The 5th Annual ICT Accessibility Testing Symposium: Time for Testing in Testing Times (Remote Work, Commerce, Education, Support...)

Week of October 19, 2020 (Specific schedule TBD)

Workshops and Instructional Courses: Weeks Prior/Post Symposium (TBD)

www.ictaccessibilitytesting.org

ONLINE EVENT

Call for Proposals

Submission deadline: Friday, June 26

Contents

It goes without saying that these are testing times for everyone as society collectively deals with the Covid-19 global pandemic. Workers, retailers, restauranteurs, teachers, students, and customer support operators are finding themselves obliged to move to online as the primary means of collaboration with colleagues and customers. It also goes without saying that a considerable number of these systems featured no or poor accessibility development/testing.

Given this rapid transition of many who are new to such online tools, the amount of additional accessibility blockers is growing by the day. Do developers and administrators of new websites and other digital content have accessibility in mind? Most likely not. Do the tools they use to quickly implement new websites, Apps, and electronic documents automatically generate accessible code? Commonly no.

As a profession, we have had to cope with our own business issues in the same ways as those in other industries. We've also had to step up to support those in other industries to help solve their accessibility problems, many of which have only emerged as a result of the massive switch to online operations. A lot has happened in a short time, and there is much that can be gained by sharing our positive (and perhaps, negative?) experiences in ICT Accessibility Testing research and practice. To play our part, we have to be here to provide support to those tackling their technology issues, so that we may help them ensure equitable access for all members of our society.

Our annual symposium has traditionally been a place for in-person knowledge sharing and for professional face-to-face networking. Let's use this year's online symposium to continue sharing what works during the current situation and beyond, and let's continue networking with our peers—but this time online—the same way that so many of us are getting used to while we go through this together.

Sincerely, Dr. Chris M. Law, Chair,
& Matt Feldman, Co-Chair,
2020 Symposium Committee

Submissions

Note: Given the new/current situation in the World, as reflected in our symposium theme this year—*Time for Testing in Testing Times*—we particularly encourage submissions relating to *Remote Work, Commerce, Education, Support*, etc. We encourage submissions relating to the themes concerning management of testing teams, new and innovative ways of working that have resulted from the pandemic response, etc.

We also welcome submissions under traditional themes as listed below. Research, development, and practice submissions are welcome. Submissions can be cross-cutting / interdisciplinary, covering more than one theme.

2020 Special Online Symposium Themes: *Remote Testing, Management of Remote Testing Operations, etc.*
- Remote ICT testing
- Videoconferencing systems
- Online collaboration software
- Learning Management Systems (LMS)
- Delivering online instruction
- Telemedicine (general, access, security)
- Education at home (parents, teachers, and students with disabilities)
- AT compatibility with remote systems
- Moving course materials to electronic formats
- Accessibility and aging users introduced to new technologies
- Accessibility and providing online customer and technical support
- Supporting restaurants and other small businesses who are newcomers to accessibility
- Mobile website and App accessibility
- Managing remote testing operations, teams, etc.
- Other

Testing method themes
- WCAG 2.0, 2.1, and beyond
- Section 508 Refresh / Revision
- Trusted Tester
- Automated Testing
- Manual testing tools
- Standards
- Emerging Interface tools
- Other

Testing management themes
- Governance and implementation of testing in the systems development lifecycle
- Management of testing teams
- Testing and procurement
- Test results and their use in organizational maturity assessments
- Testing and organizational policies
- Other

Program area themes
- ICT Vendors and customers
- Government (Federal, State, Local)
- Educational Sector
- Legal Sector
- Healthcare & Health Informatics
- Testing as a profession
- Provision of training to testers
- Other

Testing Domains
- Websites and Web Applications
- Enterprise & Desktop Software
- Cloud Computing
- Electronic Documents
- Multimedia
- Closed products (kiosks, ATMs etc.)
- Mobile Websites
- Mobile Applications
- Wearables
- Gaming
- Voice interfaces
- Virtual and Augmented Reality
- Other

Submission instructions

For all submission formats, prepare a 1,000-word description, and indicate your preferred format, thematic area(s) and testing domain.

Authors are *strongly* encouraged to cite/reference—in addition to other published works—past papers from the preceding four years of the Symposium. Copies of past symposium proceedings can be found at: https://ictaccessibilitytesting.org/Programs.html

The submission deadline is **Friday, June 26**.

Submit your proposal via the link at the symposium website:
www.ictaccessibilitytesting.org

Notifications and inclusion in the Proceedings

The lead author of successful submissions will be notified by **July 24, 2020**, with final 'camera ready' papers due by **September 4, 2020**. Camera ready papers are subject to the page limits given in the table below. Authors will be provided with a template for generating a consistent, accessible format for camera ready papers.

