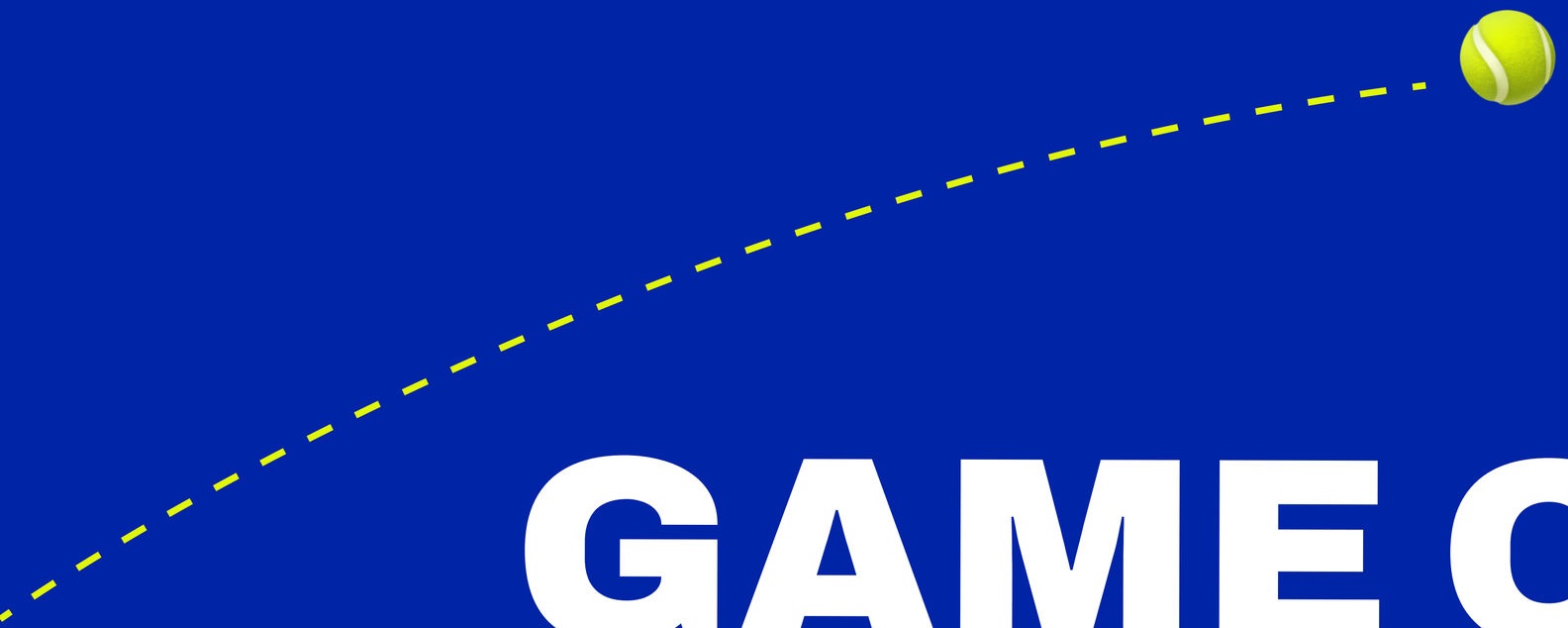
The ups and downs of working in Accessibility

Steve Barnett and Maria Guichard



GAME ON!

Working on a variety of tasks

Overly wide range of responsibilities (🦄)

Having to compromise

The joy of broadening people's perspective

Point!

When have you had to compromise?

