CSS MEDIA FEATURES

And some of their uses for accessibility

May 1 2025 Bellingham.codes - Morgan Murrah

A less accessible story:

December 2024, Snowfall animation

```
<is-land on:media="(prefers-reduced-motion: no-preference)">
  <snow-fall style="--snow-fall-color: white; --snow-fall-size: 32px">
  </snow-fall>
</is-land>
```

<is-land on:media="(prefers-reduced-motion: no-preference)">
  <snow-fall style="--snow-fall-color: white; --snow-fall-size: 32px">
  </snow-fall>
</is-land>

Prefers-reduced-motion

Across all Major Browsers…

And Operating Systems…

<u>For Firefox, the `reduce` request is honored if:</u>

- In GTK/GNOME: Settings > Accessibility > Seeing > Reduced animation is turned on.
  - In older versions of GNOME, GNOME Tweaks > General tab (or Appearance, depending on version) > Animations is turned off.
  - Alternatively, add `gtk-enable-animations = false` to the `[Settings]` block of [the GTK 3 configuration file](#).
- In Plasma/KDE: System Settings > Workspace Behavior -> General Behavior > "Animation speed" is set all the way to right to "Instant".

- In Windows 10: Settings > Ease of Access > Display > Show animations in Windows.
- In Windows 11: Settings > Accessibility > Visual Effects > Animation Effects
- In macOS: System Preferences > Accessibility > Display > Reduce motion.
- In iOS: Settings > Accessibility > Motion.
- In Android 9+: Settings > Accessibility > Remove animations.
- In Firefox `about:config`: Add a number preference called `ui.prefersReducedMotion` and set its value to either `0` for full animation or to `1` to indicate a preference for reduced motion. Changes to this preference take effect immediately.

Clobber the animations?

```css
@media screen and (prefers-reduced-motion: reduce) {
  * {
    animation-duration: 0.001ms !important;
    animation-iteration-count: 1 !important;
    transition-duration: 0.001ms !important;
  }
}
```

Prefers Reduced Motion !=== No Motion
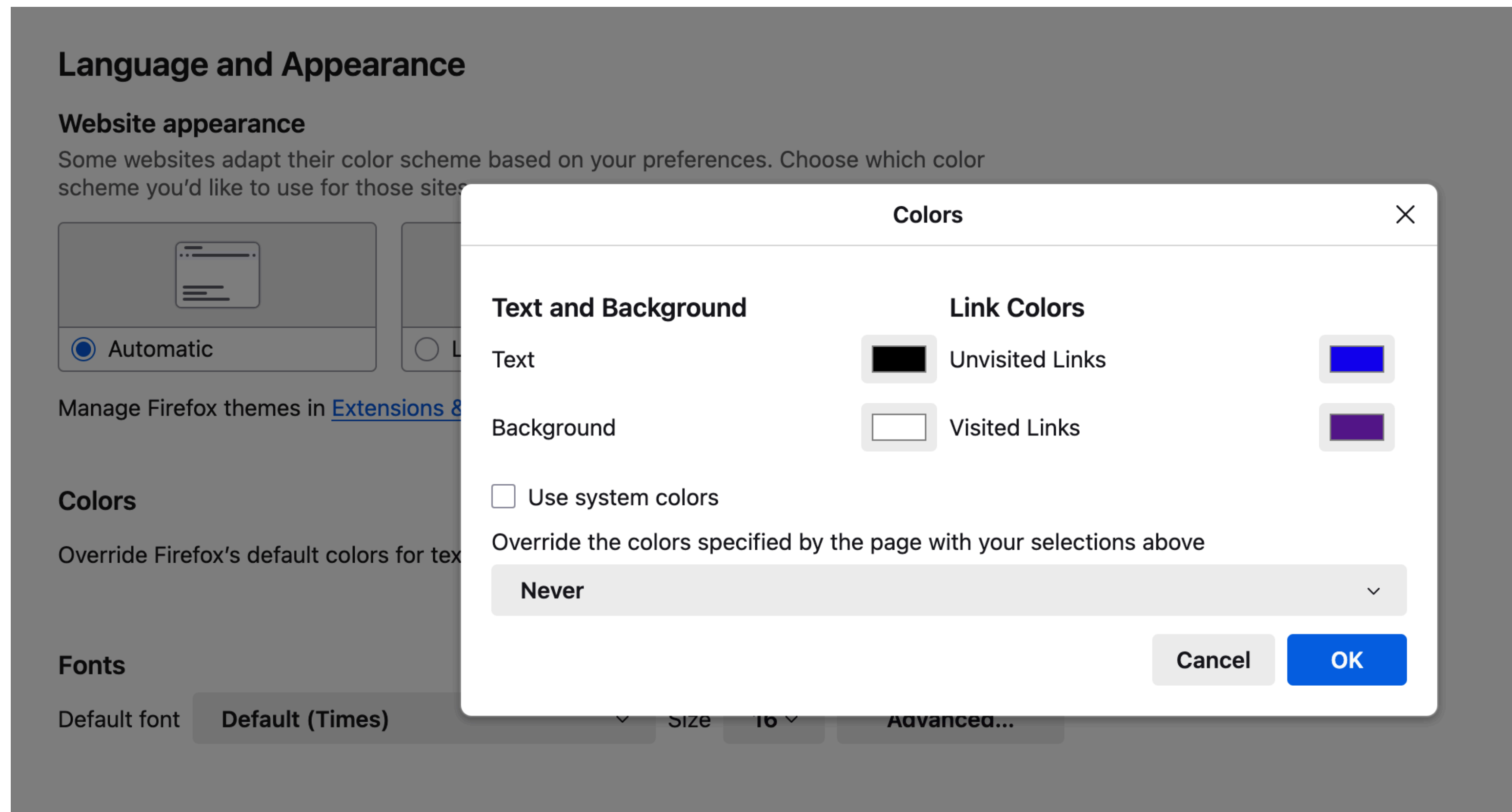
A quality signal.

