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Accessibility Command Center

A business workflow for finding, tracking, and publishing accessibility evidence

Texas Tech University

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WHY NOW

Digital accessibility is now an operating requirement

- The DOJ's ADA Title II final rule sets clear accessibility requirements for public-sector websites and mobile apps.
- Public universities are included, along with other state and local government entities.
- The baseline standard is WCAG 2.1 Level AA for web content and mobile applications.
- Current DOJ guidance sets compliance dates of April 26, 2027 for larger public entities and April 26, 2028 for smaller or special district governments.



Sources: ADA.gov; Federal Register

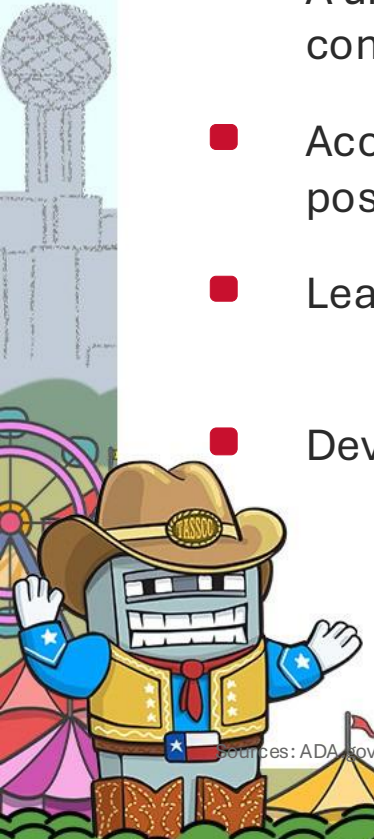
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CAMPUS IMPACT

The challenge is scale, ownership, and proof

- A university may manage hundreds of sites, forms, documents, applications, vendors, and content owners.
- Accessibility is not a one-time scan; every release and content update can change compliance posture.
- Leaders need visibility into inventory, ownership, evidence, remediation, and reporting.
- Developers need practical guidance: what failed, why it matters, and what to do next.



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THE STANDARD

WCAG 2.1 AA: the plain-language version

Perceivable

Information is available to everyone, including through alternatives like captions and text descriptions.

Operable

People can use the interface with keyboards, assistive technology, and clear navigation.

Understandable

Content and interactions are predictable, readable, and easy to recover from errors.

Robust

Websites work reliably with current and future assistive technologies.

Level AA is the practical baseline DOJ selected for Title II web and mobile accessibility. Scanners help, but many criteria still require guided human review.



Sources: W3C WAI; ADA.gov

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THE GAP

Testing tools find issues; institutions need a workflow

- Scanners are useful, but they do not manage ownership, evidence, release cycles, and reporting.
- Spreadsheets are easy to start and hard to keep current across teams and applications.
- Ticket systems track work, but they do not show WCAG coverage or VPAT readiness by application.
- VPATs are often created late, disconnected from the evidence that should support them.



Sources: ITI VPAT; project repository

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WHY THIS PROJECT EXISTS

The Challenge

- Accessibility issues are easy to find once, but hard to manage across teams, pages, and release cycles.
- Automated scans alone do not prove full WCAG or Section 508 readiness.
- Teams need a shared record of evidence, gaps, ownership, and publish status.
- Leaders need a repeatable view of readiness without chasing ad hoc files.

Business goal

Move accessibility work from one-off testing to a managed compliance workflow.



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WHAT THE A11Y PROJECT PROVIDES

Solution at a Glance

Chrome extension

Runs axe-based scans, targeted tools, and guided checks on the page being tested.

A11y Portal

Organizes teams, apps, pages, scan history, evidence, coverage, and reports.

Workflow engine

Tracks setup, in-progress, ready, and published states across release cycles.

Reporting

Generates coverage and VPAT-ready evidence views for WCAG and Section 508.



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SOLUTION MODEL

A connected path from scan to VPAT

1 Test

Run axe scans and targeted checks from the browser.

2 Capture

Store evidence by team, application, page, and cycle.

3 Measure

Map evidence to WCAG and Section 508 coverage.

4 Report

Generate and publish VPAT/ACR reports from the same record.

The value is continuity: findings, evidence, remediation, readiness, and published reports stay connected.



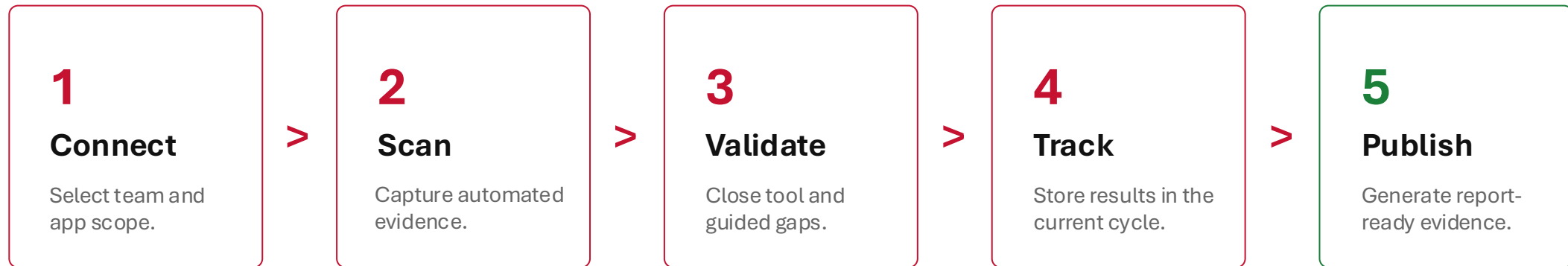
Sources: ITI VPAT; project repository

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HOW WORK MOVES THROUGH THE SYSTEM

Managed Accessibility Workflow



The system keeps evidence tied to the app, page, UI state, and current workflow cycle.



