Experience IT: Testing IT For Accessibility

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Ability on a continuum

Not able

See
Hear
Walk
Read print
Write with pen or pencil
Communicate verbally
Tune out distraction
etc.

Able
Old School Technologies
Today: Technological Diversity
IT Accessibility Standards

• W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0
• Section 508 Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards
• W3C Accessible Rich Internet Applications (ARIA)
How do you know whether your website is accessible?

Terrill’s Top 5½ Quick Tests
Test #1: Test page without a mouse

• Is there clear visible focus? (i.e., Can you tell where you are?)
• Can you access all features and controls?
Test #2: Check headings

• Use “Outline” button on WebAIM Toolbar: http://wave.webaim.org/toolbar

• Use “Structure” button in Web Accessibility Toolbar for IE: http://paciellogroup.com/resources/wat-ie-about.html

• Check source code with Firebug: http://getfirebug.com
Test #3: Check images for alt text

• Do all informative images have alt text?
• Does the alt text provide access to the message that’s being communicated by the image?
• Do all decorative images have alt=""? (or are they background images using CSS?)
Test #3: How to check images

• Use “Images” button on Web Developer Toolbar:

• Use “Images” button in Web Accessibility Toolbar for IE:
  http://paciellogroup.com/resources/wat-ie-about.html

• Check source code with Firebug:
  http://getfirebug.com
Test #4: Check color contrast

• Use The Paciello Group Contrast Analyser: http://paciellogroup.com/resources/contrast-analyser.html (comes with WAT for IE)

Test #5: Check everything else

• WAVE:
  http://wave.webaim.org

• Functional Accessibility Evaluator:
  http://fae.cita.uiuc.edu/

• AChecker:
  http://achecker.ca/checker
Test #5½: Check with Assistive Technology

• Two great WebAIM articles:
  – Using NVDA to test web pages: http://webaim.org/articles/nvda
  – Using VoiceOver to test web pages: http://webaim.org/articles/voiceover

• Whenever possible, ask users to test your site
For more information...

- These slides: http://staff.washington.edu/tft
- University of Washington IT Accessibility http://uw.edu/accessibility
- AccessComputing http://uw.edu/accesscomputing