

Questions and Answers about Accessible Web Design

Where can I find the checklist for accessibility of Web authoring tools?

The Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) of the World Web Consortium has published a "Checklist of Checkpoints for Authoring Tool Accessibility."

www.w3.org/TR/ATAG10/atag10-chktable.html

How do I test my Web site for accessibility?

For guidance in performing a preliminary review to check for accessibility visit:

www.w3.org/WAI/eval/#prelim

OR

You can do the following and see how well you are able to navigate and access all of the information on your web page:

turn off images

turn off the sound

change the font size

set screen resolution to 640x480

change the display color to black and white

put away the mouse and tab through the links and form controls on your webpage.

Where can I find on-line tutorials regarding accessible Web design?

WebAIM - www.webaim.org/tutorials/

ITTATC Web Accessibility - www.ittatc.org/training/webcourse/

Web Accessibility - www-3.ibm.com/able/webcourse/

Can I make an accessible web page using the popular authoring tools?

Guidelines on how to make Web content accessible can be found at:

Authoring Tool Accessibility (evaluations of popular authoring tools for creating web content)

www.w3.org/WAI/AU/2002/tools

MicrosoftFrontPage

www.microsoft.com/frontpage/using/accessibility/

Macromedia DreamWeaver

www.macromedia/accessibility/features/dreamweaver.html

What Evaluation tools are available to help me determine if my website is accessible?

WAVE

www.temple.edu/inst_disabilities/piat/wave/

A-Prompt

<http://aprompt.snow.utoronto.ca>

Bobby

www.cast.org/bobby

Dreamweaver

<http://www.macromedia.com/macromedia/accessibility/usablenet.html>

What are the Difference Between the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) Guidelines and Section 508 Standards for Web Accessibility?

WAI

www Consortium (W3C) has a Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) to develop Web accessibility guidelines

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) has been an official W3C recommendation since May 5, 1999

WAI: WCAG 1.0 Guidelines:

WCAG 1.0 lists fourteen guidelines, and additionally provides a list of checkpoints for each guideline.

There are a total of 65 checkpoints. Each checkpoint has been assigned a priority level from 1 to 3.

Priority 1 - barriers that make access impossible for one or more groups of users

Priority 2 and Priority 3 – barriers that make access difficult and somewhat difficult, respectively.

Full content of the WCAG 1.0 guideline is available at <http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG10>

Section 508

Sec. 508 of the Rehab Act

Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards as posted by the Access-Board in the Federal Register on Dec. 21, 2000.

(www.access-board.gov/508.htm)

Subpart B – Technical Standards

1194.22 Web-based Intranet and Internet information and applications.

16 guidelines outlined in paragraphs (a) to (p).

Sec. 508 Guidelines

(a) Provide a text equivalent for every non-text element, including both images and animated objects.

(b) Equivalent alternatives for any multimedia presentation shall be synchronized with the presentation.

(c) Web pages should be designed so that all information conveyed with color is also available without color.

(d) Documents shall be organized so they are readable without requiring an associated style sheet.

(e) Redundant text links shall be provided for each active region of a server-side image map.

(f) Client-side image maps shall be provided instead of server-side image

- (g) Row and column headers shall be identified for data tables.
- (h) Markup shall be used to associate data cells and header cells for data tables that have two or more logical levels of row or column headers.
- (i) Frames shall be titles with text that facilitates frame identification and navigation.
- (j) Pages shall be designed to avoid causing the screen to flicker with a frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.
- (k) A text- only page, with equivalent information or functionality, shall be provided to make a web site comply with the provisions of this part, when compliance cannot be accomplished in any other way. The content of the text-only page shall be updated whenever the primary page changes.
- (l) When pages utilize scripting languages to display content, or to create interface elements, the information provided by the script shall be identified with functional text that can be read by assistive technology.
- (m) When a Web page requires that an applet, plug-in or other application be present on the client system to interpret page content, the page must provide a link to a plug-in or applet that complies.
- (n) When electronic forms are designed to be completed on-line, the form shall allow people using assistive technology to access the information field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.
- (o) A method shall be provided that permits users to skip repetitive navigation links.
- (p) When a timed response is required, the user shall be alerted and given sufficient time to indicate more time is required.