

# Towards a More Accessible Fandom

Making your BL creations more  
accessible on the web



## Link to slides

<https://awsketch.com/resources/citruscon2023>

I will be verbally describing the slides for the audio.

# Introduction

- Name: Kai, they/them pronouns
  - I make stuff...sometimes it's art, streaming, zines
- Accessibility advocate
  - I don't consider myself a person with a disability
  - Not an expert
- Really into a skateboarding anime called *SK8 the Infinity*
  - Slides may contain slight spoilers
- If you have gone through the things I'm going to talk about today, maybe comment in the chat if you're comfortable sharing your experience



# Summary

Accessibility touches on many parts of the fandom experience, and affects everyone, including fans with disabilities.

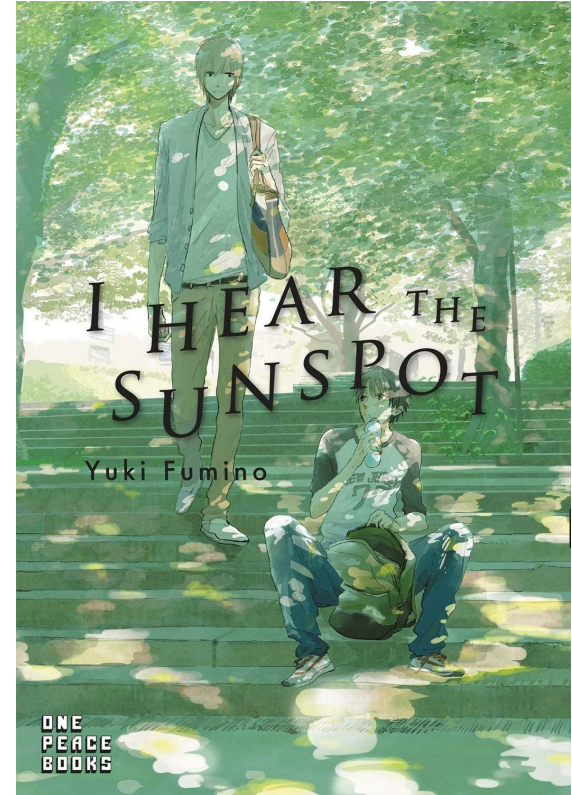
If you're new to it and just starting now, making things more accessible won't be perfect. Every little bit helps make the fandom space more accessible and inclusive for everyone.



# Why accessibility?

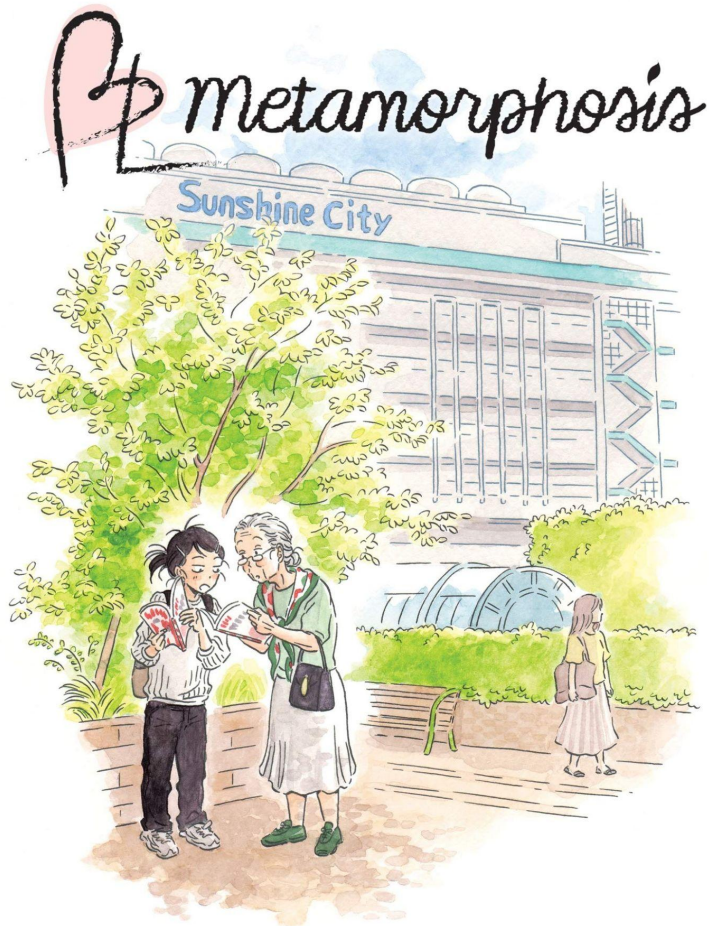
- There are lots of different ways to participate in fandom spaces
- There are many meeting places of fans from all over
  - Discord, in-person events, social media
- There are so many things to do and participate in! Bangs! Exchanges! Zines!
- Fandom “moments”

