

Bugs & Wish list

Suboptimal text to background contrasts (text color is not pure black for most themes) | Tiki Wiki CMS Groupware :: Development

Suboptimal text to background contrasts (text color is not pure black for most themes)

Status

● Open

Subject

Suboptimal text to background contrasts (text color is not pure black for most themes)

Version

16.x

Category

- Feature request

Feature

Theme: Look & feel, Styles, CSS, Theme Control Center

Resolution status

New

Submitted by

Philippe Cloutier

Lastmod by

Philippe Cloutier, luciash d' being

Rating

★★★★★ (0) ?

Description

The text in nearly all themes - even Readable - is not pure black (RGB # 00 00 00). This lowers readability. While this may not have a hard effect on accessibility, it certainly reduces reading comfort.

I have compiled the following list of default text color for functional themes (excluding themes with non-white backgrounds) on trunk.

000000

-
- Jqui
 - Utopias

222222

-
- Tikinewt
 - Yeti

333333

-
- Default Bootstrap
 - Cosmo
 - Darkshine
 - Feb12
 - Fivealive
 - Fivealive-lite
 - Readable

- Strasa
- Thenews
- United

363636

- Didiem

555555

- Cerulean
- Lumen

515151

- Greenvalley

666666

- Paper
- Spacelab

737373

- Business

777777

- Journal
- Simplex

Flatly and Sandstone are slightly special cases, as the text is tinted. The former uses #2c3e50, the latter #3e3f3a.

This problem is developing. Grey fonts have become a fashion, as recently reported by The Telegraph. In Tiki 9, the default color was pure black. In Tiki 15, it has become #333333.

I am not asking for a strictly pure black or pure white interface. I understand that other colors can be aesthetically or functionally better. What am I asking is to increase the contrast for the main content (the context of a wiki page, or of the blog post being viewed, for example).

Solution

We should:

1. Allow increasing the contrast for the main content
2. Increase the default contrast for some themes, such as Journal. Themes which keep a low contrast should display a warning to that effect.

Workaround

Use a theme with a blacker text (higher in the list).

Or override main content color by using a rule such as the following:

1. col1 article {

```
color: #000000;
```

```
}
```

This can be set using the Custom CSS field (in tiki-admin.php?page=look).

Importance

1 low

Easy to solve?

1 difficult

Priority

1

Demonstrate Bug (Tiki 19+)

Please demonstrate your bug on show2.tiki.org

Version: trunk ▼

Demonstrate Bug (older Tiki versions)

Please demonstrate your bug on show.tikiwiki.org

Version: 18.x ▼

Ticket ID

6157

Created

Monday 31 October, 2016 02:24:22 GMT-0000

by Philippe Cloutier

LastModif

Monday 23 January, 2017 11:16:47 GMT-0000

Comments



Gary Cunningham-Lee 31 Oct 16 15:34 GMT-0000

I used guidelines on <http://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/> when checking the Business theme text color, to improve the contrast. After the modification, that theme meets WCAG AA standards, but not the more strict WCAG AAA. Probably the other themes could/should be checked the same way.

Probably all the included Tiki themes should meet WCAG 2.0 AA standards; it would be good if some met the AAA standards (talking about text color contrast here - I don't know yet what's involved in meeting all requirements for these standards). See <https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#conformance-reqs>.



Philippe Cloutier 31 Oct 16 16:51 GMT-0000

Thank you very much Gary.

To clarify, I did not file this because of Business. I abandoned Business due to a bug and switched my website to Journal.

Although I did not verify background color, assuming all of the themes I listed would use a pure white background, all themes would meet WCAG AA except for Journal.



Gary Cunningham-Lee 01 Nov 16 02:29 GMT-0000

What was the bug in Business? It should be fixed.



Philippe Cloutier 02 Nov 16 00:25 GMT-0000

The bug which made me abandon Business was in Business, yes. It is #6144, but I also abandoned Business because I have always had issues with it, hoping to find a less problematic option.



Gary Cunningham-Lee 01 Nov 16 02:32 GMT-0000

Something else to keep in mind is that optimum readability isn't necessarily black on white. Although that's good for accessibility (by users who particularly have trouble with foreground-background contrast), for other users, best practice seems to be to tone down the harsh black/white contrast for better, more comfortable readability. Slightly lighter than black on slightly darker than white (and color variants of these) are said to be easier on the eyes. So we want to hit the sweet spot that works best for all users.



Philippe Cloutier 02 Nov 16 00:28 GMT-0000

Thanks Gary. I admit I find that a little surprising. I would be curious if you have any reference on optimal contrast for comfort/readability for normal readers.



Gary Cunningham-Lee 02 Nov 16 02:48 GMT-0000

From time to time, I come across the idea of toning down max contrast to reduce eye strain, but, searching a bit just now, I can't find studies to back up that idea. For example, toning down the maximum contrast is promoted at <https://edwardtufte.github.io/tufte-css/> (by the way, I made a Tiki theme based on this CSS project: <https://themes.tiki.org/Tuften>).

Related to this, talking about optimizing for people with dyslexia, <https://www.w3.org/WAI/RD/2012/text-customization/r11> describes that in a test, "We selected off-black & off-white because it is recommended in Web accessibility for people with dyslexia (Bradford, 2011). . . . We chose black & creme because it is used —and recommended— by the British Dyslexia Association for their website."

I'll keep my eyes open for a more solid basis for this "relieving eye strain" notion. Anyway, for sure, the top priority is accessibility. Reducing contrast to relieve eye strain is a secondary consideration and I think maybe only an issue when the site has a high volume of text that people need to spend time reading. And this "eye strain" adjustment is only a small change and can be done without sacrificing readability anyway.



Philippe Cloutier 02 Nov 16 12:05 GMT-0000

Thanks again Gary. Despite the weaknesses it acknowledges, the W3C study is interesting. I do not know dyslexia well but I did not suspect it changed the optimal text colors.

Attachments

filename	created	hits	comment	version	filetype
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No attachments for this item

The original document is available at

<https://dev.tiki.org/item6157-Suboptimal-text-to-background-contrasts-text-color-is-not-pure-black-for-most-themes>