

Decoding WCAG “Name” and “Label”



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Outline

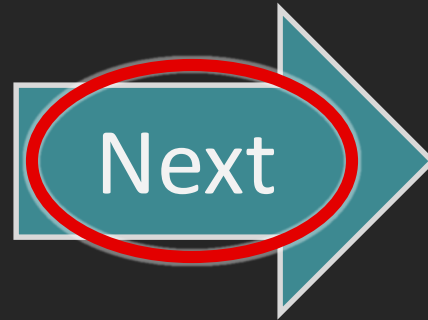
- WCAG label and name
- WCAG SC 2.5.3 – Label in Name
- Form <label>, title, and placeholder
- ARIA labels (aria-label and aria-labelledby)
 - ARIA label pitfalls

WCAG 2 “Label” and “Name”

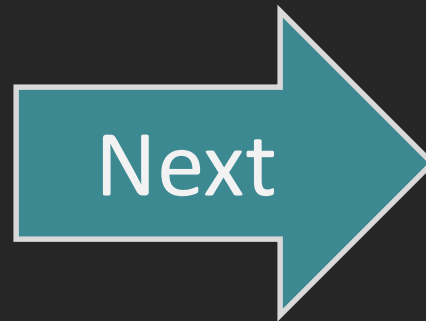
WCAG requires an accessible “label” (2.4.6, 3.3.2) and “name” (1.1.1)

- The **Label** is visually presented
- The **Name** is presented to assistive technology
 - Also called “accessible name”
 - May be visually hidden

What is the WCAG “Label”?



What is the WCAG “Name”?



```
<a href="page2.php"...>  
  <img alt="Next"...>  
</a>
```

“Label” and “Name” are usually the same

Label	Name
<u>Log in</u>	<code>Log in</code>
First Name: <input type="text"/>	<code><label>First Name: <input type="text"> </label></code>
<input type="button" value="Activate"/>	<code><button>Activate</button></code>

2.5.3 – Label in Name (A)

“For user interface components with labels that include text or images of text, the name contains the text presented.”

Label not in Name – Fails 2.5.3



```
<a href="page2.php"...>  
  <img alt="Continue"...>  
</a>
```


Label is *in* Name – Passes 2.5.3



```
<a href="page2.php"...>  
  <img alt="Next Page"...>  
</a>
```

Better solution



```
<a href="page2.php"...>  
  <img alt="Next"...">  
</a>
```

Forms

Form <label>

First Name:

```
<label for="fname">First Name:</label>  
<input type="text" id="fname"...>
```

Click text label to see if <label> is present

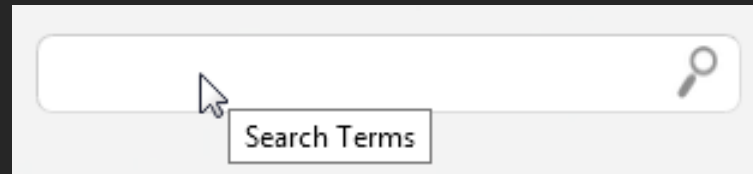
Implicit form <label>

```
<label>First Name:  
<input type="text"></label>
```

NEVER combine explicit and implicit

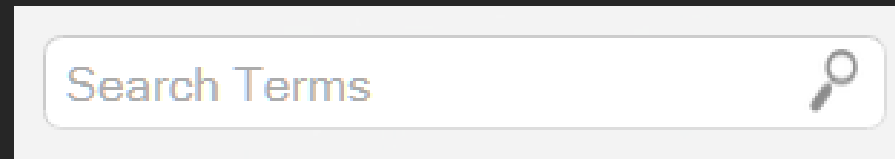
```
<label for="fname">First Name :  
<input type="text" id="fname"></label>
```

Title Attribute



```
<input title="Search Terms"...>
```

Placeholder

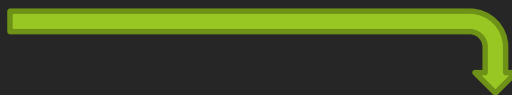


```
<input placeholder="Search Terms" ...>
```

- Placeholder is usually read by a screen reader (“accessible name”) but is not a suitable “label.”
- If `placeholder` duplicates a hidden `<label>`, they must match exactly.

