

The Team



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ALTogether

Value Proposition

Creating richer, more reliable alt text

Mission Statement

Our goal is to increase overall awareness about accessibility needs for the visually-impaired by guiding individuals to share accessible content on Instagram.



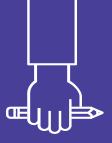
ALTogether

Problem

Blind and visually impaired users often feel frustrated with the lack of focus, context, and emotion in auto-generated alt text on Instagram.

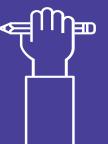
Solution

ALTogether promotes richer and more reliable alt text by providing sighted users a scaffolded way to personally write quality alt text by modifying Al-generated suggestions on their images before posting. ALTogether not only encourages sighted users to adopt alt text practices, but also motivates followers to do the same through social incentives.

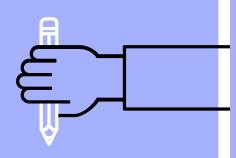


Overview

- Heuristic Evaluation Results
- Revised Design
- Prototype Status
- Prototype Demo!
- Summary and Questions









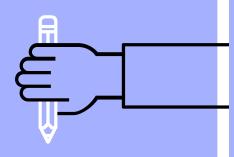
Heuristic Evaluation Summary

- ▶ **14** total severity 3-4 violations
- 21 total severity 1-2 violations

Most violated heuristics

User Control (8), Help & Documentation (6), Efficiency of Use (4), Visibility of Status (4)





Revised Design

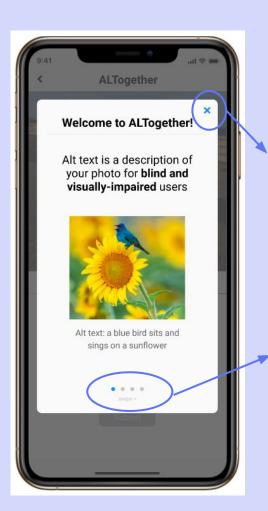


0. Medium-fi limitations

Violations

- H1. Before writing alt text for your own photo, there is no way to see others' alt texts (Severity: 3)
- H4. No way to swipe right in the onboarding sequence (Severity: 4)
- H6. After switching screens, all the user's work and changes to the alt text are gone (Severity: 3)
- H7. Onboarding sequence continues to show up even after the first pass (Severity: 3)

Fix: Already intended to work in high-fidelity!



Keep track of if first visit or subsequent visit

Close onboarding pop-ups

Swipe forward and backward between slides

1. Checking alt text for trust and safety

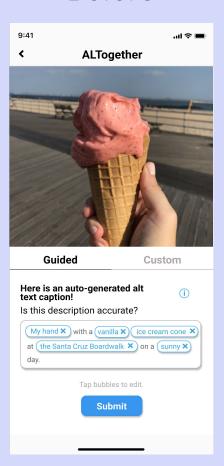
Violations

H5. There may be typos, especially in the custom alt text, that may hinder screen readers (Severity: 3)

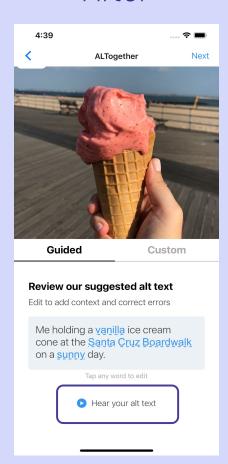
H5. Users could put gibberish language, or other hard-to-understand content to try and speed through the mandatory submission. (Severity: 3)

Fix: Add a text to speech feature that reads alt text like a screen reader would

Before



After



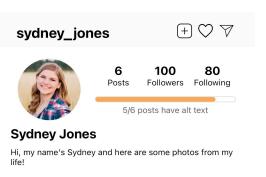
2. Identifying personal photos without alt text

