

rswg-rfc7996-issues

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Background

- draft-carpenter-rswg-rfc7996-issues-00 published 6 September 2022
- *Only* describes issues with SVG RFC 1.2
- Discussion or RSWG list through September and October, (relatively) quiet since then
- Making diagrams work for vision-limited people was the main motivator for 7996, so collecting info on that is a good place to start

Issues (RFC 7996 profile)

- Very few drawing tools can intrinsically respect the RFC 7996 profile. `svgcheck` fixes only a minority of cases
- RFC 7996 forbids any colour except black or white, and therefore forbids greyscale. That choice is contested on accessibility grounds
- Some drawing tools generate colour or greyscale automatically. A heuristic tool can fix this up, but it's a limiting factor
- Some drawing tools generate internal URLs, which are harmless, but they are disallowed
- Some quite basic elements such as 'marker' (commonly generated for arrowheads) are not allowed

Issues (drawing tools)

- Some tools generate scripts for no apparent reason
- Some tools transform text into separate letters, or even letters into graphics
- Most tools generate a 'viewbox' element with a 'height' and 'width' element, which breaks scaling in most browsers
- Need tools that provide ASCII art alternatives as well as SVG

Possible way forward

- Replace RFC7996 by saying what SVG constructs are forbidden, rather than having a restricted grammar
- Provide Style Guide recommendations on drawings (size, font, complexity, ...) together with suitable drawing tools
- Adopt W3C WCAG20 recommendations for accessibility (<https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>) *Warning:* that's not a trivial exercise
- Accessibility considerations are at least as important as changes to our SVG usage!