

Getting to Know ANDI: The Accessible Name & Description Inspector

Why Accessibility Testing Matters

Ensures websites are usable by all, including people with disabilities

Supports compliance with Section 508 and WCAG guidelines

Improves usability and user satisfaction for everyone

What is ANDI?

Developed by the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA)

Purpose: A lightweight, browser-based tool to help identify accessibility issues in web content.

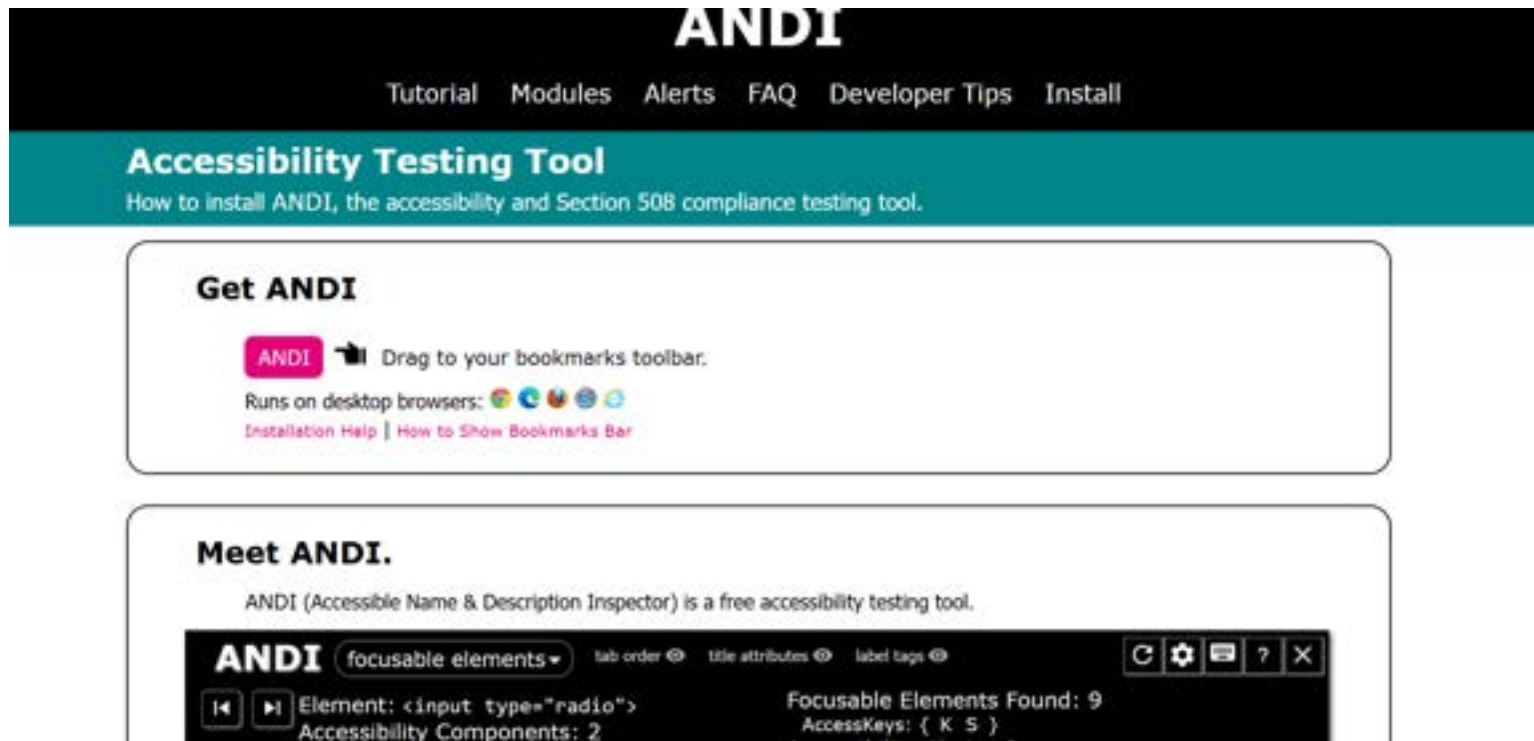
Timeline: In use by federal agencies by the mid-2010s; DHS included it in the Trusted Tester framework in 2018.

Key Features of ANDI



- Bookmarklet installation – works in any browser
- Interactive, element-by-element inspection
- Shows accessible names/descriptions as assistive tech reads them
- Color-coded highlights for easy identification

Install the ANDI Bookmarklet



The screenshot shows the ANDI website header with navigation links: Tutorial, Modules, Alerts, FAQ, Developer Tips, and Install. Below the header is a teal banner with the text 'Accessibility Testing Tool' and 'How to install ANDI, the accessibility and Section 508 compliance testing tool.' The main content area has a section titled 'Get ANDI' which includes a pink bookmarklet icon with the text 'ANDI' and a hand icon. Below this is the instruction 'Drag to your bookmarks toolbar.' and a list of desktop browsers: Chrome, Firefox, Safari, and Edge. There are also links for 'Installation Help' and 'How to Show Bookmarks Bar'.