Violations

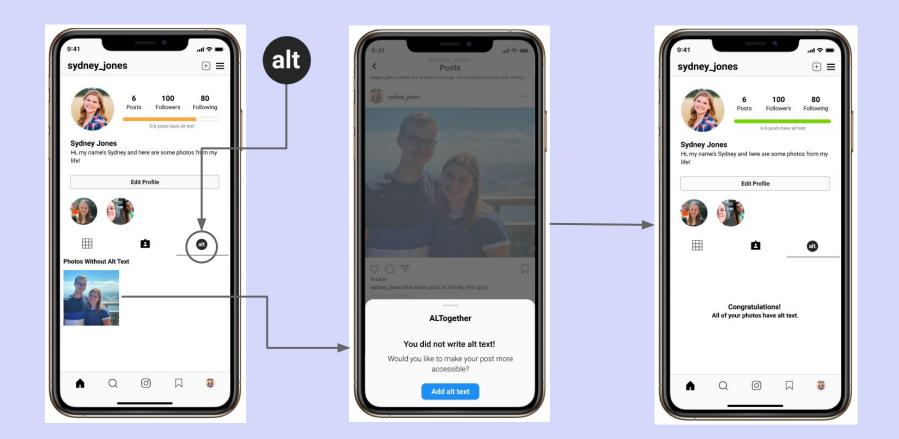
H7. The user has to hunt for photos which don't include alt text (Severity: 3)

H9. An influencer may have hundreds, if not thousands of photos - they may be disincentivized to dig through which photos do or don't have alt text.

(Severity: 2)



Fix: Add "alt view" on profile to see only images which lack alt text



3. Flexibility in adding / editing alt text

Violations

H3. After the user adds alt text to their photo, it's impossible to change it (Severity: 3)

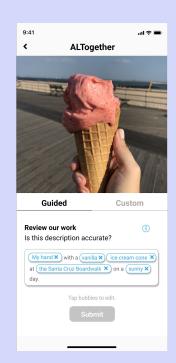
H4. The "Submit" button is greyed out until you change the suggested alt text, but users may love the very first alt text generated by ALTogether (Severity: 2)

Fix: Add "edit" button to alt text of all personal photos

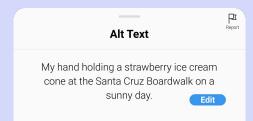
Fix: Make "next" button clickable sooner, change incentive to fill

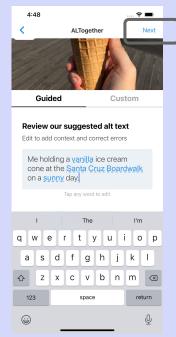
Before





After





Auto focus on text input

Edit to click

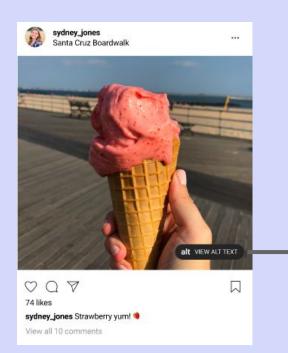
4. Clarity of new symbols and concepts

Violations

H3. It's unclear what the outline or lack of outline around the "alt" logo displayed on pictures means (Severity: 3)

H3. There are no places that indicate whether you have a nudge or not (Severity: 3)

Fix: Embed introductions to new concepts within icons

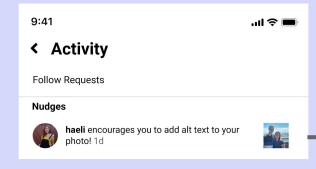


alt VIEW ALT TEXT

First photo with alt text in the user's feed shows this instructions tag in addition to the icon



Nudges appear as notifications



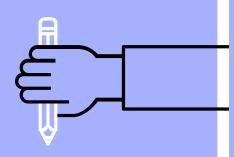
5. Minor features and standardization

Aesthetic: Make text inputs match Instagram design system

Change editable text from (bubbles) to dashed underlined text

Clarity: Provide guided and custom specific instructions

- Include "alt text" in guided and custom alt text descriptions
- Include "colors and emotions" as examples of nuance
- Add reporting feature to alt text descriptions to flag if an alt text is inaccurate or harmful



Prototype Status



Tools

React Native



Expo



Xcode





User Tasks

Simple: Sighted users are reminded to write alt text and can find where to write it in the first place



