Abstract

Accessibility of web content requires semantic information about widgets, structures, and behaviors, in order to allow assistive technologies to convey appropriate information to persons with disabilities. This specification provides an ontology of roles, states, and properties that define accessible user interface elements and can be used to improve the accessibility and interoperability of web content and applications. These semantics are designed to allow an author to properly convey user interface behaviors and structural information to assistive technologies in document-level markup. This document is part of the WAI-ARIA suite described in the WAI-ARIA Overview.
Status of this Document

This section describes the status of this document at the time of its publication. Other documents may supersede this document. A list of current W3C publications and the latest revision of this technical report can be found in the W3C technical reports index at http://www.w3.org/TR/.

This is a Last Call Working Draft by the Protocols & Formats Working Group of the Web Accessibility Initiative. This version incorporates changes in response to public comments received on the previous version. A history of changes to WAI-ARIA is available.

WAI-ARIA was previously published as a Last Call Working Draft on 24 February 2009. Due to substantial changes in response to these comments, PFWG published an ordinary Working Draft on 15 December 2009 to collect feedback on these changes preparatory to issuing this second Last Call Working Draft. Refer to the summary of actions made in response to comments on the previous two drafts and the issue disposition report for the previous two drafts. The PFWG considers that WAI-ARIA 1.0 satisfies the requirements set out in WAI-ARIA Roadmap [ARIA-ROADMAP] and expects to advance it to Candidate Recommendation in Q4 2010.

Feedback on the model set out here is important to the success of the Web community in creating accessible Rich Internet Applications. The PFWG would like to know:

- Does the role ontology provide the information and operations that people with disabilities need in order to access and operate richly interactive Web applications?
- Is the usage of roles, states, and properties clear?
- Are conformance requirements clear, and sufficient but not excessive?
- Does the algorithm to calculate accessible name work for user agents and for authors?
- Does the integration of WAI-ARIA into host languages meet the needs both of the host language and of accessibility?
- Is the explanation of presentation inheritance clear?

When addressing these questions, please consider them in the context of the companion documents. Start with the instructions for commenting page to submit comments (preferred), or send email to public-pfwg-comments@w3.org (comment archive). Comments should be made by 29 October 2010. In-progress updates to the document may be viewed in the publicly visible editors' draft.

Publication as a Working Draft does not imply endorsement by the W3C Membership. This is a draft document and may be updated, replaced or obsoleted by other documents at any time. It is inappropriate to cite this document as other than work in progress.
This document was produced by a group operating under the 5 February 2004 W3C Patent Policy. W3C maintains a public list of any patent disclosures made in connection with the deliverables of the group; that page also includes instructions for disclosing a patent. An individual who has actual knowledge of a patent which the individual believes contains Essential Claim(s) must disclose the information in accordance with section 6 of the W3C Patent Policy.

The disclosure obligations of the Participants of this group are described in the charter.

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