

Call for Proposals

The 6th Annual ICT Accessibility Testing Symposium

Defining the New Normal in Accessibility Testing

Wednesday & Thursday, May 18 & 19, 2022

Courses and Workshops: Monday & Tuesday, May 16 & 17, 2022

The conference center at the
National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute, Baltimore, MD

In-Person Event
with Online Participation Options

Call for Proposals

Submission deadline **(extended)**: Monday, February 28, 2022

In collaboration with

**John Slatin AccessU
2022**

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Introduction from the Chairs

As we approach two years of enduring a global pandemic, we are defining a “new normal” when it comes to the way we work. Most of us in the world of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) have dealt with some form of virtual work environment, and many are transitioning to hybrid environments that incorporate both in-office work and a significantly larger number of people working remotely. Many of the tools we use to communicate and collaborate in our hybrid work environments have changed, and the providers of such tools have increased their pace of development to adjust to changing needs and preferences in our new environments.

Many of us are also having conversations with developers and vendors to describe the accessibility challenges that some of their new and innovative features create for people with disabilities. But are these conversations new, or are they simply the same conversations applied in the new environment with newer tools and features? If these are the same conversations, then how are we innovating in the world of accessibility testing to keep pace with advancements in tools to support a hybrid workforce?

Our next ICT Accessibility Testing Symposium is also defining a new normal in a couple of our own ways: we are holding the event in the Spring (instead of our past practice of meeting in the Fall); and our event will also be a combination of in-person presentations with some virtual attendance options.

As we “get back to normal” or define a new normal, we invite you to share your innovations and to help us explore how we can adapt to new accessibility challenges in our new world.

*Sincerely, Andrew Nielson, Co-Chair
& Dr. Chris M. Law, Chair,
2022 Symposium Committee*

Submissions

Note: While we took the opportunity to conduct the last ICT Accessibility Testing Symposium (in 2020) as a virtual event, for the sake of simplified logistics, our ‘Plan A’ was intended to be that all presenters deliver their content in person to a live, in-person audience for the breakout paper sessions. However, the ongoing situation with the global pandemic means that we may consider other ‘Plan B, Plan C...’ options, to include remote presenting, or possibly even going to a full virtual event again. We ask for understanding and flexibility as we all recognize that conditions could change over the coming months, which might prompt reconsideration of venue and format options for delivery.

We currently expect to record the breakout session presentations and post them online, after the event, for virtual audience members. Breakout sessions may be presented in person (preferably) or remotely. When submitting your proposal, you will be asked to indicate your preference for in-person or remote presentation. Your stated preference will

not be a factor in the paper selection process. Keynote and plenary sessions should be delivered to a combination of a live, in-person audience and a live, virtual audience.

Three Special Themes for 2022

Special Theme 1: Testing in a “New Normal” World

Given the nature of our hybrid work environments, we particularly encourage submissions regarding ICT Accessibility Testing as it relates to Remote Work, Hybrid Work Environments, Virtual Collaboration Tools, Education, Workforce Development and Retention, etc. Under this theme, submissions can relate to one or more of the following:

- Remote ICT Accessibility testing
- Hybrid testing environments
- Training testing professionals or a remote/hybrid workforce
- AT compatibility with remote systems
- Managing remote testing operations, teams
- Methods for testing virtual collaboration software
- Methods for testing virtual instruction and Learning Management Systems (LMS)
- Accessibility coaching
- Virtual, collaborative development and accessibility testing
- Methods for testing telemedicine (general, access, security)
- Mobile website and App accessibility
- Other

Special Theme 2: Autonomous Vehicles and Accessibility Testing

As part of the NFB Blind Driver Challenge™, on January 29, 2021, NFB President Mark Riccobono drove a “demonstration of the prototype nonvisual interface that makes it possible for a blind person to [independently drive a car](#)”. As part of this year’s symposium, we will be hearing from our NFB hosts about the Blind Driver Challenge, including their progress with an emphasis on the testing of the system.

Also ongoing in the wider world is a strong push by car manufacturers and service providers to develop driverless cars. There are several motivating factors which are not disability related (e.g., taxi services without the need to pay drivers, autonomous trucking of goods, increasing safety). Nonetheless, the prospect of autonomous vehicles also brings with it the prospect of increased independence for people with disabilities as owners / users of driverless vehicles. In the Spring of 2021, the U.S. Access Board held a series of public online sessions to discuss [accessibility issues relating to autonomous vehicles](#). Autonomous vehicles aren’t on the market yet, but in the coming years this will undoubtedly change. Will the accessibility testing field influence the design of interfaces to provide equitable use by people with disabilities? The opportunity to help car manufacturers to be prepared for the future is *now*.

