

Colour Contrast Analyzer: Icon on Desktop and Use

Once you've followed the instructions to [download the Colour Contrast Analyzer¹](#) (CCA) from the Paciello Group website, these instructions will help you put the CCA icon on the desktop and use the CCA.

Tip: Before I download the CCA I create a folder in the Downloads folder where I can put the zipped file that I download from The Paciello Group website. For me, this just makes it easier to find and work with.

Once the CCA is downloaded, locate the Zip file.

Right-click on it or press the AppKey (or Shift + F10).

From the context menu, choose Extract All and accept the default location, but make note of it! If you save it into a specific folder, it should extract to that folder which makes it easier to find.

Once the zipped file has been extracted, locate the folder with the “executable” or .exe file in it.

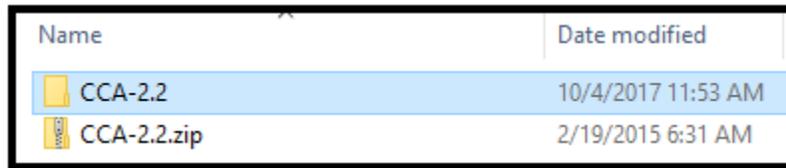


Figure 1 Folder containing the executable file for CCA.

Once the CCA-2.2 folder has opened, locate the executable file. This is the current version. The folder name will vary as new versions are available.

Right-click on “Colour-Contrast-Analyzer.exe” and choose Send To by clicking on it or pressing N.

Open the sub-menu by pressing the Right Arrow key.

Choose Desktop (Create Shortcut).

¹ Colour Contrast Analyzer, The Paciello Group:
<https://developer.paciello.com/resources/contrastanalyser/>

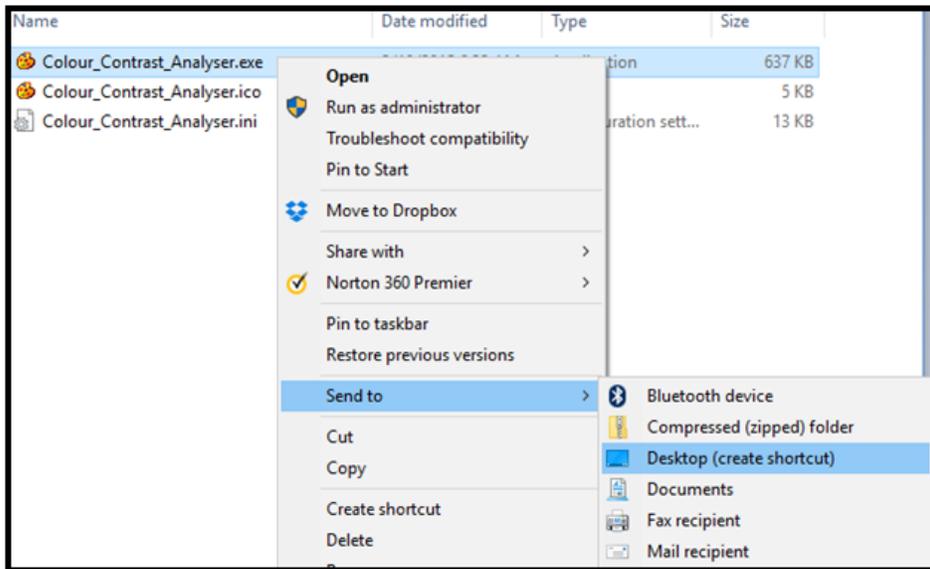
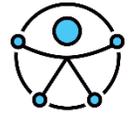


Figure 2 Sending the CCA to the Desktop as an icon/shortcut.

Close the Downloads Window and you'll see an icon for the Colour Contrast Analyzer on your Desktop.



Figure 3 Colour Contrast Analyzer icon on Desktop.

Using the Colour Contrast Analyzer

For this part of the tutorial, Heading 1 was modified to be lighter and Heading 1A was created then modified to use the darkest blue colour in the Normal document colour palette. Always use Styles!

To start the process, have your document open and then launch the Colour Contrast Analyzer.

The dialog has two sections, the top lets you identify the foreground and background colours. In this case the foreground colour will be the font colour.

The bottom of the dialog will show your results. There is a check box to check the colour blindness ratios as identified in the W3C WCAG 2.0 checkpoint. There is a link to understanding this checkpoint at the end of this document.

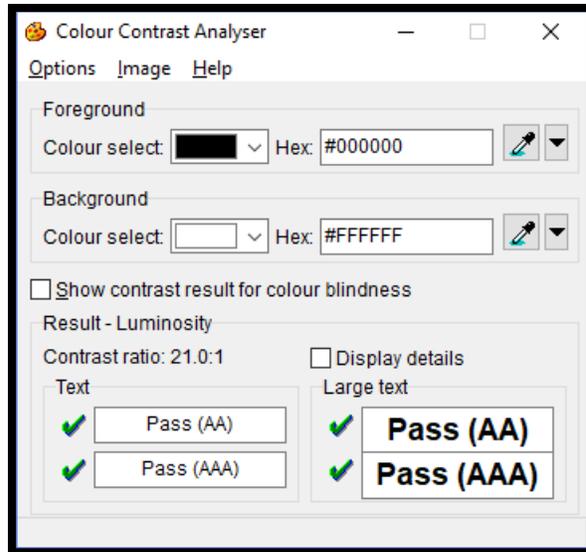
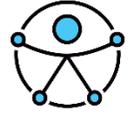


Figure 4 CCA dialog before choosing background and foreground colours.

The following image of text in a document shows regular black and white text with a faintly visible Heading...yes, that is a Heading. I used one of the colours from the Normal document template palette.