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TESTING APPROACH

A repeatable blueprint for every criterion

Tier 1

Automated scan

Fast detection of objective issues and page-level evidence.

Tier 2

Targeted tools

Focused checks for contrast, forms, links, motion, focus, target size, and related criteria.

Tier 3

Guided review

Human judgment for criteria automation cannot prove, with notes and decisions recorded.

Result: teams know what is tested, what is missing, and what action closes each gap.



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WHAT TESTERS USE ON EACH PAGE

Extension Evidence Capture

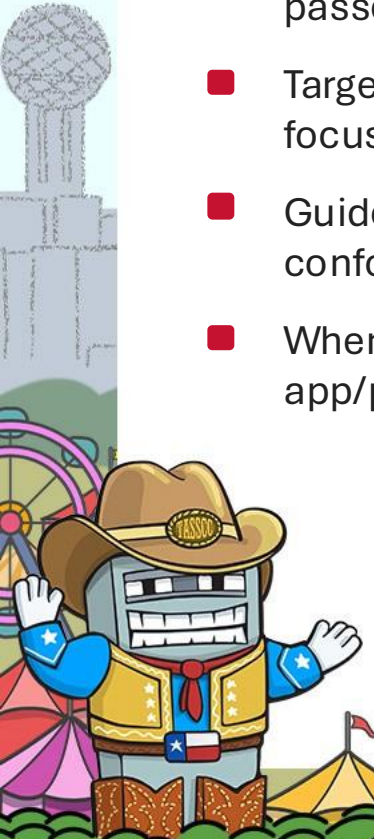
- Baseline scan uses axe-core and records violations, incomplete checks, passes, and severity counts.
- Targeted tools cover gaps such as contrast, forms, links, language, motion, focus, target size, and reflow.
- Guided checks capture human decisions when automation cannot prove conformance.
- When Save evidence to Portal is enabled, results sync back to the selected app/page.

Evidence tiers

Tier 1: Axe

Tier 2: Tools

Tier 3: Manual



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HOW WORK IS ORGANIZED

Portal Workspace for Teams

- Teams are assigned apps and allowed URL scopes.
- Apps contain pages; pages contain scan history, screenshots, scores, and evidence.
- Baseline/current comparison helps teams show progress between scans.
- Admin views support users, teams, app assignments, access, audit logs, and updates.

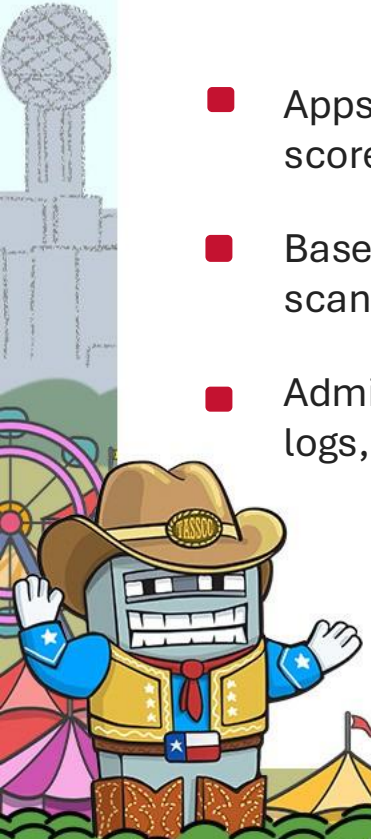
Workspace model

Team

App

Page

Scan + Evidence



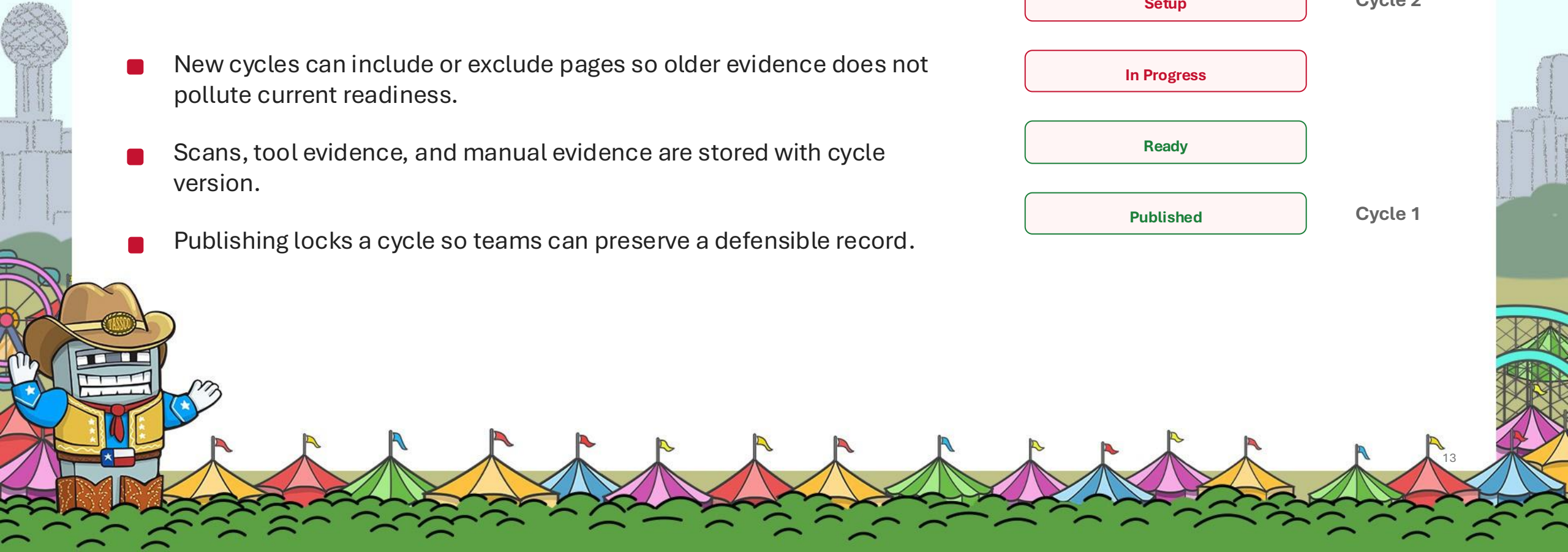
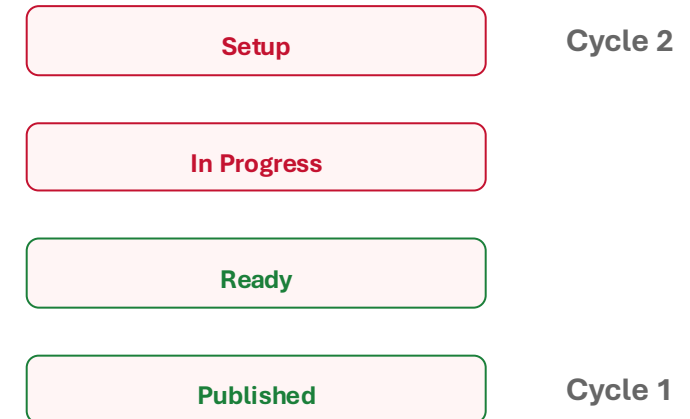
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HOW THE PROJECT HANDLES CHANGE

