

# Workshop. Trusted Tester Program and Section 508 Compliance in the Agile Development Setting

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## Abstract

In 2012, The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) accessibility teams collaborated to create the *Harmonized Testing Process for Section 508 Compliance: Baseline Tests for Software and Web Accessibility for evaluating Section 508 Compliance for Software and Web*. Currently, an interagency committee representing seven federal agencies works together on updating the Baseline Testing document with changes to keep up with current technologies.

The Baseline Tests supports:

- Unified testing for the Section 508 technical requirements for Software and Websites, as well as Functional Performance Criteria (FPC) across government.
- Provides a minimum set of Tests for agencies to streamline/enhance their existing test processes.
- Aligns Section 508 accessibility testing with most of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 (WCAG 2.0) success criteria, in preparation for the upcoming Section 508 refresh.

In the workshop, participants will learn the issues that drove the need to establish common tests for compliance and how the baseline tests were developed.

### **Overview of Presentation**

In a half-day workshop, the following topics will be presented with demonstrations and group activities:

1. What is the harmonized testing process for Section 508 compliance?
2. What is the Trusted Tester Process, Program and certification?
3. What is the Interagency Trusted Tester program?
4. What is a best practice for accessibility management within an agile development organization?

Themes in the activities include:

- Testing tools
- Testing methods
- Management of testing
- Testing trends
- Standards
- Procurement
- Product Development
- Research
- Federal programs
- Section 508
- Section 508 Refresh
- WCAG 2.0

## Trusted Tester Program

DHS has developed the Trusted Tester Program to establish Section 508 conformance evaluation skill sets across the IT community, and through a repeatable set of self-assessment and planning activities foster optimal accessibility management practices across the Federal landscape. In the workshop, participants will learn the history and benefits of Trusted Tester training and certification, how to become a Trusted Tester, and how they can participate in the accessibility community by joining the Trusted Tester Community of Practice (TTCoP).

## Interagency Trusted Tester Program (ITTP)

To promote the adoption of unified testing with a common set of tools, test procedures, and evaluation criteria across the federal government, DHS is leading the effort to stand up the Interagency Trusted Tester Program (ITTP). ITTP is modeled after the DHS OAST Trusted Tester Program and is a strategic solution with emphasis on:

1. Promoting across the federal government common evaluation processes and procedures for Section 508 testing of electronic and information technology (EIT).
2. Increasing the workforce skillset and capability by implementing a certification program for Section 508 conformance testing.
3. Creating a central repository containing trusted tester test results that can be shared amongst government agencies to reduce redundant testing.

In the workshop, participants will learn about the six stages of the Unified Testing for Accessibility Project (UTAP), that agency stakeholders follow to develop their own design and implementation plans for adopting Trusted Tester. The six stages that will be discussed are listed below:

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Stage 1: | Set your goals                              |
| Stage 2: | Get familiar with your own agency           |
| Stage 3: | Familiarize yourself with available options |
| Stage 4: | Design the system                           |
| Stage 5: | Develop an implementation plan              |
| Stage 6: | Implement and monitor                       |

## Accessibility Management in an Agile Environment

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) has pioneered reliance on the Trusted Tester skill sets, and established a set of accessibility management practices for agile, even and dev-ops environments to keep pace with rapid development and delivery of IT applications. Practices include:

- An engagement model that matches activities to the level of risk
- Aggressive recruitment of development Trusted Testers
- Development contract changes that strengthen accessibility
- Top Ten Issues training for software developers
- Strategies to move testing to the left in the development cycle
- Close collaboration with DHS OAST to expand testing options

## Outcome

The expected outcome for the audience is:

- Awareness of what a code-inspection-based repeatable, accurate, and scalable Section 508 conformance test process is composed of;
- Awareness of the Trusted Tester program and certification;
- Awareness of the Interagency Trusted Tester Program and how to plan for and optimize integration of IT accessibility management practices within an organization;
- An understanding of how one organization manages accessibility in the agile development setting.

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