Use Chat 💬

Fighting against systemic injustices

Being able to use the carrot

Being in a field that aligns with our values

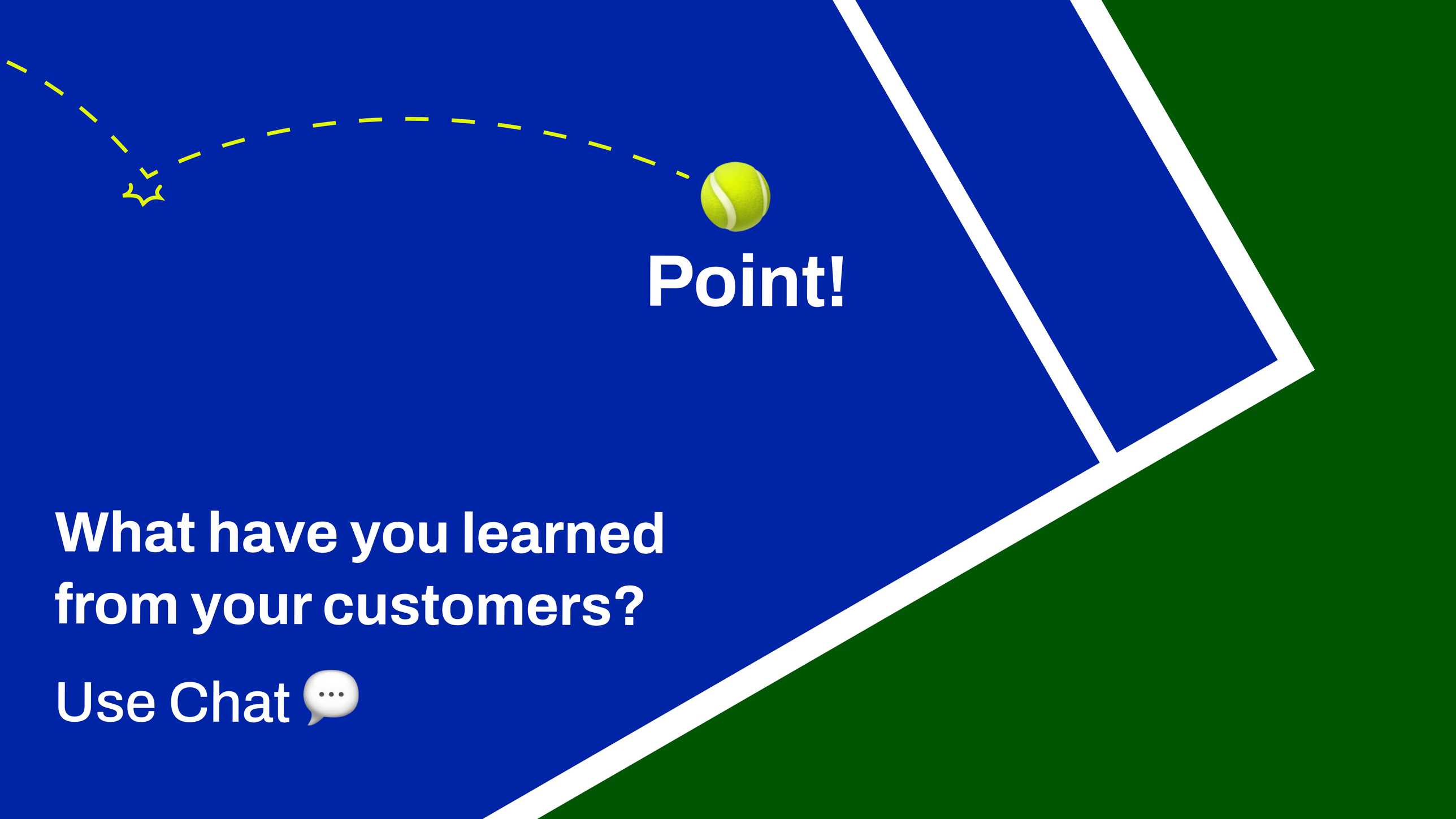
Point!

How have y’all used the carrot, or the stick?

