



2008 Open Forum for
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Web Accessibility: Why Standards Harmonization Matters

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Web Accessibility: Why Standards Harmonization Matters

- ❑ W3C and WAI
- ❑ Web Accessibility Guidelines
- ❑ Web Accessibility Harmonization/Fragmentation
- ❑ Participation & Resources
- ❑ Resources



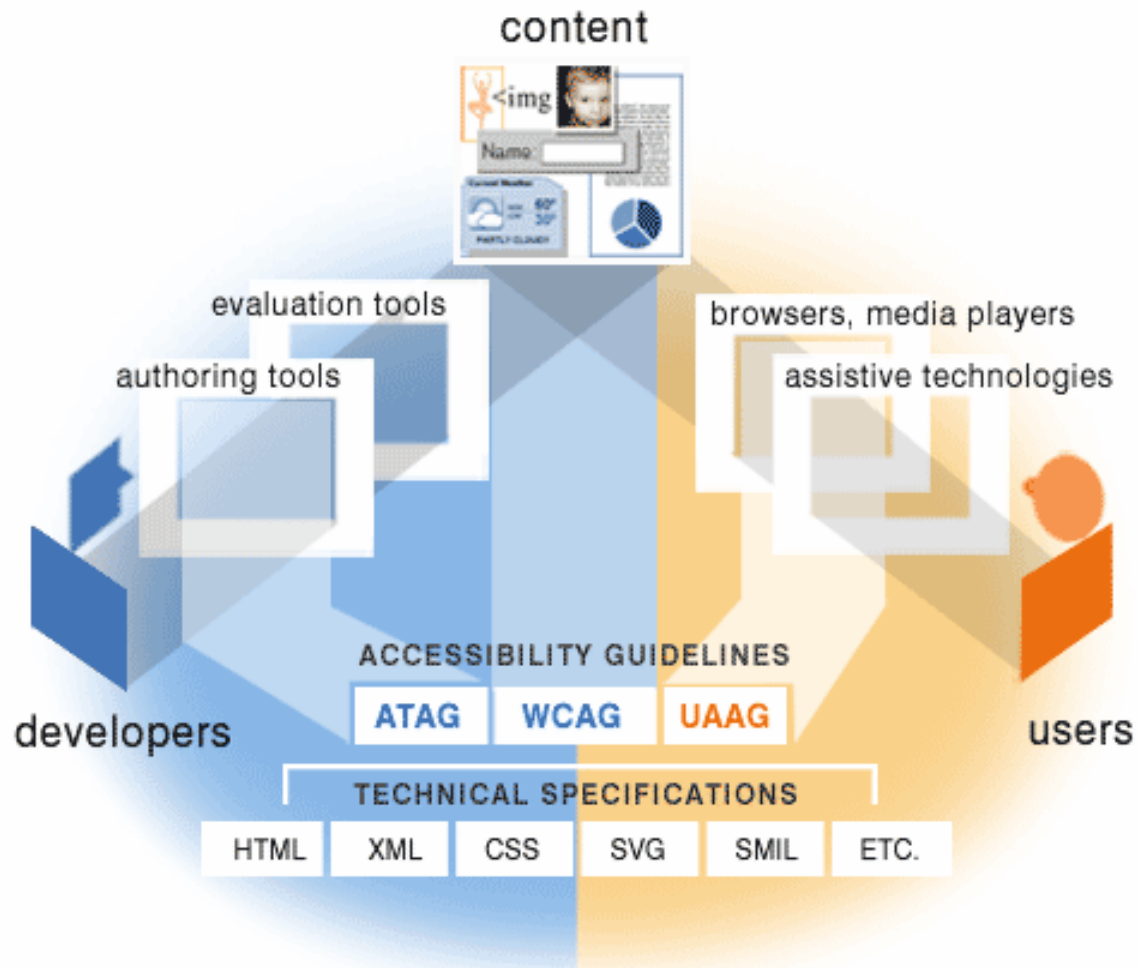
World Wide Web Consortium

World Wide Web Consortium (WAI)

- ❑ International, primarily industry, vendor-neutral consortium
- ❑ Develops core standards for Web
- ❑ Five main domains/divisions of technical work
 - one of these is the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)
- ❑ In-house accessibility focus:
 - enables getting accessibility right at the design stage

Web Accessibility Addresses Cross-disability needs:

