

Publication Date: 1/5/2007

Web Site Monitoring and Web Accessibility

Author

Lew Newlin is CTO of [SiteRecon](#), a provider of internet [email monitoring](#) and [web site monitoring](#) services for business.

Abstract

Review of web accessibility and HTML standards compliance for sites that specialize in web site monitoring.

Article

Over the years, governments around the world have enacted laws, regulations, policies, directives, and procurement standards which all relate to web accessibility. Examples include the [Australian Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#), the [Canadian Human Rights Act of 1977](#), the [American with Disabilities \(ADA\) Section 508](#), and the [British Disability Discrimination Act](#) to name a few. The overarching goal is to make goods and service, including web sites, more accessible to people with disabilities.

Actions for non-compliance range from nothing, to lawsuits, to being barred from government procurements depending on the specific government standards. For example, in American government procurement official cannot make purchasing decisions without ADA Section 508 consideration.

Aside from the possible procurements and legal woes, it is always a good idea to make your site accessible to as broad an audience as possible and as compliant to HTML standards as possible.

The [World Wide Web Consortium \(W3C\)](#) views [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\)](#) Priority 1 (also referred to as A) compliance as the minimum standard all web sites must meet. Sites should be compliant with WCAG Priority 2 (also referred to as AA) standards, and sites may be compliant with Priority 3 (also referred to as AAA) standards. The increase in priority levels ensures additional persons with disabilities can correctly view your site. At a minimum all websites should pass Priority 1 validation testing to be compliant.

I decided to take a look at our sector, web site and email monitoring, to see how it met with United States standards. To test Priority 1 compliance, [W3C HTML](#) and [Watchfire WebXACT](#) validation tools were run against some of the highly ranked Google sites for the term "web site monitoring". The results were shocking to say the least.

Website	Web Content Accessibility Guidelines - Priority 1	W3C Validation
1st Warning	2 errors	52 errors
AlertBot	2 errors	157 errors
Alertra	Compliant	Compliant
AlertSite	2 errors	52 errors
Dot-com Monitor	1 error	219 errors
HostTracker	Redirect error	12 errors
InternetSeer	1 error	113 errors
Internetvista	1 error	26 errors
KillerSites	1 error	3 errors
Opentracker	1 error	79 errors
Pingdom	Compliant	11 errors
SiteRecon	Compliant	Compliant
Siteuptime	1 error	26 errors
WatchMouse	1 error	139 errors
Webmetrics	Compliant	18 errors
WebSitePulse	1 error	Compliant

(Click on the blue links to see individual results)

Alerta and SiteRecon were the only two companies that passed home page Watchfire WebXACT Priority 1 and W3C HTML validation tests. Alerta, SiteRecon, and WebSitePulse were the only three companies that passed home page W3C HTML validation tests.

Clearly the web site monitoring sector has some work to do. If your website does business with companies or government agencies that have web accessibility requirements, you may want to check your own site. While tweaking code to conform is not always easy, your site will be better prepared to compete and reach everyone. After all, the goal of all webmasters should be to reach as many people as possible.

Webmasters/Ezime Publishers

You are granted permission to re-publish this article on your website or publication. The only requirement is that you include the complete article, links, and byline.

Copyright 2007, Information Solutions, Inc., All rights reserved.