Continuous Version and Cycle Tracking

- Each app has a workflow state and current cycle version.
- New cycles can include or exclude pages so older evidence does not pollute current readiness.
- Scans, tool evidence, and manual evidence are stored with cycle version.
- Publishing locks a cycle so teams can preserve a defensible record.



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AI ASSISTANCE

AI turns findings into practical next steps

- A selected axe issue can be sent to backend AI services for plain-language explanation and remediation guidance.
- Screenshot and highlight context help the AI reason about the actual page state.
- The response focuses on impact, likely fix path, priority, and what to verify after the fix.
- AI does not replace conformance review; it reduces the time between finding and action.



Sources: Project repository

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DEVELOPER LOOP

Closing the loop from report to code

Export

Send structured axe results as JSON, CSV, or HTML.



Fix

Use rule IDs, selectors, WCAG mapping, and evidence in an IDE or coding agent.



Verify

Rerun the scan, sync evidence, and update readiness.

The outcome is a clean operating loop: detect, fix, verify, report.



Sources: Project repository

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WHAT LEADERS CAN REVIEW

Reporting and Governance

- Coverage dashboard groups evidence by WCAG 2.1 A/A and Section 508.
- Evidence gaps show which page, criterion, and tier still need work.
- VPAT generation and publish controls support a controlled reporting process.
- Audit and access controls help keep ownership and changes visible.

Readiness view

Coverage

Evidence gaps

VPAT

Publish / Share



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INSTITUTIONAL VALUE

What changes for the university

- One inventory for applications, pages, scans, evidence, and ownership.
- Cycle-based readiness tracking instead of one-time audit snapshots.
- A central place to publish and present VPAT/ACR reports for university applications.
- Built-in developer education through rule context, WCAG criteria, evidence gaps, and next actions.

