



# Empowering people with disabilities using GitHub Copilot



# Meet your presenters



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Senior Accessibility  
Program Manager



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Senior Accessibility  
Program Manager



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Head of Accessibility  
at GitHub



# What is GitHub Copilot?



Code suggestions  
Style suggestions in real-time



Code explanation  
Understand your code story



A virtual tutor  
Your personal learning coach



An ever-growing & learning resource  
Continuous improvement



# Accessibility of the GitHub Copilot interface



Screen reader support



Keyboard accessibility



High contrast themes



Zoom and font size adjustments



Education and ESL  
(English as a Second Language)



Neurodivergencies

JS test123.js

C: > Users > flori > JS test123.js

```
1 | Press [Ctrl] + [I] to ask GitHub Copilot Chat to do something. Start  
   | typing to dismiss.
```

NVDA Speech Viewer

document  
application  
main landmark  
test123.js editor has auto complete  
multi line blank  
blank  
blank  
OBS 29.0.2 (64-bit, windows) - Profile:  
Untitled - Scenes: Untitled 2 of 39  
OBS 29.0.2 (64-bit, windows) - Profile:  
Untitled - Scenes: Untitled window  
Controls window  
Start Recording check box not  
checked  
Speech mode off  
Speech mode beeps  
Speech mode talk  
Speech mode off  
checked  
● test123.js - Visual Studio Code  
● test123.js - Visual Studio Code  
document  
application  
main landmark  
test123.js editor has auto complete  
multi line blank

Show Speech Viewer on Startup



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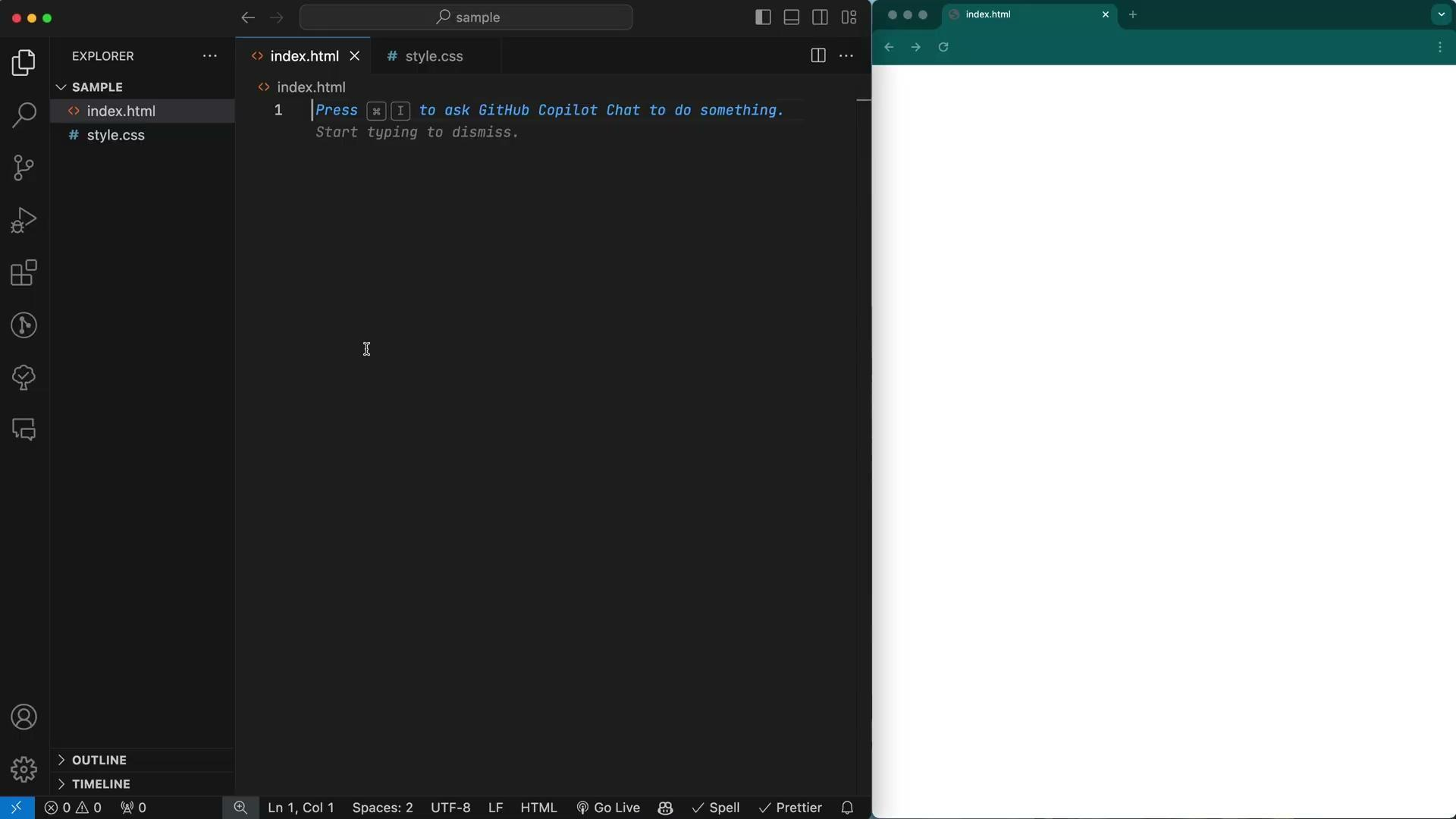
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# AI pitfalls in accessibility and the need for “humans in the loop”



Bias

Less data, less accurate results



Ethics

Appropriate training of the model



Hallucinations

Be sure to check its work



Dependence

Enhance productivity, not to rely on

GitHub Copilot

Hi @JADugas, how can I help you?

/help What can you do?

Ask Copilot or type / for commands





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# Using GitHub Copilot to improve accessibility



Crafting effective prompts  
Detailed, context and expectations



Humans in the loop  
Validate information and references



Strong testing plans  
Involve real users in testing



Continuous improvement  
Refine prompts and challenge results



[gh.io/aiAccessibilityAssistant](https://gh.io/aiAccessibilityAssistant)

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# Conclusion

GitHub Copilot and GitHub Copilot Chat can empower people to do the work they want to do, responsibly and with increased accessibility.

\*All content and demos relevant as of March 2024 and are subject to change.





**Thank you**

