

Improving Twitter’s accessibility

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**Pôle accessibilité numérique de l’association Valentin Haüy**

# The situation as of 21 October 2020

Whether it be on a computer, a tablet or a smartphone, Twitter enables an image published in a tweet to be accompanied by a text of up to 1000 characters.

Despite its obvious potential, this option has two limits:

1. Not many users are aware of this function, and most are unaware that they are depriving screen readers of potential information. Most tweets that have an attached image containing information, do not include a corresponding text description.
2. At present there is no direct method of indication that an image is purely decorative. The only, indirect, way of doing it is to include a text stating this, such as “this image is purely decorative”.

# Propositions for the improvement of Twitter’s accessibility

## That someone posting an image must choose between inputting a text describing it or selecting a “purely decorative image indicator”.

We propose improving the accessibility of images for the visually impaired by imposing a choice for every image of either:

* clicking on a “purely decorative image” box ensuring that the image will be ignored by screen readers by means of the html code **alt="";**
* inputting a text description of up to 1000 characters so that the presence of the image and its accompanying text would be detected by the screen reader.

An update to the Help should mention that if the information present in the image is also present in the accompanying text the image should be considered as “purely decorative”.

## Improving the accessibility of the help pages of help.twitter.com/fr

Some pages of help.twitter.com/fr use colour contrasts that do not conform to  the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).

In page https://help.twitter.com/fr/using-twitter/picture-descriptions, the contrast between the light blue text and the medium blue background is only 2.0 whereas the minimum specified is 4.5 (or 3.0 for large characters).



In other places on this page, the contrast between the white text and the medium blue background is only 2.8.

## Using suitable terminology

The title of page https://help.twitter.com/fr/using-twitter/picture-descriptions is « Comment rendre les images accessibles aux utilisateurs malvoyants de Twitter**».**

The phrase « utilisateurs malvoyants » is unsuitable.

It should read « **utilisateurs aveugles ou malvoyants** ».

# What is l’association Valentin Haüy?

L’association Valentin Haüy (AVH) is one of the main French associations working to help the visually impaired.

Because of the increasing importance of technology in the lives of the visually impaired, AVH has established a technology accessibility hub, which can help public and private organisations as well as the IT industry to enable accessibility to be properly taken into account. Twitter can profit from this help.

Furthermore, AVH’s website has an IT accessibility section that can be consulted by members of the public, public and private organisations.