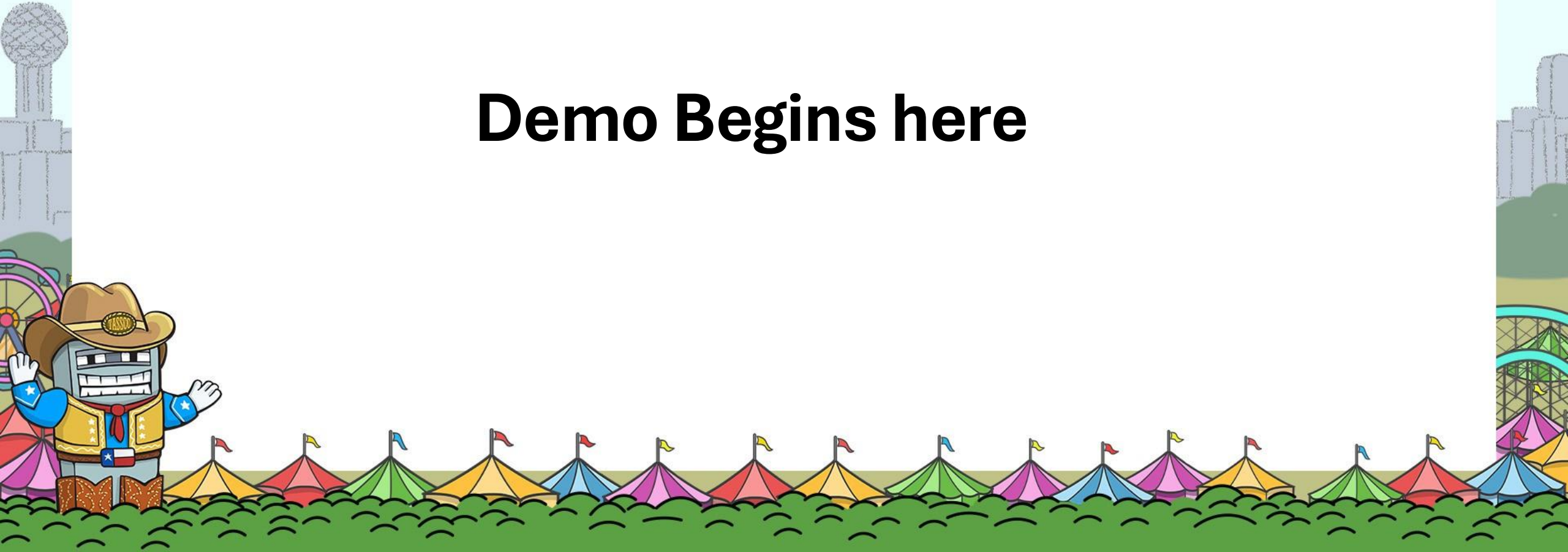


Sources: Project repository; IT VPAT

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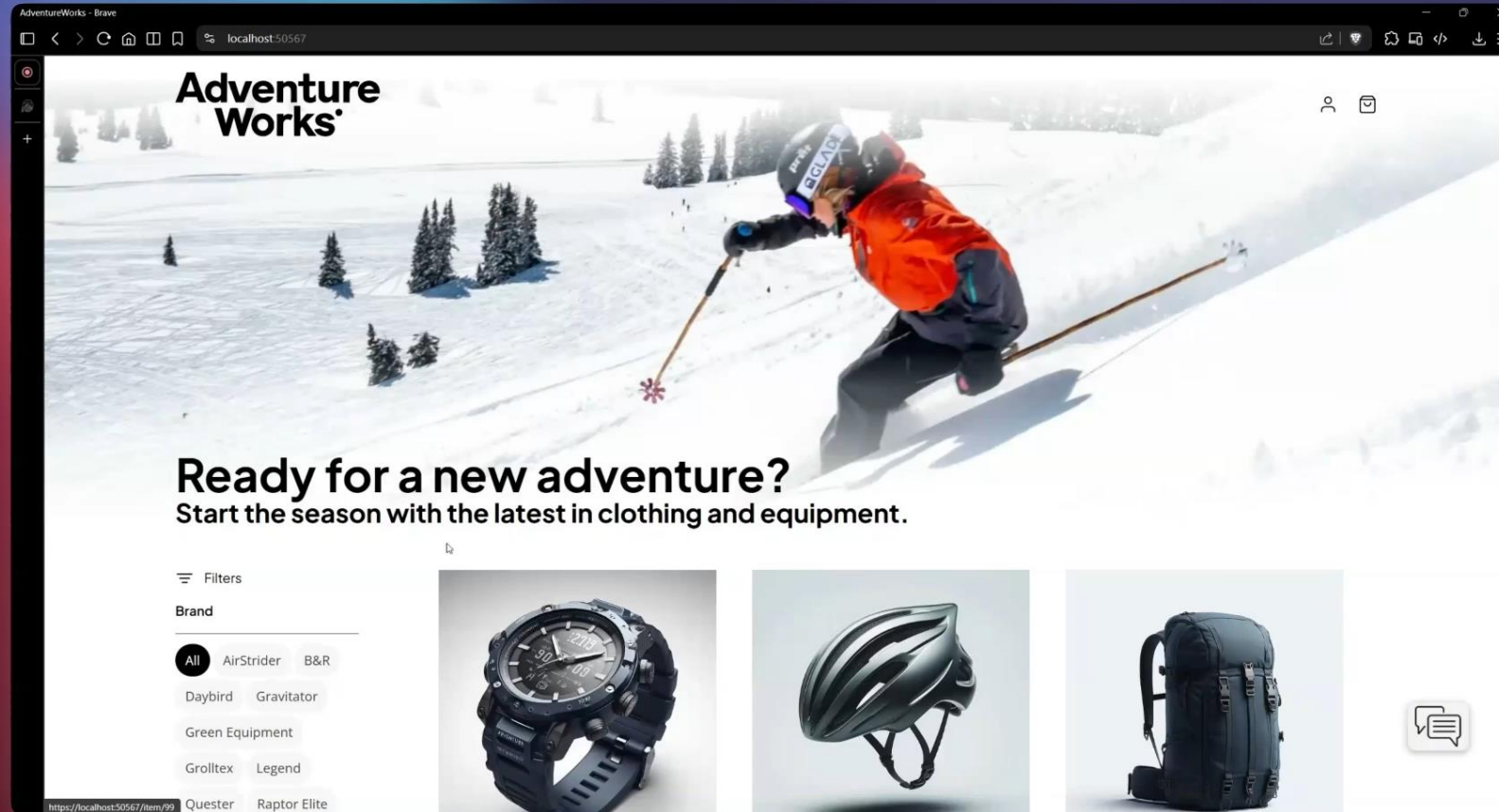
Demo Begins here