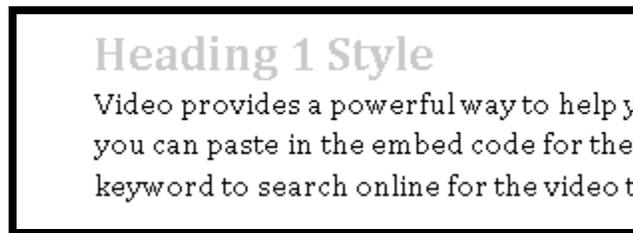


Figure 5 Sample of a document with a light-coloured Headings.

You must use the mouse to click on the eye dropper and move the magnified area over the font you want to check as the “foreground.” Once you move the magnified area over the font, look for letters where there is enough area to click on. For some fonts you might see light areas and darker areas, I try to target the darker areas if they represent most of the font and the lighter areas if they represent most of the font; so, look for letters like “d” or “t” where I target the base of the “d” where the stick meets the circle and the cross beams of the “t” where the horizontal stick crosses the vertical stick.

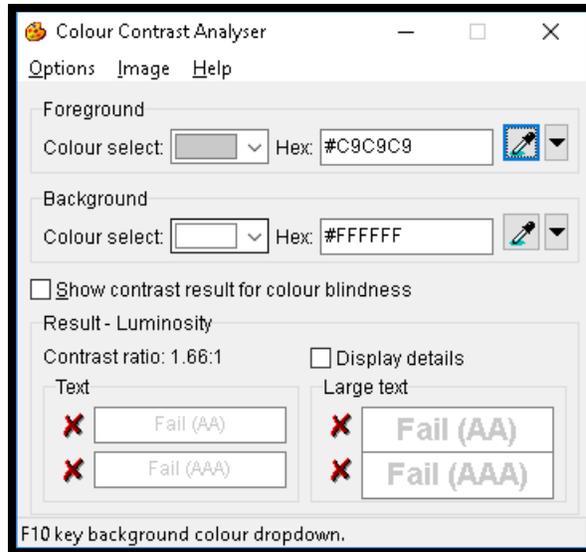
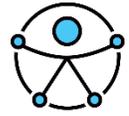


Figure 6 Results of a colour contrast check where the text is light, and the background is white.

Once you added the foreground/font colour to the dialog, repeat the process by clicking the eye dropper and targeting an area of the background near the text/font you identified as the foreground. I like to choose an area between letters if I can or just above or just below the fonts I've chosen as the foreground/font instead of another part of the page. The results for the light Heading are in the preceding image. This colour contrast fails analysis.



Figure 7 Heading in a darker colour with black and white text under it.

The next sample is a bit darker. The Heading uses the darkest blue from the normal document colour palette in Word.

It passes the AA and AAA criteria for colour contrast as shown in the following image.

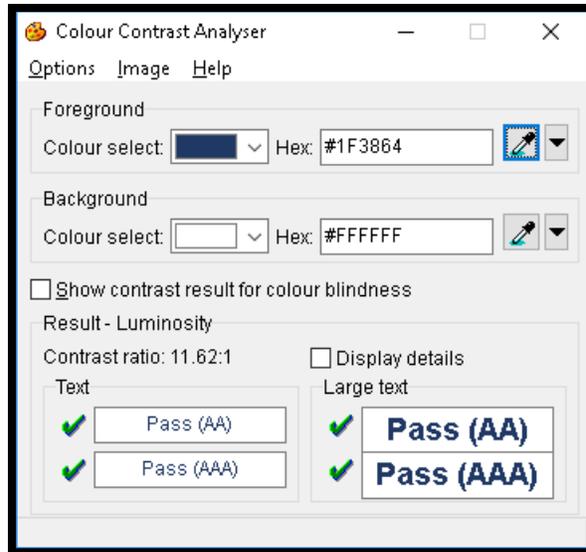
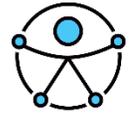


Figure 8 CCA dialog with results for colour contrast of blue Heading.

If you check the check box to identify barriers for those with colour blindness, you will be provided with the ratios of colour.

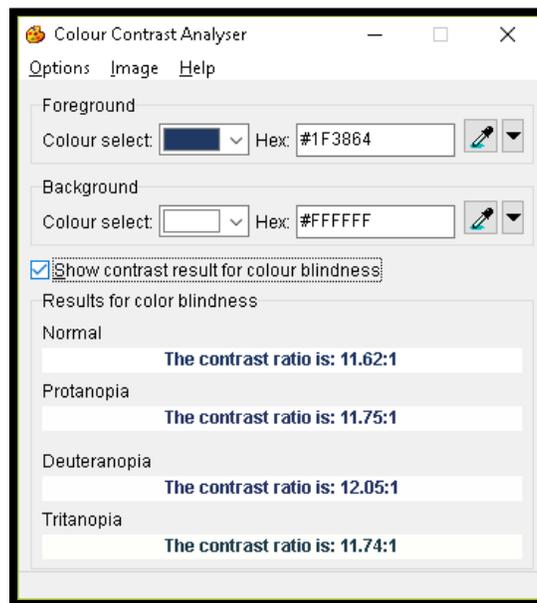


Figure 9 CCA dialog with colour blindness ratios for blue Heading.

WCAG 2.0 checkpoint for colour contrast ratio - [Contrast \(Minimum\): Understanding SC 1.4.3](#).²

² W3C, Contrast (Minimum): Understanding SC 1.4.3: <http://www.w3.org/TR/UNDERSTANDING-WCAG20/visual-audio-contrast-contrast.html>