The proceedings for this event will be published online and (potentially) in hard copy form. The accessible electronic copy will be included in the symposium registration. (The event committee is looking into options for hard copy options delivered in the mail this year.) For reference, previous symposia proceedings can be downloaded from the 'Program' page of the symposium website: https://ictaccessibilitytesting.org/Programs.html

The following presentation formats will be available:

Format	Session length	Proceedings page limit
Papers	30-45 minutes each (pre-recorded) plus 10-15 minutes for questions (live)	8 pages
Panel Discussions	60 minutes (live)	2 pages
Courses (online workshops / hackathons / instructional courses)	3, 6, 9 or 12 hours over multiple days (can be a mix of pre-recorded and live instruction)	4 pages

Notes for those submitting papers

1. The papers section of the program will be delivered as a mix of pre-recorded and live streaming events. To present a paper, authors will be required to pre-record their presentation in the month leading up to the event (see the list of specific dates at the end of this document). During the symposium, the pre-recorded paper will be streamed at a specified time. Authors and a peer review committee moderator will monitor the live online chat for questions to address at the end of the pre-recorded segment. The live segment at the end may also include voice/video questions from attendees.

2. The event organizers will schedule an instructional webinar (date TBD) to help all authors with developing and delivering papers as a pre-recorded session.

3. Authors can enlist the support and mentorship of one to two members of the Peer Review Committee to discuss the presentation in advance of taping, and to possibly attend the taping virtually. We would like to have Review Committee Members acting in this role introduce the speakers at the beginning of the session, and to help moderate the live questions part of the presentation.

4. In order to be included in the final program, at least one author of a paper submission must be registered to attend the symposium, *and* the camera-ready paper must be uploaded by Friday, September 4, 2020.

Notes for those considering submitting courses (online workshops / hackathons / instructional courses)

1. Our Symposium workshops and instructional courses have traditionally been face-to-face on the days prior or after the main symposium. Because this year the main symposium will likely be spread out as several short periods delivered over the course of a week, this year's workshops and courses will be delivered the week prior to the symposium, and/or the week after. Scheduling will depend on the number and type of course submissions.

2. Because we are moving the whole event online this year, there is a particular challenge in delivering courses, hackathons and workshops virtually. Consequently, we will require those submitting to demonstrate that they have prior experience in successfully conducting online instruction of this type. Authors will be required to list their experience as part of the 1,000 word submission, due on June 26.

3. Acceptance notifications will go to authors on July 24. All those who have an accepted course, hackathon or workshop will be required to submit a workshop outline by *one week later*, on **Friday, July 31** to go into the Preliminary Program, which will be published shortly thereafter.

4. Depending on the duration of the course, instructors may receive complimentary registration and reimbursement. The values for courses is set out in the table below. (**Note:** 'instruction time' does not include periodic breaks. **Also note:** Inclusion in the final program and reimbursements will be dependent on achieving a minimum number of course attendee registrations)

5. In order to be included in the final program, authors and co-authors/co-presenters of a course submission must be registered to attend the symposium, *and* the camera-ready paper must be uploaded by Friday, September 4, 2020.

Course length	Delivery	Registration / Reimbursement
Up to 3 hours instruction time (equivalent to a half-day course)	Over one day	One registration for the main symposium included
Up to 6 hours instruction time (equivalent to a full-day course)	Over one or two days	One registration for the main symposium included Plus, registration for one co-author / co-presenter. If only one author/presenter, then the author will receive an additional $300 reimbursement
Up to 9 hours instruction time (equivalent to a one-and-a-half day course)	Over two to three days	One registration for the main symposium included Plus, registration for two co-authors / co-presenters If only one or two authors/presenters, then the authors/presenters will receive an additional $300 or $600 reimbursement respectively
Up to 12 hours instruction time (equivalent to a two-day course)	Over three to four days	One registration for the main symposium included Plus, registration for three co-authors / co-presenters If only one, two or three authors/presenters, then the authors/presenters will receive an additional $300, $600 or $900 reimbursement respectively

Networking Events

Networking is one of the major draws of the traditionally in-person symposium. Breaks, lunches, and evening social activities provide additional value beyond the core symposium content.

Our event planning committee will be researching options and developing an online social program that provides for networking leading up to and during the event. Details of planned social networking activities will be posted as part of the Preliminary Program, on Wednesday, August 5.

Accessibility Testing Job Board

We know that with the pandemic that many accessibility testing and related jobs have been adversely affected or lost as a result of factors beyond our control. As part of the symposium, we will include a virtual 'job board' for those working in this field. We hope to have this up and running in May.

As part of the symposium planning, we will investigate whether we can include an online recruitment fair. Details will be posted as part of the Provisional Program, on Wednesday, September 9.

