NCCCLA 2019

VPAT® 2.0: UNDERSTANDING & ASSESSING VENDOR COMPLIANCE

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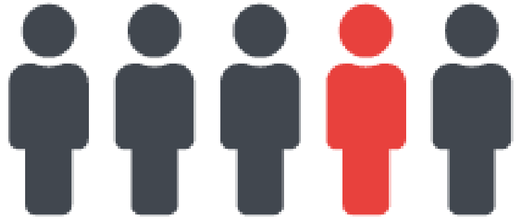
COVERED TODAY

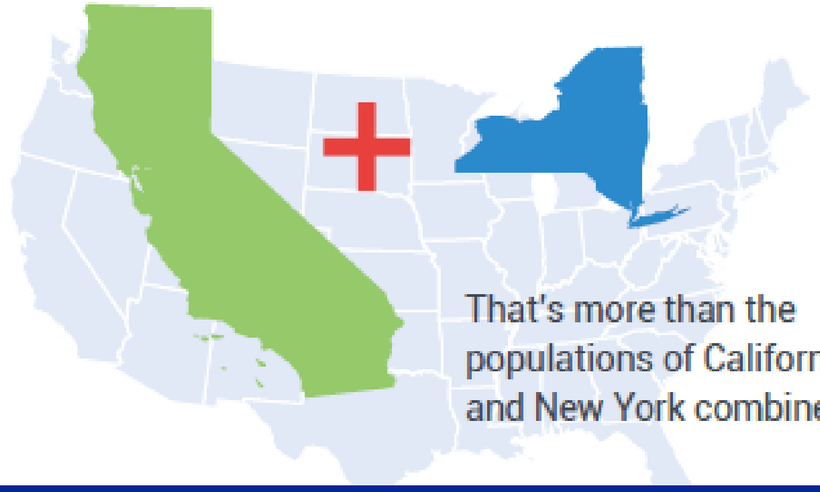
A BRIEF OUTLINE

- Accessibility Overview
- Terminology
- Quick History of Digital Accessibility
- Section 508 vs. WCAG 2.0 AA
- WCAG Principles
- VPAT® 1.0 vs. VPAT® 2.0
- VPAT® 2.0 Organization
- VPAT® 2.1 Update
- Ways to Assess a VPAT®
- Helpful Websites

> At **1.31 billion people** globally, PWD [people with disabilities] represent nearly one person in five on the planet — a market the size of China."
>
> – 2016 Global Economics of Disability Annual Report



In the United States, there are over **56 million** people with a disability.



That's more than the populations of California and New York combined.

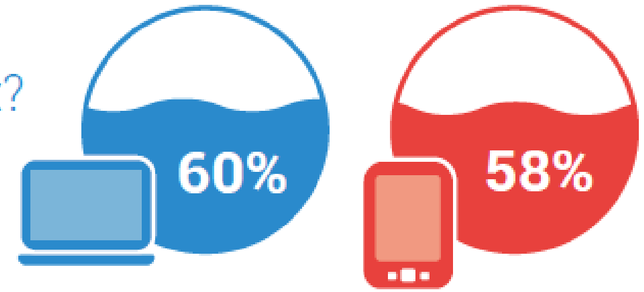
Types of Disability as defined by the US Census:

Hearing: **11.4 million**
Vision: **7.7 million**
Cognitive: **15.5 million**
Ambulatory: **21.2 million**
Self-Care: **8.1 million**
Independent Living: **14.4 million**

Essential guide to digital accessibility. (2019). Retrieved from https://www.deque.com/accessible-design/

How do people with disabilities use the internet?

More than 60% of people with disabilities in the US own a computer and 58% own a smartphone.



Many people with disabilities use some form of **Assistive Technology** to navigate their computers and mobile devices. Some examples are:

Screen Readers Software that reads out content to the user and allows them to navigate via keyboard shortcuts

Screen Magnification Software or hardware tool that magnifies the screen to extreme levels for people with low vision

Keyboard-Only Navigation Users who can't operate a mouse due to visual or motor impairment need to be able to navigate entirely by keyboard. Likewise, alternative input devices like sip-and-puff or single switch buttons are emulating keyboard-style input.

Dictation Software Allows people who have trouble with computer input devices but are able to speak to navigate by voice.

