Deque's Accessibility Coverage Study — Measuring That Automated axe Testing Catches 57% of Issues by Volume, and Why Manual Testing Is Still Needed

Digital Inclusion · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 88/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Deque analysed 2,000+ audits (13,000+ pages, ~300,000 issues) and found automated axe testing covered 57% of issues by volume. A UK government test of 10 tools shows no single tool finds most barriers.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Innovation level	2/5
Sustainability (ongoing)	1/1
Evaluation evidence	1/1
Demonstrated reach	1/1
Documented learning	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-10-31

Deque Systems — accessed 2026-10-31

Deque coverage study (2021) — accessed 2026-10-31

GDS: tools tested on the world's least accessible webpage (2017) — accessed 2026-10-31

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