But what happens when some people are accidentally excluded?



# Reasons for making this panel

[BL Metamorphosis](#) by Kaori Tsurutani  
published in English by Seven Seas



# Models of disability

There are 3 main models of disability. Each model addresses the perceived causes of disability, appropriate responses, and deeper meanings.

- Moral model
- Medical model
- Social model

[Conceptualizing disability: Three models of disability](#)



# What is accessibility?

Accessibility addresses discriminatory aspects related to equivalent user experience for people with disabilities.



# Fandom activities

- Zines
- Bangs & exchanges
- Streaming
- Art, writing
- Sharing what you've been up to on social media
- Recommending to everyone your favorite new boys' love comic
- Websites & shops
- Going to the con, etc.



# Examples of accessibility

- Your friends are having a shouting match about their favorite pairing headcanons
- Shopping for merch, but you have a migraine
- Going to the convention with your cosplay, and you're pulling your luggage over the curb
- Playing a new game, and you change the size of the text



# Examples

- New audio or drama CD that comes with lyrics
- Sharing what you've been up to on social media
- Catching up on some manga or anime before you get spoiled, but you have to be quiet



## But what does all this have to do with fandom?

- Things that I've noticed people have been doing, but aren't aware that it's inaccessible
- Preparing for the future you, or working towards including more current fans
- Something that might come across as a minor annoyance might be a major blocker to someone else (Example: [Your Interactive Makes Me Sick](#))



