML, it is easy to add additional documents without having to change the way the PDF generation is carried out.

Easy Conversion

PDFReactor® was the only tool we could find that was able to reliably and consistently convert HTML documents into accessible and well-formed PDF/UA documents. Using the online documentation and their helpful support people, it was quite easy to set up a working document. And because the command-line tool has lots of features, it wasn't even needed to write any code for the conversion process.

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