GURUCODERS · PRESTASHOP MODULE

Accessibility Toolbar – Text, Contrast & Motion Controls

User manual · version 1.0.0

Overview

The module adds an accessibility button to every page of your storefront. A visitor who opens it can adjust the shop to their own needs: text size, page zoom, spacing, a readable font, emphasised links and headings, visible focus, stopped animations and sliders, black and white, high contrast or inverted colours, a large pointer, a reading guide and a reading mask.

The choices are stored only in the visitor's own browser and are applied again on their next visit. Nothing is sent to your server, nothing depends on the session, and a full-page cache does not interfere. Module technical name: `gcaccessibility`.

Separately from the visitor panel, the configuration page offers six optional repairs to the shop's own pages (all off at install), a live preview, an automatic check of one page and a draft accessibility statement.

> **What the module is not.** The panel changes how the page looks for the visitor who uses it. The repairs fix a few specific, common problems in the browser. Neither makes a website conform to WCAG, EN 301 549 or Law 232/2022 (Directive (EU) 2019/882), and the automatic check covers only the part of WCAG a machine can measure. Conformance needs a review of the whole site by a person.

Requirements

Item	Value
PrestaShop	1.6.0 to 9.x (declared range 1.6.0.0 – 9.99.99).
PHP	5.6 or newer. The installer refuses older versions with a message.
Themes	Any theme. The module uses only the `displayHeader` hook and draws its button and panel itself, so there is no template to place.
Visitor's browser	Needs Shadow DOM and MutationObserver (every current browser). An older browser simply sees the shop without the button. Page zoom needs CSS `zoom` support (Firefox from version 126).

Languages	Panel and configuration page in Romanian and English. With "auto", the panel follows the language the shop is displayed in; other languages fall back to English.
Database	No tables. Settings are stored in PrestaShop's configuration, under keys starting with `GCACCESSIBILITY_`.

Installation

1. In the back office, go to **Modules > Module Manager**, click **Upload a module** and select the `gcaccessibility` archive.
2. Open any page of your shop: the round button with the accessibility symbol is in the bottom right corner.
3. Back in **Module Manager**, click **Configure** on the module to change the corner, the size, the colour or the language, and to switch on the repairs you want.

> The panel is visible as soon as the module is installed. The repairs to the shop's own pages and the keyboard shortcuts start switched off; you turn them on yourself.

What the visitor can change

Group	Control	What it does
Text	Text size	Steps of 50, 70, 85, 100, 115, 130, 150, 175 and 200%. The layout stays as it is; only the text changes size, including content loaded later (cart, filters, quick view).
	Page zoom	100, 110, 125, 150, 175 or 200%. Enlarges everything, images and buttons included, and the content re-wraps to the window.
	More spacing	More space between lines, letters and words.
	Readable font	Switches the text to a plain system font (Verdana, Tahoma or similar) with slightly wider spacing.

Content	Emphasise links	Underlines links and puts them on a yellow background; links that open a new window get an arrow.
	Highlight headings	Underlines the headings on the page.
	Visible focus	A thick black and yellow outline around the element that has keyboard focus.
Motion	Stop animations	Turns off CSS animations, transitions and smooth scrolling.
	Stop sliders and autoplay	Stops Bootstrap, Owl, Slick and Swiper sliders; other sliders get the generic treatment (autoplay removed, CSS animation paused), which is not a guarantee that they stop.
Colour	Black and white, High contrast, Invert colours	One mode at a time. Choosing the active mode again turns it off.
	The colour modes apply to the visitor's view only and do not change your theme's colours.	
Pointer	Large pointer	A bigger mouse pointer.
	Reading guide	A horizontal line that follows the pointer.
	Reading mask	Dims the page except a band around the pointer.

The panel also has **Reset all** and **Hide for this visit** (the button comes back on the next visit). If the visitor's operating system asks for reduced motion, the two motion controls start switched on; if it asks for more contrast, visible focus starts on. These defaults follow the operating system and are not saved.

When the browser does not allow storage (some private modes), the panel still works and says that the settings will not be kept after the visitor leaves the page.

Settings on the Configure page

Setting	Details
Show the panel to visitors	One switch that hides the button on the whole shop without uninstalling. On at install.
Corner	Bottom right (default), bottom left, top right or top left.

Horizontal and vertical offset	0 to 400 px from the edges (default 15 and 20). Raise the vertical offset to clear a cookie bar or a chat widget.
Button size	32 to 96 px (default 48).
Button colour	A hex colour such as `#1d1d1b` (default). The symbol is white, so a dark colour reads best.
Stacking order	The button's z-index, 1 to 2147483647 (default 999999). Raise it only if something in the theme covers the button.
Panel language	`auto` (the shop's language), `ro` or `en`.
Pages without the panel	One pattern per line, compared with the page address (path and query), case insensitive. Without a star the pattern matches anywhere in the address; a star is a wildcard and the pattern then has to match the whole address. Blank lines are ignored.
Keyboard shortcuts	Off by default, because Alt combinations can collide with screen readers. When on: Alt+L links, Alt+T headings, Alt+F focus, Alt+A animations, Alt+M sliders, Alt+G reading guide, Alt+C large pointer. They never fire while the visitor is typing in a field.
Extra slider selectors	CSS selectors of sliders that "Stop sliders and autoplay" does not recognise on its own.

