Core Web Vitals Acceptance Criteria: Ticket Templates

Deutsche Fassung: https://ch-schreiber.net/downloads/core-web-vitals-abnahmekriterien.pdf

Four ticket templates for Largest Contentful Paint, Interaction to Next Paint, Cumulative Layout Shift and Time to First Byte, plus a definition of done for every release. Ready to transfer into Jira, Azure DevOps, GitLab or GitHub.

Source: Christian Schreiber, ch-schreiber.net, https://ch-schreiber.net/en/core-web-vitals/acceptance-criteria/

License: Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 (CC BY 4.0), https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

Values in square brackets are placeholders. The starting point is Google's threshold for "good": Largest Contentful Paint up to 2.5 seconds, Interaction to Next Paint up to 200 milliseconds, Cumulative Layout Shift up to 0.1, Time to First Byte up to 800 milliseconds. Target values apply per page type, measured at the 75th percentile of mobile field data over 28 days.

Largest Contentful Paint

Ticket title: [Page type]: Largest Contentful Paint on mobile at most [2.5] seconds at the 75th percentile

Context: Baseline at the 75th percentile on mobile: [value] seconds according to [Chrome User Experience Report or real user monitoring], as of [date]. LCP element on this page type: [image, heading or text block]. Reference URLs: [list].

Acceptance criteria before merge

- [ ] The LCP element of the page type is named. If it is an image, it loads without lazy loading, with `fetchpriority="high"` and in a size that matches the rendered width.
- [ ] No render-blocking resource that is not needed for the first view loads before the LCP element, in particular no third-party script.
- [ ] Lab measurement on the reference URLs under defined conditions (device, network throttling, median of [5] runs): Largest Contentful Paint at most [value] seconds.
- [ ] No other metric gets worse by more than [10] percent compared with the baseline in the same measurement.

Acceptance criteria after go-live

- [ ] Largest Contentful Paint of the page type is at most [2.5] seconds at the 75th percentile of mobile field data over 28 days.
- [ ] If the value deviates, a new ticket is created with the measured value as baseline.

Evidence: Measurement log with conditions, URLs, date and values before and after the change, plus a link to the field data analysis after 28 days.

Interaction to Next Paint

Ticket title: [Page type]: Interaction to Next Paint on mobile at most [200] milliseconds at the 75th percentile

Context: Baseline at the 75th percentile on mobile: [value] milliseconds according to [source], as of [date]. Slowest interaction according to real user monitoring: [element and interaction].

Acceptance criteria before merge

- [ ] The [3] most frequent interactions of the page type are named, such as opening the menu, setting a filter or typing into a form field.
- [ ] Each of these interactions is measured in the Performance panel of Chrome DevTools or in Lighthouse timespan mode with [4x] CPU throttling and takes at most [value] milliseconds.
- [ ] Total Blocking Time of the page is at most [value] milliseconds in the lab measurement, as an approximation of main thread load during page load.
- [ ] No new third-party script without approval against the performance budget.

Acceptance criteria after go-live

- [ ] Interaction to Next Paint of the page type is at most [200] milliseconds at the 75th percentile of mobile field data over 28 days.
- [ ] Real user monitoring attributes slow interactions to an element, so that a regression can be traced to a component.

Evidence: Recording of every named interaction with duration, device and throttling, plus a link to the field data analysis after 28 days.

Cumulative Layout Shift

Ticket title: [Page type]: Cumulative Layout Shift at most [0.1] at the 75th percentile

Context: Baseline at the 75th percentile on mobile: [value] according to [source], as of [date]. Largest shift according to measurement: [component].

Acceptance criteria before merge

- [ ] All images, videos, iframes and ad slots have width and height or a fixed aspect ratio in the markup.
- [ ] Late-loading components such as personalization, notices and the consent banner have reserved space with a fixed height or appear as an overlay without shifting content.
- [ ] Switching from the fallback font to the web font does not shift visible content.
- [ ] Lab measurement: Cumulative Layout Shift at most [value]. In addition, a manual test with scrolling and the most frequent interactions, because the lab measurement of the page load only covers the loading phase.

Acceptance criteria after go-live

- [ ] Cumulative Layout Shift of the page type is at most [0.1] at the 75th percentile of mobile field data over 28 days.

Evidence: Measurement log with the shifted elements before and after the change, result of the manual test, link to the field data analysis after 28 days.

Time to First Byte

Ticket title: [Page type]: Time to First Byte at most [800] milliseconds at the 75th percentile

Context: Baseline at the 75th percentile on mobile: [value] milliseconds according to [source], as of [date]. Cache hit ratio for this page type: [value] percent.

Acceptance criteria before merge

- [ ] At least [value] percent of anonymous requests for the page type are answered from the cache, demonstrated from the cache and CDN logs.
- [ ] Campaign parameters such as `utm_source`, `gclid` and `fbclid` cause no cache miss. The test case is documented.
- [ ] A publication invalidates no more than necessary. The scope (page, subtree or site) is documented and backed by a test case.
- [ ] On a cache miss, the application responds within at most [value] milliseconds, and there is no redirect chain in front of the page.

Acceptance criteria after go-live

- [ ] Time to First Byte of the page type is at most [800] milliseconds at the 75th percentile of mobile field data over 28 days.

Evidence: Excerpt from the cache and CDN logs with cache hit ratio per page type, result of both test cases, link to the field data analysis after 28 days.

Definition of done for performance

- [ ] For every affected page type, there is a measurement log with defined conditions, before and after the change.
- [ ] Budgets for JavaScript, CSS and images are checked in the build pipeline. Exceeding a budget fails the build.
- [ ] Every new third-party script is approved against the performance budget and has a named owner.
- [ ] No metric gets worse by more than [tolerance] percent compared with the last release.
- [ ] 28 days after go-live, the field data is checked. Every deviation from the target value becomes a new ticket.