

Design Crit - Disabled Elements and Accessibility Oct 4 Notes

"P.O.U.R."

- Perceivable
 - changes of state
 - awareness - know it's there
 - discoverability
 - legibility - no unpleasant side-effects (i.e. flashing)
 - modality independent
 - structures and relationships
- Operable
 - you can interact with it - you have full range of action to use something
 - modality independent - accomplishing the same function regardless of modality
 - if something is non-operable - it can't be "reached" accessed
 - timing
- Understandable
 - knowing what something does in its context
 - i.e. what is its scope? what does it act upon?
 - how would this be communicated in multiple modalities? Visually it may be "obvious".
 - issue of cognition - i.e. understanding the text
 - understand what the author intended to communicate
 - consider alternatives to content
 - understandable regardless of experience
 - learnable - something may not be previously experienced. Therefore it should be learnable.
 - as simple / complex as required. No more no less.
 - timing
 - communication of affordances.
- Robust
 - Doesn't break - flexible, forgiving, recoverable
 - Flexibility example: i.e. postal code or phone number inputs on forms
 - Example of a good implementation: Amazon address change
 - Use a suitable control for constrained input (i.e. use a date picker for dates, and not a text field). Reduce validation and validation errors.
 - Content and controls works across many platforms / technologies ~ "Graceful degradation"
 - States are communicated clearly (i.e. if an error occurs)
 - Survive environmental changes (i.e. changes to screen size, browsers etc.)

Issues

- Placeholder text
 - placeholder should describe the text format
 - problem: placeholder text often used as labels or descriptions.
 - motivation to save some space
 - Proper usage of placeholder text?
 - Disappears after you start entering text
 - What is being communicated by the greyed-out text?
 - Differentiating from text the user entered vs. a prompt.
 - How do ATs handle placeholder text?
 - often gets lumped in with the label, or even substitutes for a label if label is absent.
- Disabled controls
 - What is being communicated?
 - state
 - Aria states:
 - read-only, disabled, enabled,

Relevant Resources

- WCAG 1.4.1. **Use of Color:** Color is not used as the only visual means of conveying information, indicating an action, prompting a response, or distinguishing a visual element. (Level A)
- WCAG 1.4.3 **Contrast (minimum):** The visual presentation of text and images of text has a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1, except for the following: (Level AA)
- ARIA for disabled buttons: <https://webaccessibility.withgoogle.com/unit?unit=6&lesson=9>
- Example of WCAG compliant disabled "Help" button: <http://build.fluidproject.org/first-discovery/demos/>
- Discussion of label usage vs. placeholder usage: <https://www.paciellogroup.com/blog/2011/02/html5-accessibility-chops-the-placeholder-attribute/>
- NNGroup Placeholder text and Labels.

Notes: