Web Accessibility and Search Engine Optimization By Paul A. Brown, RPT

My Computer/Internet Background

I first became interested in using computers when I had to take on the task of publishing our chapter newsletter in 1992. Our chapter newsletter editor had passed away in a tragic car accident. I rushed to the computer store and told them about my needs. Having no idea about computers, I asked which was the easiest to use. I subsequently purchased a Mac LCIII (look at the specs online (and don't laugh – it worked!): <u>http://support.apple.com/kb/SP209</u>)

A few years later, I became interested in internet development after noting that our organization had a new web presence – <u>http://www.ptg.org</u>. So, I went back to the computer store and purchased additional items for internet development. Within a couple of weeks, the Canadian Piano Page was born (1995).

Five years later, I decided to become involved in high end internet development. I took a 1 year course about 80 hours per week that included everything one can think of with regard to computers and cyberspace. I'm no longer involved in that work because too many other developers were offering their services free so they could become well known.

The training was the best class room situation I have ever been in – high school and university included. All were trained to go at their own pace. Think about it. If you're running a road race, why would you want to run slowly like everyone else? Not me! Our training was also about adaptability. Things are moving so quickly, you need to constantly upgrade your skills to stay current. By the way, this document will be completely out of date within a year. I'll have to come up with something else by then.

The computers I use are Mac (OS 9, OS X), Windows (98, XP, Vista) and Linux (Puppy Distribution). The only reason I learned about Linux was because the Windows computer of a family member became so virus infected, no other installation was possible. The only Linux Distribution that would work was a very small program called Puppy Linux and it is extremely fast. http://puppylinux.org/main/Overview%20and%20Getting%20Started.htm

Note* - This class document has been placed into your chapter library. To view it simply login to <u>http://my.ptg.org</u>, subscribe to your chapter community, and go to your library. All chapter members should be subscribed to their communities and they should also subscribe to Region 7. This way all members will be continually informed about current events.

1. <u>WEB ACCESSIBILITY</u> – Must websites be compliant? Decide for yourself.

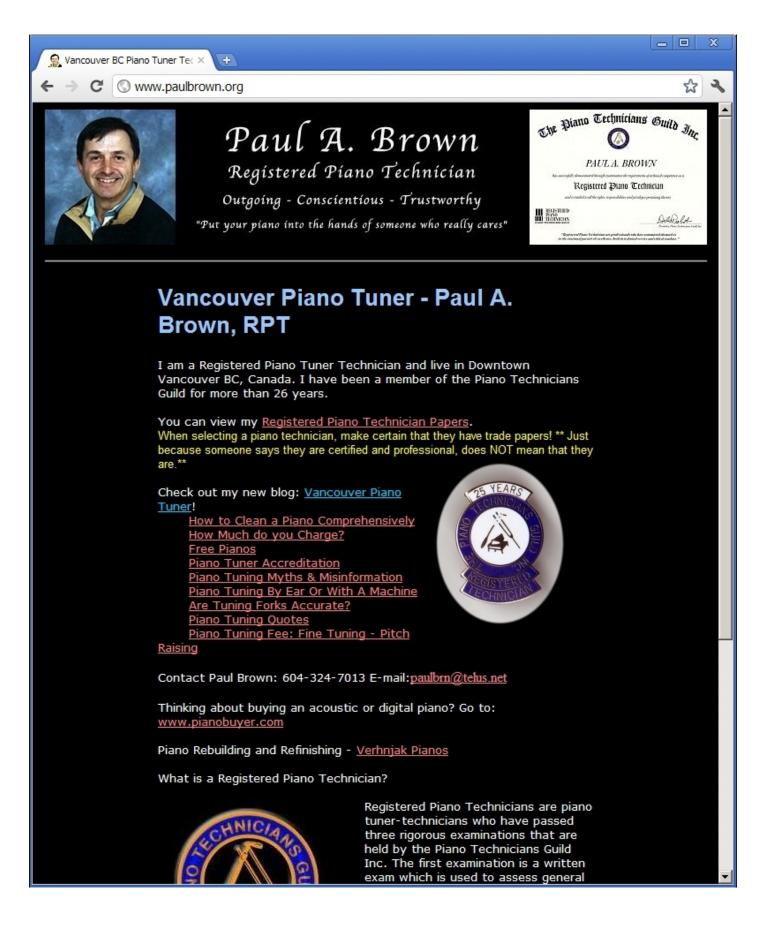
Could a lawsuit be launched if a website is non compliant? Please read this article: <u>http://www.out-law.com/page-7285</u>

What does one search engine think about website validation? Please read this article: http://www.kpmrs.com/blog/2009/09/knowledge-bank/googles-answer-to-w3c-validation-of-your-website/

Please view the examples on the following pages.

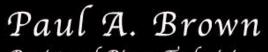
2. <u>SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMIZATION</u> – Please go to **Section 2**.

My website, <u>www.paulbrown.org</u>, as it normally appears. Please note that in optimizing the image files for this document, the true color has been degraded somewhat and is not exact.



My website, <u>www.paulbrown.org</u>, as it appears to those with the visual impairment Deuteranopia. Please test your website online using the Color Blind Web Filter. Go to: <u>http://colorfilter.wickline.org/</u>





Registered Piano Technician

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"Put your piano into the hands of someone who really cares"

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Vancouver Piano Tuner - Paul A. Brown, RPT

I am a Registered Piano Tuner Technician a Vancouver BC, Canada. I have been a mem Guild for more than 26 years.

You can view my <u>Registered Piano Technici</u>. When selecting a piano technician, make certain t because someone says they are certified and profare.**

Check out my new blog: <u>Vancouver Piano</u> <u>Tuner</u>!

How to Clean a Piano Comprehensively How Much do you Charge? Free Pianos Piano Tuner Accreditation Piano Tuning Myths & Misinformation Piano Tuning By Ear Or With A Machine Are Tuning Forks Accurate? Piano Tuning Guotes Piano Tuning Fee: Fine Tuning - Pitch

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The Piano Technicians Guild Inc

PAUL A. BROWN Registered Diano Technician

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<u>Raising</u>

Contact Paul Brown: 604-324-7013 E-mail: paulbrn@telus.net

Thinking about buying an acoustic or digital piano? Go to: www.pianobuyer.com

Piano Rebuilding and Refinishing - Verhnjak Pianos

What is a Registered Piano Technician?



Registered Piano Technicians are piano tuner-technicians who have passed three rigorous examinations that are held by the Piano Technicians Guild Inc. The first examination is a written exam which is used to assess general My website, <u>www.paulbrown.org</u>, as it appears to those with the visual impairment Protanopia. Please test your website online using the Color Blind Web Filter. Go to: <u>http://colorfilter.wickline.org/</u>





Paul A. Brown

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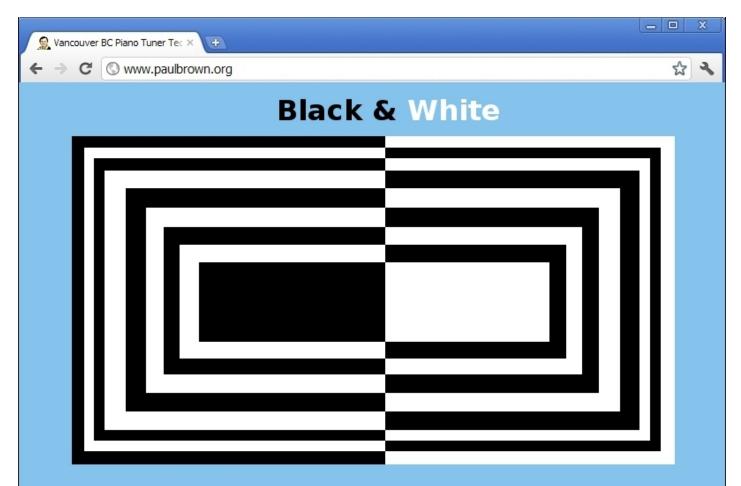
Registered Piano Technicians are piano tuner-technicians who have passed three rigorous examinations that are held by the Piano Technicians Guild Inc. The first examination is a written exam which is used to assess general Using the "Color (the program spells the word differently) Contrast Analyser", I check font colors against the background color to be certain they pass an accessibility test. Please download the program at: <u>http://www.paciellogroup.com/resources/contrast-analyser.html</u>



Do not put text on a photo background. There are far too many consequences. If you feel you must, insert a text box that covers some of your background image so that the words can be easily read.



The design below is extremely problematic and can cause an epileptic seizure. Be CAREFUL who you show this picture to. There are so many people with many kinds of visual impairment. Try and remember who your audience is.



Piano Tuning

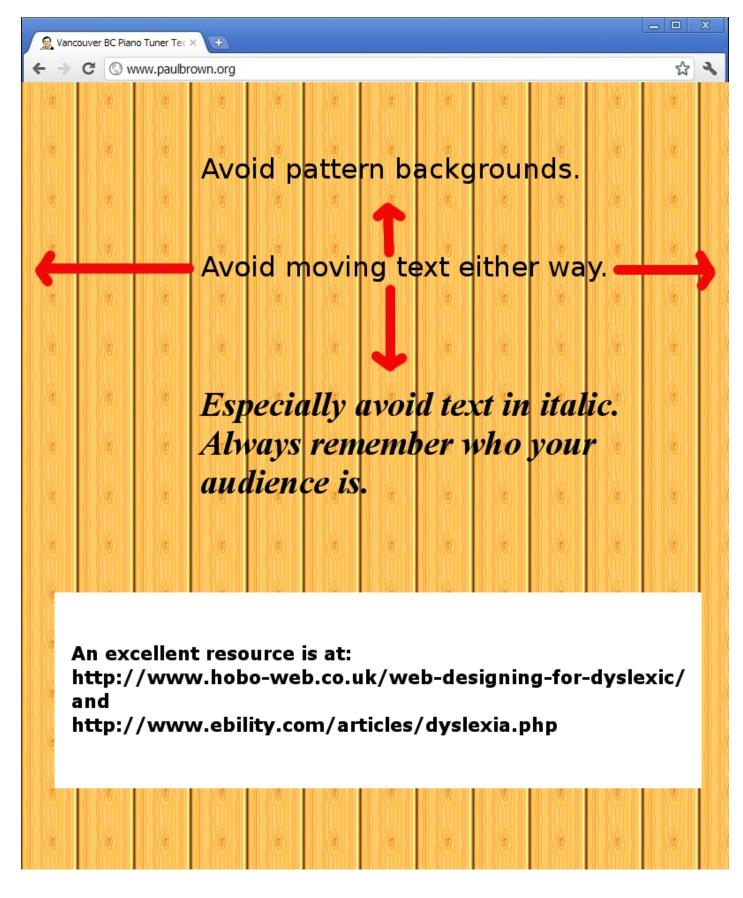
Always be aware of users with many kinds of disability.

Especially if an epileptic fit is triggered by bad design.

This background design is very problematic for people with Dyslexia.

The comments are self explanatory.

Please visit the websites mentioned in the diagram.



One of the biggest problems for visually impaired users is trying to find the information they want without having to navigate through dozens of links.

In the example below, the user must wait for quite some time until all of the navigation links load. If there was a 'skip link' option, the user could go straight to the "Visually Impaired..." text and HEAR the information they need.

C Swww.paulbrown.org LINK LINK LINK VISUALLY IMPAIRED LINK LINK MEMBER NOTICE LINK LINK LINK LINK LINK MEETING LINK LINK LINK TOMORROW LINK LINK EVENING 7 PM LINK LINK LINK LINK LINK LINK LINK For screen readers, the visually impaired user will LINK have to wait forever for all of the links on the left to LINK load first, the links on the top to load second and LINK then the MOST IMPORTANT TEXT to load last. LINK LINK LINK Add a 'SKIPLINK' script so that the visually impaired LINK user can go directly to the text they need! LINK LINK Example: http://www.jimthatcher.com/skipnav.htm LINK LINK

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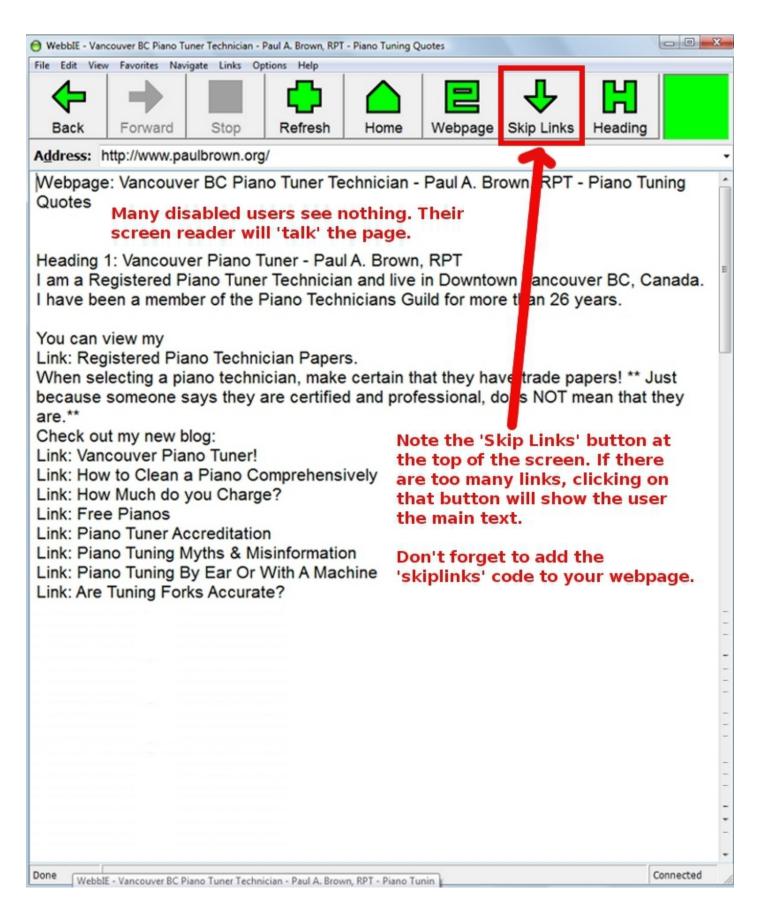
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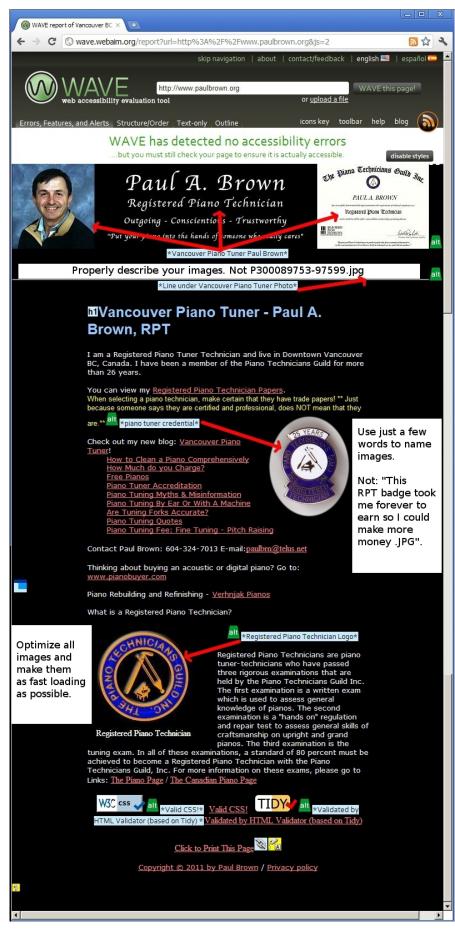
Since we see web pages and visually impaired users do not, the Webbie Browser gives us a good example of how websites would be 'spoken' by screen readers using text only. You can download this browser at: <u>http://npxp.com/webbie-browser-for-visually-impaired</u>



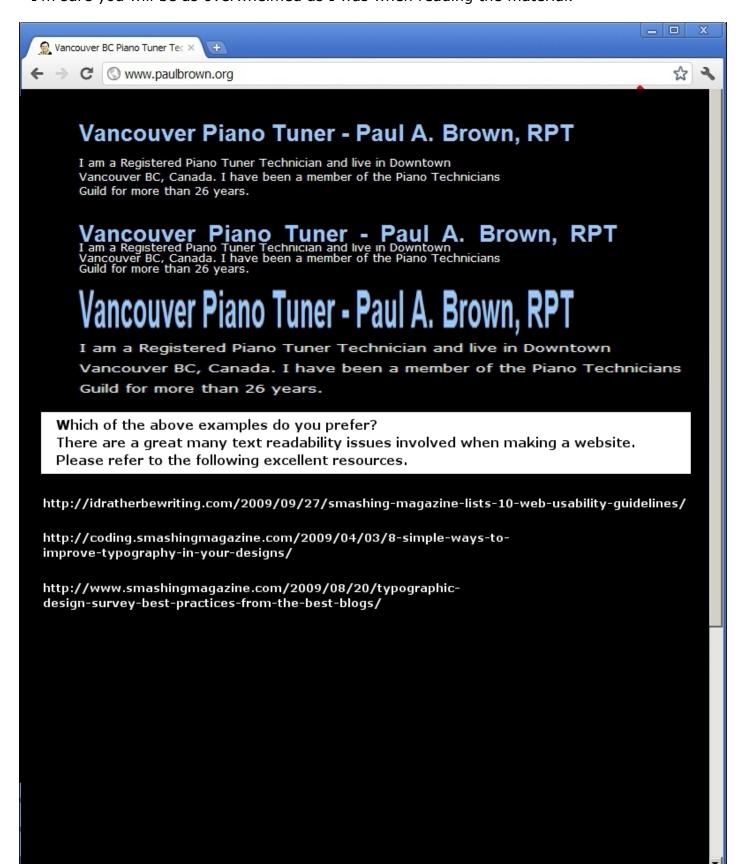
Always remember that there are millions of elderly users now taking advantage of new technology. Many of them have physical disabilities which may make navigating a website almost impossible. Look at the example below.



Make sure to describe all of your images not only for search engine optimization but for screen readers. Otherwise the visually impaired will have no idea what a 'numbered' image means. Also, use a simple naming convention like 'PianoTuner.jpg' or 'PianoRebuilder.jpg'.