Story time

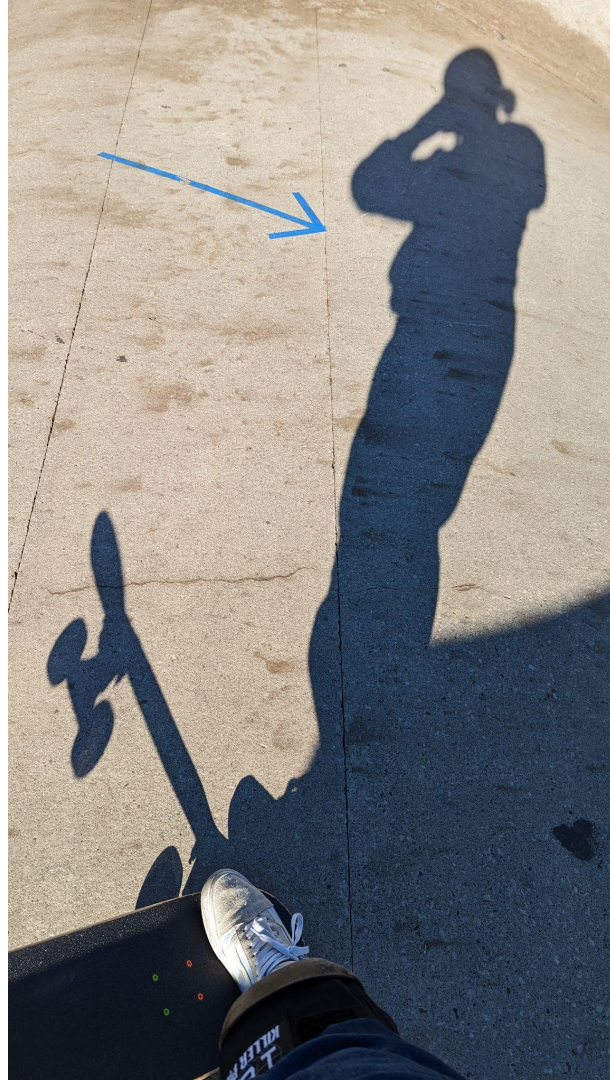


They said two weeks to full recovery.



ADAM nominated him.

# Story time



A character with spiky yellow hair, orange goggles, a red jacket, and a prosthetic right hand. The character is looking forward with a neutral expression. The background is a wooden interior.

Being accessible isn't anti-fun



# Ways that platforms cause exclusion

- Ignorance & ableism
- Platforms that don't help users that want to do the right thing or launch without it
  - [Threads is getting some useful new features](#)

THREADS / TECH / META

## Threads is getting some useful new features



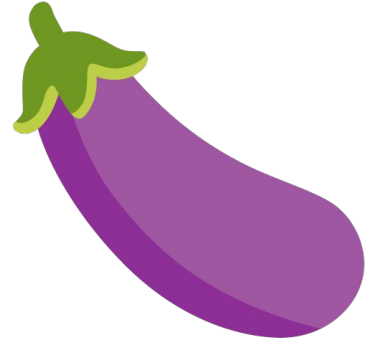
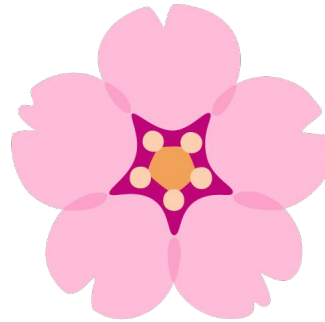
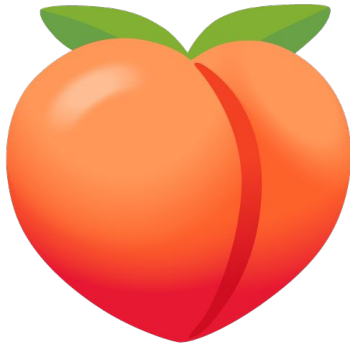
/ Including the ability to add custom alt text to photos and videos.

By [Jay Peters](#), a news editor who writes about technology, video games, and virtual worlds. He's submitted several accepted emoji proposals to the Unicode Consortium.

Aug 9, 2023, 12:06 PM EDT | [24 Comments](#) / [24 New](#)

# Emojis

Simple to use and understand,  
but might not always reflect the  
full context or convey the full  
meaning



# Examples of emojis gone wrong

triangular flag on post emoji



# Examples of emojis gone wrong

[Post from Comic Market Committee \(International\)](#)

(@comiket\_intl) for International Cat Day

- Good use of hashtag capitalization
- But what does this mean?

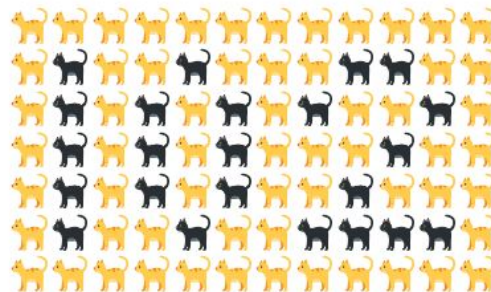
← Tweet

20



Comic Market Committee (International)