Get ANDI

 Drag to your bookmarks toolbar.

Runs on desktop browsers:    

[Installation Help](#) | [How to Show Bookmarks Bar](#)

Meet ANDI.

ANDI (Accessible Name & Description Inspector) is a free accessibility testing tool.



<https://www.ssa.gov/accessibility/andi/help/install.html#install>

Use ANDI on a Website

SSA ANDI development site x Homepage x ANDI - Yahoo Search Results x ANDI - Accessibility Testing Tool x

sscol.edu

QUALITATIVE RESEA... Alliance for Higher... Writing Measurable... Instructional Guide... Learning Objectives Bloom-handout.pdf Web Content Acco... LRT Organisational... All Bookmarks

ANDI focusable elements+ tab order @ title attributes @

Element: <div>
Accessibility Components: 3
innerText: Year in Review 2025 Take a journey through the milestones and achievements that defined Seminole State College in 2025. View
tabIndex: 0
aria-label: "Year in Review 2025"

ANDI Output:
Year in Review 2025 Take a journey through the milestones and achievements that defined Seminole State College in 2025. View

Focusable Elements Found: 164
Accessibility Alerts: 54
• Elements with No Accessible Name: (5)
• Aria-Hidden Alerts: (24)
• JavaScript Event Cautions: (1)
• Keyboard Access Alerts: (24)

Accessibility Alerts: 108
• Elements with No Accessible Name: (10)
• Aria-Hidden Alerts: (48)
• JavaScript Event Cautions: (2)
• Keyboard Access Alerts: (48)

YEAR IN REVIEW 2025

Take a journey through the milestones and achievements that defined Seminole State College in 2025.

VIEW >

Overview of ANDI Modules

Focusable Elements – Highlights links, buttons, and form fields for keyboard accessibility.

Graphics/Images – Shows alt text, accessible names, and flags missing or redundant text.

Tables – Checks data tables, header associations, and reading order.

Lists – Identifies list structures and verifies correct markup.

Headings – Outlines heading hierarchy for logical structure.

Landmarks – Displays ARIA/HTML5 landmarks for navigation.

Forms – Ensures labels, instructions, and errors are accessible.

Links/Buttons – Reviews text and programmatic names for clarity.

Structures – Validates semantic HTML elements for proper meaning.

Hidden Content – Reveals hidden content exposed to assistive tech.

When to Use ANDI



Quick checks on live websites



Spot-check specific accessibility issues



Train developers and content creators in accessibility principles

But what about WAVE?

Developed by WebAIM
(Utah State University)

Full-page scan with icons
marking issues

Side panel with summary
and details

Available as browser
extensions and web form

Key Features of WAVE

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- Visual feedback overlay – Errors, alerts, and features are highlighted directly on the page.
 - Color-coded icons – Issues are categorized (errors, contrast, structural elements) for quick scanning.
 - Detailed sidebar panel – Provides explanations and repair guidance linked to each highlighted item.

Install the WAVE Extension



WAVE Browser Extensions

The WAVE Chrome, Firefox, and Edge extensions allows you to evaluate web content for accessibility issues **directly within your browser**. Because the extension runs entirely within your web browser, **no information is sent to the WAVE server**. This ensures 100% **private and secure accessibility reporting**. The extension can check intranet, password-protected, dynamically generated, or sensitive web pages. Also, because the WAVE extension evaluates the rendered version of your page, **locally displayed styles and dynamically-generated content from scripts or AJAX** can be evaluated.



[WAVE Chrome Extension at the Google Web Store](https://wave.webaim.org/extension/)

<https://wave.webaim.org/extension/>

Use WAVE on a Website

The image shows the WAVE (Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool) interface overlaid on the Seminole State College website. The WAVE interface is on the left, and the website content is on the right.

WAVE Interface (Left):

- Logo: WAVE web accessibility evaluation tool, powered by WebAIM.
- Styles: OFF (toggle switch).
- Summary section with tabs: Summary, Details, Reference, Order, Structure, Contrast.
- Summary statistics:
 - 13 Errors
 - 25 Contrast Errors
 - 9 Alerts
 - 27 Features
 - 33 Structural Elements
 - 61 ARIA
- View details button.

Website Content (Right):

- Header: SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE.
- Navigation: Academics, Admissions, About SSC, Life at SSC.
- Footer: YEAR IN REVIEW, Take a journey through the miles.

The WAVE tool highlights various accessibility issues on the website, including errors, contrast errors, alerts, features, structural elements, and ARIA issues.

