



# **Voluntary Product Accessibility Template® (VPAT®)**

## **WCAG Edition**

**(Based on VPAT® Version 2.4)**

March 2023

## Name of Product: Coherent Commons

- **Notes:** This report covers accessibility conformance of all products running on the *Coherent Commons* platform, e.g., [Policy Commons](#), [Africa Commons](#), [History Commons](#), [South Asia Commons](#), [Canada Commons](#), etc.

## Evaluation Methods Used

- **Automated Testing:** Axe automated plugin has been used for initial scanning of different pages of the platform.
- **Manual Testing:** This report has been generated based on the tests conducted via a paired testing methodology involving two testers, one of them is a non-sighted and the other is a sighted accessibility expert. The tools which have been used for testing are *Freedom Scientific's NVDA 2022* which is an open-source screen reader, *Paciello Group's Color Contrast Analyzer (CCA)*, and *Text Spacing*.

## Testing Scope & Compatibility Matrix

### Key Features in Accessibility Testing Scope:

- Advanced Search: `/search/advanced/?q=term`
- Alerts: `/accounts/following/`
- Artifact detail: `/artifacts/123456/slug/`
- List: `/lists/123456/slug/`
- Organization Directory: `/search/?i=organizations&via=menu`
- Organization: `/orgs/slug/`
- Search: `/search/?q=term`
- Sign up: `/accounts/signup/`
- Topic: `/topics/slug/`
- Topics Directory: `/topics/`
- Upload: `/contribute/`
- Viewer: `/artifacts/123456/slug/7890/view/`

Platforms	Chrome (Latest)
Windows 10	NVDA 2022 (100% QA)

## Applicable Standards/Guidelines

This report covers the degree of conformance for the following accessibility standard/guidelines:

Standard/Guideline	Included In Report
<a href="#">Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0</a>	<b>Level A (Yes)</b> <b>Level AA (Yes)</b> Level AAA (No)
<a href="#">Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1</a>	<b>Level A (Yes)</b> <b>Level AA (Yes)</b> Level AAA (No)
<a href="#">Revised Section 508 standards published January 18, 2017 and corrected January 22, 2018</a>	<b>(Yes)</b>

Sections	Total number of Applicable Provisions	Total Number of Supported Provisions		
		Supports	Partially Supports	Does Not Support
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 A	25	25	0	0
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 AA	10	10	0	0
Functional Performance Criteria	5	5	0	0
Support Documentation and Services	3	3	0	0

## Terms

The terms used in the *Conformance Level* information are defined as follows:

- **Supports:** The functionality of the product has at least one method that meets the criterion without known defects or meets with equivalent facilitation.
- **Partially Supports:** Some functionality of the product does not meet the criterion.
- **Does Not Support:** The majority of product functionality does not meet the criterion.
- **Not Applicable:** The criterion is not relevant to the product.
- **Not Evaluated:** The product has not been evaluated against the criterion.

## WCAG 2.1 Report

Note: When reporting on conformance with the *WCAG 2.1 Success Criteria*, they are scoped for full pages, complete processes, and accessibility-supported ways of using technology as documented in the [WCAG 2.0 Conformance Requirements](#).

**Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A**

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">1.1.1 Non-text Content</a> (Level A)	Supports	All instances, where images/icons are used to convey meaningful information, are accompanied with equivalent text alternatives for screen reader users.
<a href="#">1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)</a> (Level A)	Not Applicable	There is audio-only and video-only content accessible via the platform, but these are not in our testing scope.
<a href="#">1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded)</a> (Level A)	Not Applicable	There is multimedia content accessible via the platform, but these are not in our testing scope.
<a href="#">1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)</a> (Level A)	Not Applicable	There is multimedia content accessible via the platform, but these are not in our testing scope.
<a href="#">1.3.1 Info and Relationships</a> (Level A)	Supports	The screen reader properly identifies all the information available on the platform. Visually impaired users are easily able to perceive the relationships between a particular element and its role. Form field is properly defined.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence</a> (Level A)	Supports	Screen reader reads the content present on the platform in a meaningful sequence using arrow keys, which preserves the meaning and context for visually impaired users.
<a href="#">1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics</a> (Level A)	Supports	Instructions available on the platform do not rely solely on sensory characteristics of components such as shape, size, visual location, orientation, or sound.
<a href="#">1.4.1 Use of Color</a> (Level A)	Supports	Wherever color is used to convey some meaningful information, it is accompanied with an alternative that does not rely on color to interpret the same information
<a href="#">1.4.2 Audio Control</a> (Level A)	Not Applicable	There is no such audio available on the platform, which plays automatically as soon as the page is launched.
<a href="#">2.1.1 Keyboard</a> (Level A)	Supports	The platform has interactive user interface components like buttons, links, and all these elements are operable using a keyboard for screen reader/keyboard users.
<a href="#">2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap</a> (Level A)	Supports	Keyboard focus is not getting trapped anywhere on the platform.
<a href="#">2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts</a> (Level A 2.1 only)	Not Applicable	Single key character shortcuts are not used anywhere on the platform.
<a href="#">2.2.1 Timing Adjustable</a> (Level A)	Not Applicable	There is no such time-based activity available on the platform.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#"><u>2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide</u></a> (Level A)	Not Applicable	There is no moving/blinking/auto-updating content that needs to be paused/stopped/hidden for the user with certain disabilities.
<a href="#"><u>2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold</u></a> (Level A)	Not Applicable	There is no flashing/blinking content present anywhere on the platform.
<a href="#"><u>2.4.1 Bypass Blocks</u></a> (Level A)	Supports	<i>Skip to main content</i> link is provided at the top of the page for all the web pages on the platform to skip the repetitive block of content.
<a href="#"><u>2.4.2 Page Titled</u></a> (Level A)	Supports	Unique and meaningful titles are available for all web pages on the platform that serve their purpose.
<a href="#"><u>2.4.3 Focus Order</u></a> (Level A)	Supports	The focus order is moving in a correct sequence on all instances. User can navigate the content in logical sequence.
<a href="#"><u>2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)</u></a> (Level A)	Supports	All the links available on the platform are provided with sufficient link text which clearly describes their purpose/target destination.
<a href="#"><u>2.5.1 Pointer Gestures</u></a> (Level A 2.1 only)	Not Applicable	No activity/functionality on the platform requires any path based or multipoint gestures.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation</a> (Level A 2.1 only)	Supports	Platform controls are activated on an UP event even if the user accidentally taps on a control. User can move away from their target area & lift their pointer to abort its action.
<a href="#">2.5.3 Label in Name</a> (Level A 2.1 only)	Supports	Users can activate all the interactive elements by calling their visible text labels.
<a href="#">2.5.4 Motion Actuation</a> (Level A 2.1 only)	Not Applicable	There is no functionality/activity available on the platform, which requires device or user motion to perform an action.
<a href="#">3.1.1 Language of Page</a> (Level A)	Supports	Platform content is available in English language, and this language is defined for all the pages using the lang="en" attribute in <html> tag.
<a href="#">3.2.1 On Focus</a> (Level A)	Supports	No change of context is observed on the platform when any user interface element receives keyboard focus.
<a href="#">3.2.2 On Input</a> (Level A)	Supports	Changing the setting of any user interface component does not automatically cause a change of context throughout the platform.
<a href="#">3.3.1 Error Identification</a> (Level A)	Supports	All the error messages/warnings available on the platform are available in textual form, and these are automatically detected using the screen readers.
<a href="#">3.3.2 Labels or Instructions</a> (Level A)	Supports	Platform supports visually impaired and cognitive users as labels and instructions are provided for all form fields. These labels are clearly visible and readable to such users.



Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">4.1.1 Parsing</a> (Level A)	Supports	Different elements are implemented using markup languages and start and end tags are effectively used. Elements are nested according to their specifications, and do not contain duplicate attributes.
<a href="#">4.1.2 Name, Role, Value</a> (Level A)	Supports	All components on the platform have proper name/label, role/state, and value, which helps screen reader users know their purpose and nature.

**Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA**

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">1.2.4 Captions (Live)</a> (Level AA)	Not Applicable	There is no live multimedia content present on the platform.
<a href="#">1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded)</a> (Level AA)	Not Applicable	Audio description is not needed for the videos available on the platform as alt information is available in audio itself.
<a href="#">1.3.4 Orientation</a> (Level AA 2.1 only)	Not Applicable	Platform is not tested on the device.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose</a> (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	Platform provides proper labels for all the input fields, which are associated with respective input fields that accept the user's personal information, and by reading the labels.
<a href="#">1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)</a> (Level AA)	Supports	Platform has sufficient contrast ratio, i.e., 4.5:1 (for regular text) and 3:1 (for large text) for all the color combinations used in all the web pages.
<a href="#">1.4.4 Resize text</a> (Level AA)	Supports	Low vision users can perceive and operate all web content in the magnified view while resizing the content up to 200% using the browser zoom feature.
<a href="#">1.4.5 Images of Text</a> (Level AA)	Supports	Regular text is used to achieve a particular visual presentation like a heading instead of images of text.
<a href="#">1.4.10 Reflow</a> (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	Low-vision users can access all information present on the page when the browser is set at 400% zoom on a standard desktop machine. Users need not scroll in two different dimensions as all the page content reflows in the vertical column after resizing the content to 400% browser zoom.
<a href="#">1.4.11 Non-text Contrast</a> (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	Sufficient contrast ( $\geq 3:1$ ) is provided for all user interface components like graphics, buttons, radio buttons, edit fields, etc., to the adjacent colors throughout the platform.
<a href="#">1.4.12 Text Spacing</a> (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	This success criteria have been validated for persons with low vision and reading disabilities using Steve Faulkner's Text Spacing Bookmarklet, and all the platform content is