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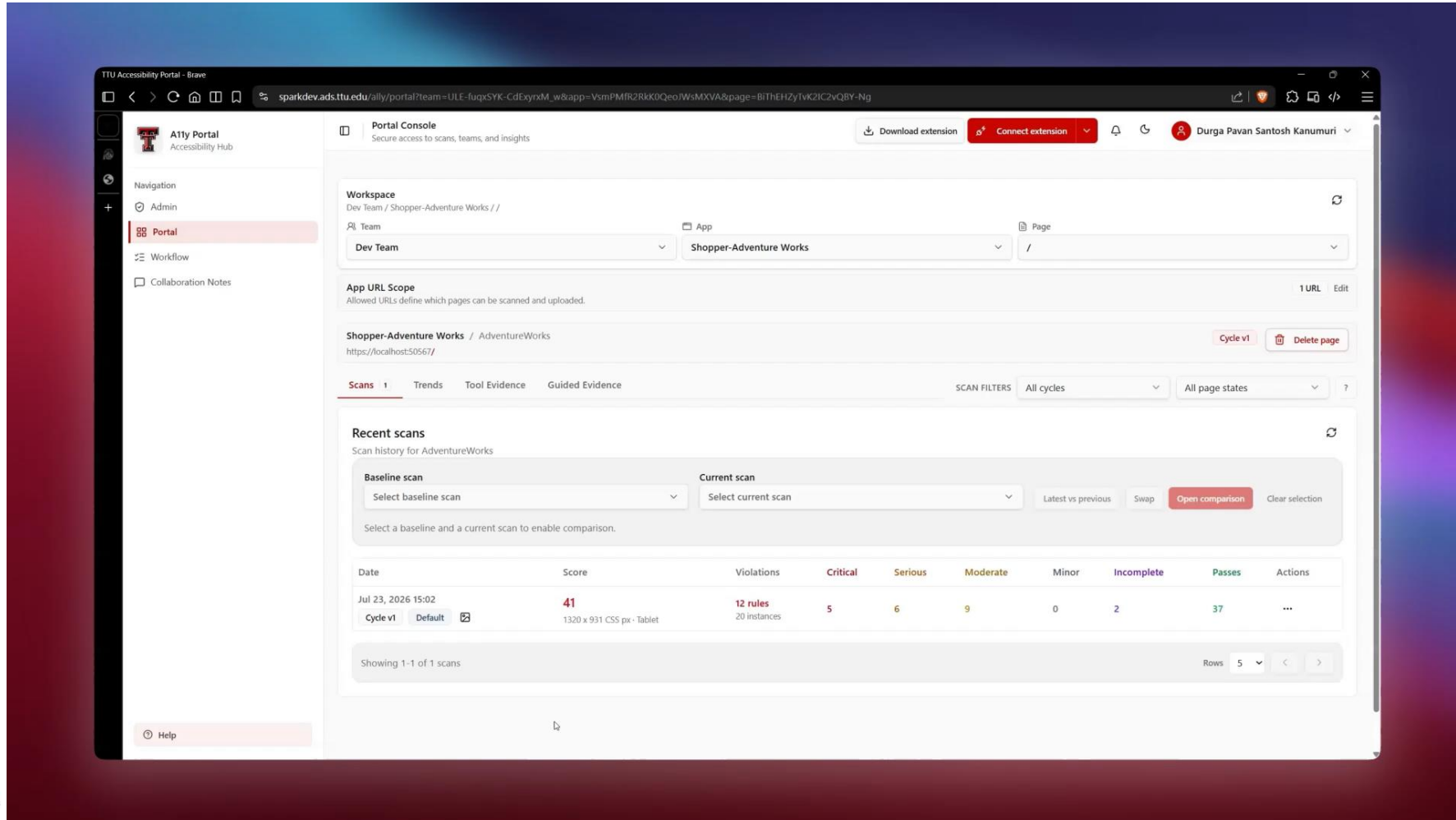
Running scans from Extension



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Portal Overview, Scans Information



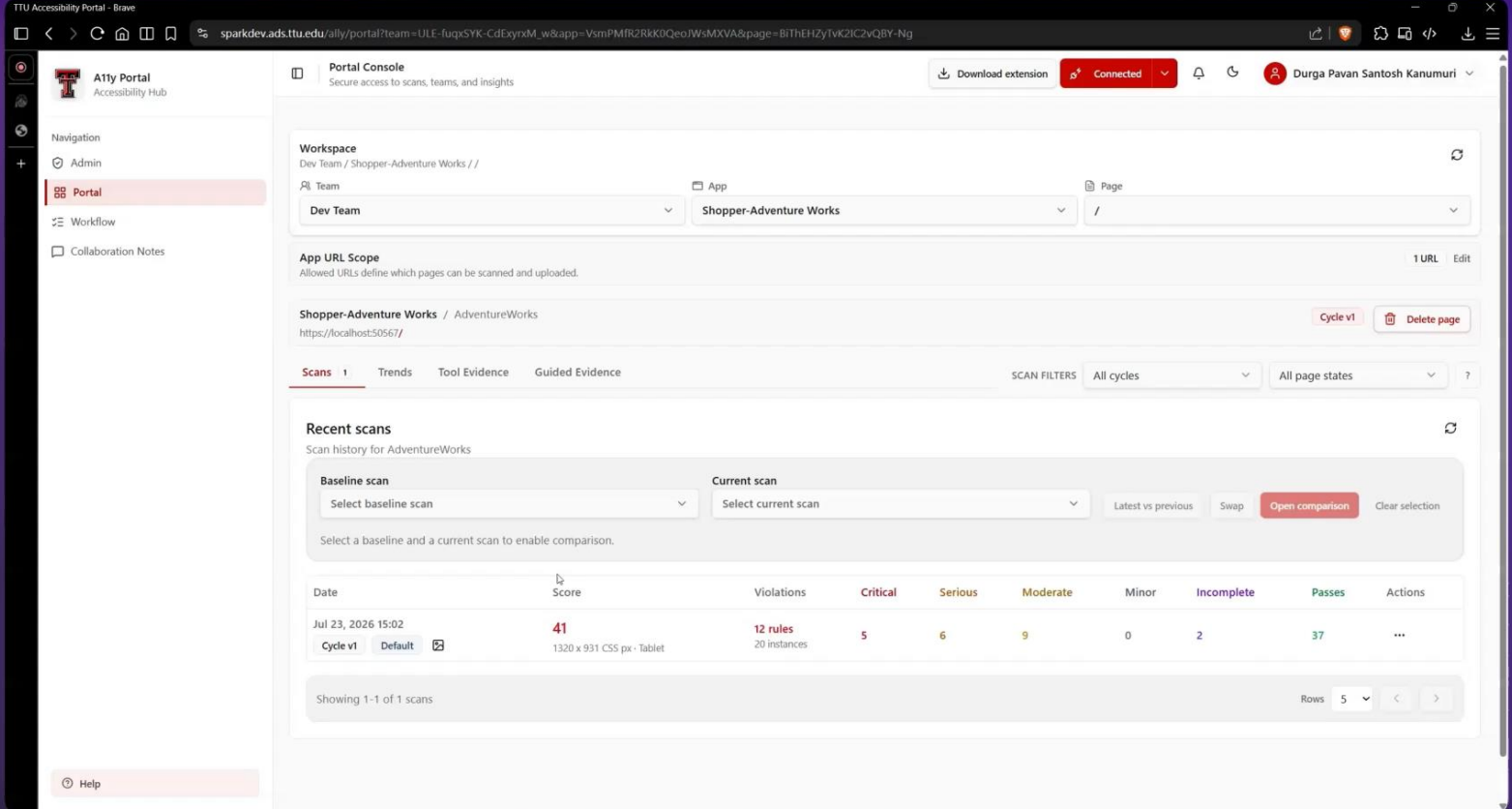
The screenshot displays the A11y Portal interface in a browser window. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Admin, Portal (selected), Workflow, and Collaboration Notes. The main content area is titled 'Portal Console' and shows the 'Workspace' as 'Dev Team / Shopper-Adventure Works'. Below this, the 'App URL Scope' is set to 'https://localhost50567/'. The 'Scans' tab is active, showing a table of recent scans. The table has columns for Date, Score, Violations, Critical, Serious, Moderate, Minor, Incomplete, Passes, and Actions. A single scan is listed for July 23, 2026, with a score of 41 and 12 rules violations. The interface also includes a 'Recent scans' section with a comparison tool and a 'Help' link at the bottom left.

