

CURRICULUM VITAE

Hendericus Jacobus Bernardus Onsman (Ricky)

63 Wilford St, Corrimal NSW 2518, Australia

Ph +61 (0)408 210 127

Email ricky@onsman.com

Web <https://onsman.com>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/onsman>

LinkedIn <https://linkedin.com/in/rickyonsman>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/onsman>

SUMMARY

I'm an accessibility-focused web designer, front end developer, writer and editor based in Corrimal, south of Sydney, Australia. I have 25 years of experience designing, building, optimising, testing and fixing websites and apps of all kinds: commercial, corporate, government, community-based, personal, and non-profit.

I've always approached web design and development with a strong awareness of the practical needs of people with disability (influenced by my own hearing impairment and early work with people with disabilities in non-digital contexts) and my work is underpinned by a determined and informed commitment to digital accessibility as a fundamental plank of all web work.

As a result, much of my recent work has focused on digital accessibility, whether for agencies working with corporate customers, or as a freelance consultant to commercial clients, including undertaking comprehensive testing against WCAG and other standards and writing detailed, high level technical reports and actionable remediation guidance for designers, developers, and content authors.

I have hands-on experience building 200+ websites: valid, semantic, standards-compliant, and accessible. Recently, I've undertaken comprehensive accessibility auditing on 30+ client websites and apps. I have very high-level HTML and CSS skills, enough JavaScript to get by and an advanced understanding WCAG 2.1 (currently absorbing 2.2). I have acquired a good working knowledge of the requirements of Section 508 in the US and EN 301 549 in Europe, as well as relevant legislation such as the ADA (US) and DDA (Australia).

I came to the web from a print media and information management background, where I learned to manage budgets, schedules, and teams of people with specific skills to create successful project outcomes – which has come in very handy ever since. I'm equally comfortable working solo and as part of a team.

Having worked from home for 20 years, I have what amounts to a device lab in my home office, with Windows and Mac desktop and laptop, iPad, iPhone, and Android devices + access to appropriate software such as NVDA, JAWS, Dragon and a range of testing tools. I have a high speed, reliable and secure broadband internet connection. I am used to working remotely, having recently worked with colleagues in the US, Northern Ireland, London, The Netherlands, Italy, and India, as well as across Australia.

I also have advanced writing and editing skills, including technical writing for web tech professionals. I've variously been Managing Editor at web publisher SitePoint and conference organiser Web Directions, I contribute articles to outlets like Smashing Magazine, wrote a biweekly newsletter for UX Australia, and I provide writing and editing services to individuals and teams putting together conference presentations.

I am actively involved in the Australian web tech industry and the digital accessibility community and have built an extensive network of professional contacts in Australia and overseas.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

[TPGi](#) 12 / 2021 - present

Technical Content Writer

Initially hired to write content for Tutor self-directed training modules, my role at The Knowledge Center has expanded to shared responsibility for writing and updating the rules, assertions, solutions, and techniques used in automated and manual testing by a global team of 100 accessibility engineers, based on my interpretation of WCAG and related standards, as well as writing guidance TPGi engineers, company clients and the general public.

[Freelancer](#) 12 / 2000 – present

Consultant for Hire

All round one-man-band web professional. I specialise in projects that benefit from a centralised approach in which I take responsibility for all aspects of web content, design, and development. This includes revitalising projects that have stalled or been abandoned and remediating inaccessible websites and apps.

[UX Australia](#) 12 / 2015 – 2021

Marketing & Communications

I looked after the communications, marketing and social media presence of web tech conference and workshop organisers UX Australia, creating and managing website content, email newsletters and social media content that was engaging, relevant and promoted the principles of excellence in user experience.

[Fathom](#) 06 / 2020 – 09 / 2020

Digital Accessibility Consultant

Short term project testing, analysing and providing QA for a suite of Northern Ireland government web outlets, focusing on identifying missed accessibility issues and providing detailed remediation advice.

[Tenon.io](#) 10 / 2019 – 05 / 2020

Digital Accessibility Consultant

My primary tasks were to undertake client accessibility and usability testing, QA, consulting, training, and documentation services, applying my skills to remediating client websites and apps.

[Intopia](#) 03 / 2018 – 10 / 2019

Digital Accessibility Consultant

My primary tasks were to undertake digital accessibility audits of client websites and apps for WCAG 2.1 conformance, and to devise and deliver accessibility training programs. I was also responsible for marketing and communications, including email newsletters, social media, websites, and publicity & promotion.

[Web Directions](#) 02 / 2016 – 11 / 2017

Managing Editor, Marketing & Content

For this annual series of themed conferences, masterclass workshops, local meetups, and skills development opportunities, I produced content aimed at web designers, developers, and other web tech professionals. Highlights included creating the print Scroll and digital Wrap magazines and an online archive of events.

[AccessibilityOz](#) 09 / 2015 – 11 / 2015

Accessibility Writer

[Society of Editors \(NSW\)](#) 07 / 2015 - 08 / 2016

Web Manager

SitePoint 11 / 2012 - 12 / 2013
Managing Editor

Simply Accessible 10 / 2013 - 11 / 2013
Accessibility Researcher

SitePoint 11 / 2011 - 11 / 2012
Sponsored Content Editor

Access iQ 06 / 2012 - 10 / 2012
Contributing Editor

Access iQ 01 / 2012 - 06 / 2012
Managing Content Editor

SitePoint 10 / 2011 - 02 / 2012
Managing Editor, SitePoint.com

SitePoint 01 / 2011 - 10 / 2011
Managing Editor, Online Content

SitePoint 10 / 2010 - 01 / 2011
Tech Editor

People with Disabilities (NSW) 08 / 2002 - 04 / 2003
Manager, Information Services

People with Disabilities (NSW) 01 / 2002 - 08 / 2002
Information Technology Support Officer

Gadfly Media 12 / 2000 - 12 / 2001
Web Development/Editorial

HWW Limited 11 / 1999 - 11 / 2000
Senior Content Manager

Disability Information & Referral Centre - Eastern Sydney 09 / 1991 - 10 / 1999
Information Officer, Senior Information Officer, Manager

Horan Wall & Walker 12 / 1987 - 09 / 1991
Researcher, Writer, New Products

REFEREES

Personal and professional referees are available on request.