

Accessible websites and apps: Section 508—Techniques for Web Designers and Web Developers

Course Summary

Description

Section 508 is a US federal procurement standard demanding conformance for anyone developing technology to the US government. The standard ensures that electronic and information technology is accessible to federal employees and US citizens. A world-first published in 1998, Section 508 was revised in 2017 to point to W3C's WCAG 2.0 Level AA. The Revised Section 508 (also known as Section 508 ICT Refresh and 2017 Section 508) is a requirement as of January 2018.

This workshop provides an in-depth review of the law, how to develop information technology to meet the standards, case studies, and practical advice for ensuring compliance.

Objectives

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Use assistive technology to analyze web pages and web applications and forms for conformance
- Remediate existing content to ensure conformance
- Create new templates and content that conform to required standards
- Provide guidance to content providers on sufficient techniques to ensure new content conforms to required standards

Audience

This course is designed for federal and state government employees, IT developers, and program and procurement managers.

Topics

- Introduction to Section 508
- Introduction to WCAG
- Techniques for Web Content
- Techniques for Web Applications and Forms
- Next Steps, Q&A

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites

Duration

Three Days

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Course Outline

I. *Introduction to Section 508*

- A. Why?
- B. Revised Section 508 (2017) vs Original Section 508 (1998)
- C. Overview of the Revised Section 508 Specifications
- D. Review of Revised Section 508 Performance and Documentation Standards
- E. Understanding the Impact of other Accessibility Mandates, Laws, and Standards
 1. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
 2. Sections 501, 504, and 505 of the Rehabilitation Act
 3. Regulatory Flexibility Act
 4. Telecommunications Act, Section 255
 5. The Workforce Investment Act
 6. Assistive Technology Act
 7. Plain Writing Act of 2010
 8. Marrakesh Treaty (USA, 2018)
 9. International Standards (ISO, PDF/UA, EU Mandate 376, etc.)
- F. Section 508 Standards and Requirements as Related to IT Products
- G. Commonly Encountered Difficulties and Assistive Technologies
- H. Recommended Tools and Resources available for Testing eAccessibility
- I. Exceptions
 1. Understanding terms including “micro purchases”, “undue burden”, “commercial non-availability”, “back office”, and “equivalent facilitation”
 2. Determining whether exceptions apply to procurement
 3. Clauses
- J. Reporting Conformance
 1. VPAT
 2. WCAG-EM

II. *Introduction to WCAG*

- A. What is WCAG 2.0?

- B. Conformance vs. Compliance vs. Accessible
- C. Conformance Levels Including WCAG 2.0
- D. Conformance Requirements
- E. What is WCAG 2.1?
- F. What is WCAG2ICT?
- G. Principles, Guidelines, and Criteria
- H. Documentation: Understanding and How to Meet
- I. Sufficient Techniques and Failures
- J. Developing with WCAG in Mind
- K. Automated Testing vs. Manual Testing
- L. Functional Testing and Mapping to Conformance Violations
- M. Next Steps, Q&A

III. *Techniques for Web Content*

- A. Web Content Techniques for Guideline 1.1 Text Alternatives
- B. Web Content Techniques for Guideline 1.2 Time-based Media
- C. Web Content Techniques for Guideline 1.3 Adaptable
- D. Web Content Techniques for Guideline 1.4 Distinguishable
- E. Web Content Techniques for Guideline 2.1 Keyboard Accessible
- F. Web Content Techniques for Guideline 2.2 Enough Time
- G. Web Content Techniques for Guideline 2.3 Seizures
- H. Web Content Techniques for Guideline 2.4 Navigable
- I. Web Content Techniques for Guideline 3.1 Readable
- J. Web Content Techniques for Guideline 3.2 Predictable
- K. Web Content Techniques for Guideline 3.3 Input Assistance
- L. Web Content Techniques for Guideline 4.1 Compatible
- M. Testing and Repairing Web Content Issues
- N. Dealing with Issues that Cannot be Resolved

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Course Outline (Cont.)

- O. Strategies Beyond AA
- P. Professional Certification
- Q. Next Steps, Q&A

IV. *Techniques for Web Applications and Forms*

- A. Applications and Forms Techniques for Guideline 1.3 Adaptable
- B. Applications and Forms Techniques for Guideline 2.1 Keyboard Accessible
- C. Applications and Forms Techniques for Guideline 2.2 Enough Time
- D. Applications and Forms Techniques for Guideline 2.4 Navigable
- E. Applications and Forms Techniques for Guideline 3.2 Predictable
- F. Applications and Forms Techniques for Guideline 3.3 Input Assistance
- G. Applications and Forms Techniques for Guideline 4.1 Compatible
- H. Testing and Repairing Applications and Forms Issues
- I. More Tools and Resources available for Testing and Repairing Software Accessibility

V. *Next Steps, Q&A*