Under this theme, submissions can relate to one or more of the following:

- Accessibility Testing of the driverless vehicle driving interface for disabled users (including nonvisual, low vision, physical disabilities, etc.)
- Accessibility Testing of physical/hardware aspects of driverless vehicles
- Non-vehicle related aspects of driverless vehicles, and implications for accessibility testing (e.g., customer service, hailing apps, ownership ‘paperwork’, membership models, the vehicle servicing experience, parking)
- Legal aspects relating to driverless vehicles and accessibility testing
- Other

Special Theme 3: Access U + ICT cross-over training

The Annual John Slatin AccessU Conference is a training event that brings together people looking to increase their skills in IT accessibility development, as well as testing. The event usually takes place in May in Austin, TX and is hosted by the nonprofit accessibility service and consulting organization, [Knowbility](#). The event is related, but differs from the ICT Accessibility Testing Symposium.

AccessU’s content is delivered in a classroom format and includes development (read the [2021 AccessU schedule](#) for a general idea), whereas our content at the ICT Symposium is delivered via peer-reviewed papers and is tightly focused on testing. ICT does include a small number of classroom-style pre-conference workshops and training courses each year, but this is supplemental rather than our main focus.

Our calendar move this year (from the traditional fall delivery of ICT to the new annual spring event) brings with it a timely opportunity to collaborate with each other’s conferences. Knowbility and the organizers of ICT 2022 are offering the opportunity to submit proposals that take advantage of the fact that our conferences are on consecutive weeks. AccessU is planned to be in person with an online attendance option for its classes (Week of May 9). ICT is planned to be in person for the main symposium and preconference workshops, with an online attendance option for the main symposium plenary sessions (live) and paper sessions (delayed delivery). Given this collaboration, we welcome submissions that take advantage of the content and format of both conferences. For example,

- Attendance of specific AccessU classes, followed by attendance of an ICT workshop or course that takes advantage of the AccessU content;
- On a given topic related to accessibility testing, an introductory/intermediate (‘Part 1’) course at AccessU and an intermediate/advanced (‘Part 2’) course at ICT.
- Creation of a ‘study group’ that meets virtually each day of AccessU and ICT to debrief and plan session attendance together;

For any submission under this Special Theme, the review of the proposal will be conducted by both sets of conference organizing committees. Please note that submissions under this theme must also meet Knowbility’s deadline for proposals (Monday, January 17), which is *earlier* than the ICT submission deadline (Monday, February 28, 2022).

Traditional Themes

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

Testing Method Themes

- WCAG 2.x
- Trusted Tester and ICT Baseline
- Automated testing and CI/CD testing standards, standards evolution
- Manual testing tools
- (done to death)
- Other

Testing Management Themes

- Governance and oversight of accessibility in system/content lifecycle
- Testing management and integration in development processes
- Testing and procurement
- Organization policies and testing
- (done to death) program management
- Other

Program Area Themes

- ICT vendors and customers
- Government (federal, state, local)
- Education sector
- Legal sector
- Healthcare & health informatics
- Testing as a professions
- Other

Testing Domains

- Website and web applications
- Enterprise & Desktop Software
- Electronic Documents
- Multimedia
- Closed products (kiosks, ATMs etc.)
- Mobile Applications
- Wearables
- Gaming
- 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://www.ictaccessibilitytesting.org/past-events/>.

The submission deadline is Monday, February 28, 2022.

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 Monday, March 28, 2022, with final 'camera ready' papers due by Monday, April 25. 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 in hard copy form. The accessible electronic copy will be included in the symposium registration. 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	10 pages
Panel Discussions 'Abstract'	60 - 120 minutes	3 pages
Courses (online workshops / hackathons / instructional courses) 'Abstract / Outline'	3, 6, 9 or 12 hours over multiple days (can be a mix of pre-recorded and live instruction)	5 pages

Notes for those submitting papers

1. The papers section of the program will be delivered live and in person. Though the decision has not been finalized, the committee also anticipates recording breakout sessions to make them available to virtual attendees to watch after the live event has concluded. The committee also anticipates broadcasting the in-person keynote and plenary sessions to a live virtual audience.
2. 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 Monday, April 25.

