VPAT Training

Module 1: Introduction
What is the goal of this training?

• To provide an understanding of what goes into writing a good Accessibility Conformance Report (ACR) using the Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT)
• To provide an understanding of what to look for when reading an ACR

This training does NOT cover:
• How to test for accessibility
• Where to get training on accessibility
Modules

Module 1: Introduction
Module 2: Preparing to write the ACR
Module 3: WCAG
Module 4: Section 508
Module 5: EN 301 549
Module 6: What makes a good ACR?
Module 7: Your ACR is filled out…What’s next?
Module 8: ACR readers and evaluators
Goals of module 1

• To introduce the history of the VPAT
• Where to find the VPAT
• VPAT use cases
VPAT vs. ACR

VPAT = Voluntary Product Accessibility Template

vs.

ACR = Accessibility Conformance Report

The VPAT is:
• A document template used to create an ACR
  • Prepopulated with the standards (and guidelines) criteria and instructions

An ACR is:
• The filled out VPAT – answering how the product meets the criteria
  • Reports conformance to accessibility standards
Why was the VPAT developed?

Procurement tool
• Helps Federal agencies and other buyers determine accessibility of information technology products and services

Self-assessment tool
• Provides a framework for companies to evaluate their own products

Consistent format
• Makes comparing products easier when companies use the same reporting mechanism

Address levels of support
• Enable showing how well products support each requirement
Is accessibility a yes/no question?

Vendors are asked to give yes/no answers to 'Is the product accessible?'

- It ignores the complexity involved in conforming to accessibility standards
- ACR helps to report the “degree of conformance”

[Reporting Conformance to ICT Accessibility Standards](August 06, 2019)
- A white paper on why a yes/no answer for accessibility doesn't work
Is the ACR a certification?

The ACR is a statement of conformance
  • It is not a certification
  • It states how well the product conforms to each of the criteria listed for a standard
VPAT is completed by…

Possibly more places than you think!

• Companies doing business with the U.S. Federal Government and Agencies
• ICT-related companies
  • Small to large corporations
• Manufacturers and suppliers

It's the de facto method for reporting accessibility compliance
ACRs are consumed by...

• Procurers
  • U.S. Federal Government, Agencies and Companies for market research to comply with Section 508
  • Government agencies - international
  • Sectors where accessibility is important
  • Corporations
• Consumers
• Education
VPAT editions

Four editions

- WCAG 2.1
- Section 508 – includes WCAG 2.0 Level AA
- EN 301 549 – includes WCAG 2.1 Level AA
- International – includes all the above
Which VPAT edition to use

Depends on

• Your customers’ requirements
• Marketing requirements for your company
• Plans to distribute (Europe, U.S. only, international)
Where to find VPATs

- VPAT 2.4Rev 508 (February 2020) - based on Revised Section 508 standards, the U.S. Federal accessibility standard
- VPAT 2.4Rev EU (February 2020) - based on EN 301 549, accessibility requirements suitable for public procurement of ICT products and services in Europe
- VPAT 2.4Rev WCAG (February 2020) - based on WCAG: WCAG 2.1, W3C/WAI’s recently updated Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
- VPAT 2.4Rev INT (February 2020) - Incorporates all three of the above standards into one report
- All links available from https://www.itic.org/policy/accessibility/vpat

Updates Needed:
- new VPAT edition links and link text
Additional decisions: WCAG

Which version of WCAG to report on
• 2.0 vs 2.1

What level of WCAG to report on
• Level A, AA, or AAA

This may help
• Revised 508 requires WCAG 2.0 Level AA
• EN 301 549 V3.2.1 requires WCAG 2.1 Level AA
Additional decisions: format

File format to deliver ACRs to customers
- HTML file
- Microsoft Word
- Adobe PDF
Additional decisions: publishing

How will ACRs be made available

- Viewable from website
- Download from website
- Email upon request
Resources

Information Technology Industry Council Website (ITI)
• ITI’s VPAT® web page https://www.itic.org/policy/accessibility/vpat
Questions or feedback?

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Thank you for the contributions