[MS-ARIA]:

Internet Explorer Accessible Rich Internet Applications (WAI-ARIA) 1.0 Standards Support Document

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## Revision Summary

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<th>Comments</th>
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<td>9/20/2014</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>Released new document.</td>
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<td>1/22/2015</td>
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1 Introduction

This document describes the level of support provided by Microsoft web browsers for the Accessible Rich Internet Applications (WAI-ARIA) 1.0 specification [WAI-ARIA1.0], published 20 March 2014. The [WAI-ARIA1.0] specification provides an ontology of roles, states, and properties that define accessible user interface elements and can be used to improve the accessibility and interoperability of web content and applications.

The Microsoft web browsers provide access to content for assistive technologies though the Microsoft Active Accessibility (MSAA) and Microsoft UI Automation (UIA) accessibility frameworks.

1.1 Glossary

This document uses the following terms:

**Microsoft Active Accessibility (MSAA):** A Component Object Model (COM)-based technology that improves the way accessibility aids work with applications running on Microsoft Windows. It provides dynamic-link libraries that are incorporated into the operating system as well as a COM interface and API elements that provide reliable methods for exposing information about UI elements.

**Microsoft UI Automation (UIA):** The accessibility model for Microsoft Windows that programmatically gathers information about an application's User Interface (UI) elements and exposes it to assistive technology products and automated test scripts. UI Automation is the successor to the Microsoft Active Accessibility (MSAA) framework.

**MAY, SHOULD, MUST, SHOULD NOT, MUST NOT:** These terms (in all caps) are used as defined in [RFC2119]. All statements of optional behavior use either MAY, SHOULD, or SHOULD NOT.

1.2 References

Links to a document in the Microsoft Open Specifications library point to the correct section in the most recently published version of the referenced document. However, because individual documents in the library are not updated at the same time, the section numbers in the documents may not match. You can confirm the correct section numbering by checking the Errata.

1.2.1 Normative References

We conduct frequent surveys of the normative references to assure their continued availability. If you have any issue with finding a normative reference, please contact dochelp@microsoft.com. We will assist you in finding the relevant information.


1.2.2 Informative References

None.

1.3 Microsoft Implementations

The following Microsoft web browser versions implement some portion of the [WAI-ARIA1.0] specification:
Each browser version may implement multiple document rendering modes. The modes vary from one to another in support of the standard. The following table lists the document modes in each browser version.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Browser Version</th>
<th>Document Modes Supported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internet Explorer 8</td>
<td>Quirks Mode, IE7 Mode, IE8 Mode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Explorer 9</td>
<td>Quirks Mode, IE7 Mode, IE8 Mode, IE9 Mode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Explorer 10</td>
<td>Quirks Mode, IE7 Mode, IE8 Mode, IE9 Mode, IE10 Mode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Explorer 11</td>
<td>Quirks Mode, IE7 Mode, IE8 Mode, IE9 Mode, IE10 Mode, IE11 Mode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Explorer 11 for Windows 10</td>
<td>Quirks Mode, IE7 Mode, IE8 Mode, IE9 Mode, IE10 Mode, IE11 Mode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft Edge</td>
<td>EdgeHTML Mode</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For each variation presented in this document there is a list of the document modes and browser versions that exhibit the behavior described by the variation. All combinations of modes and versions that are not listed conform to the specification. For example, the following list for a variation indicates that the variation exists in three document modes in all browser versions that support these modes:

IE8 Mode, IE9 Mode, and IE10 Mode (All Versions)
1.4 Standards Support Requirements

To conform to [WAI-ARIA1.0], a user agent must implement all required portions of the specification. Any optional portions that have been implemented must also be implemented as described by the specification. Normative language is usually used to define both required and optional portions. (For more information, see [RFC2119].)

The following table lists the sections of [WAI-ARIA1.0] and whether they are considered normative or informative.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sections</th>
<th>Normative/Informative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>Informative</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Normative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Normative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Informative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.5 Notation

The following notations are used in this document to differentiate between notes of clarification, variation from the specification, and points of extensibility.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notation</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C####</td>
<td>This identifies a clarification of ambiguity in the target specification. This includes imprecise statements, omitted information, discrepancies, and errata. This does not include data formatting clarifications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V####</td>
<td>This identifies an intended point of variability in the target specification such as the use of MAY, SHOULD, or RECOMMENDED. (See [RFC2119].) This does not include extensibility points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E####</td>
<td>Because the use of extensibility points (such as optional implementation-specific data) can impair interoperability, this profile identifies such points in the target specification.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For document mode and browser version notation, see also section 1.3.
# Standards Support Statements

This section contains all variations and clarifications for the Microsoft implementation of [WAI-ARIA1.0].

