

# Accessibility

Last updated August 8, 2026

Web version: [noctic.ink/accessibility](https://noctic.ink/accessibility). This PDF was made on October 16, 2026 from the text published there; later changes appear on the web page.

We target conformance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, version 2.2, at level AA, across every product we ship.

## What that means in practice

- Full keyboard operation, with visible focus on every interactive element.
- Semantic structure and accessible names, so screen readers announce controls correctly.
- Contrast ratios checked against the guideline minimums in both light and dark appearance.
- Motion reduced automatically when the operating system requests it.
- Text inputs sized to prevent forced zoom on mobile devices.
- Captions and transcripts for spoken content where we provide it.

## Known gaps

Some dense data views and the panorama viewer are not yet fully operable by keyboard alone. Work on those is in progress.

## Tell us

If something is unusable, write to us through [Contact](https://noctic.ink/contact) ([noctic.ink/contact](https://noctic.ink/contact)) with the page and the assistive technology you use. Accessibility reports are treated as defects, not feature requests.

## What we test with

Automated checks catch a minority of real problems, so every release is also driven by hand. We test with VoiceOver on macOS and iOS, NVDA on Windows, TalkBack on Android, keyboard-only navigation in each supported browser, and both appearance modes at two hundred per cent zoom.

## By product

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### This site

Fully keyboard operable, with a visible focus ring on every control and headings that describe the page rather than decorate it.

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|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Shiba</b>   | Conversations are a semantic list, streamed replies are announced without interrupting, and every control has a text label as well as an icon. Reasoning output can be collapsed entirely. |
| <b>Cadence</b> | Feed, channels and calendar are navigable by keyboard and by heading. Calendar entries carry full dates in text so a screen reader never has to interpret a grid position.                 |
| <b>Compass</b> | Study plans are readable as ordinary text, not only as a chart, and every suggestion states its reasoning in words.                                                                        |

## Things we hold ourselves to

- No control that works only on hover, and no gesture without a button that does the same thing.
- Colour is never the only signal. Status carries a word or a shape alongside it.
- Errors are announced, described in plain language, and say how to fix the problem.
- Nothing moves, flashes or auto-plays for more than five seconds without a way to stop it.
- Time limits can be extended, and no session ends silently in the middle of a task.
- Text can be resized to two hundred per cent without losing content or function.

## Schools and accommodations

Cadence is used by whole campuses, which means it is used by students with formal accommodations. If a student's plan requires a change we do not currently support, write to us through the school. We treat that as a defect on the same footing as any other, and we will tell you honestly whether it is weeks or months away.

## How we handle reports

|                          |                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Acknowledgement</b>   | Within two working days, from a person rather than an automatic reply.                            |
| <b>Assessment</b>        | Within ten working days we tell you what we found, whether it is a defect, and what happens next. |
| <b>Blocking problems</b> | Anything that makes a core task impossible is fixed ahead of feature work.                        |
| <b>Everything else</b>   | Scheduled, with the date shared with you rather than kept internally.                             |

## Known gaps, in detail

- Dense data views in the developer tools are not yet fully operable by keyboard alone.
- The panorama viewer has no non-visual equivalent. A text description is planned.
- Some long assistant outputs are announced in one block rather than in readable sections.

This list is kept current. We would rather publish an honest gap than claim conformance we have not earned.

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