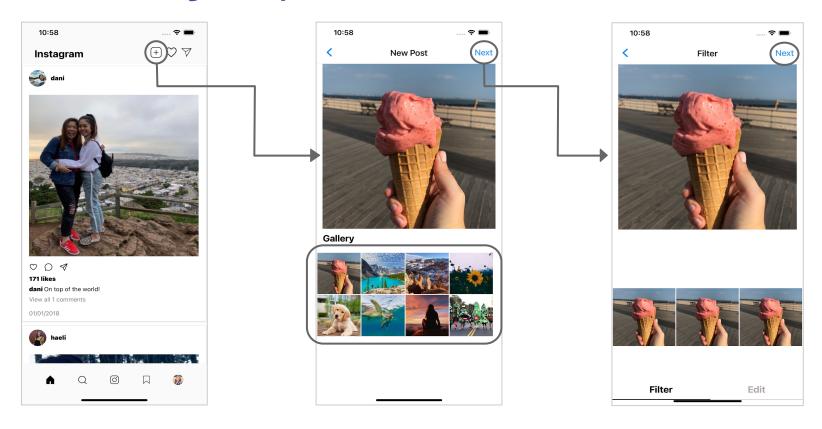
Moderate: Sighted users can identify which photos lack alt text and encourage friends to add their own alt texts



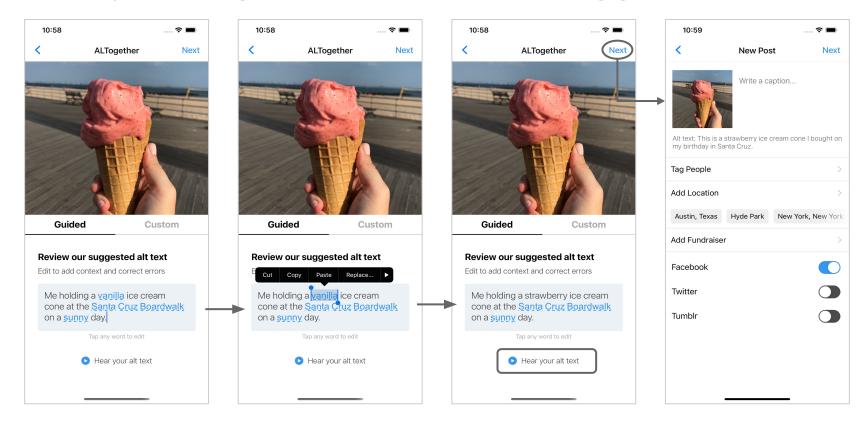
Complex: Sighted users modify auto-generated alt text suggestions to add personalized context to their images



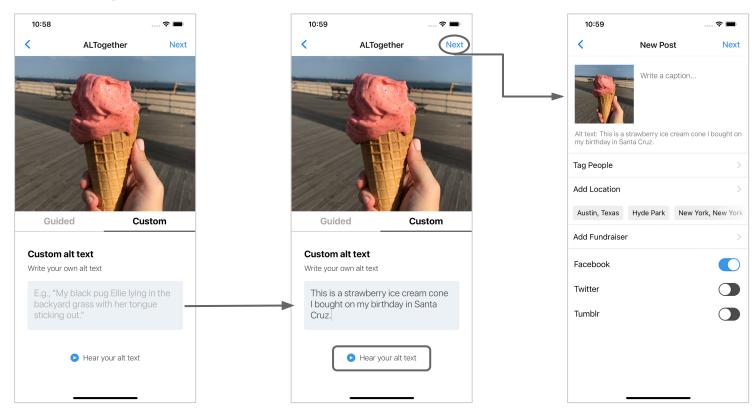
Select image to post



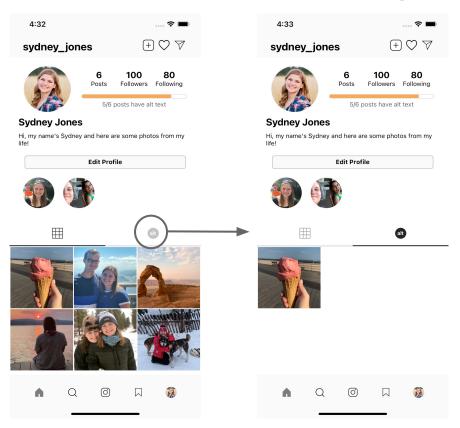
Modify auto-generated alt text suggestion



Write your own custom alt text from scratch



Add "alt view" to profile page



Displays personal posts which still lack alt text so the user can more easily identify and fix them

Following feed, without alt text indicators



- Simple: Alt text onboarding pop-up screens
- Moderate: Alt text bottom pop-ups which contain editing and nudging capabilities
- Moderate: Contains / lacks alt text icons
- Moderate: Notifications page to display nudges