Notes for those submitting panel discussions

1. We generally limit the number of Panel discussions to two per Symposium. Panel sessions are usually delivered in a one to two-hour slot.
2. All panelists must have paid their registration fee to attend the symposium by the author registration deadline of Monday, April 25.

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

1. As with the breakout sessions for presentation of papers, we anticipate all workshops / hackathons / instructional courses to be in person for this event. To simplify logistics, we do NOT anticipate recording the workshops or providing any virtual component.
2. Acceptance notifications will go to authors on Monday, March 28. All those who have an accepted course, hackathon or workshop will be required to submit a workshop outline by the following Friday, April 1, 2022 to go into the Preliminary Program, which will be published shortly thereafter.
3. Depending on the duration of the course, instructors may receive complimentary registration and reimbursement. The values for courses are 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).
4. 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 by Monday, April 25, and the camera-ready abstract / outline must be uploaded the same day.

Course length	Delivery	Registration / Reimbursement
Up to 3 hours instruction time (equivalent to a half-day course)	Over one morning or afternoon	One registration for the main symposium included
Up to 6 hours instruction time (equivalent to a full-day course)	Over one day	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 one and a half 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 two 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

Sponsorship opportunities

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

Please contact the Sponsorship Chair to inquire about sponsorship opportunities.

We welcome four types of sponsorship opportunity:

1. Sponsor of awards (best paper, best presentation, social impact award)
2. Sponsor of technology support
3. Sponsor of networking events
4. Sponsor Demo Day Participation (C19HRF donation)

Sponsor Demo Day (Friday, April 29)

Attendees of past ICT Symposia events will know that one of the key differentiators of our conference (compared to other ICT Accessibility related conferences) is that we have not allowed product promotional demos or sales pitches as part of the delivery of peer-reviewed papers or plenary sessions. Many have remarked that this is one of the key things that keeps them returning to ICT as an event for learning and sharing of ideas without feeling any sales pressure.

Having said that... we have always recognized that the gathering of experts will include both vendors and potential customers, and the networking opportunities generate such discussions organically. In 2020, the necessity of moving the entire event to an online format meant that vendors were not able to demo products at *any* in-person events, and so were missing opportunities to reach out to potential customers. So, we created the '[Sponsor Demo Day](#)' which took place in advance of the regular symposium and preconference workshops, and this online event was well-attended. The recordings of the sessions also proved useful post-conference for vendors to inform customers of their testing-related services and products.

In 2020 we used the funds generated by the Sponsor Demo Day as donations to a 'Covid-19 Hardship Registration Fund' (C19HRF). This fund provided nine registrations to those who were experiencing financial hardships as a result of the pandemic. Although the pandemic appears to be (at the time of writing) easing up, there are still many in the field who are seeking employment and/or experiencing ongoing difficulties resulting from the pandemic. Therefore, in 2022 we will keep the C19HRF and use the Sponsor Demo Day participation funds for 'scholarships' to attend the symposium.

Please also note that participation in Sponsor Demo Day is the only opportunity for providing demos. The in-person portion of the ICT Symposium will not feature opportunities for commercial demonstrations.

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 Monday, March 7.

Registration and attendance requirements/options

Note: The following is our ‘Plan A’ and is subject to change, as described earlier.

All attendees (in-person and virtual)

Registration for attending the symposium will be via the conference website and will open on Monday, April 4, and close on Monday, May 16.

The main symposium fee will be \$400. The registration fee includes:

1. Access to live plenary presentations during the Symposium (Wednesday morning, & Thursday afternoon, May 18 & 19).
2. Access to the archive of recordings of all presentations throughout the remainder of the calendar year.
3. An accessible electronic copy of the proceedings formatted for printing at home, or ePub format for use with e-Readers.
4. Access to virtual networking events leading up to and during the week of the online symposium

In-person attendees only

In addition to the above for all attendees,

1. Access to live breakout paper sessions during the Symposium (Wednesday afternoon, & Thursday morning, May 18 & 19)
2. If requested, a hard copy of the proceedings.
3. Access to live networking events at the symposium.
4. Ability to register for in-person only preconference workshops and courses (Monday & Tuesday May 16 & 17). 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 Monday, April 4.