Sponsorship opportunities

We welcome four types of sponsorship opportunity:

- Sponsor of free student participation
- Sponsor of awards (best paper, best presentation);
- Sponsor of online technology support
- Sponsor of online networking events

Sponsors will be recognized at the beginning of each of the main symposium sessions.

Please also note that this event does not feature opportunities for commercial demonstrations.

Please contact the Awards Chair to inquire about sponsorship opportunities.

Registration

The main symposium fee will be $300 (discounted $100 from the 2019 registration fee). The registration fee includes:

- Access to live presentations during the week of October 19
- Access to the archive of recordings of all presentations throughout the remainder of 2020
- An accessible electronic copy of the proceedings formatted for printing at home, or ePub format for use with e-Readers
- Access to networking events leading up to and during the week of the online symposium

Preconference, workshops/hackathons, and instructional course fees will be determined after proposals have been reviewed, and will be posted as part of the Preliminary Program, available Wednesday, August 5.

Registration for attending the symposium will be via the conference website and will open on Wednesday, August 5, and close on Wednesday, October 14.

Discounts

- **Student** registration will be free. To be eligible, students must be currently enrolled full or part time in a higher education institution, and use their '.edu' or equivalent email address to register.
- **Academia**, **non-profit,** and **government** discounts will be offered.
- **Group discounts** and **company-wide** access options will also be made available.

Details on discounts will be posted as part of the Preliminary Program, available Wednesday, August 5.

2020 Symposium Committee

- For general inquiries, email the Symposium Chairs: info@ictaccessibilitytesting.org
- For specific inquiries, email individual Committee Chairs

Symposium

Chris M. Law (Chair)

Organizational Accessibility Consultant, Accessibility Track

Matt Feldman (Co-Chair)

Director of Customer Success, The Paciello Group, A Vispero Company

Workshops & Courses Chair

Laura Renfro

Senior Accessibility Lead, Renfro Consulting

Awards & Presentation Chair

Andrew Nielson

Senior Program Manager, New Editions Consulting, Inc.

Program Chair

Chris M. Law

Organizational Accessibility Consultant, Accessibility Track

Marketing & Outreach

Stacy Ford (Chair)

Accessible Technology Coordinator, Montgomery College

Trudy Knudsen (Co-Chair)

Director Business Development, Open Access Technologies

Competition Chair

Erin Kirchner-Lucas

Accessibility Coordinator, RedShelf

Communications Chair & Webmaster

Kathryn Weber-Hottleman

IT Accessibility Coordinator, University of Connecticut

Content Chair

Christine K. Loew

Director, Accessibility for Digital Assessments, The College Board

2020 Symposium Peer Review Committee

Shadi Abou-Zahra

Strategy and Technology Specialist, W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)

Jennison Asuncion

Engineering Manager (Accessibility), LinkedIn

Jon Avila

Chief Accessibility Officer, Level Access

Jennifer Chadwick

Lead Accessibility Strategist (North America), Siteimprove

Anne Marie Davis

Senior Accessibility Technician, New Editions Consulting, Inc.

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Katie Haritos-Shea

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Accessibility UX Lead (G Suite), Google

Peter McNally

Senior Consultant, User Experience Center, Bentley University

Ryan Pugh

Director of Accessibility, Onix Networking

John Rempel

Quality Control & Training Specialist, Centers for Inclusive Design Innovation (CIDI) at Georgia Tech

Madeleine Rothberg

Senior Subject Matter Expert, WGBH National Center for Accessible Media

Cyndi Rowland

Director, WebAIM & NCDAE at Utah State University

Kathryn Weber-Hottleman

IT Accessibility Coordinator, University of Connecticut

Dominique Wheeler

Technical Quality Assurance Specialist, Paltech Planning and Learning Technologies

Gian Wild

CEO, Founder and President, AccessibilityOz

General Symposium Dates

The 2020 ICT Accessibility Testing Symposium: Suddenly caught in an untested world of change (remote work, commerce, education, support...)

Preliminary program available:	Wednesday, August 5
Symposium registration opens:	Wednesday, August 5
Provisional program available:	Wednesday, September 9
Final program available:	Wednesday, October 7
Disability accommodations deadline:	Wednesday, October 7
Electronic copy of Proceedings sent:	Wednesday, October 14
Symposium registration closes:	Wednesday, October 14
Courses:	**Week of October 12, and/or Week of October 26**
Symposium:	**Week of October 19**

Proposal Submission Dates for 2020

Call for Proposals announced:	Friday, May 8
Proposals (1000 words) due:	**Friday, June 26**
Acceptance notifications to all authors:	Friday, July 24
Accepted course descriptions due:	Friday, July 31
Accepted camera-ready submissions:	Friday, September 4
Author symposium registration:	Friday, September 4
Supported pre-recording window opens:	Monday, September 14
Supported pre-recording window closes:	Friday, October 2

www.2020ict.org