Essential guide to digital accessibility. (2019). Retrieved from https://www.deque.com/accessible-design/

Terminology & Important Acronymns

1

ADA

American with Disabilities Act – law guaranteeing equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in (among other things) telecommunications.

2

SECTION 508

Standards that apply to electronic and information technology procured by the federal government.

3

WCAG

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines – published by the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).

4

VPAT®

Voluntary Product Accessibility Template®, created by the ITI (Information Technology Industry Council). A complete VPAT® is called an Accessibility Compliance Report (ACR).

TIMELINE OF DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

1998

Congress amends 1973 Rehabilitation Act to make Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) accessible to people with disabilities.

2001

ITI & DOJ partner to develop the VPAT® format to support federal procurement.

2017

Section 508 update (started in 2006) finalized and ITI releases VPAT® 2.0.

2018

Updated 508 regulations go into effect and ITI releases VPAT® 2.1. Minor changes continue to be made.

SECTION 508

- FEDERAL LAW THAT GENERALLY REQUIRES ALL ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT INFO TO BE "ACCESSIBLE"
- DOES NOT APPLY TO PRIVATE SECTOR

WCAG 2.0 AA

- SET OF ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES CREATED BY W3C. IN 2017, SECTION 508 INCORPORATED WCAG 2.0 CRITERIA

4 PRINCIPLES OF WCAG 2.0

1

PERCEIVABLE

ALL USERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE INFORMATION PRESENTED ON YOUR INTERFACE.

2

OPERABLE

ALL USERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO NAVIGATE AND OPERATE YOUR INTERFACE.

3

UNDERSTANDABLE

ALL USERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO INTERPRET THE INFORMATION PRESENTED ON YOUR INTERFACE.

4

ROBUST

YOUR WEBSITE'S CONTENT AND CODING SHOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH SOFTWARE A USER WHO IS DISABLED USES TO INTERACT WITH YOUR SITE.

VPAT® 1.0

- EST. 2001
- DISCONTINUED 1/18
- 18 PAGE TEMPLATE
- STANDARD WAS ORIGINAL SECTION 508

VPAT® 2.0

- EST. 2017
- REGISTERED TRADEMARK ®
- EXPANDED INSTRUCTIONS
- EVALUATION METHODS USED
- LEGAL DISCLAIMER
- INCLUDES WCAG & EN301 49
- EXPANDED STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

VPAT® 2.0 ORGANIZATION

- Title
- Product Details – name, description, date, etc.
- Application Guidelines Table
- WCAG 2.0 Report – Level A, AA, AAA & mapping to Revised 508 and EN 301 49
- 2017 Section 508 Report
- EN 301 49 Report
- Legal Disclaimer

VPAT 2.1 UPDATE

1. INCORPORATES ALL NEW WCAG 2.1 CRITERIA

2. DOES NOT CHANGE 2.0, JUST ADDS TO IT

3. GOAL IS STILL TO REACH AA LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

4. 17 NEW CRITERIA
    - 10 ARE RELATED TO MOBILE DEVICES

    - EASIER TO SEE AND HEAR CONTENT
        - SEPARATE FOREGROUND/BACKGROUND

ASSESSING VPATS®: POSITIVE SIGNS

THIRD-PARTY AUTHORED

Professionals will have more knowledge of accessibility criteria and be more objective.

SIZABLE COVER PAGE CONTENT

Detailed information about the exact type of testing done and products used in the testing process.

POSITIVE EXAMPLES

Lets you know exactly how their product supports a specific success criterion.

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

Providing the VPAT® for anyone to read (and test/verify) indicates some level of confidence in the responses.

ASSESSING VPATS®: SOME METHODS

Read & Grade the VPAT/ACR as Submitted (Preliminary)

Establish Acceptable Level of Compliance & What Counts as "Compliant"

Do Your Own Automatic & Manual Testing on the Product!

SITES THAT CAN HELP

LEVEL ACCESS (LEVELACCESS.ORG) – WEBINARS & FREE RESOURCES

W3C (W3C.ORG) – FULL WCAG DOCUMENTATION

WUHCAG (WUHCAG.COM) – WCAG BASICS FOR DEVELOPERS & DESIGNERS

WEBAIM (WEBAIM.ORG) – WAVE CHECKER, OTHER CHECKERS/RESOURCES

NCCCS ACCESSIBILITY (ACCESSIBILITY.NCCOMMUNITYCOLLEGES.EDU)

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