- ❑ Visual
 - described graphics or video
 - well marked-up tables or frames, dynamic content
 - keyboard support, screen reader compatibility
- ❑ Hearing
 - captioning for audio, supplemental illustration
- ❑ Physical, Speech
 - keyboard or single-switch support; alternatives for speech input
- ❑ Cognitive, Neurological
 - consistent navigation, appropriate language level
 - illustration; no flickering or strobing designs
- ❑ Older Web users
 - sometimes combinations of needs, but miss “disability” solutions



Complementary Aspects of Web Accessibility

WCAG 2.0

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0

- ❑ WCAG 2.0 Candidate Recommendation
 - April 2008: stable draft
- ❑ Implementation testing
 - in diverse Web sites and applications
- ❑ Evaluate conformance
- ❑ Adjust at-risk items

Establishing WCAG 2.0 as a Convergence Target

- Improvements over WCAG 1.0
 - more precisely testable
 - technology-neutral
 - fewer constraints for developers
 - improved accessibility support
- Structure
 - 4 principles, 12 guidelines
 - ~60 normative, testable success criteria
 - 3 levels

WCAG 2.0 Supporting Materials Promote Harmonization and Implementation

- Techniques for WCAG 2.0
 - sufficient, additional, common failures, test procedures
 - “additional techniques” layer invites innovation
- How to Meet WCAG 2.0
 - customizable developers’ reference
- Understanding WCAG 2.0
 - intent, examples, resources, techniques, key terms

WCAG 2.0 Completion Steps

Timelines can be a fragmentation driver...

- ❑ Public Working Drafts (done)
- ❑ Last Call Working Drafts (done)
- ❑ Candidate Recommendation (current)
- ❑ Proposed Recommendation (3Q 2008?)
- ❑ W3C Recommendation (4Q 2008?)
 - completed Web standard
 - authorized W3C translations

ATAG 2.0

Authoring Tool

Accessibility

Guidelines 2.0

- ❑ [ATAG 2.0 Working Draft](#)
- ❑ Accessibility of authoring interface
- ❑ Production of accessible content
- ❑ Covers all kinds of authoring tools
 - HTML editors
 - content management systems
 - blogging & wiki software

UAAG 2.0

User Agent
Accessibility
Guidelines 2.0

- ❑ UAAG 2.0 First Public Working Draft
- ❑ Browsers, media players
- ❑ Updating technologies covered
- ❑ Better address specific problems
 - interoperability with assistive technology
 - support for rich media

WAI-ARIA

- ❑ Accessible Rich Internet Applications
- ❑ Making dynamic Web content accessible
 - Ajax, DHTML, other dynamic technologies
 - accessibility of widgets, navigation, drag & drop...
- ❑ WAI-ARIA
 - Overview, Primer, Best Practices, FAQ
- ❑ Nearing Last Call Working Draft

Accessibility & Mobile Web

- Relationship between Mobile Web, WCAG 1.0, 2.0
 - cross-mapping of provisions
- Shared user experiences
 - people with disabilities & mobile Web users
- Promotes appropriate cross-referencing of standards

Currently – Significant Fragmentation

- ❑ Many organizations, governments re-creating wheel
- ❑ Sub-setting conformance levels
- ❑ Tweaking meaning of provisions
- ❑ Combining with usability
- ❑ Fragments market for authoring & evaluation tool developers
- ❑ Difficult for international & multi-sector organizations to track requirements

Benefits of Harmonization

- Standards harmonization accelerates Web accessibility by
 - providing unified market for authoring and evaluation tools
 - eliminating conflicting requirements on developers
 - creating consistent user expectations
 - enabling shared training and evaluation resources

Extensive Liaison Activities

- ❑ Ensure process is open to all stakeholders
- ❑ Promote extensive public review, comment, testing
- ❑ Monitor parallel activities across many organizations
 - JTC1 Special Working Group on Accessibility
- ❑ Promote awareness of need for harmonized standards
- ❑ Advise regarding regulatory development
- ❑ Provide mechanism for authorized translations
- ❑ Promote broad participation in W3C/WAI work

Resources

- ❑ www.w3.org/WAI/
- ✓ WAI guidelines
- ✓ Introducing, managing, evaluating accessibility
- ✓ WAI Working Groups, about WAI
- ✓ Translations of WAI documents