Date	Score	Violations	Critical	Serious	Moderate	Minor	Incomplete	Passes	Actions
Jul 23, 2026 15:02	41	12 rules 20 instances	5	6	9	0	2	37	...

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Running Tools to get results



The screenshot displays the TTU Accessibility Portal interface. The left sidebar shows navigation options: Admin, Portal (selected), Workflow, and Collaboration Notes. The main content area is titled 'Portal Console' and shows the 'Workspace' as 'Dev Team / Shopper-Adventure Works'. Below this, the 'App URL Scope' is defined as 'https://localhost:50567/'. The 'Recent scans' section shows a table of scan results for 'AdventureWorks'.

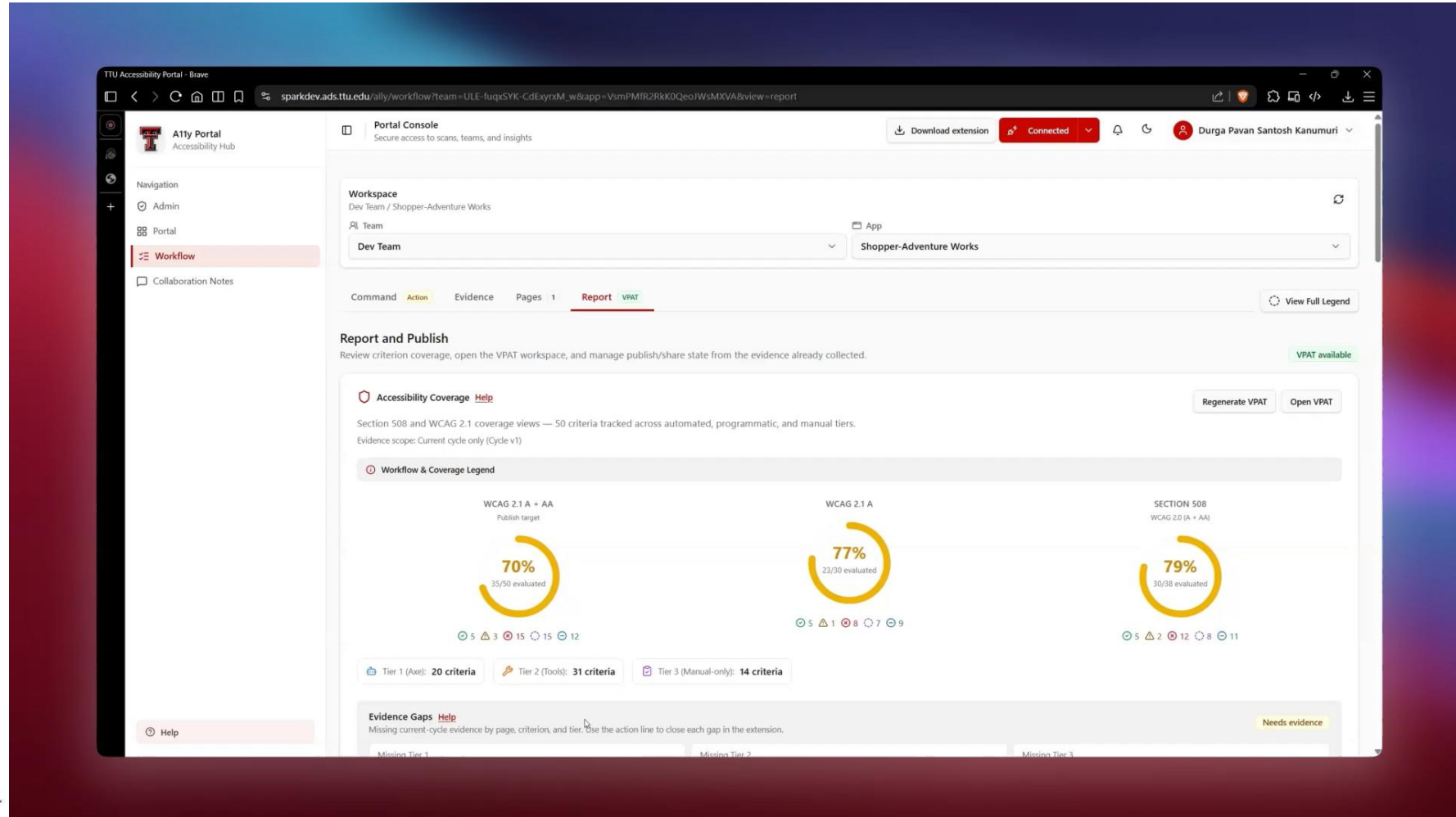
Date	Score	Violations	Critical	Serious	Moderate	Minor	Incomplete	Passes	Actions
Jul 23, 2026 15:02	41	12 rules	5	6	9	0	2	37	...

