Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0

What's it all about?
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Handouts
- Links for electronic versions of Handouts are available on WAG website
  - Section 508 Checklist
  - WCAG 2.0 Checklist

University System of Georgia and Section 508 Compliance
- Board of Regents, University System of Georgia
  - Requires compliance with Section 508
  - Section 508 is U.S. Federal Law
  - Written by/for U.S. Federal Government
  - U.S. Department of Education has ruled
    - All states receive funding through Assistive Technology Act must comply with Section 508

Section 508 Standards
- Electronic and Information Technology (EIT)
  - “...must be equally accessible to people with and without disabilities.”
- 1194.21 Software applications and operating systems
- 1194.22 Web-based intranet and internet information and applications
- 1194.23 Telecommunications products
- 1194.24 Video and Multimedia products
- 1194.25 Self Contained, Closed Products
- 1194.26 Desktop and Portable Computers

Section 508 Refresh - underway
- Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998
  - Section 508 Standards published in 2000
  - Section 508 Refresh in final stages
  - Evenso, anticipated final rule and enforcement
  - 2014 ? 2015 ?

Section 508 Refresh – until finalized
- Comply with existing Section 508 Standards
- Begin implementing WCAG 2.0 International Guidelines

WCAG 2.0 in the U.S.
- Section 508 Refresh (Draft, as written)
- Harmonizes with WCAG 2.0 Levels A and AA
- USG BOR already endorses compliance with WCAG 2.0
- Higher Education Lawsuits and Civil Rights Complaints regarding inaccessible websites and web-based content
  - Remediation Plans require compliance with WCAG 2.0 Levels A and AA

### Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0
- International Accessibility Guidelines
  - Published by World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
  - WCAG 1.0 published in 1999
  - WCAG 2.0 published in 2008
  - Worldwide, governments are harmonizing with WCAG 2.0
    - New Zealand, UK, Asia, France, Japan, etc.
    - United States is expected to harmonize

### WCAG 2.0 (alone) – *not enough!*
- WCAG 2.0 = International Guidelines
- Section 508 = U.S. Federal Law
- Section 508 and Section 508 Refresh
  - Include more than web-based content
  - Procurement Polices
  - Links to 3rd Party Websites
  - Etc.

### WCAG 2.0 – P.O.U.R. 4 Principles of Web Accessibility
- Perceivable
- Operable
- Understandable
- Robust

### WCAG 2.0 for Website Accessibility
- 4 Principles
  - 12 Guidelines
    - 61 Success Criteria
      - *Level A + Level AA and Level AAA*
  - Documentation
    - How to Meet WCAG 2.0
    - Techniques
    - Understanding Success Criteria

### Important Concepts: Section 508 Refresh & WCAG 2.0
- Usable Accessibility
  - Functional vs. Technical Accessibility
Website may pass an accessibility checker, but is the content actually usable by the intended audience?

Example: **Technical ALT text**
- `<img src="234.jpg" alt="Logo">`
- Technical: accessibility requirement has been met through the use of ALT text
- Functional: Does the word “logo” fully convey the meaning or contents of this image?
- What is this a logo for?

Example: **Usable ALT text**
- `<img src="234.jpg" alt="University of Hawaii Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono">`
- Functional goes beyond merely meeting a technical requirement; actually usable by the website visitor.

Example: **Technical Descriptive Hyperlink**
- Get the Tax Form
- Get the Tax Form
- Get the Tax Form
- Get the Tax Form

Example: **Usable Descriptive Hyperlink**
- Form 1099-K
- Form 11-C
- Form 23
- Form 56

Quote from **World Wide Access**
- “If you can design a website, you can design an accessible one.”