ADA–508 Compliance and Usability Testing Techniques for Accessible Web Pages

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This scenario–based progression session will introduce basic usability testing concepts for developing accessible web pages, raise awareness of the need to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Section 508, and provide resources for further investigation. Emphasis will be given to interactive discussion that centers on requirements analysis for accessible design.

to effectively determine if products (web pages in this example) are usable and accessible by those intended, specialized audiences. Moreover, an even greater risk is that your web pages may not comply with ADA–508. This progression session will introduce you to techniques for usability testing techniques that will get you rolling toward development of usable, accessible web pages.

Session attendees will receive the following items:

1. A copy of Microsoft PowerPoint slides used to conduct the session (posted to STC website)
2. Handout containing assessment questions
3. Handout containing usability testing techniques for accessible web pages

AUDIENCE, DURATION, AND FORMAT

The target audience for this progression segment is information developers and web page designers who are interested in learning how requirements analysis can facilitate a concurrent, user–centered design approach for electronic and information technology for all. The duration is 15 minutes with a round table presentation, discussion, and activities.

OBJECTIVES

For this session, there will be three objectives:

1. To introduce usability testing using a scenario–based and requirements analysis approach for solving a real–world problem.

2. To create an awareness about the need for designing and testing to ADA–508.

3. To identify factors that limit electronic and information technology access.

WHY YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ADA–508 COMPLIANCE AND USABILITY TESTING FOR ACCESSIBLE WEB PAGES:

Without direct experience with diverse audiences with varying physical and sensory abilities, it may be difficult

SESSION AGENDA

Introduction and Background

1. What are accessible products (web pages)?
2. What is ADA–508?
3. How can informed assessment strategies work in a concurrent design process where user–centered design is paramount for product development?

Key Points

1. How shall we select web pages for assessment?
2. What questions shall we ask to assess our web pages for compliance to ADA–508?
3. What usability testing techniques can be used to ensure accessible web pages?

Small Group Guided Problem–solving Activities

1. Non–text elements
2. Multimedia
3. Use of Color
4. Style Sheets
5. Image Maps
6. Tables
7. Frames
8. Screen Flicker
9. Scripts, Plug–ins, Applets, and other Programmatic Objects

Small Group Guided Problemsolving Activities (Continued)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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A senior STC member, Gloria Reece is a member of the faculty at Mercer University where she teaches courses on information systems topics. She is also author of an invited text, *Writing for Information Systems,* to be published by John Wiley & Sons. Her current teaching and research interests include accessible and user–centered design, integration of technology into learning, issues in human–computer interaction, and applications of Unified Modeling Language (UML) to analysis and design of information systems.