The table indicates a score of 41, 12 rules violations, and 37 passes. The scan was performed on 1320 x 931 CSS px - Tablet.

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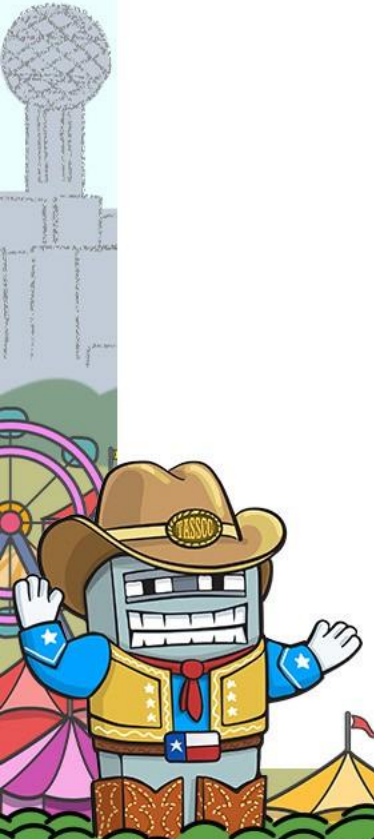
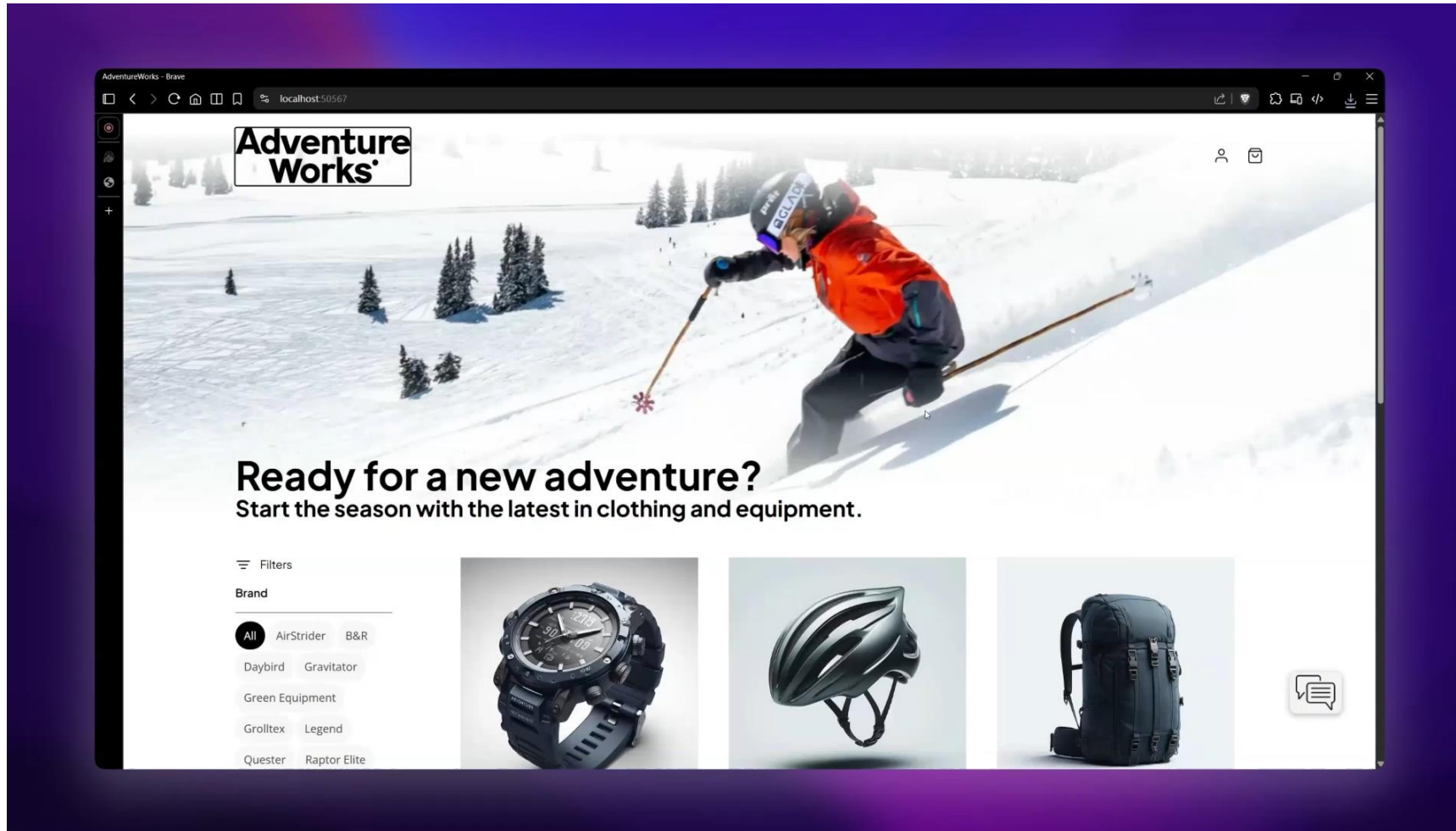
Workflow engine and Coverage