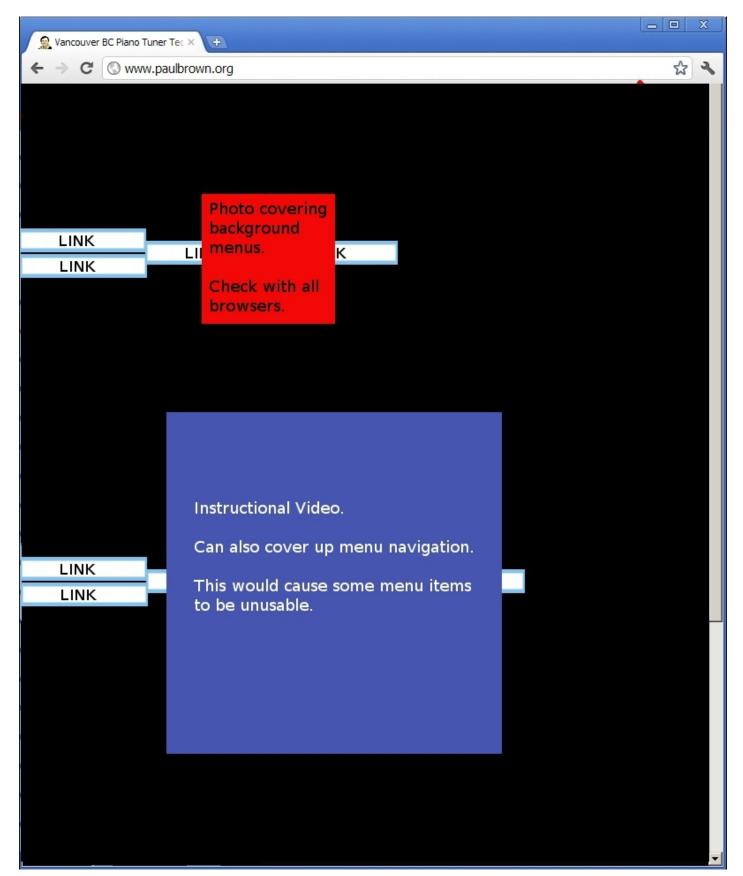


There are entire websites dedicated to the usage of text fonts and readability. Refer to the links in the diagram for more information. I'm sure you will be as overwhelmed as I was when reading the material.



When embedding many 'objects' such as photos, movies and flash files, be careful how they are positioned with regard to other structure on the page.

Notice below how the photo and video 'float' above the menu links making them almost unusable.



Documents as well as web pages must be accessible. PDF files are the most popular way to share documents because they appear the same from computer to computer.

Your accessible document doesn't have to pass all of these tests. Check with a visually impaired person to be certain. Download the program here: <u>http://www.access-for-all.ch/en/pdf-werkstatt/pdf-accessibility-checker-pac.html?</u> <u>gclid=COHG69n4_asCFWcZQgodP3YLXA</u>

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Most web sites don't seem to care whether or not their pages validate. I think it is a very useful tool for pointing out some obvious problems. To use the W3C Markup Validator, go to: <u>http://validator.w3.org/</u>

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This is a screen shot of W3C's Mobile Validator.

Again, don't be concerned if your websites do not pass all of the tests. **Take special note of the **Page Size** and **Network Usage****. Those are VERY IMPORTANT! You can click on those two items to reveal the analysis details of your website.

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2. <u>SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMIZATION</u> – For Web Accessibility please go to **Section 1**.

- There are many kinds of search engine, but let's face it. Which is the most popular? Have a look at the current search engine market share: <u>http://www.statowl.com/search_engine_market_share.php</u>
- How many pages do you have? On many websites I only have 1 (ONE). Why?
- Have a look here: <u>http://www.statowl.com/search_engine_results_page.php</u>
- The Google Algorithm constantly changes. It is a set of rules to rank websites higher or lower.
- <u>http://www.google.com/corporate/tech.html</u>. Create a Google Account, go to Webmaster Tools and look at 'Google 101'. The most helpful information is there!
- Think about your domain name (if you don't already have one). Name your business with tuning/tuner e.g. JohnDoePianoTuning.com (.org, .net, etc.) or PianoTunerJohnDoe.com
- Headline about your name, job, city and a few words about piano tuning specialties. On my site the wording is: "Vancouver Piano Tuner - Paul A. Brown, RPT: British Columbia, Canada"
- Title headings (and links) appropriately. NOT -> "About Us, Contact Us, Links" Too General!
- E.g.: Search Google for (These results were obtained on October 10, 2011)
- "About Us" Results 1 10 of about <u>3,710,000,000</u>
- "Contact Us" Results 1 10 of about <u>4,470,000,000</u>
- "Links" Results 1 10 of about 5,890,000,000
- "Piano Links" Results 1 10 of about 169,000,000
- "Piano Tuning Links" Results 1 10 of about 1,490,000
- "Vancouver Piano Tuning Links" Results 1 10 of about <u>98,900</u>
- Name graphics descriptively. Not just image or PSC0000018888. Use a good naming convention such as "PianoTuner.jpg" or "PianoTuning.jpg" or "PaulBrownPianoTuning".
- Add Meta Tags. An example can be found in Google's Webmaster Tools.
- Index your site: Verify your website to Google.
- Have other larger websites link to you just as PTG does! Linking to larger websites does not help much.
- Create a blog with h1 titles using meaningful piano tuning information. See http://paulbrownrpt.blogspot.com.
- You can create other websites that have unique information that will not be considered a doorway to the same website. Be careful about trying to trick any search engine or your website could be punished for bad practices. Look at Google 101 for more information.