

Section 508 Best Practices Webinar Series

March 28, 2013

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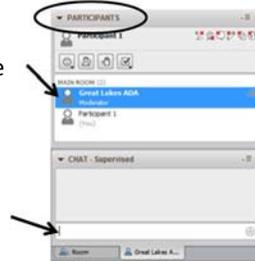
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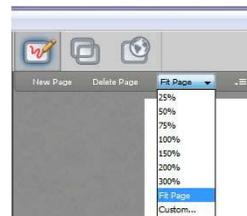
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SECTION 508 STRATEGIC PLAN AND WEB ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

Moderator: Tim Creagan, Senior Accessibility Specialist
U.S. Access Board

Deborah Kaplan, Senior Advisor
Social Security Administration

Tim McCrosson, Senior Policy Analyst for EGov
Office of Management and Budget

Katie Pittman, Senior Analyst
Veterans Health Administration

March 28, 2013

Agenda

- ▶ Welcome, Overview of webinar series, Logistics
- ▶ Co-Sponsors
- ▶ Introduction of Presenters
- ▶ Panel on Section 508 Strategic Plan and Web Accessibility Statement
- ▶ Q & A

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Welcome

- ▶ Webinar series: “Best Practices in Federal Section 508 Implementation”
 - This webinar is part of a series. Other presentations can be viewed at: <https://efedlink.org/allqual/resource-shared-webinars.cfm> and <http://www.adaconferences.org/CIOC/Archives/>
- ▶ A best practice is a policy, process, procedure or technique proven effective over time and repeatable by multiple agencies.
- ▶ A best practice is generalized so that diverse agencies may use it in their own organizations but specific enough to provide useful guidance and instruction.
- ▶ The CIO Council's Accessibility Committee has published a library of 508 Best Practices at www.Section508.gov

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This webinar is sponsored by:

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A Community of Practice to Advance Federal Employment for Persons with Disabilities

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Presenters

▶ Panelists:

- Deborah Kaplan, Senior Advisor, Office of Employment Support Programs, Social Security Administration
- Tim McCrosson, Senior Policy Analyst, E-Gov and IT, Office of Management and Budget
- Katie Pittman, Senior Analyst, Veterans Health Administration

▶ Moderator:

- Tim Creagan, Senior Accessibility Specialist
U.S. Access Board

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Background

▶ Section 508 Basics

- Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act as amended in 1998
- Accessibility in the Development, Procurement, Maintenance, or Use of Electronic and Information Technology for employees with disabilities and for members of the public with disabilities
- Agencies have developed their own 508 implementation plans and programs with GSA serving to coordinate and provide technical assistance

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Background

- ▶ Preceding the recently released Strategic Plan, disability advocates inside and outside the federal government emphasized the need make Section 508 implementation a high priority
 - On behalf of federal employees with disabilities
 - Significance of 508 beyond the federal government
 - One of the legislative goals of Section 508 was to increase accessibility of technology through the economic “carrot” of federal purchasing
 - E.O. 13548 (July 26, 2011) Increasing Federal Employment of Individuals with Disabilities also increases the need for accessible technology

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Background

- ▶ July, 2010 OMB Memo “Improving the Accessibility of Government Information” required preliminary improvements and public involvement
 - DOJ survey of agencies - progress report
 - GSA - additional guidance and training - report to OMB from sampling solicitations
 - CIO Accessibility Committee, Access Board and GSA - Listening Sessions

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Background

- Public input
 - Listening Sessions - Chicago, DC, SF Bay Area, virtual
 - Online National Dialogue on Improving the Section 508 Program
 - Main issues identified included the need for consistency across agencies, accountability for results, validation of accessibility through testing, collaboration and sharing of information and resources across government, training and effective complaint processes

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Background

- ▶ The 508 Strategic Plan is strongly aligned with the Obama Administration's broad goals of increasing transparency and improving access to government information and data
 - 2009 White House memo on Transparency and Open Government
 - IT Dashboard is an example
 - Digital Government Strategy issued in May 2012 - designing for openness from the start

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Strategic Plan:

Improving Management of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act

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Key outcomes for successful 508 implementation

- Creating a diverse environment where individuals of all abilities can work, interact, and develop into leaders;
- Integrating accessibility considerations into the processes used in developing, procuring, maintaining, or using EIT, and;
- Building workforce skills to support an environment where Section 508 requirements and responsibilities are well understood, communicated, implemented, and enforced.

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3 broad goals to achieve consistent management of Section 508

- ▶ increasing transparency
- ▶ strengthening accountability
- ▶ improving collaboration

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Specific Requirements: Increase Transparency

- GSA to transform Section508.gov website into a “one-stop source of information and communication for successfully managing Section 508 implementation throughout the acquisition lifecycle”
- Accessibility statement on all federal agency inter- and intranet websites (more on this later in this webinar)

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Specific Requirements: CIO CAO Responsibilities

- Assign a Section 508 Coordinator and notify GSA by 3/23
- Use the reporting template from the CIOC
- Complete baseline reporting by 120 days after issuance of the template
- Share the data with the CIOC Accessibility Committee

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Specific Requirements: Strengthen Accountability

- Planned assessment should be completed by Dec. 30, 2013 and shared with the Accessibility Committee. The Accessibility Committee and GSA will use the information from the assessments to improve collaboration across agencies, reduce redundancies and develop solutions and recommendations for improving 508 management across the Federal government.
- Beginning in 3rd quarter of FY 2014, agencies will share progress in improving baseline measures with OMB.

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Specific Requirements: Improve Collaboration

- By June 2013, GSA will refresh the Reference Manual for Section 508 Coordinators
- By June of 2013, GSA will share recommendations and plans for making the Buy Accessible Wizard easier to use, current with Access Board Standards and increasing awareness of the tool
- By the start of FY 2014, GSA will deliver refreshed Section 508 learning modules for the acquisition workforce and requiring officials.
- As the Section 508 standards are updated, GSA and the Access Board will co-lead awareness efforts aimed at the acquisition workforce and those generating requirements for EIT.

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Who Are the Stakeholders?

▶ Within an agency:

- CAO
- CIO
- Senior Procurement Executive
- Head of Agency
- 508 Coordinator
- CO
- COR and Requiring Officials
- Information Technology Program and Project Managers
- Purchase Card Holders

▶ Within the federal government:

- Access Board
- CIOC Accessibility Committee
- Department of Justice
- FAR Council
- GSA

If you identify with any of these people, you are a stakeholder and have specific responsibilities. See Appendix A of the document for more information

Accessibility Statement for all Agency websites

- ▶ The Accessibility Statement **must**:
 - Be posted on all inter- and intranet websites
 - Include contact information for the agency Section 508 program
 - State the date of the last update
 - Provide the ability for visitors to provide comments/feedback regarding the agency Section 508 program
- ▶ The Accessibility Statement **should**:
 - Be easy to locate.
 - Include a positive affirmation of the Agency's commitment to Section 508 compliance (and other related laws)
 - Provide the ability for visitors to provide comments and feedback regarding the agency website, including instructions on how to file a complaint
 - Provide links for visitors to learn more about Section 508

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Questions?

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