

A11yDetector Mini Technical Guide

What is A11yDetector?

A11yDetector is a browser extension that scans web pages for accessibility issues based on WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) standards. It detects issues in areas such as keyboard navigation, color contrast, and screen reader compatibility, among others, and provides practical solutions for every issue found.

Getting Started

When you open the extension, you will see three main tabs at the top: Execution, Progress, and Reports. Each represents a step in the scanning workflow.

1. Execution Tab

This is where you configure and launch accessibility scans. It features two modes: Quick Scan and Custom Scan.

1.1 Welcome Screen

When you open the extension for the first time, you will see:

- The accessibility icon and the message "Ready to make the web accessible"—confirming that the extension is active and ready.
- The Current Page card—displaying the URL of the page you are currently visiting. This is the page that will be scanned. You can click on the URL field to edit it manually if needed.
- The "Run scan" button—fixed at the bottom of the extension window. Click it to immediately execute a full scan (running all tests) on the current page.

Automatic Tabindex Detection

When you open the extension, it performs a quick check of the current page. If elements with tabindex attributes are detected that could potentially conflict with accessibility standards, an informational notice appears above the URL card. This notice displays:

- The number of items detected (e.g., "5 tabindex items found").
- A "For your consideration" badge—indicating that these items are not necessarily errors, but rather aspects that warrant review.
- A brief explanation: the detected items will be included in the report, where you can review them individually and decide whether they apply to your specific case or if they were intentional design decisions.
- A "Review now →" link—which takes you directly to the Tabindex Review section.

This notice is purely informational and does not block any actions. You can ignore it and proceed with the scan as usual. The detected items will be available for review in the Reports tab after the scan is complete.

1.2 Customize Scan

Below the URL card, you will find the "Customize scan" toggle. Click it to display additional options:

Tests

Test	What it checks
Keyboard	Can all interactive elements be accessed and operated using only the keyboard?
Screen reader	Are elements correctly labeled for assistive technologies?
Color contrast	Do text and UI components meet sufficient color contrast ratios?
Zoom	Does the page remain usable when zoomed to 200%?

- Click any test card to select or deselect it. Selected tests show a green border.
- Use "Select all" / "Deselect all" to enable or disable all tests at once.
- If you do not open the Customize scan section and no specific tests are selected, the scan runs all tests by default. If you do open the Customize scan section but select no tests, the extension will display the following error: At least one test must be selected, and will not allow you to run the scan until at least one test is selected.

Scope

Choose which part of the page to scan:

- Entire page — scans the full page (default).
- CSS selector — scans only a specific section. When selected, an input field appears where you can type a CSS selector (e.g., #main-content, .container). You can also click the "Pick" button to visually select an element on the page.

Viewport

Choose the viewport size for the scan. This affects how the page is rendered during testing:

Preset	Resolution
Desktop	1920×1080
Laptop	1280×720
Tablet	768×1024
Mobile	375×812
Custom	User-defined width and height in pixels

The selected viewport is highlighted with a green border.

1.3 URL Behavior

- When Customize is closed: The URL card displays "Current page" with the detected URL as a read-only view.
- When Customize is open: The label changes to "Enter URL manually" and the field becomes a text input where you can type any URL to scan.

2. Progress Tab

After clicking "Run scan", switch to the Progress tab to monitor the scan in real time.

2.1 Robot Animation

A friendly animated robot appears at the top of the screen, visually indicating that the scan is in progress.

2.2 Status Messages

Below the robot, messages update as the scan advances:

- "Sending your request to the server" — the scan has started.
- "Analyzing your pages for accessibility issues" — actively checking the page.
- "Your completed and active scans" — scan completed.

2.3 Progress Bar

A horizontal bar displays the overall progress as a percentage (0% to 100%).

2.4 Per-Test Result List

Each test appears as a row with its icon, name, and current status:

Status	Meaning
Pending	The test has not started yet.
Running	The test is currently executing (shows a spinner).
Done	The test completed successfully (shows a checkmark).