@media CSS features

A few to take a look at

- <u>Prefers-reduced-motion</u> - Popular, easy

- <u>Prefers-contrast</u> - Nuanced, haven't used

- <u>Prefers-reduced-transparency</u> - New to me

- <u>Forced-colors</u> - Should Just Work

Forced Colors
In Firefox

Language and Appearance

Website appearance

Some websites adapt their color scheme based on your preferences. Choose which color
scheme you'd like to use for those sites

Automatic

Manage Firefox themes in Extensions &

Colors

Override Firefox's default colors for tex

Fonts

Default font   Default (Times)   Size   16   Advanced...

Colors   ✕

Text and Background   Link Colors

Text   [■]   Unvisited Links   [■]

Background [□]   Visited Links   [■]

☐ Use system colors

Override the colors specified by the page with your selections above

Never   ⌄

Cancel   OK

"Protip - max brightness and high contrast mode enabled allows you to use your laptop in the garden. Looks ugly but functional."
- Someone on social media in 2017

I.e Making tech work for you

A quality signal.

Production/Trends
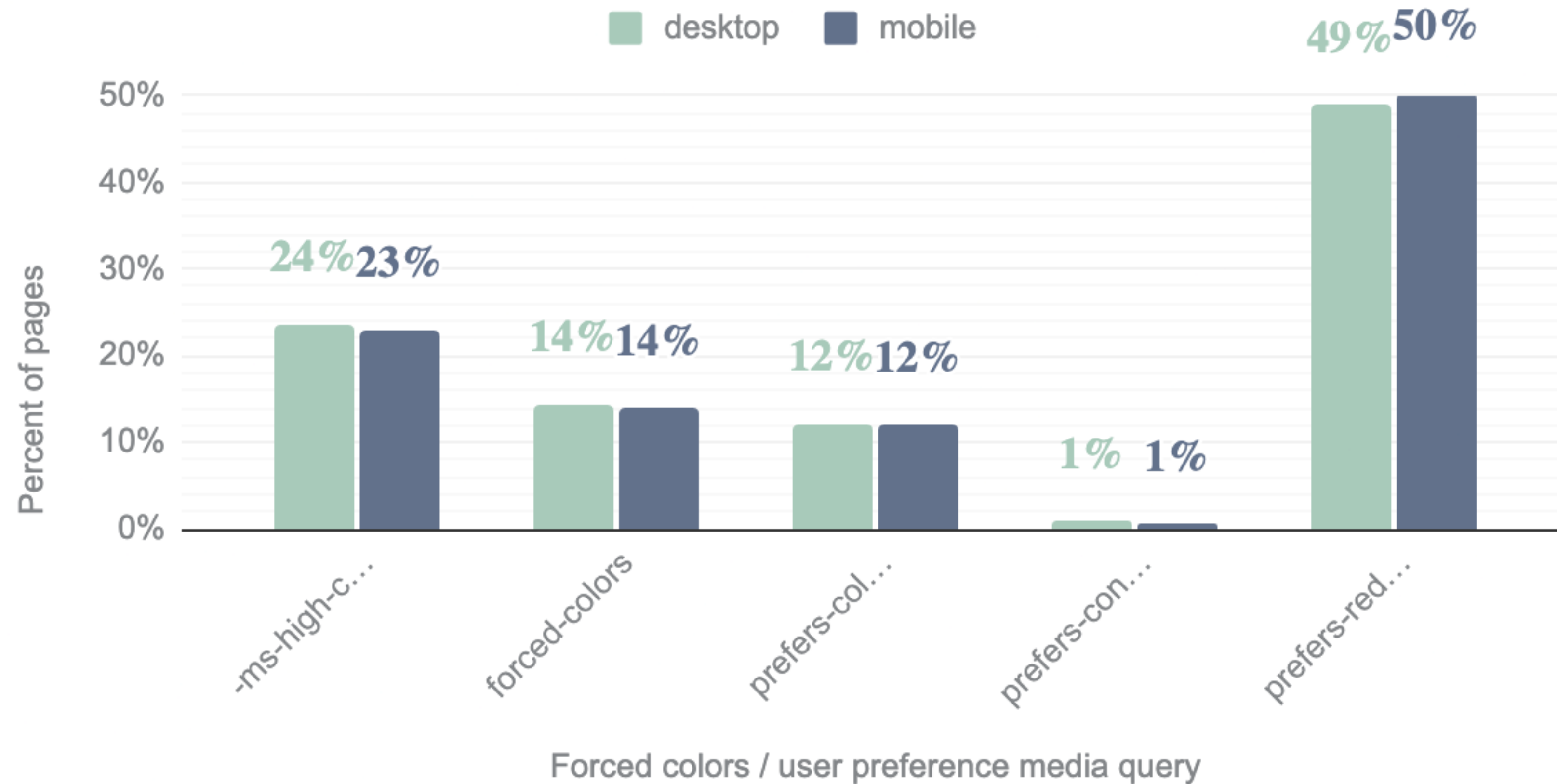Easier to look at - Web Almanac examples, useful but less valuable)

CSS Media Consumption
Mostly private- but sometimes you get feedback!

Requires empathy- listening to users who give you their time. enormously valuable

Forced colors / user preference media queries

Web Almanac 2024: Accessibility

Web Almanac Accessibility

THANK YOU