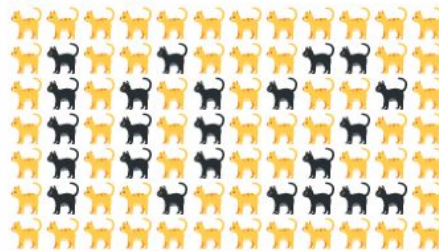
@comiket\_intl



#InternationalCatDay



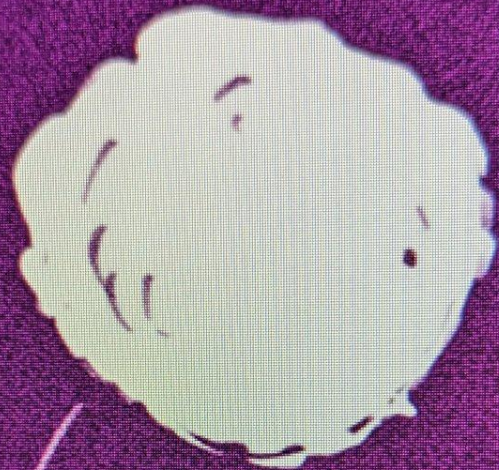
n日目 ☀️ コミックマーケット準備会 ▼ ▼ @comiket\_air · 59m



#世界猫の日 #C102 #コミケ

7:55 PM · Aug 7, 2023 · 181 Views

Make it bigger 🙌



# Color contrast

- Picking themes with enough size difference and colour contrast
  - [Contrast Checker](#)
- Avoid busy backgrounds that interfere with text
- Dark mode is an accessibility feature, but sometimes the contrast is reduced so it's hard to read



# What is alternative text (alt text)?

Alternative text is a textual substitute for non-text content in web pages. **Context matters.**

This is text for screen reader users and search engines.

- [Alt text as poetry](#)
- [How to add descriptive text to images in A03](#)
- alt="" to make your image decorative



# Alt text

Alternative text should:

- Be informative and concise
- Most important information at the front
- Images of text should contain the alt text

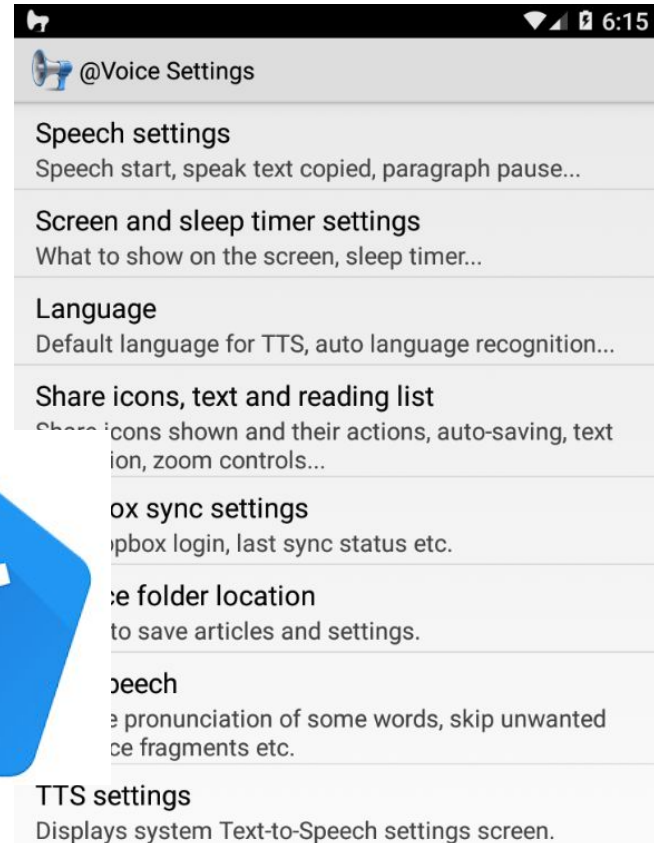
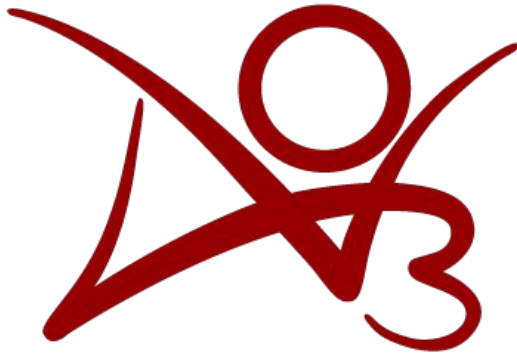
One possible example: “Char and Amuro of the Mobile Suit Gundam anime are fighting in a field. Amuro is on top of Char with an angry expression. They are pulling at each other’s suits in a homoerotic way.”

