

State of Wisconsin Enterprise Standards for Information Technology

605 - Deployment of Accessible Pages on the World Wide Web

Standards

1. Agencies will develop Web sites to minimize barriers for persons with disabilities. Agencies will meet this requirement by conforming to (or exceeding) Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

For a good summary of the 16 points, see:

<http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/guide/1194.22.htm>

2. Agencies are encouraged to put this statement on all pages, as appropriate. This will demonstrate the State of Wisconsin's commitment to technology access for persons with disabilities.

“If you have trouble accessing this page, require this information in an alternative format or wish to request a reasonable accommodation because of a disability contact: [name].” Contact can be an agency contact or the Statewide Technology Access Coordinator.

3. Pages that are developed as part of a web-enabled application must not only comply with all requirements of this standard, but must also comply with standard 604 - Development of Accessible Applications. Web pages as an application interface are no different from screens in a traditional application. Accessibility remains a primary consideration and should be part of any project development cycle.

Timeline

Effective Date: December 1, 1997.

Revised effective: June 1, 2003.

Transition

All new development efforts begun after June 1, 2003, must conform with these standards.

Technical Considerations

The intent of these standards is to maximize productivity of all staff and maintain maximum access to government information by the public. These standards will have an impact on Web development in state government. However, the intent is to cause minimum delay in implementing critical web sites. These are the minimum accessibility requirements which Web sites must meet; agencies are encouraged to provide maximum accessibility.

Rationale

State of Wisconsin agencies are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. These laws require that people with disabilities have equal access to our programs and services. Electronic communication is a primary delivery method for programs and information, and we cannot provide an equal opportunity to people with disabilities if our electronic communication is inaccessible. In addition, Web sites developed with accessibility in mind are much more accessible by all users, not just those who use assistive technology.

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