

Accessibility Conformance Report

WCAG Edition

Based on VPAT® Version 2.5

Name of Product/Version	SmartPLS 4.x, Version 4.1.1.9
Report Date	October 12, 2026
Product Description	SmartPLS is a desktop software application for Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) and related multivariate statistical methods, used by academic researchers and business analysts to develop and test theoretical models using survey and other quantitative data. SmartPLS 4.x is installed locally; project data remains on the user's own device.
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Notes	This report is a good-faith self-assessment prepared by SmartPLS GmbH and supersedes all earlier SmartPLS VPATs. SmartPLS 4.1.1.9 provides partial WCAG 2.1 Level AA conformance with substantial accessibility improvements. Core model-building workflows can now be completed using the keyboard, including menu and context-menu commands, keyboard movement of constructs, toolbar navigation with Tab and Shift+Tab, opening projects and files with Enter, and opening context menus with the Context Menu key or Shift+F10. Minor keyboard limitations remain in some tables or editable cells, focus order, and individual rarely used functions. Visible focus is provided for nearly all controls, zoom behavior has been largely improved, and contrast has been reviewed for result displays, color coding, controls, and focus indicators. Significant limitations remain: the model diagram is not meaningfully accessible to screen readers; status and error messages are not announced automatically; some information is conveyed by color alone; only individual controls have been checked with VoiceOver; and NVDA and JAWS testing has not been performed. No independent third-party accessibility audit has been conducted. A short user guide is available at https://smartpls.com/accessibility .
Evaluation Methods Used	This assessment combines manual keyboard-only testing of SmartPLS 4.1.1.9, targeted VoiceOver checks of individual controls on macOS, review of visible focus behavior, review of zoom and enlarged-text behavior, and contrast review covering result displays, color coding, controls, and focus indicators. It also considers the JavaFX accessibility architecture exposed through Microsoft UI Automation on Windows and NSAccessibility on macOS. The complete application has not been tested end-to-end with a screen reader. NVDA and JAWS testing on Windows and an independent third-party audit have not been performed.
Applicable Standards/Guidelines	Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 — Level A and Level AA (https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/)

Terms and Conformance Levels

The following terms are used to indicate the level of conformance to each success criterion.

Supports	The functionality of the product has at least one method that meets the criterion without known defects, or meets it with equivalent facilitation.
Partially Supports	Some functionality of the product does not meet the criterion.
Does Not Support	The majority of product functionality does not meet the criterion.

Not Applicable	The criterion is not relevant to the product.
Not Evaluated	The product has not yet been tested against the criterion. Under the WCAG edition of the VPAT, this term is normally reserved for Level AAA; it is also used sparingly below for a small number of Level A/AA criteria that require dedicated keyboard or assistive-technology testing not yet completed, in the interest of not overstating conformance.

Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.1.1 Non-text Content	Partially Supports	Standard controls generally expose names and roles through JavaFX accessibility support, and targeted VoiceOver checks confirmed this for individual controls. The structural model diagram and result charts are custom-rendered and are not meaningfully exposed to screen readers. The application has not been tested end-to-end with VoiceOver, NVDA, or JAWS.
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)	Not Applicable	SmartPLS does not include prerecorded audio-only or video-only content.
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded)	Not Applicable	SmartPLS does not include prerecorded video content.
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)	Not Applicable	SmartPLS does not include prerecorded video content.
1.3.1 Info and Relationships	Partially Supports	Standard form controls, menus, and tables generally convey their structure through JavaFX accessibility support. The path model diagram conveys constructs and relationships visually and does not provide an equivalent programmatic or textual representation for screen-reader users. Only individual controls have been checked with VoiceOver; Windows screen-reader behavior has not been tested.
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence	Supports	Content is presented in a logical reading and interaction order within dialogs and windows, consistent with standard JavaFX layout container behavior.
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics	Partially Supports	Most instructions and controls do not rely on shape, size, or position alone. However, some result information, including statistical significance, continues to be conveyed by color without an additional text, symbol, or pattern cue.
1.4.1 Use of Color	Does Not Support	Some result information, including statistical significance and related color-coded result displays, is conveyed by color alone without a redundant text, symbol, or pattern cue. Color-blind-friendly schemes improve differentiation for many users but do not satisfy this criterion because the meaning still depends on perception of color.
1.4.2 Audio Control	Not Applicable	SmartPLS does not play audio automatically or otherwise.
2.1.1 Keyboard	Partially Supports	SmartPLS 4.1.1.9 substantially improves keyboard access. Users can create complete models through menus or context menus, move constructs using the keyboard, reach the upper toolbar with Tab and Shift+Tab, open selected projects and files with Enter, and open context menus with the Context Menu key or Shift+F10. Minor barriers remain in some tables or editable cells, portions of the focus order, and individual rarely used functions. Because some functions are still not reachable using only the keyboard, the criterion is only partially supported.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap	Supports	Manual keyboard-only navigation testing did not encounter any point in the application where keyboard focus became trapped; focus could be moved away from every dialog and control tested using standard navigation keys.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts	Supports	SmartPLS does not implement single-character key shortcuts; keyboard shortcuts use standard modifier-key combinations (e.g., Ctrl+S).
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable	Not Applicable	SmartPLS does not impose time limits on user interaction.
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide	Not Applicable	SmartPLS does not include moving, blinking, scrolling, or auto-updating content.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold	Not Applicable	SmartPLS does not include flashing content.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks	Not Applicable	This criterion addresses repeated blocks of content on web pages and does not apply to this desktop application's structure.
2.4.2 Page Titled	Partially Supports	Application windows and dialogs generally have descriptive titles. Screen-reader verification for SmartPLS 4.1.1.9 was limited to individual controls, so consistent announcement of all window and dialog titles has not been fully verified.
2.4.3 Focus Order	Partially Supports	Standard dialogs and forms generally follow a logical focus order. Some focus-order limitations remain, particularly in complex tables, editable cells, and individual rarely used functions.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)	Not Applicable	SmartPLS is a desktop application and contains only a small number of links to external documentation/support pages, each described by adjacent text.
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures	Supports	Functions that previously depended on dragging in the model editor now have non-pointer alternatives. Models can be created through menus or context menus, and constructs can be moved with the keyboard. These keyboard alternatives avoid reliance on path-based pointer gestures for the corresponding core tasks.
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation	Not Evaluated	Not yet formally tested.
2.5.3 Label in Name	Supports	Visible labels on buttons and controls match their accessible names, consistent with standard JavaFX control behavior.
2.5.4 Motion Actuation	Not Applicable	SmartPLS does not offer functionality operated by device motion.
3.1.1 Language of Page	Supports	The application interface language (English) is set consistently.
3.2.1 On Focus	Supports	Moving keyboard focus to an interface element does not automatically trigger a change of context.
3.2.2 On Input	Supports	Changing the value of a form control (e.g., a settings field) does not automatically trigger an unexpected change of context.
3.3.1 Error Identification	Partially Supports	Input errors are generally identified visually through dialog or inline messages. Status and error messages are not consistently announced automatically by screen readers, and screen-reader testing for SmartPLS 4.1.1.9 was limited to individual controls.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions	Supports	Form fields and settings dialogs include visible labels or instructions describing the expected input.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
4.1.1 Parsing	Not Applicable	This criterion addresses markup validity in web content and does not apply to this desktop application.
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value	Partially Supports	Standard JavaFX controls generally expose name, role, value, and state through platform accessibility APIs, and targeted VoiceOver checks confirmed this for individual controls. The structural model and some custom-rendered visualizations are not meaningfully accessible to screen readers. Complete VoiceOver testing and Windows testing with NVDA or JAWS have not been performed.

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live)	Not Applicable	SmartPLS does not include live audio/video content.
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded)	Not Applicable	SmartPLS does not include prerecorded video content.
1.3.4 Orientation	Not Applicable	SmartPLS is a desktop application not restricted to a particular display orientation.
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose	Not Applicable	SmartPLS's input fields relate to statistical modeling parameters, not the common input purposes (e.g., name, address) addressed by this criterion.
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)	Partially Supports	Contrast has been reviewed and improved for result displays and color coding, as well as for controls and visible focus indicators. The review did not constitute a comprehensive independent audit of every interface state and component; therefore, full conformance is not claimed.
1.4.4 Resize Text	Partially Supports	Interface text and tables can generally be enlarged using application zoom controls and operating-system display scaling. Previously identified clipping and scaling problems have been largely resolved in SmartPLS 4.1.1.9, although isolated limitations may remain in complex or densely populated views.
1.4.5 Images of Text	Not Applicable	SmartPLS renders text natively and does not use images of text to convey information.
1.4.10 Reflow	Not Applicable	This criterion addresses responsive reflow of web content at narrow viewport widths; SmartPLS is a desktop application with resizable windows rather than a reflowable web layout.
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast	Partially Supports	Controls and focus indicators were reviewed for sufficient non-text contrast, and substantial improvements were made. Not every component, state, and custom-rendered element has been covered by a comprehensive independent contrast audit.
1.4.12 Text Spacing	Not Evaluated	Not yet formally tested. SmartPLS uses native OS text rendering rather than custom-constrained spacing, which is expected to be favorable but has not been verified.
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus	Partially Supports	Tooltips used throughout the application can be dismissed (e.g., by moving the pointer or pressing Escape); manual testing confirmed dismissibility for the tooltips checked, but not every tooltip in the application has been individually verified against all three sub-requirements (hoverable, persistent, dismissible).
2.4.5 Multiple Ways	Not Applicable	This criterion addresses multiple ways to locate a page within a set of web pages; it does not apply to this desktop application's structure.
2.4.6 Headings and Labels	Supports	Dialogs, panels, and form fields use descriptive headings and labels.
2.4.7 Focus Visible	Partially Supports	A visible focus indicator is now present on nearly all controls, including the upper toolbar during Tab and Shift+Tab navigation. Isolated controls and complex interactions may still lack a