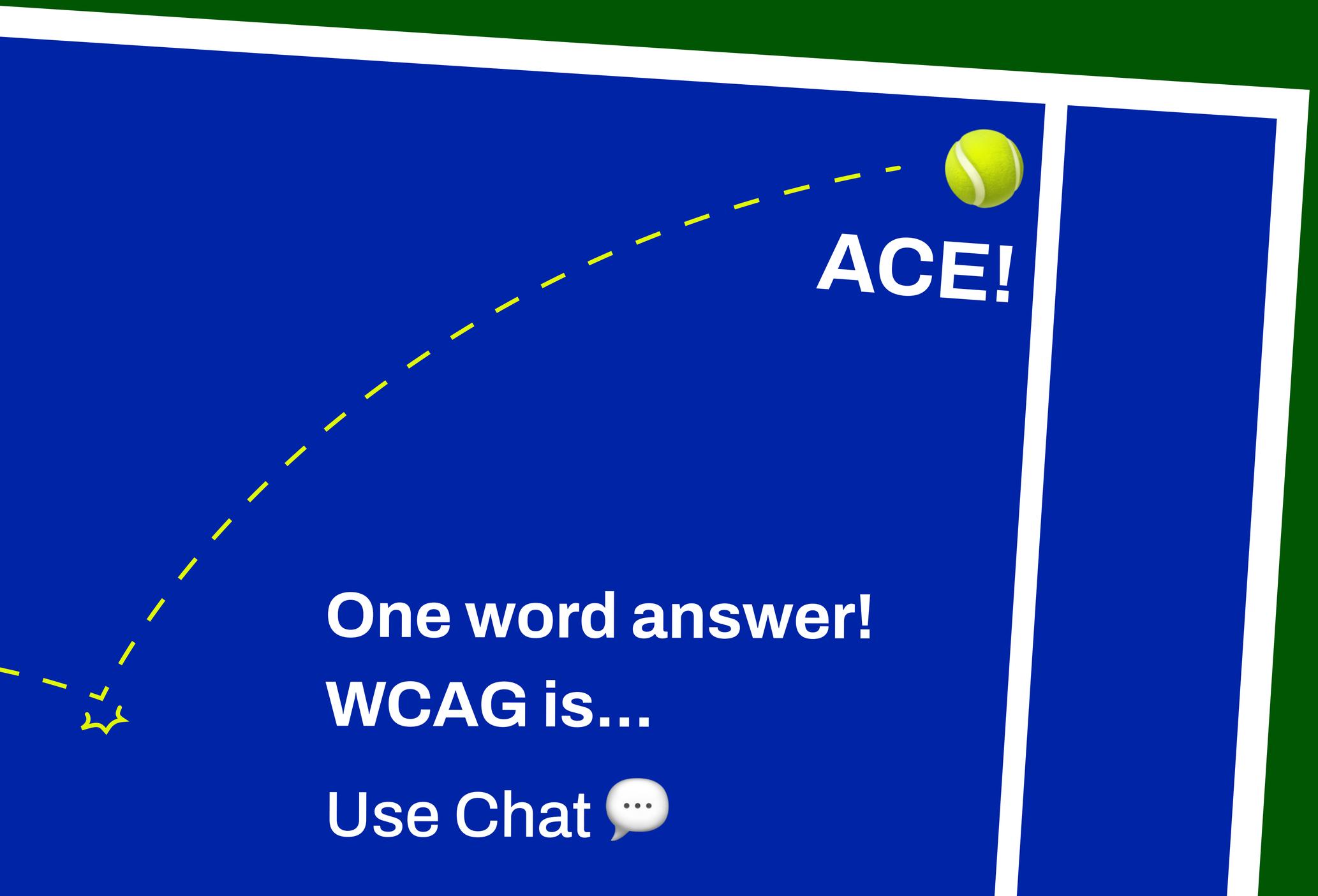
Use Chat 💬

Being in a relatively new career path

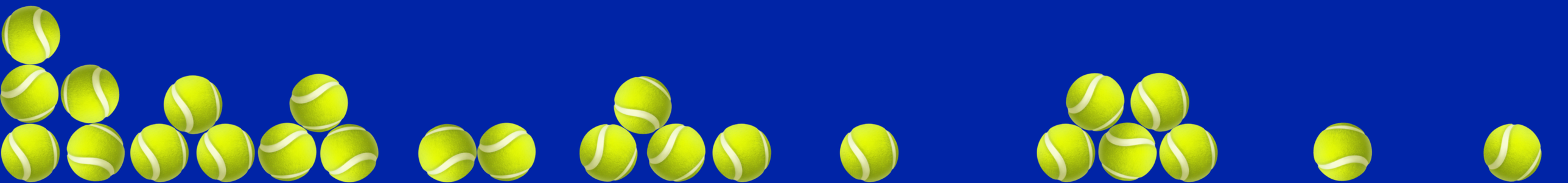
The technical stuff can be very technical


Point!
What have you learned from your customers?
Use Chat 💬

The WCAG spec can be difficult to work with


ACE!
One word answer!
WCAG is...
Use Chat 💬

GAME!



Two to remember

Fighting against systemic injustices

The joy of broadening people's perspective

Fill up your cup! 🏆
Before you reach break point.

This work is important.
If we can find ways to keep doing it, we should. ❤️

Some things that fill our cups 🔋

- Working in and with the community
- Putting work down, living life
- Relying on each other

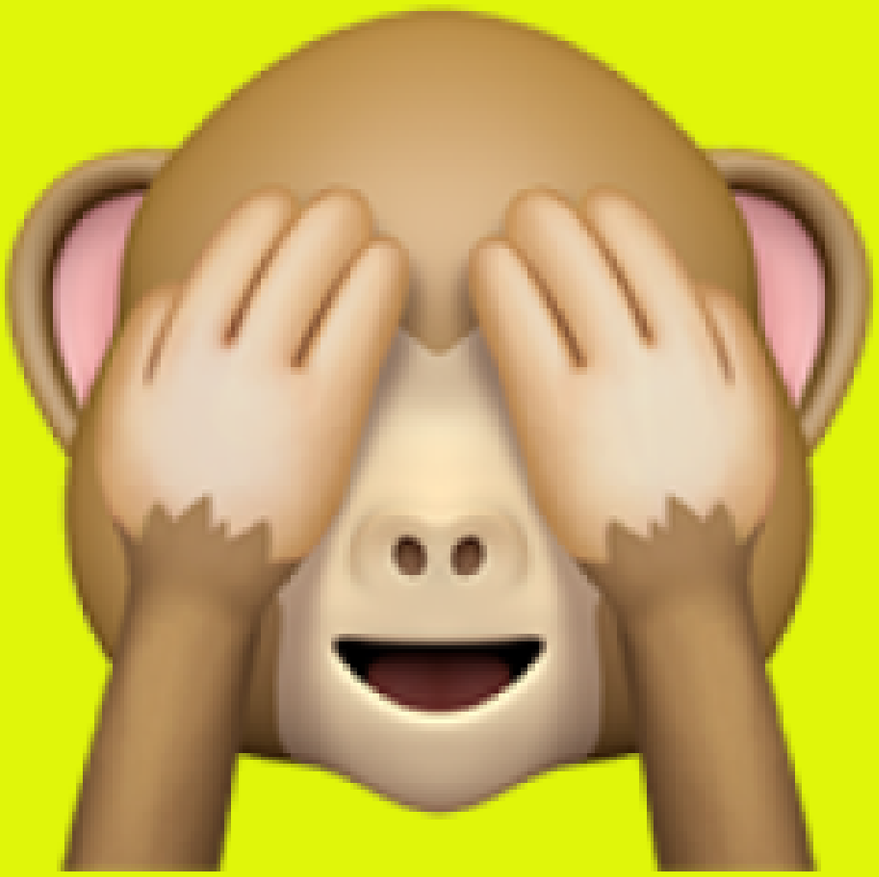
Thank you!

LinkedIn:
Maria; Steve.

Questions? ✋

This work is important.
If we can find ways to keep doing it,
we should.

But!
You can’t pour from an empty cup 🏆.



Working on a variety of tasks

Constant context switching

Overly wide range of responsibilities ( )

We get a voice in many different areas

Having to compromise

Having to compromise

The joy of broadening people's perspective

Rebuilding trust with your new job title

Fighting against
systemic injustices

Having to advocate in every
direction to be able to do the job

Being able to use
the carrot

Having to use the stick

Being in a field that aligns with our values

Some people not thinking accessibility is neccessary

Being in a relatively new career path

We get to choose where to make space

The technical stuff
can be very technical

We get to work closely
to customers

- WCAG gives everyone a headache

Steve

he/him

Front-end Developer

Full time Accessibility since 2021

🏆 Bookworm

Maria

she/her

Product Designer

Full time Accessibility since 2021

🏆 Part-time analogue

Introduction Maria

Intro Steve

Who, what,
why I do this, even with
the problems

Having to compromise

Getting to collaborate

- An ACR (Accessibility Conformance Statement, often referred to as a VPAT (Voluntary Product Accessibility Template)) is a snapshot of a product's accessibility at the time of the statement.

- It’s good for lowering legal risk. Some countries have legal requirements for accessibility.

We get to choose where to make space

Changing job expectations

0-0

❤️ all

- “PwD aren’t part of our target market” is a circular logical fallacy.

Rules of the ~~game~~ talk

Backswing: how long have you been in accessibility?

Use Reactions
🖐 Raise Hand
(then Lower Hand)

Who’s not working in a11y yet?
Hopeuffully this talk will help.

Who’s just started, a year or two maybe?
Very welcome. We really need you.

Who’s been in it more than a few years?
We feel your pain.

It doesn’t matter where you are in your career, we;re glad you’re here for this talk.