Plan

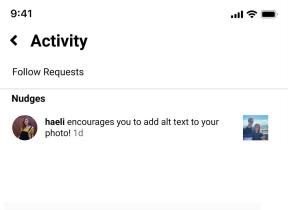
- 1. Code onboarding pop-up screens

 Figure out swiping features, finalize language and alt text examples
- 2. Code alt text bottom pop-ups for nudging / editing alt text Explore different screen transitions
- 3. Add revised "alt" icon design to each posted image
- 4. Create Notifications page populated with nudges

 Code example nudges, link within navigation bar
- 5. Polish up photo data transfer between screens

Wizard of Oz Techniques

- Prompt generation: Can detect key image features and auto-generate a suggestion
- Nudge feature: Assume notifications are sent to friends when you nudge them to add alt text
- Progress bar: Assume access to Instagram
 API to detect how many images have alt text
 in order to update progress bar





Hard-Coded Data

- Predetermined "auto-generated" alt text captions for guided route
- User profiles and feed (e.g. images, captions, likes, comments)
- Images in camera roll that the user can post

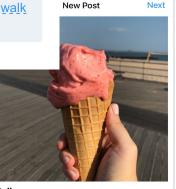
Guided Custom

Review our suggested alt text

Edit to add context and correct errors

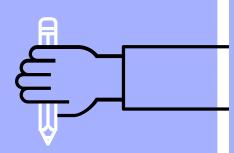
Me holding a vanilla ice cream cone at the Santa Cruz Boardwalk on a **sunny** day.

Tap any word to edit



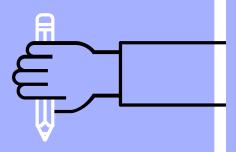






Prototype Demo!



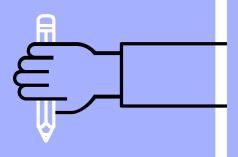


Summary



Summary

- Addressed all severity 3 & 4 heuristic violations in revised design
- Modify alt text (complex) is completely implemented!
- Get alt text reminders (simple) and nudge friends to add alt text (moderate) are partially implemented
- On track to finish all 3 tasks in code by mid next week



Appendix



Revisions Severity 3-4

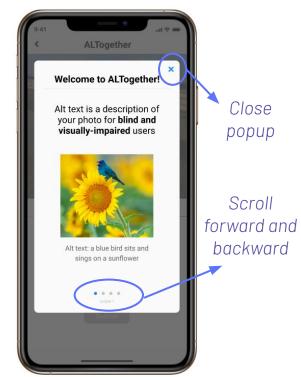
Enabling more user control and freedom

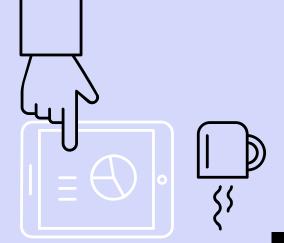
Editing Capabilities







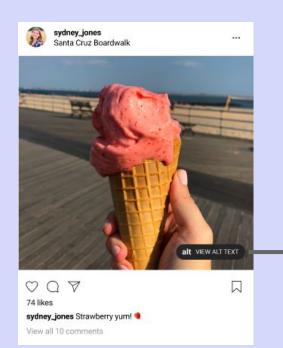






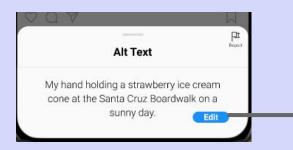
Revisions Severity 3-4

Addition of helpful icons



alt VIEW ALT TEXT

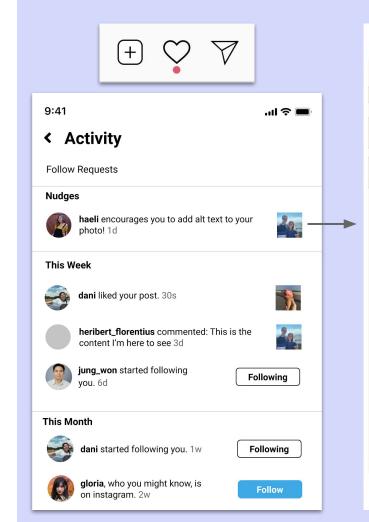
First photo with alt text in the user's feed shows this tag instead of the typical logo to make it clear what purpose this feature serves.

