

Section 508 Compliance:

Improving Accessibility

Webmaster Orientation
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Section 508

Major Categories of Disability Types:

- Visual
- Hearing
- Motor
- Cognitive
- Seizure

Section 508

- (a) A text equivalent for every non-text element shall be provided (e.g., via "alt," "longdesc," or in element content).



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Section 508 (a)

Alternative Text

Content Images:

```

```

Decorative Images:

```

```



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Section 508 (a)

Alternative Text

- Text may be located in Alt attribute or surrounding text.
- Every image should have an Alt attribute.
- Text should be succinct.
- Should present the content and function of image.
- Should not be redundant with adjacent body text.
- Avoid using phrases like "image of..." or "graphic..."
- Decorative images should use a null Alt attribute. (alt="")

Section 508

(b) Equivalent alternatives for any multimedia presentation shall be synchronized with the presentation.

Section 508 (b)

Multimedia

- Video files should have captioning.
- Audio should have captioning and/or transcripts.

Section 508

(c) Web pages shall be designed so that all information conveyed with color is also available without color, for example from context or markup.

Section 508 (c)

Color

- Avoid using color as the only way of communicating important information.
- Provide sufficient contrast.

Section 508

(g) Row and column headers shall be identified for data tables.

Section 508 (g)

Data Tables (Sample)

```
<table border="1" align="center">
  <caption>Shelly's Daughters</caption>
  <tr>
    <th scope="col">Name</th>
    <th scope="col">Age</th>
    <th scope="col">Birthday</th>
  </tr>

  <tr>
    <th scope="row">Jackie</th>
    <td>5</td>
    <td>April 5</td>
  </tr>

  <tr>
    <th scope="row">Beth</th>
    <td>8</td>
    <td>January 14</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

Shelly's Daughters

Name	Age	Birthday
Jackie	5	April 5
Beth	8	January 14

source: www.webaim.org

Section 508

(l) When pages utilize scripting languages to display content, or to create interface elements, the information provided by the script shall be identified with functional text that can be read by assistive technology.

Section 508 (I)

Scripting:

- Generated content must be accessible.
- Avoid scripts that are only activated by mouse actions.
- Provide keyboard or alternative access to content.

Section 508

(n) When electronic forms are designed to be completed on-line, the form shall allow people using assistive technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.

Section 508 (n)

Forms:

- Associate labels with form elements.
- Use fieldsets to group associated items.
- Avoid scripts that interfere with assistive technologies.

Section 508 (n)

Forms (sample code):

Choose a color: _____
 Blue
 Green
 Yellow

```
<fieldset>  
  <legend>Choose a color:</legend><br />  
  <input id="blue" type="checkbox" name="checkbox" value="checkbox">  
    <label for="blue">Blue</label><br />  
  <input id="green" type="checkbox" name="checkbox2" value="checkbox">  
  <label for="green">Green</label><br />  
  <input id="yellow" type="checkbox" name="checkbox3" value="checkbox">  
  <label for="yellow">Yellow</label>  
</fieldset>
```

Source: www.webaim.org

Section 508

Resources:

Screen Readers:

JAWS: <http://www.freedomscientific.com/>

Window Eyes: <http://www.gwmicro.com/>

Simulation: <http://www.webaim.org/simulations/screenreader-sim.htm>

Validation Tools:

Cynthia Says: <http://www.cynthiasays.com/fulloptions.asp>

Wave 4.0: <http://dev.wave.webaim.org/index.jsp>

Information Sites:

WebAIM: <http://www.webaim.org/>

Government 508 web site: <http://www.section508.gov>