

June 15-16, 2010
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Innovation 2010:
On the Threshold of Meaningful Use

Accessibility of HIT

Access Board
and
Department of Veterans Affairs

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What is the Access Board?

- Independent Federal agency
- Promotes accessible design for persons with disabilities
- Promulgates guidelines and standards
- Provides technical assistance and training

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What is accessibility?

- Removal of disability barriers
- Ensures non-discrimination
- Proactive (Do it before a complaint)
- Technology-focused (Buy conformant products, even if you don't know the users)
- Not to be confused with providing individual accommodations

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Who benefits? – People with Disabilities

- Hearing
- Vision
- Speech
- Mobility
- Dexterity
- Cognitive

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Who benefits? – User groups

- Patient/clients
- Clinicians
- Caregivers/families
- Students/instructors
- Admin personnel
- Payers
- Analysts, researchers

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Health Information Technologies

- Websites
- Software
- Documents
- Hardware (e.g., laptops, handhelds)
- Videos
- Telecommunication products
- Kiosks

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What is Section 508? – the Statute

- Agencies “comply” with the law (and with the FAR)
- The Rehabilitation Act (not the ADA)
- Applies to E&IT that is procured, developed, used, maintained

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What is Section 508? – the Standard

- Products “conform” to the design requirements
- Issued in 2000 by the Access Board, under authority of the statute
- Currently being updated (submit comments at regulations.gov by 6/21/10)
- Intent: Ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are not overlooked as we move forward in the information age

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Examples of accessibility issues

- Non mouse use: Can I create and update a PHR using only a keyboard?
- Is the “focus” programmatically exposed to assistive technology?
- Are text equivalents provided for non-text elements?
- Are multimedia videos captioned?
- Touch screens in kiosks and portable computers: Are the keys tactilely discernable?

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Recommendations

- HIT standards should include accessibility standards
- Certification process should include accessibility testing
- Research funds could include projects on HIT accessibility
- Strategic planning should include consideration for accessibility

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Implementation issues

- How can federal agencies most affected by HIT work more closely together on accessibility?
- How is cost determined in an economic impact analysis?
- How can the degree of burdened be lessened?
- How will training and technical assistance be provided?

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How to Reach the U.S. Access Board

202-272-0013 (direct to David Baquis)
800-872-2253 (toll-free in U.S.)
508@access-board.gov
<http://www.access-board.gov>

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Other Federal Resources

- Federal Information Technology Accessibility Initiative <http://www.section508.gov>
- 508 Wizard: www.buyaccessible.gov
- Annual Federal 508 conference in DC in the fall (called "IDEAS" -- no website)

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VA Section 508
Program Office
Compliance Division of
United States Department of
Veterans Affairs

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Secretary has 13 initiatives six, of which are listed below:

3. Design a Veteran-centric healthcare model and right-sized infrastructure to help Veterans navigate the health care delivery system and receive coordinated care (**New Health Care Model – NHCM**) will educate and empower patients and their families and ensure a more holistic, Veteran-centered system, greatly improving access and coordination of care.
4. Expand health care access for Veterans, including women and rural populations (**ACCESS**) - focuses on eliminating disparities in access to care wherever they exist within the VA system.

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Secretary has 13 initiatives, six of which are listed below:

5. Ensure preparedness to meet emergent national needs (e.g., hurricanes, H1N1 virus) (**Integrated Operations Center – IOC**) – to ensure VA can fulfill its role to serve as a primary back up to the DoD Military Health Care System during war or national emergency, and to assist other federal agencies in providing medical and other services during natural disaster or terrorist attack.
6. Perform research and development (**R&D**) to enhance the long-term health and well-being of Veterans - focuses on improving the health and well-being of Veterans by emphasizing genomic medicine, access to care, and deployment health.

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Roles and Responsibilities continued:
Web Masters, Content Managers, Vendors and Internal/External Developers use the following to assure accessibility:

- Illinois Accessible Web Publishing Wizard for Microsoft Office
- Adobe Professional v. 8.0 or higher
- NetCentric – CommonLook Section 508 Adobe Plug-In
- Corda (Charts)
- 508 Wizard for Visual Basic
- HiSoftware – AccMonitor Accessibility Module
- Deque – WorldSpace
- AT Tools

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The Future:

- Web 2.0 social networking tools are they accessible?
 - establish policy and provide governance to make sure that these sites are accessible.
 - FaceBook
 - Twitter accounts
 - YouTube
- SharePoint not currently accessible

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