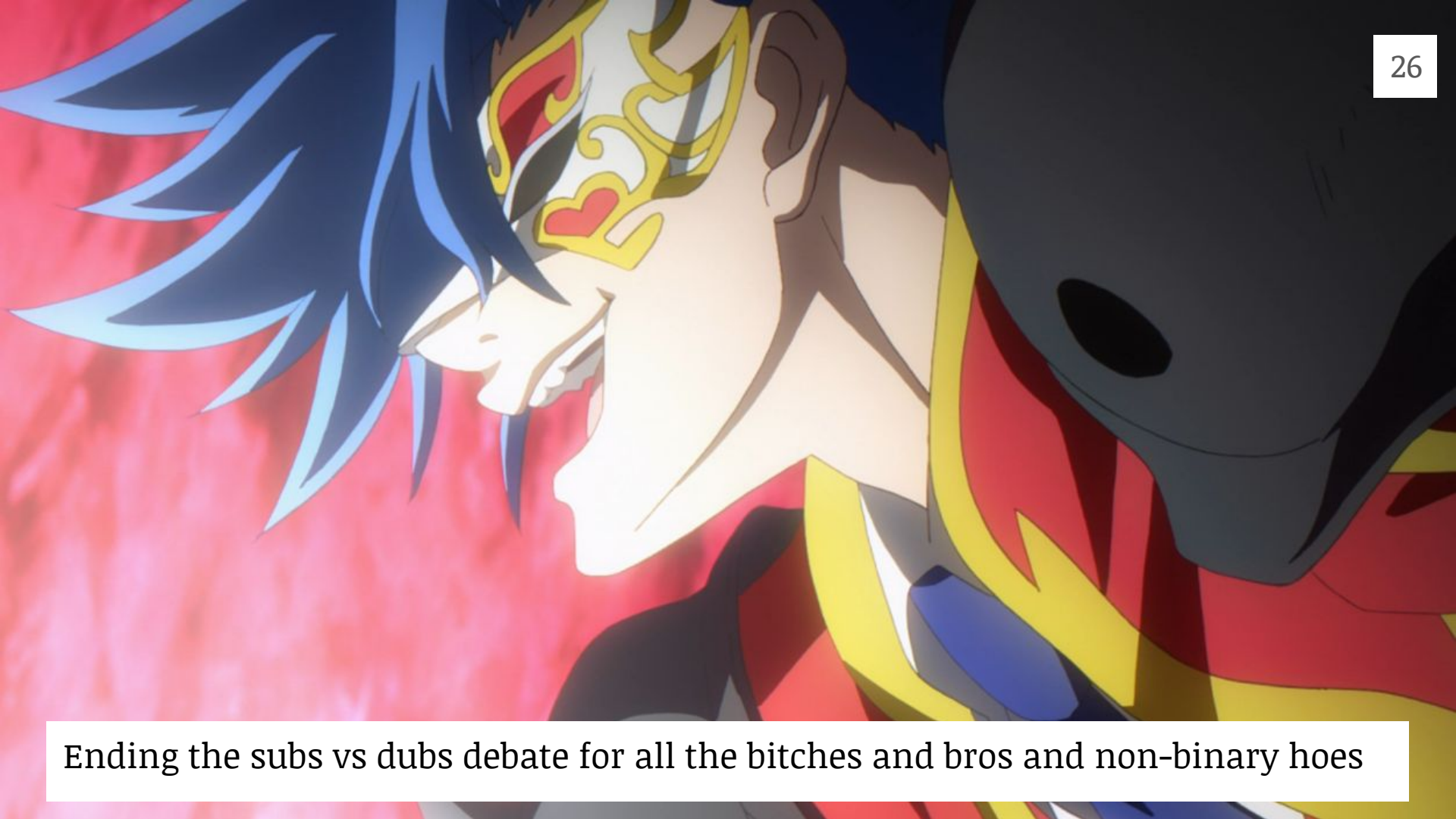




# Not all screen reader users are blind

- Read aloud apps
- Focus or reading issues





Ending the subs vs dubs debate for all the bitches and bros and non-binary hoes



You need both

# Conventions & events

- Use the microphone, repeat the question
  - Captions?
- Location
- Accessibility policies
- Websites



# Speaking up even if you might not need it (right now)

- Most people want to do the right thing
- Change shouldn't be motivated by fear



# Hopes for the future

- Discord captions, when
- Accessibility as default
  - [Idolish7 barrier-free screenings](#)
  - Captioned dubs
- More online or hybrid cons(!)
- More tools where you don't have to sacrifice privacy for community, and is built with accessibility first



Thanks!



# Resources

**Accessibility is about people, and the service of people with disabilities.** It's not about checklists, *but* checklists can help to organize what needs to be done.

- [Accessible Social](#)
  - social media tips and tricks
- [Ally \(Accessibility\) Project](#)
  - [Ally Project checklist](#)
- [Making Events Accessible](#)
  - Checklist for meetings, conferences, training, and presentations that are remote/virtual, in-person, or hybrid
- Listening to people with disabilities
  - [Crutches and spice](#) in TikTok, [@SteveSaylor](#) on Youtube, [@ScopicEngineer](#) on Twitter ([The Internet Is For Accessible Porn](#))
- [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\)](#)