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		easily readable and accessible after adjusting the text spacing using this tool.
<a href="#">1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus</a> (Level AA 2.1 only)	Not Applicable	No additional content is displayed when any user interface element receives mouse or keyboard focus.
<a href="#">2.4.5 Multiple Ways</a> (Level AA)	Supports	The platform consists of several pages which can be accessed through main navigation links as well as via a search mechanism.
<a href="#">2.4.6 Headings and Labels</a> (Level AA)	Supports	All the headings and labels provided for web elements are clear enough to understand the purpose, by which users can identify specific components within the content.
<a href="#">2.4.7 Focus Visible</a> (Level AA)	Supports	A clear focus indicator is visible for all the interactive elements available on the platform. Keyboard users can identify the currently focused element while navigating the page using tab key.
<a href="#">3.1.2 Language of Parts</a> (Level AA)	Supports	Platform has some links available in English language, and language of these elements have been defined using the lang="en" attribute.
<a href="#">3.2.3 Consistent Navigation</a> (Level AA)	Supports	Repeated components are occurring in the same order on every page of the platform, which helps users to predict the location of different web elements on each page.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">3.2.4 Consistent Identification</a> (Level AA)	Supports	All elements that have the same functionality across multiple pages in the platform have the same labels or name.
<a href="#">3.3.3 Error Suggestion</a> (Level AA)	Supports	On submitting a form with invalid inputs, descriptive suggestions to correct the input error are provided.
<a href="#">3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data)</a> (Level AA)	Supports	A mechanism is available for reviewing & correcting information before final submission.
<a href="#">4.1.3 Status Messages</a> (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	All the dynamic changes and notifications for most of the elements are automatically announced, and screen reader users are unable to identify the updated status/progress of any task programmatically.

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## Chapter 3: [Functional Performance Criteria \(FPC\)](#)

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<b>302.1 Without Vision</b>	Supports	The platform provides support for screen readers like NVDA, and users can easily operate the platform that way.
<b>302.2 With Limited Vision</b>	Supports	Content of the platform is easily readable when web pages are resized up to 400%. Color scheme is appropriate and color contrast ratio of interactive elements is equal to or greater than standard ratios of 4.5:1 and 3:1.
<b>302.3 Without Perception of Color</b>	Supports	Wherever color is used to convey some meaningful information, it is accompanied with an alternative that does not rely on color to interpret the same information.
<b>302.4 Without Hearing</b>	Not Applicable	There is multimedia content accessible via the platform, but these are not in our testing scope.
<b>302.5 With Limited Hearing</b>	Not Applicable	There is multimedia content accessible via the platform, but these are not in our testing scope.
<b>302.6 Without Speech</b>	Not Applicable	Speech is not required to complete any task or activity.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<b>302.7 With Limited Manipulation</b>	Not Applicable	There are no such complicated keyboard actions required on the platform to perform any task, which requires simultaneous actions or fine motor control.
<b>302.8 With Limited Reach and Strength</b>	Supports	Platform has many interactive user interface components like buttons, links, and all these elements are operable using a keyboard for screen reader/ keyboard users.
<b>302.9 With Limited Language, Cognitive, and Learning Abilities</b>	Supports	<p>All the features present in the platform have good support for users with cognitive disabilities due to the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clear labels are provided for all the input fields.</li> <li>2. The platform does not have any multimedia which plays automatically and confuses the user.</li> <li>3. Content is easy to understand.</li> </ol>

## Chapter 6: Support Documentation and Services

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<b>601.1 Scope</b>	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
<b><u>602 Support Documentation</u></b>	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
602.2 Accessibility and Compatibility Features	Supports	Accessibility information is available on the platform, which describes conformance to WCAG 2.1 AA and Section 508.
602.3 Electronic Support Documentation	See <a href="#">WCAG 2.0</a> section	See information in WCAG 2.0 section
602.4 Alternate Formats for Non-Electronic Support Documentation	Not Applicable	Since the platform provides information via digital medium and it allows users to access the <i>Help Center</i> feature for further help regarding the digital content and documentation, there is no such requirement of alternate formats for non-electronic support documentation as help center services are available electronically.
<b><u>603 Support Services</u></b>	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
603.2 Information on Accessibility and Compatibility Features	Supports	There is an <i>Accessibility</i> page available on the platform which shows product commitment towards accessibility.
603.3 Accommodation of Communication Needs	Supports	The platform provides support to end users regarding their accessibility-related questions via the <i>Help</i> page.

## Legal Disclaimer

This report is explicitly based on the accessibility audit that has been performed on the “**Coherent Commons**” platform as per the scope mentioned in ‘Compatibility Matrix and Testing Scope’ section above. The Remarks and Explanations provided against each success criteria are truly based upon the accessibility test execution results.

## Additional Disclaimer from the Publisher

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