HAND
Home of Accessibility and NeuroDiversity

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Accessible Authentication

What is it for?

When login pages are inaccessible, the impact can be severe, harming a person's fundamental rights to privacy, security, and independence.

Barriers must be removed for users with cognitive needs by ensuring logins don't rely on difficult memory tests or puzzles. Forcing people to pass these checks often locks them out of vital services.

Designing authentication with accessibility in mind creates a more secure and usable experience for all users.

How to support it

To make login pages accessible, developers should follow these steps:

- Don't rely solely on puzzles or memory tests. Always provide an alternative method.
- Support password managers and allow users to paste text. This improves both accessibility and security.
- Never disable autofill by setting autocomplete to 'off'. Forcing people to type complex details causes unnecessary difficulty.
- Offer flexible alternatives like biometrics, one-time codes, and magic links.

Useful Links

Understanding SC 3.3.8: Accessible Authentication (Minimum) (W3C)
Accessibility in Cybersecurity: A Practical Guide
The autocomplete attribute and web security (Mozilla Developer Network)