  - It's a heavy read if you want to get into the technical details. I don't really recommend this to beginners to accessibility, but it's there if you're interested in reading more.



# Image sources

- Slide 4
  - [Microsoft Inclusive Design illustrations \(Figma\)](#)
- Slide 5
  - [I Hear the Sunspot](#) by Yuki Fumino from One Peace Books
- Slide 6
  - [BL Metamorphosis](#) volume 2 by Kaori Tsurutani from Seven Seas Entertainment
- Slide 10
  - [Perfect Fit](#) by Thanat from Manga Planet
  - [Ogi's Summer Break](#) by Koikawa from Tokyopop
  - [After We Gazed at the Starry Sky](#) by Bisco Kida from Yen Press
  - [DRAMAtical Murder](#) from Jast USA

# Image sources continued

- Slide 11
  - [Given 2 \(ギヴンーgivenー2ドラマCD\) drama CD](#)
- Slide 12, 30
  - [Given anime](#) via Crunchyroll
- Slide 13, 14, 26, 27, 29, 31
  - [SK8 the Infinity anime](#) via Crunchyroll
- Slide 16
  - [Trigun Stampede anime](#) via Crunchyroll
- Slide 23
  - [Mobile Suit Gundam anime](#) (GundamInfo)
- Slide 28
  - [Sasaki and Miyano anime](#) via Crunchyroll
- Slide 30
  - [IDOLiSH7 Movie: LIVE 4bit - BEYOND THE PERIOD film](#)

# There is no such thing as auto-accessibility

There is no such thing as auto-accessibility or accessibility that can be solved with one line of code. **Be very wary if anyone promises this.**

[Overlay factsheet](#): people with disabilities have stated they have major issues with overlays. You can [read about the issues with overlays in their own words](#).