2.5 Completion

When all tests finish:

- The robot stops animating and remains in a static pose.
- The message changes to "Your completed and active scans" with an indication to

view the report.

3. Reports Tab

This is where you view, manage, and act on scan results.

3.1 Report List

The main Reports view displays all completed scan reports as cards. Each card shows:

- A wireframe preview of the scanned page.
- A badge with the issue count.
- The URL that was scanned.

Click any card to open the report detail.

3.2 Report Management

Above the report list, you will see a counter (e.g., "4 reports") and a "Manage" link. Click "Manage" to enter selection mode:

- Checkboxes appear to the left of each report card.
- Click cards to select or deselect them.
- "Select all" / "Deselect all" — selects or deselects all reports.
- "Delete" — permanently deletes the selected reports. Only active when at least one report is selected. Shows the count (e.g., "Delete (3)").
- Click "Done" to exit selection mode.

3.3 Report Detail

When you open a report, you will see:

Action Bar

- Copy listing — copies the issue list to the clipboard.
- Copy report — copies the full report to the clipboard.
- View full report — opens the full report in a new tab/window.
- "Delete this report" — a subtle link to delete this specific report.

Identified Issues

Issues are organized in a collapsible hierarchy:

- Level 1 — WCAG Criterion (e.g., 1.4.3 – Contrast Minimum): shows the criterion name and issue count. Click to expand.
- Level 2 — Individual issues: each issue shows a numeric badge, the issue title (truncated), and an expand arrow to open the full detail.

3.4 Issue Management (Selection Mode)

Within the issue list for each checkpoint, you will also find a "Manage" link. Click it to enter selection mode for issues:

- Checkboxes appear next to each issue.
- Select issues individually or use "Select all".

- Click "Dismiss" to mark the selected issues as not relevant.
- Dismissed issues display: a dashed border, 45% opacity, strikethrough title, and a "Dismissed" badge.
- Dismissed issues remain visible but are excluded from reports.
- The active issue count updates automatically.
- Click "Done" to exit selection mode.

3.5 Issue Detail View

Click an individual issue card to open its full detail in a dedicated view.

Header

- Back navigation — "Back to [criterion name]" returns to the issue list.
- Issue number in a circle.
- Full issue title.
- Eye icon — highlights the affected element on the page.
- Badges — test category and WCAG criterion.

Expert Description

- Location — the CSS selector or identifier of the element where the issue was found.
- Description — a detailed explanation of the accessibility problem, including specific values (e.g., contrast ratios, missing attributes).

Code Block

The problematic HTML/CSS code is displayed in a monospaced code block for reference.

Proposed Solution

- A clear explanation of how to fix the issue.
- A corrected code block showing the suggested change.

Other Occurrences

If the same issue appears in multiple places on the page, they are listed here with:

- An occurrence number label.
- The description of each occurrence.
- An eye icon to highlight each occurrence on the page.

Issue Pagination

At the bottom of the detail view, a pagination panel lets you navigate directly to the previous or next issue within the same WCAG criterion without returning to the list. It shows:

- Left arrow — goes to the previous issue (disabled if it is the first one).
- Position indicator — shows the current issue relative to the total (e.g., "2 of 5").
- Right arrow — goes to the next issue (disabled if it is the last one).

This streamlines the sequential review of issues when a criterion has multiple occurrences.

Dismiss

At the bottom of the detail view, a "Dismiss this issue" button lets you mark the issue as not relevant. Once dismissed, the button changes to a confirmation message: "Dismissed — won't appear in report".

Tips

- Quick scan: Just open the extension and click "Run scan" — no configuration needed. It runs all tests on the current page using the desktop viewport.
- Check specific areas: Use the CSS selector scope to focus on a particular section of a complex page.
- Test responsive behavior: Switch viewport presets to verify accessibility at different screen sizes.
- Review before deleting: Use the dismiss feature for issues you want to exclude from reports without losing them permanently.
- Tabindex items are suggestions: The Tabindex Review category flags potential issues that may be intentional design decisions.