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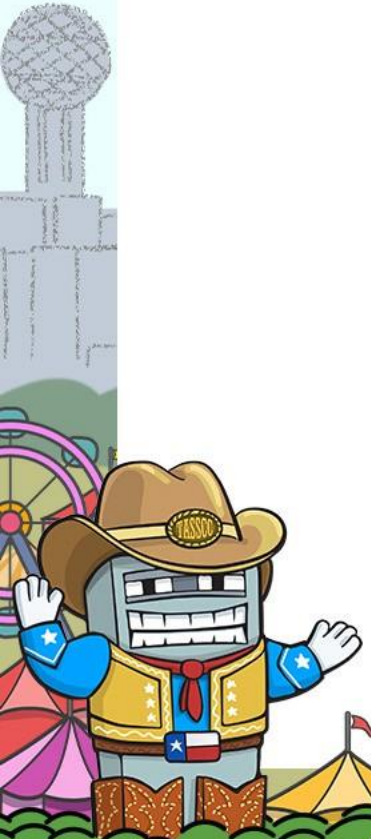
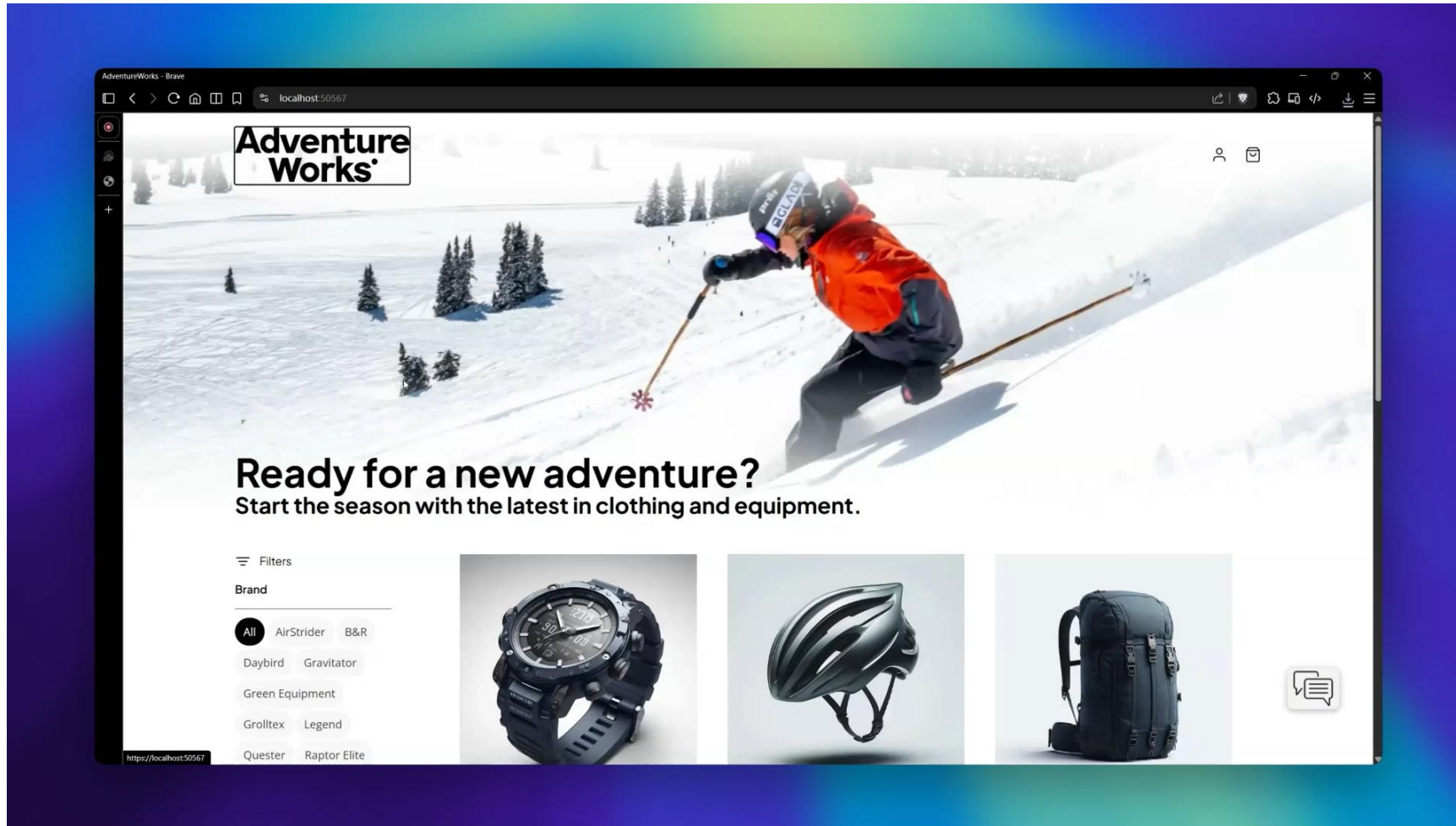
Guided results and Instructions



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VPAT generation and Cycle closure



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SOURCES

Primary sources and project basis

DOJ ADA Title II web/mobile rule fact sheet:
<https://www.ada.gov/resources/2024-03-08-web-rule/>

Federal Register final rule, 89 FR 31320:
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/24/2024-07758/nondiscrimination-on-the-basis-of-disability-accessibility-of-web-information-and-services-of-state>

<https://github.com/dequelabs/axe-core>

Open-Source A11Y Project : <https://www.a11yproject.com/>

W3C WAI WCAG 2 at a Glance and WCAG 2.1:
<https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/glance/>
<https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/>

ITI VPAT and Accessibility Conformance Report guidance:
<https://www.itic.org/policy/accessibility/vpat>



Sources: ADA.gov; Federal Register; W3C; ITI; project repository