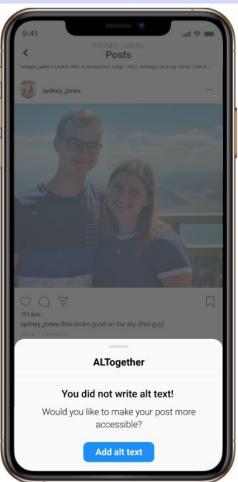


Report
Lets user report any
harmful content

Revisions Severity 1-2

Ability to view "nudges"





Revisions Severity 1-2

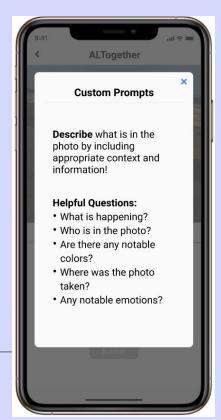


Provide more information and guidance

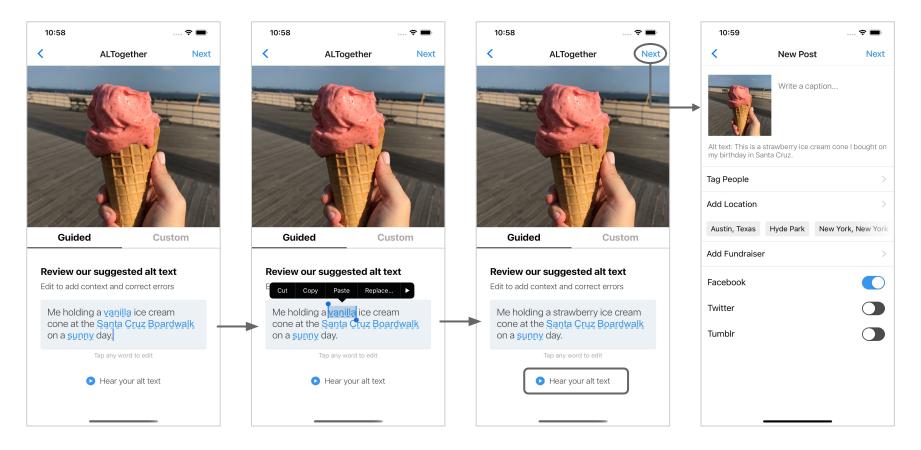




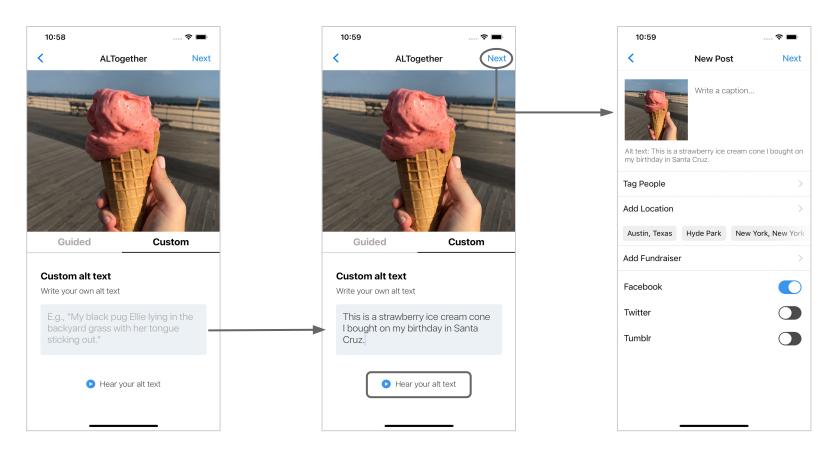




Option A: modify auto-generated alt text



Option B: Add custom alt text

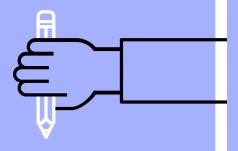


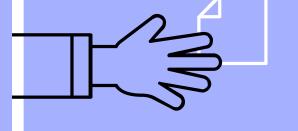
Simple task: Sighted users are reminded to write alt text and can find where to write it in the first place

Alt text onboarding pop-up screens

Moderate task: Sighted users can identify which photos lack alt text and encourage friends to add their own alt texts

- Alt text pop-ups which contain editing and nudging capabilities
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EXTRA GRAPHICS















