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Section 508 – Accessible Web Content (WCAG 2.0)

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Presenter



Bruce Bailey U.S. Access Board

Session Agenda

- Introduction
- Update on 508 Refresh
- Trends in Web Accessibility Standards
- WCAG Overview
- Q&A

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Access Board Overview

- Agency authority and structure
- Develop and maintain design criteria
 - Built Environment
 - Transit Vehicles
 - Telecommunications Equipment
 - Electronic and Information Technology
- Provide Technical Assistance and Training

508 Refresh Big Picture

- Big Change:
 - More Documents, More of the Time, for More People
 - Full scope TBD
 - ANPRM December 2011
 - NPRM soon...
- Direct Reference to WCAG 2.0
 - Level A and AA Success Criteria provide metrics
 - ANRPM proposed to applies WCAG SC to:
 - Web Content
 - Web Applications
 - Software
 - Documents

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What's wrong with current 508?

- Product categorization obsolete
 - Convergence of technology
 - New technologies
- Some parts inadequate
 - Documents are covered, but technical criteria are specific to HTML
 - Many provisions read like performance standards rather than technical criteria
 - Some issues important to end-users not well covered
- Some parts actually counter-productive
 - Web pages required to work without CSS

What to do now?

- Agencies should be thinking ahead to when a final rule is issued.
- Agencies should begin to get familiar with WCAG 2.0.
- Besides our rulemaking, there is a movement toward a more universal web accessibility standard
 - Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)
- What if an agency or developer wants to start using WCAG 2.0?

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Equivalent Facilitation

- The current 508 Standards already allow for "equivalent facilitation" (1194.5).
 - Nothing in this part is intended to prevent the use of designs or technologies as alternatives to those prescribed in this part provided they result in substantially equivalent or greater access to and use of a product for people with disabilities.

Trends in Web Accessibility Standards

- WCAG 2.0 is a W3C standard
 - Finalized in December 2008
 - Long and public vetting process
- Already in used in several countries
 - Canada, Australia, New Zealand
 - Translated into several languages
- Besides our rulemaking, there is a movement toward this universal web accessibility standard

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EU Mandate 376

- The European Union is moving toward adoption of WCAG 2.0
 - http://www.mandate376.eu/
 - Three European standards organizations to harmonize
 - Charge to facilitate the public procurement of accessible information and communication technologies (ICT) products and services within Europe
- Final standard for targeted for February 2014
 - Draft July 31, 2012
 - "Final" draft December 5, 2012

Health and Human Services

- HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
 - September 2012
 - Interim Final Rule
- Links:
 - http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/08/20 120823b.html
 - http://federalregister.gov/a/2012-20982

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Department of Transportation

- Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability in Air Travel: Accessibility of Web Sites and Automated Kiosks at U.S. Airports
 - NPRM September 26, 2011
 - U.S. and foreign carriers marketing air transportation to the general public in the U.S.
 - WCAG 2.0 Level Double A
- Links:
 - http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=DOT-OST-2011-0177
 - http://regulationroom.org/air-travel-accessibility/agencydocuments/snprm/

Department of Justice

- Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities and Public Accommodations
 - ANPRM July 2010
 - Asked question about which standards to use: WCAG
 2.0 or Section 508 standards?
- Links:
 - http://federalregister.gov/a/2010-18334
 - <u>http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=DOJ-CRT-2010-0005</u>

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WCAG Walkthrough Overview

- Document organization
- First impression cautions
- Features
 - Linked Resources
- Highlight things WCAG covers that 508 misses
 - "result in substantially equivalent or greater access"

Conclusion: WCAG 20 vs. current 508

- There are important success criteria not addressed by 508 provisions
- Hyperlinked on-line resources associated with WCAG are quite impressive!
- Success criteria are more detailed, more precise, more objectively testable than 508 provisions

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Questions?

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Web Pages Visited During This Session

- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0
 http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG/
- Understanding Success Criterion 1.3.1 | Understanding WCAG 2.0
 - http://www.w3.org/TR/UNDERSTANDING-WCAG20/contentstructure-separation-programmatic.html
- H51: Using table markup to present tabular information
 - http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20-TECHS/H51

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Thank you for participating in today's webinar





Next session:

Accessible Transportation Facilities
August 1, 2013
2:30 - 4:00 (ET)

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