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**Section 508 Compliance Guidance to Customers**

The purpose of this handout is to provide general compliance guidance to customers to help them comply with the Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. This law states that Federal agencies must make their electronic and information technology accessible to disabled workers/public (comparable to the access given to other workers) when compliance does not cause an "undue burden" (i.e., significant difficulty or expense; example – 5 percent of the operating budget).

The DMA-PW’s hosting agreement with customers state that the hosted organizations assume responsibility for their respective website content, which must be approved for public release in accordance with DoD Directive 5230.9 and follow the established file format and configuration standards. Content should be accessible to individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d), as amended in 1998.

**Scope of Section 508**

The law applies to the methods of distributing information such as computers, software, electronic office equipment, and Web pages (e.g., software tools, pages, blogs, multimedia, wide-area emails, phones, PCs, printers, fax machines). This law does not cover critical military/intelligence missions such as command and control, weapons, and national security systems (e.g., excludes finance, personnel, and logistics). It covers all Web information technology items and Web sites, whether they are created/purchased in-house or off-site.

**Automated Scanning Tools**

DMA-PW recommends that client site managers utilize software tools (if any) recommended by their own organization’s 508 representatives to scan/sample content for 508 compliance. The client site managers should also be aware that they should forward accessibility complaints to their organization’s 508 lead.

DMA currently uses the University of Illinois Functional Accessibility Evaluator (FAE) 2.0 (free compliance scanning tool – <https://fae.disability.illinois.edu>) for DMA sites, since it was a tool that was previously used by the DoD-CIO at one time. However, there are many other software tools and service providers online. Listed below are some of the tools which were recommended by government organizations.

The GSA site recommended the free online tools:

1. [HiSoftware Cynthia Says Portal](http://www.cynthiasays.com/) - <http://www.cynthiasays.com>: This is joint education and outreach project of Cryptzone, ICDRI, and the Internet Society Disability and Special Needs Chapter. It provides clear instructions on what is non-compliant.
2. [Wave v 4.0](http://wave.webaim.org/) - <http://wave.webaim.org>: This is a tool developed by Web Accessibility In Mind, a non-profit organization based at the Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University. The tool provides markers pointing out issues and gives severity ratings.

**Automated Scanning Tools (continued)**

1. [FireEyes](http://www.deque.com/products/fireeyes/) - <http://www.deque.com/products/fireeyes>: This is a Web browser plug-in developed by Deque Products. It can be used on Firefox and Chrome. However, the aXe extension for these browsers does not have Color Contrast testing and SimulAT analysis.
2. [Tenon's free checker](https://tenon.io) - <https://tenon.io>: This browser add-on tests Web pages against the most common accessibility and usability errors.

One of the many paid tools used by government organizations is the IBM Rational Policy Tester 8.5 (Accessibility Module), which helps to ensure accessibility of websites to all users, including those accessing sites via assistive devices (e.g., used by Department of Veterans Affairs).

**Manual Verification Checklists**

We recommend performing a manual verification on any tool to verify whether all of the violations in the scan output really are violations. There are many manual verification compliance checklists available online. DMA-PW recommends the checklists that are on the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services 508 site:

* Adobe PDF Checklist: <http://www.hhs.gov/web/section-508/making-files-accessible/checklist/pdf/index.html>
* Microsoft Word Checklist: <http://www.hhs.gov/web/section-508/making-files-accessible/checklist/word/index.html>
* Microsoft Excel Checklist: <http://www.hhs.gov/web/section-508/making-files-accessible/checklist/excel/index.html>
* Microsoft PowerPoint Checklist: <http://www.hhs.gov/web/section-508/making-files-accessible/checklist/ppt/index.html>
* HTML Checklist: <http://www.hhs.gov/web/section-508/making-files-accessible/checklist/html/index.html>
* Multimedia File Checklist: <http://www.hhs.gov/web/section-508/making-files-accessible/checklist/multimeda/index.html>

**Useful Links**

* GSA Section 508 Training: <http://www.section508.gov/content/training>
* GSA Section 508 Laws/Policies: <https://www.section508.gov/content/learn/laws-and-policies>
* Buy Accessible Wizard: <http://app.buyaccessible.gov/baw/Main.jsp>
* US Access Board Guidelines/Standards: <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards>
* WCAG 2.0: <http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG>
* DoD Directive 8000.01: <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/800001p.pdf>
* DoD Manual 8400.01-M: <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/840001m.pdf>
* USD (AT&L) and DoD CIO Joint Memo: [http://dodcio.defense.gov/Portals/0/Documents/ Section%20508/Signed%20Sec%20508%20Memo%203-15-2012\_DoDCIO.pdf](http://dodcio.defense.gov/Portals/0/Documents/%20Section%20508/Signed%20Sec%20508%20Memo%203-15-2012_DoDCIO.pdf)
* Defense Acquisition Guidebook: <https://acc.dau.mil/CommunityBrowser.aspx?id=511634>
* Public Law 105-220, 29 U.S.C. § 794d; SEC. 508. Electronic and Information Technology: <http://www.access-board.gov/the-board/laws/rehabilitation-act-of-1973#508%20>