Note: In-Person attendance will be subject to the requirements and policies of the host organization, the NFB. For example, the determination of whether in-person attendees will be required to show proof of vaccination or negative tests of Covid-19. These requirements will be posted when the Preliminary Program is made available.

Virtual attendees only

In addition to the above for all attendees,

1. Access to *recorded* breakout paper sessions from the Symposium, to be posted the week following the conference.

Discounts

1. **Student** registrations will receive a 50% discount. 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.
2. **Academia** and **non-profit** organization members will receive a 20% discount.
3. **Government** employees (federal, state) and government contractors will receive a 10% discount. To be eligible, government employees and contractors must use their '.gov' or equivalent email address to register.
4. **Group discounts** (for in-person or online attendance) and company-wide access (for online attendance) options will also be made available.

Details on discounts will be posted as part of the Preliminary Program, available Monday, April 4.

www.2022ict.org

2022 Symposium Event 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

Andrew Nielson (Co-Chair)

Federal Government Employee

Program Chairs

General Program Chair

Chris M. Law

Special Theme 1.

Testing in a “New Normal” World

Jennison Asuncion

Head of Accessibility Engineering
Evangelism, LinkedIn

Special Theme 2:

Autonomous Vehicles and Accessibility Testing

Johan Rempel

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

Special Theme 3:

Access U + ICT cross-over training, & Workshops / Courses

Laura Renfro

Senior Accessibility Lead, Renfro
Consulting

Marketing & Outreach

Stacy Ford (Chair)

Accessible Technology Coordinator,
Montgomery College

Sponsorship Chair

Erin Kirchner-Lucas

Accessibility Coordinator, RedShelf

Awards & Presentations Chair

Matt Feldman

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

Communications Chair & Webmaster

Kathryn Weber-Hottleman

Accessibility Consultant, Deque Systems,
Inc.

Content Chair

Christine K. Loew

Director, Accessibility for Digital
Assessments, The College Board

2022 Symposium Peer Review Committee

Jon Avila

Chief Accessibility Officer, Level Access

Jennifer Chadwick

Lead Accessibility Strategist (North America), Siteimprove

Katherine Eng

ICT Accessibility Specialist, US Access Board

Karl Groves

Chief Innovation Officer, Level Access

Jon Gunderson

Coordinator, Accessible Information Technology Group, University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign

Sunish Gupta

CEO & Founder, Easy Alliance

Katie Haritos-Shea

Vice President, Accessibility, EVERFI

Allen Hoffman

Consultant, Hoffman Accessibility

Mark Lapole

Accessibility UX Lead (G Suite), Google

Peter McNally

Senior Consultant, User Experience Center, Bentley University

Ryan Pugh

Director of Accessibility, Onix Networking

Madeleine Rothberg

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Dominique Wheeler

Technical Quality Assurance Specialist, Paltech Planning and Learning Technologies

Gian Wild

CEO, Founder and President, AccessibilityOz

Eduardo Meza-Etienne

Director of Compliance, eSSENTIAL Accessibility

Sam Kanta

Lead Accessibility Specialist, Northwestern Mutual

General Dates for the 2022 Symposium

Symposium registration opens:	Monday, April 4 (Updated)
Preliminary program available:	Monday, April 4 (Updated)
Final program available:	Friday, April 29
Sponsor Demo Day (<i>free, optional</i>):	Friday, April 29
Disability accommodations deadline:	Friday, April 29
Electronic copy of proceedings sent:	Monday, May 16
Symposium registration closes:	Monday, May 16
<i>(Note: Access U conference takes place:</i>	<i>Week of May 9)</i>
Courses and Workshops:	Monday & Tuesday, May 16 & 17
Symposium:	Wednesday & Thursday, May 18 & 19

Authoring Submission Dates for the 2022 Symposium

ICT Call for Proposals announced:	Monday, December 6
ICT Proposals (1000 words) due:	Monday, February 28* (Updated)

** Note: If proposing cross-over training under Special Theme 3 (Access U + ICT) then proposals are due on the Access U deadline, on Monday, January 17)*

Acceptance notifications to all authors:	Monday, March 28 (Updated)
Accepted course and workshop descriptions due:	Friday, April 1 (Updated)
Accepted 'camera-ready' submissions:	Monday, April 25 (Updated)
Presenter symposium registration due:	Monday, April 25 (Updated)