ANDI vs. WAVE Comparison

Feature	ANDI	WAVE
Developer	U.S. Social Security Administration	WebAIM (Utah State University)
Installation	Bookmarklet	Browser extension / web form
Scope	Element-by-element inspection	Full-page scan & summary
Output	Accessible name/description, highlights	Icons + side panel with summary
Strength	Learning & spot-checks	Fast broad audits
Exportable Reports	No	Yes (with API/extension)

Why to Choose ANDI

Beginner friendly and easy to learn

Shows exactly what assistive technology reads

Immediate, live testing on real webpages

Limitations of ANDI

No full-page
report
generation

Manual
navigation
required

Best used
alongside other
tools like WAVE

Resources

ANDI:

<https://www.ssa.gov/accessibility/andi/help/install.html>



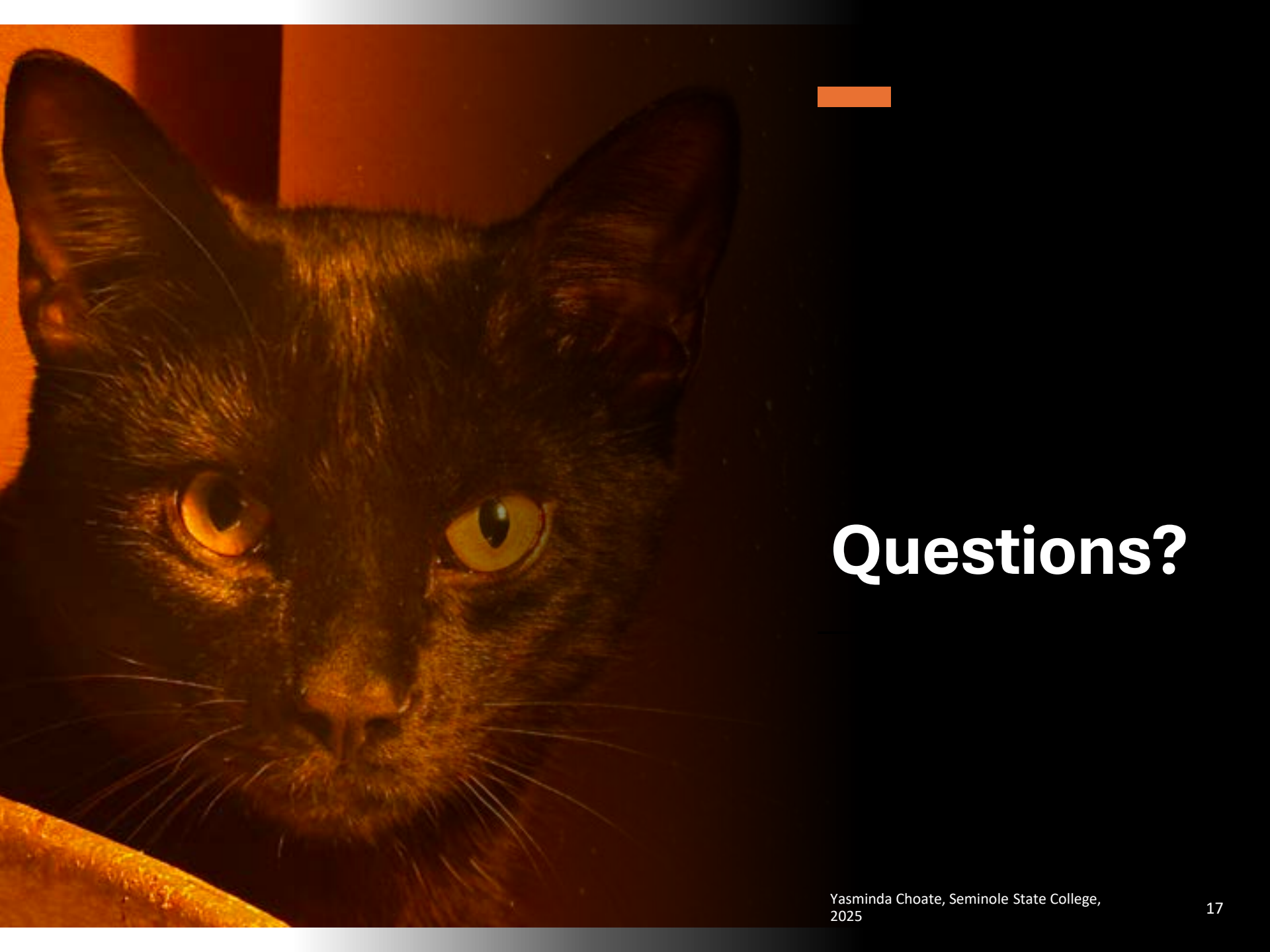
WAVE: <https://wave.webaim.org>



WCAG Guidelines: <https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/>



Section 508 Standards:
<https://www.section508.gov/manage/laws-and-policies/>



Questions?