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		sufficiently clear indicator, and some focus-order limitations remain.
3.1.2 Language of Parts	Not Applicable	The interface is presented in a single language (English) and does not contain passages in other languages.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation	Supports	Menus and toolbars are presented consistently throughout the application.
3.2.4 Consistent Identification	Supports	Icons and controls with the same function are labeled and presented consistently throughout the application.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion	Partially Supports	Many error messages describe the nature of the problem; whether every validation error includes a specific correction suggestion has not been fully verified.
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data)	Not Applicable	SmartPLS does not process legal, financial, or similar transactions to which this criterion applies.
4.1.3 Status Messages	Does Not Support	Status, progress, completion, and error messages are generally displayed visually but are not announced automatically by screen readers without moving focus. An equivalent programmatic status-message mechanism has not yet been implemented consistently.

Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA (Not Targeted)

SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance. Level AAA success criteria are listed below for completeness, in line with the standard VPAT WCAG template, but have not been evaluated.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.6 Sign Language (Prerecorded)	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
1.2.7 Extended Audio Description (Prerecorded)	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
1.2.8 Media Alternative (Prerecorded)	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
1.2.9 Audio-only (Live)	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
1.3.6 Identify Purpose	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
1.4.6 Contrast (Enhanced)	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
1.4.7 Low or No Background Audio	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
1.4.8 Visual Presentation	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
1.4.9 Images of Text (No Exception)	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
2.1.3 Keyboard (No Exception)	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
2.2.3 No Timing	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
2.2.4 Interruptions	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
2.2.5 Re-authenticating	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
2.2.6 Timeouts	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.3.2 Three Flashes	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
2.3.3 Animation from Interactions	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
2.4.8 Location	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
2.4.9 Link Purpose (Link Only)	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
2.4.10 Section Headings	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
2.5.5 Target Size	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
2.5.6 Concurrent Input Mechanisms	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
3.1.3 Unusual Words	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
3.1.4 Abbreviations	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
3.1.5 Reading Level	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
3.1.6 Pronunciation	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
3.2.5 Change on Request	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
3.3.5 Help	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.
3.3.6 Error Prevention (All)	Not Evaluated	SmartPLS targets Level AA conformance; Level AAA success criteria have not been evaluated.

Table 4: WCAG 2.x Conformance Requirements

#	Requirement	Remarks and Explanations
1	Conformance Level	WCAG 2.1 Level AA is used as an orientation for accessibility work but has not been formally adopted as a binding technical or legal conformance standard. SmartPLS 4.1.1.9 provides partial conformance with substantial improvements, while notable limitations remain in screen-reader access, automatically announced status messages, color-only information, and a small number of keyboard interactions.
2	Full pages	Not applicable in the web-page sense; addressed here at the level of the application's windows and dialogs as a whole.
3	Complete processes	Where a task such as building and estimating a model spans multiple views or dialogs, all steps are considered together. Core model creation can now be completed by keyboard; remaining limitations in individual tables, editable cells, focus order, or rarely used functions are disclosed in the applicable criteria above.
4	Only Accessibility-Supported Ways of Using Technologies	SmartPLS is built on JavaFX, whose accessibility support is exposed through Microsoft UI Automation on Windows and NSAccessibility on macOS. Standard controls generally use this platform support. Custom-rendered components, especially the structural model, do not yet expose meaningful information to screen readers. Only targeted VoiceOver checks of individual controls have been completed, and NVDA and JAWS have not been tested.
5	Non-Interference	Features that do not yet fully meet accessibility criteria (e.g., the path model diagram) do not block or disable access to the rest of the application, including its accessible controls, menus, and settings.

Legal Disclaimer

This Accessibility Conformance Report is a good-faith self-assessment provided by SmartPLS GmbH for informational purposes only. It does not constitute a legal conclusion of conformance, a warranty, or a guarantee of any kind, express or implied. Conformance levels reflect SmartPLS GmbH's own review as of the report date above, using the evaluation methods described, and are subject to change as the product and its assessment evolve. SmartPLS GmbH welcomes feedback on the accessibility of its products; please direct questions or reports of accessibility barriers to the contact listed above.

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