Values out of range are brought back into range when you save (for example a size of 20 is saved as 32).

If something covers the button

After the page loads, and again when the window changes size, the button checks whether another element sits on top of it (a cookie bar, a chat bubble) and moves up or down to clear it, at most four times and never off screen. If it still cannot be reached, change the corner or the offsets.

Repairs to the shop itself

These switches change the page for every visitor, whether or not they open the panel. They are all off at install. They run in the visitor's browser: a screen reader sees them, a tool that reads only the raw HTML of the page does not.

Repair	What it does
Skip to content link	Adds a link that lets keyboard users jump past the header. It is invisible until it receives focus.

Names for icon-only buttons	Gives an accessible name to buttons that contain only an icon, taken from their class, icon or title. When there is nothing to go on, the button is reported instead of labelled.
Names for form fields	Uses the placeholder or the field name as the name of a field that has no label at all.
Product tab semantics	Gives the product page tabs the roles screen readers expect. Only affects pages with such tabs.
Main content landmark	Marks the main content region when the theme does not.
Underline links inside text	Underlines links inside paragraphs; menus and buttons are left alone. The only repair that changes how the shop looks.

> The repairs were written against the themes PrestaShop ships. A purchased theme may need a different set; use the check below to see what each one did on your pages.

Live preview, motion report and page check

Below the settings, the Configure page shows your own front page in a frame, with the panel active. Corner, offsets, size, colour, stacking order, language and the on/off switch change the preview as you type, before you save. **Open the panel in the preview** opens it there.

- **What "stop motion" could not stop** runs the motion control on the preview and lists what it stopped and what it did not recognise.
- **Run the audit** checks the page in the frame: text colour contrast below the WCAG 1.4.3 thresholds (worst first, with the measured ratio), images without an alt attribute or with a file name as alt, the page language, level-1 headings, heading level jumps, the main landmark and the skip link, plus what the repairs changed and what they deliberately left alone. It runs in your browser and sends nothing anywhere. The module does not change your colours; contrast is a design decision.
- **Generate the draft** turns the audit into a draft accessibility statement. Every part that only you can answer (conformance status, contact, response time, enforcement procedure) is marked TO BE COMPLETED. It is a starting point for you or your lawyer, not a declaration of conformity, and must not be published as written.

The preview needs the back office and the shop on the same address; otherwise it shows a message and the panel still works on the shop itself.

Privacy and performance

- The visitor's choices are stored in their browser's local storage (`gcaccessibility-prefs`); "Hide for this visit" uses the session storage. No cookies, no server requests, no personal data.

- Every page loads one small script. The panel, the effects and the repairs are separate files, downloaded only when needed: when the visitor opens the panel, when they have something switched on, or when you turn on a repair. The page check is loaded only on the Configure page, never on the shop.
- The scripts are linked by absolute address and are not bundled by "Combine, Compress and Cache".

Turning it off and uninstalling

To hide the panel for a while, set **Show the panel to visitors** to No. Uninstalling removes the hook registrations and all the module's settings. Visitors' saved preferences stay in their browsers and are simply no longer read.

Troubleshooting

Problem	What to check
The button does not appear	Is **Show the panel to visitors** on? Does a pattern in **Pages without the panel** match the page? Clear the shop's cache. A very old browser does not get the panel.
The button disappeared after editing the patterns or selectors	Remove any `<` character from **Pages without the panel** and **Extra slider selectors**: for safety the module then stops printing its configuration and logs the reason in **Advanced Parameters > Logs**.
The button is covered by something	Raise the vertical offset, change the corner or raise the stacking order.
A slider keeps moving with "Stop sliders"	Run the motion report on the Configure page and add the slider's selector to **Extra slider selectors**. Some sliders cannot be stopped from outside.
Page zoom is not offered	The visitor's browser does not support CSS zoom (Firefox before version 126).

Technical reference

Item	Details
Hooks	`displayHeader` (storefront: loads the boot script and prints the configuration), `displayBackOfficeHeader` (registered, currently empty)

Front-office files	`views/js/gcaccessibility-boot.js` (every page), `-panel.js`, `-effects.js`, `-repair.js` (on demand); `-audit.js` only in the back-office preview
Storage	Configuration keys `GCACCESSIBILITY_*`; no database tables
Isolation	The button and the panel live in a Shadow DOM root (`#gcaccessibility-root`), so theme CSS does not reach them
Errors	A failure in the hook is caught and written to the PrestaShop log; it never stops the page from rendering