- Section 2.1 describes normative variations from the MUST requirement of the specification.
- Section 2.2 describes clarifications of the MAY and SHOULD requirements.
- Section 2.3 considers error handling aspects of the implementation.
- Section 2.4 considers security aspects of the implementation.

## 2.1 Normative Variations

The following subsections describe normative variations from the MUST requirements of [WAI-ARIA1.0].

### 2.1.1 [WAI-ARIA1.0] Section 5.2.4 Inherited States and Properties

**V0001:**

The specification states:

States and properties are inherited from superclass roles in the role taxonomy, not from ancestor elements in the DOM tree. These properties are not explicitly defined on the role, as the inheritance of properties is automatic.

**IE10 Mode and IE11 Mode (All Versions)**

aria-readonly is not inherited.

### 2.1.2 [WAI-ARIA1.0] Section 5.2.7.3, Text Alternative Computation

**V0002:**

The specification states:

The text equivalent computation outlined below is a description of how user agents acquire a name or description that they then publish through the accessibility API.

**IE10 Mode and IE11 Mode (All Versions)**

The text alternative computation algorithm is not supported.

### 2.1.3 [WAI-ARIA1.0] Section 5.2.8, Presentational Children

**V0003:**

The specification states:

The DOM descendants are presentational. User agents SHOULD NOT expose descendants of this element through the platform accessibility API. If user agents do not hide the descendant nodes, some information may be read twice.
**IE10 Mode and IE11 Mode (All Versions)**

The img, progress, separator, and range roles expose their child nodes to the accessibility tree, despite being defined in the spec as having presentational children.

### 2.1.4 [WAI-ARIA1.0] Section 5.3.4, Landmark Roles

V0004:

The specification states:

The following roles are regions of the page intended as navigational landmarks. All of these roles inherit from the landmark base type and, with the exception of application, all are imported from the Role Attribute [ROLE]. The roles are included here in order to make them clearly part of the WAI-ARIA Role taxonomy.

- application
- banner
- complementary
- contentinfo
- form
- main
- navigation
- search

**IE8 Mode, IE9 Mode, IE10 Mode, and IE11 Mode (All Versions)**

Landmark roles are not supported, however the application role is supported for IE8, IE9, IE10 and IE11.

### 2.1.5 [WAI-ARIA1.0] Section 5.4, Definition of Roles

V0005:

The specification states:

- article
  A section of a page that consists of a composition that forms an independent part of a document, page, or site.

- definition
  A definition of a term or concept.

- log
  A type of live region where new information is added in meaningful order and old information may disappear. See related marquee.

- math
  Content that represents a mathematical expression.

- note
  A section whose content is parenthetic or ancillary to the main content of the resource.

- row
  A row of cells in a grid.

- rowgroup
  A group containing one or more row elements in a grid.

- scrollbar
  A graphical object that controls the scrolling of content within a viewing area, regardless of whether the content is fully displayed within the viewing area.
... timer
A type of live region containing a numerical counter which indicates an amount of elapsed
time from a start point, or the time remaining until an end point.

IE8 Mode and IE9 Mode (All Versions)
Not supported.

2.1.6 [WAI-ARIA1.0] Section 6.5.4, Relationship Attributes
V0006:
The specification states:

This section lists attributes that indicate relationships or associations between elements
which cannot be readily determined from the document structure.

- aria-activedescendant
- aria-controls
- aria-describedby
- aria-flowto
- aria-labelledby
- aria-label
- aria-own
- aria-posinset
- aria-setsize

IE10 Mode and IE11 Mode (All Versions)
aria-describedby, aria-labelledby, aria-flowto, and aria-own are not supported when the
referenced object is not accessible.

2.1.7 [WAI-ARIA1.0] Section 6.6, Definitions of States and Properties (all aria-*
attributes)
V0007:
The specification states:

aria-atomic
Indicates whether assistive technologies will present all, or only parts of, the changed
region based on the change notifications defined by the aria-relevant attribute. See
related aria-relevant.
...
aria-autocomplete
Indicates whether user input completion suggestions are provided.
...
aria-dropeffect
Indicates what functions can be performed when the dragged object is released on the drop
target. This allows assistive technologies to convey the possible drag options available
to users, including whether a pop-up menu of choices is provided by the application.
Typically, drop effect functions can only be provided once an object has been grabbed for
a drag operation as the drop effect functions available are dependent on the object being
dragged.
...
aria-grabbed (state)
Indicates an element's "grabbed" state in a drag-and-drop operation.
...
aria-label
Defines a string value that labels the current element. See related aria-labelledby.
...
aria-multiline
Indicates whether a text box accepts multiple lines of input or only a single line.

aria-orientation
Indicates whether the element and orientation is horizontal or vertical.

aria-sort
Indicates if items in a table or grid are sorted in ascending or descending order.

aria-valuetext
Defines the human readable text alternative of aria-valuenow for a range widget.

