

In this assignment, we are looking at tools intended to evaluate our website for accessibility, specifically for ease of access and use by people with disabilities. We focus on the WebAim Wave and the AChecker web accessibility checkers. Both tools are used to evaluate the Palomar College home web page. Both of these tools are intended to be compliant with the W3C WCAG guidelines. An introduction to W3C can be found elsewhere in this site ([Web Organizations](#)). Wikipedia characterizes WCAG as follows:

**“Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)** is part of a series of web accessibility guidelines published by the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), the main international standards organization for the Internet. They are a set of guidelines that specify how to make content accessible, primarily for people with disabilities—but also for all user agents, including highly limited devices, such as mobile phones. The current version, WCAG 2.0, was published in December 2008 and became an [ISO](#) standard, ISO/IEC 40500:2012 in October 2012.”

A brief description of the parent organizations of these tools, along with my impression of their accessibility evaluation tool, will follow.



According to Wikipedia, **“WebAIM** (Web Accessibility in Mind) is a non-profit organization based at Utah State University in Logan, Utah. Their mission is to expand the potential of the web for people with disabilities by providing the knowledge, technical skills, tools, organizational leadership strategies, and vision that empower organizations to make their own content accessible to people with disabilities.”

This is an organization dedicated to providing access to the web for people with all kinds of disabilities. If you explore their site (see link below) you find compelling reasons for all developers to strive for this goal. Their website checking tool is unique in providing a navigation area, with interactive links that provide some explanation of the suspect code.

Follow the appropriate site evaluation link below to view the results of a check using this tool. Note that these is not a live links; you must follow the “IDI Web Accessibility Checker” link and enter the desired URL in order to get the interactive content.



From Wikipedia: “**ATutor** is an Open Source Web-based [Learning Content Management System](#) (LCMS) . . . ATutor is used in various contexts, including online course management, continuing professional development for teachers, career development, and academic research.<sup>[2]</sup> The software is cited as unique for its accessibility features, (useful to visually impaired and disabled learners); and for its suitability for educational use according to software evaluation criteria established by The American Society for Training and Development (ASTD).”

The IDI web accessibility checker is a service provided by Atutor, and is used in this evaluation. The format used is similar to that used by the W3C html and CSS validation checkers. The descriptions are comprehensive and detailed, but not as concise as the WebAim entry.

Follow the appropriate site evaluation link below to view the results of a check, using this tool.

I have run both of these tools on the home page for the Palomar College website and my personal site, the one you are visiting now. I am pleased to say the few errors were found on my website home page, though I need to check all the pages, and that will get to be quite a chore!.

Both tools seem to catch the same types of problems, one being the lack of “alt” references for images, which are rampant in our mother site. The format is quite different, with the AChecker being more of a simple list of issues, including some clues as to how to deal with them.

In summary, both of these tools can be a great help in providing compliance with WCAG guidelines. I intend to make use of both in any website I publish in the future.

A table of related links follows:

WebAim Links	
<a href="http://webaim.org/">http://webaim.org/</a>	WebAim Home Page
<a href="http://achecker.ca/checker/index.php">http://achecker.ca/checker/index.php</a>	WebAim Accessibility Checker
<a href="file:///C:/CSWB110/WebsiteScratchpad/public_html/CSWB110/Research/Chapter10_Validation/Accessibility/WAVE%20Report%20of%20Palomar%20College%20-%20Learning%20for%20Success.html">file:///C:/CSWB110/WebsiteScratchpad/public_html/CSWB110/Research/Chapter10_Validation/Accessibility/WAVE%20Report%20of%20Palomar%20College%20-%20Learning%20for%20Success.html</a>	WebAim Palomar Site Evaluation
<a href="WAVE Report of foolsofty.com.html">WAVE Report of foolsofty.com.html</a>	WebAIM Personal Site Evaluation
AChecker Links	
<a href="http://www.atutor.ca/achecker/">http://www.atutor.ca/achecker/</a>	Atutor Home Page
<a href="http://achecker.ca/checker/index.php">http://achecker.ca/checker/index.php</a>	IDI Web Accessibility Checker
<a href="file:///C:/CSWB110/WebsiteScratchpad/public_html/CSWB110/Research/Chapter10_Validation/Accessibility/IDI%20Web%20Accessibility%20Checker%20_%20Web%20Accessibility%20Checker.html">file:///C:/CSWB110/WebsiteScratchpad/public_html/CSWB110/Research/Chapter10_Validation/Accessibility/IDI%20Web%20Accessibility%20Checker%20_%20Web%20Accessibility%20Checker.html</a>	AChecker Palomar Site Evaluation
<a href="WAVE Report of foolsofty.com.html">WAVE Report of foolsofty.com.html</a>	Achecker Personal Site Evaluation
<a href="https://www.td.org/">https://www.td.org/</a>	Association for Talent Development (formerly ASTD)
Related Links	
<a href="http://www2.palomar.edu/">http://www2.palomar.edu/</a>	Palomar College Home Page
<a href="https://www.w3.org/">https://www.w3.org/</a>	World Wide Web Consortium
<a href="https://www.w3.org/WAI/">https://www.w3.org/WAI/</a>	Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)