Limitations with <label>

- 1:1 relationship between <label> and a form control.
- A <label> cannot apply to more than one form control.
 - A form control cannot have more than one <label>.

`<label>` 
First Name:

```
<label for="fname">First name:</label>
```

```
<input type="text" id="fname">
```

First Name:

 `aria-labelledby`

```
<span id="fname1abel1">First name:</span>
```

```
<input type="text"  
aria-labelledby="fname1abel1">
```



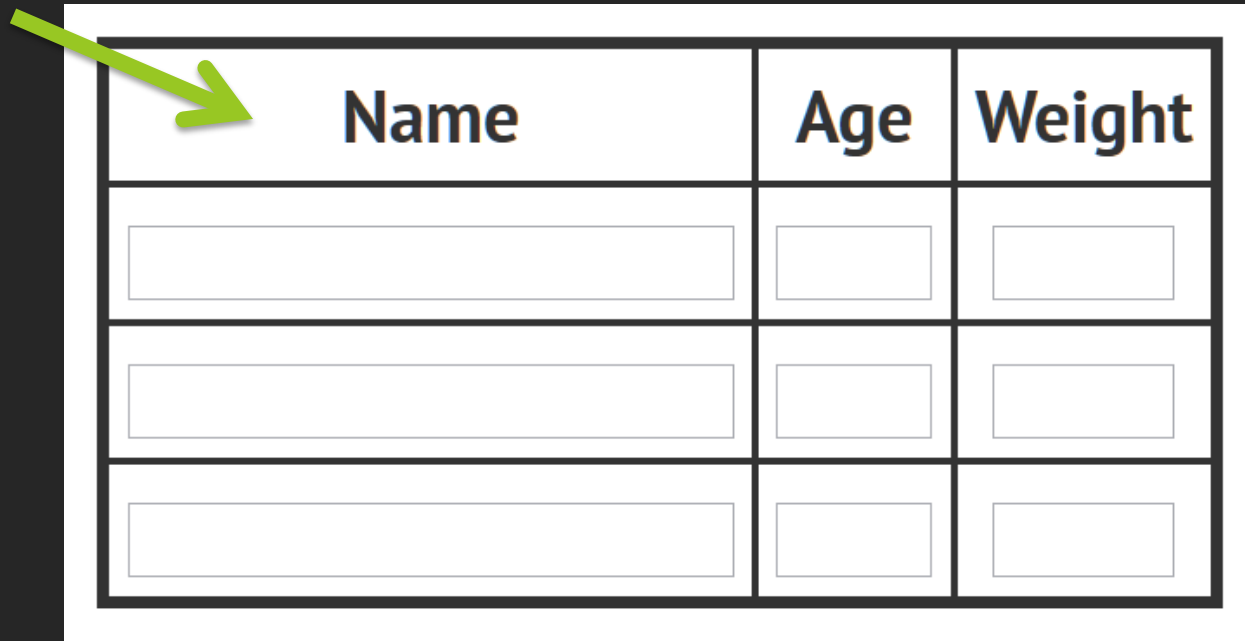
```
<label for="fname" id="fnamelabel">  
First name:</label>
```

```
<input type="text" id="fname"  
aria-labelledby="fnamelabel">
```

Unnecessary markup (Rule #1 of ARIA),
but label will only be read once.

One label for multiple controls

`id="name1label"`



Name	Age	Weight
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

```
<input type="text" name="name1"  
aria-labelledby="name1label">
```

Multiple labels for one control

`id="officenum"`

`id="cyndi"`

Name	Office Number	Phone
Cyndi	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Jared	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Jonathan	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

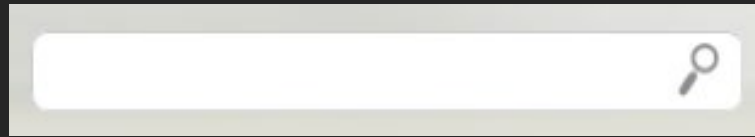
```
<input type="text" name="office1"
aria-labelledby="cyndi officenum">
```