**IE8 Mode and IE9 Mode (All Versions)**

Not supported.

**IE10 Mode and IE11 Mode (All Versions)**

aria-dropeffect and aria-grabbed are not supported.

V0009:

The specification states:

Values of aria-checked

True
The element is checked

false
The element supports being checked but is not currently checked.

mixed
Indicates a mixed mode value for a tri-state checkbox or menuitemcheckbox.

undefined (default)
The element does not support being checked

**IE10 Mode and IE11 Mode (All Versions)**

The mixed value is not supported.

V0010:

The specification states:

aria-activedescendant (property)
Identifies the currently active descendant of a composite widget.

**IE10 Mode and IE11 Mode (All Versions)**

The aria-activedescendant property is only partially supported.

V0011:

The specification states:

aria-selected (state)
Indicates the current "selected" state of various widgets. See related aria-checked and aria-pressed.

This attribute is used with single-selection and multiple-selection widgets:

1. Single-selection containers where the currently focused item is not selected. The selection normally follows the focus, and is managed by the user agent.

2. Multiple-selection containers. Authors SHOULD ensure that any selectable descendant of a container in which the aria-multiselectable attribute is true specifies a value of either true or false for the aria-selected attribute.

IE10 Mode, IE11 Mode, and EdgeHTML Mode (All Versions)

The UIA SelectionPattern control pattern will function only if a widget has selectable children (as indicated by an aria-selected value of true or false). Thus the UIA SelectionItemPattern will not function if aria-selected has a value of undefined (the default value).

V0012:

The specification states:

Characteristics of aria-selected

Used in Roles:
gridcell
option
row
tab

Inherits into Roles:
columnheader
menuitemradio
radio
rowheader
treeitem

IE10 Mode and IE11 Mode (All Versions)

The existence of a specified aria-selected or aria-checked attribute (with true or false value) is used to determine if an element is selectable or not, rather than the [WAI-ARIA1.0] role inheritance model as specified. Thus in some situations the resulting role behavior may conform to that implied by the specification, and in other situations it may differ.

2.2 Clarifications

The following subsections describe clarifications of the MAY and SHOULD requirements of [WAI-ARIA1.0].

2.2.1 [WAI-ARIA1.0] Section 5.4, Definition of Roles

C0001:

The specification states:

presentation (role)
...

For any element with a role of presentation and which is not focusable, the user agent
MUST NOT expose the implicit native semantics of the element (the role and its states and properties) to accessibility APIs. However, the user agent MUST expose content and descendant elements that do not have an explicit or inherited role of presentation. Thus, the presentation role causes a given element to be treated as having no role or to be removed from the accessibility tree, but does not cause the content contained within the element to be removed from the accessibility tree.

IE10 Mode, IE11 Mode, and EdgeHTML Mode (All Versions)

Elements assigned to the presentation role are removed from the accessibility tree; however, they are not placed back into the tree when other accessibility properties (that would normally override the presentation role) are set.

C0002:

The specification states:

Characteristics of menuitemradio
...
Inherited States and Properties:
...
aria-checked (state) (required)
...
Characteristics of radio
...
Inherited States and Properties:
...
aria-checked (state) (required)

IE10 Mode and IE11 Mode (All Versions)

The aria-checked state is supported for menuitemradio and radio roles, but unlike for other roles, it is mapped to the selected state value (STATE_SYSTEM_SELECTED for MSAA, IsSelected for UIA) instead of the checked state value (STATE_SYSTEM_CHECKED for MSAA, ToggleState for UIA).

2.2.2 [WAI-ARIA1.0] Section 6.6, Definitions of States and Properties (all aria-* attributes)

C0003:

The specification states:

aria-busy (state)
  Indicates whether an element, and its subtree, are currently being updated.
...
aria-haspopup (property)
  Indicates that the element has a popup context menu or sub-level menu.
...
aria-sort
  Indicates if items in a table or grid are sorted in ascending or descending order.

IE10 Mode and IE11 Mode (All Versions)

aria-sort is only supported in UIA (with the equivalent property of UIA_ItemStatusPropertyId), and not in MSAA.
2.3 Error Handling

There are no additional error handling considerations.

2.4 Security

There are no additional security considerations.
3 Change Tracking

No table of changes is available. The document is either new or has had no changes since its last release.
4 Index

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