

State of Nevada
Department of Administration
Enterprise IT Services Division – Enterprise Application Support

Development of a new ADA Compliance website

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Executive Summary

The goal is to create a new ADA Compliance website in our current Content Management System (CMS) that is collaboration between:

- Division of Information Technology (EITS) –Shannon Rahming, Alan Rogers, Kathy Comba, Linda M DeSantis
- Department of Administration – Division of Human Resource Management – Tammy Smith, LeAnn Easton
- Governor Sandoval’s Office – Mari St. Martin
- Division of Human Resources (HR) Micheal Shannon
- Nevada Center for Excellence and Disabilities – George Mckinlay
- Nevada Talking Book Services – Nevada State Library, Archives & Public Records (Brett Silver/Hope Williams)
- Any other agencies that will benefit from this endeavor (TBD)

During this process, we will be using the current Ektron templates. We will also be working directly with people with disabilities and/or people who are directly working to assist people with disabilities to help design a website that is ADA compliant for all.

This new ADA design will identify any color, contrast, techniques, readability, and web site functionality issues.

The site will pass all Section 508 WCAG 2.0 requirements and provide proven ADA techniques to meet the ADA compliance laws.

When completed, we will use this basic ADA website and lessons learned as the basis of creating the new design in our new CMS environment that we are planning to migrate to in the near future. We can also update the current Ektron environment so that all of the websites that live in that environment will be ADA Section 508 WCAG 2.0 also.

This collaborative effort will be ongoing by providing the Nevada the following:

- Bi-monthly newsletter where all collaborators can provide articles
- Social media
 - Blog
 - Twitter
 - Facebook

- List serve so we can communicate with our CMS users

History

In 2001, the Governor's office created an Executive Order stating all State of Nevada websites should be Section 508 compliant.

At that point, EITS was mandated to create templates, provide classes to all agencies, boards and departments in the state, and built a website to provide the users instructions on how to accomplish this task. The project ran over 6 months, and at the end all state sites were Section 508 compliant.

Problem

The problem was we did not have the tools or the authorization to ensure the agencies would keep their websites Section 508 compliant. In a very short time, most of the websites fell out of compliant and no additional effort was taken by the Governor's office.

Since then, EITS has made an effort to make websites Section 508 compliant again; however with free tools you can only validate & test one page at a time which is not very effective when we have 130+ websites and some of them have 1000+ pages of content and a very limited staff.

Solutions

A collaborative effort to build one standard site to model all other websites after. It will help us focus on one small site and get all of the kinks out instead of trying to deal with all of the websites at once.

Benefits

The state will be providing the same services to the disabled individual as to any other website user. This service will also protect the state from any legal action and our websites will be Section 508 WCAG 2.0 compliant. We will have the relationship/support and buy-in of the agencies that are part of this endeavor and the disabled community.

We can use this basic ADA website and lessons learned as the basis of creating the new design in our new CMS environment that we are planning to migrate to in the near future.

We can also update the current Ektron environment so that all of the websites that live in that environment will be ADA Section 508 WCAG 2.0 also.

Costs

No direct costs that I am aware of. Possible cost of tools, if determined they are needed.

Recommendations

Collaborate and build this ADA compliance website that will be the model to build into all other websites and templates and make the State of Nevada is Section 508 WCAG 2.0 compliant.

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