Form values as labels for other inputs

Name	Office Number	Phone
<input type="text" value="Cyndi"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text" value="Jared"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text" value="Jonathan"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

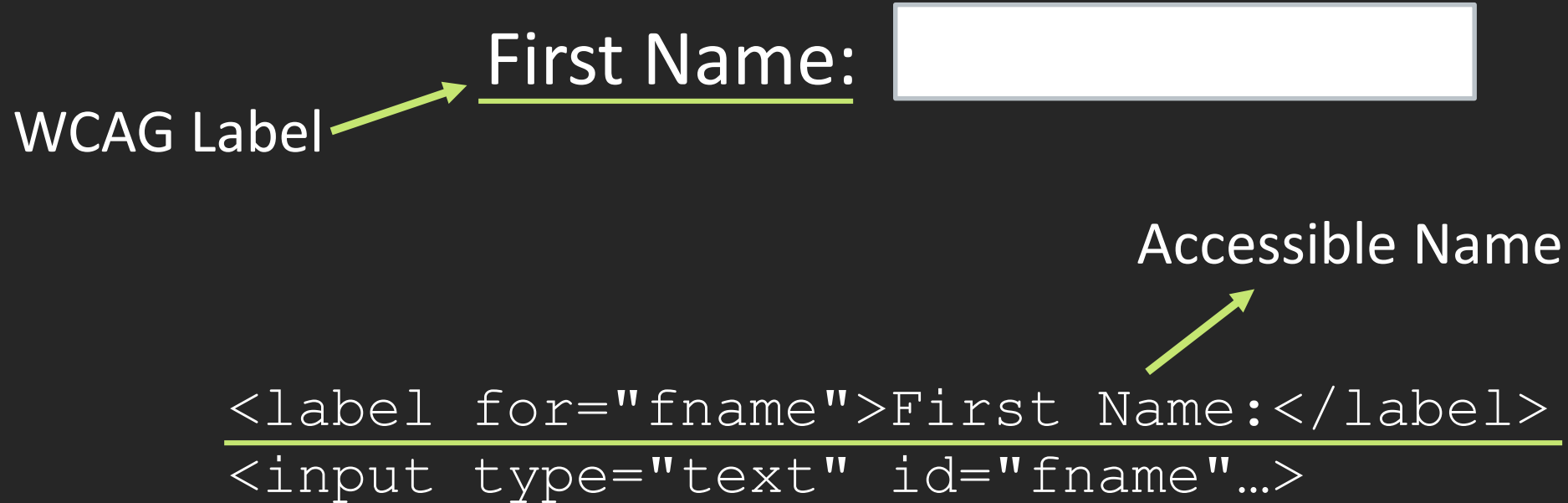
```
<input type="text" name="office1"  
aria-labelledby="name1 officenum">
```

aria-label attribute



```
<input aria-label="Search Terms" ...>
```


ARIA *Labels* override default Accessible *Names*




ARIA *Labels* override default Accessible *Names*

WCAG Label  First Name:

Accessible Name

```
<label for="fname">First Name:</label>  
<input type="text" id="fname"...  
aria-label="Your Name">
```



ARIA *Labels* override default Accessible *Names*

- Form labels
- Alternative text
- Link text
- Button text

Download the Employment Application

```
<a href="app.pdf">Download the  
Employment Application  
</a>
```

Download the Employment Application

```
<a href="app.pdf">Download the  
Employment Application
```

```
</a>
```

Icon Fonts or Background Images/Sprites

[Download the Employment Application](#) 

Caution with `aria-label`

[Download the Employment Application](#) 

```
<a class="PDFlink">Download the Employment  
Application<span class="pdf" aria-label="PDF">  
(PDF)</span></a>
```

```
<a class="PDFlink" aria-label="PDF">Download the  
Employment Application</a>
```

Caution with aria-label

[Download the Employment Application](#) 

```
<a class="PDFlink">Download the Employment  
Application<span class="sr-only"> (PDF)</span></a>
```

```
<a class="PDFlink" aria-label="Download the  
Employment Application (PDF)">Download the  
Employment Application</a>
```


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