Implementing the Revised 508 Standards

Session LAW-001
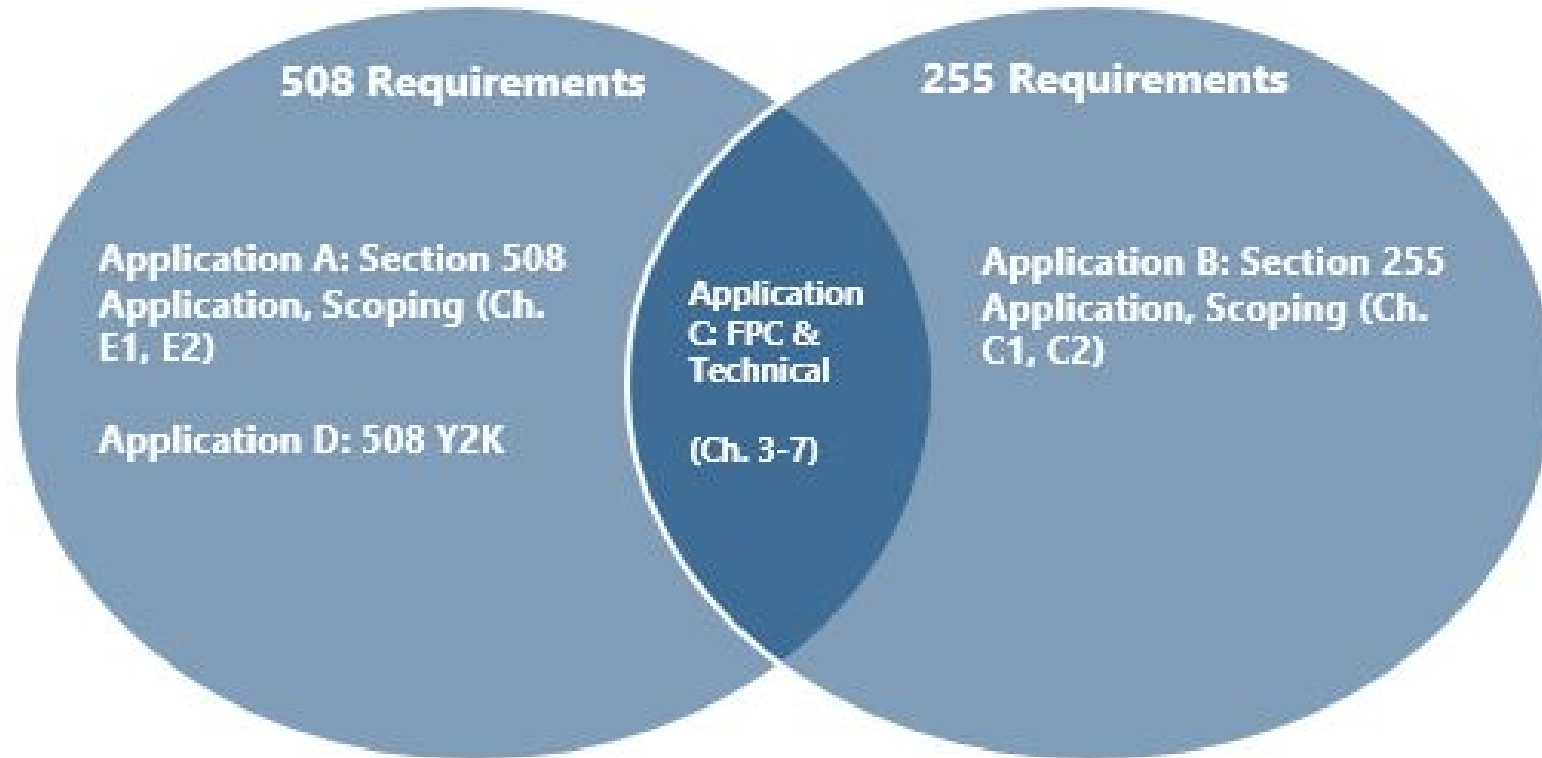
CSUN Assistive Technology Conference

March 22, 2018

Information & Communication Technology Standards & Guidelines: 36 CFR Part 1194

- **Combined** rulemaking under two separate statutory authorities (Section 508 and Section 255)
- **Appendix A (508):** Ch.1 Application and Administration; Ch. 2: Scoping
- **Appendix B (255):** Ch. 1 Application and Administration; Ch. 2: Scoping
- **Appendix C:** Ch. 3 Functional Performance Criteria, Ch. 4 Hardware, Ch. 5 Software, Ch. 6 Support Documentation/Services,
- Ch. 7 Referenced Standards
- **Appendix D:** EIT Accessibility Standards as Originally Published

Structure & Organization

How does the revised standards cover Section 508 and Section 255?

508 Requirements

255 Requirements

Application A: Section 508 Application, Scoping (Ch. E1, E2)

Application D: 508 Y2K

Application C: FPC & Technical

(Ch. 3-7)

Application B: Section 255 Application, Scoping (Ch. C1, C2)

Revised Section 508 Standards: Major Changes

- **International Standards Harmonization** - Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0.

- Clarifies guidelines for **public facing** and **non-public facing** websites, web applications, multimedia, software, electronic documents, and operating systems.

- Clarifies how **software** and **operating systems** need to work with assistive technology.

- **Addresses access** for people with cognitive, language, and learning disabilities.

- Provides **accessibility requirements** for modern hardware, software, and authoring tools.

- Clarifies guidance on **allowed exceptions.**

Application of WCAG 2.0

Level A and AA Success Criteria and Conformance Requirements applied to:

- Web content (e.g. online instructional materials)
- Covered non-Web documents (e.g. instructional materials)
- Software user interfaces (e.g. learning management systems)

Revised 508 Standards citations to WCAG 2.0:

- 508 Ch. 2: E205.4 Accessibility Standard (under E205 Electronic Content); E207.2 WCAG Conformance (under E207 Software)
- Ch. 5 Software: 504.2 Content Creation or Editing
- Ch. 6 Support Documentation/Services 602.3 Electronic Support Documentation

Covered Electronic Content/Communication

 E205.2 Public Facing: Electronic content that is public facing shall conform
- Public facing" is defined at E103.4

E205.3 Agency Official Communication (Electronic content that is not public-facing and in 1 of 9 categories)
- Exception for NARA Records
- An emergency notification
- An initial or final decision adjudicating an administrative claim or proceeding
- An internal or external program or policy announcement
- A notice of benefits, program eligibility, employment opportunity, or personnel action
- A formal acknowledgement of receipt
- A survey questionnaire
- A template or form
- Educational or training materials
- Intranet content designed as a Web page

New "Legacy ICT" Provision (E202.2)

"Existing ICT" and "Alteration" are defined in E103.4

Any component or portion of existing ICT that complies with an earlier standard issued pursuant to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), and that has not been altered on or after January 18, 2018, shall not be required to be modified to conform to the Revised 508 Standards.

Implementing the Revised Section 508 Standards
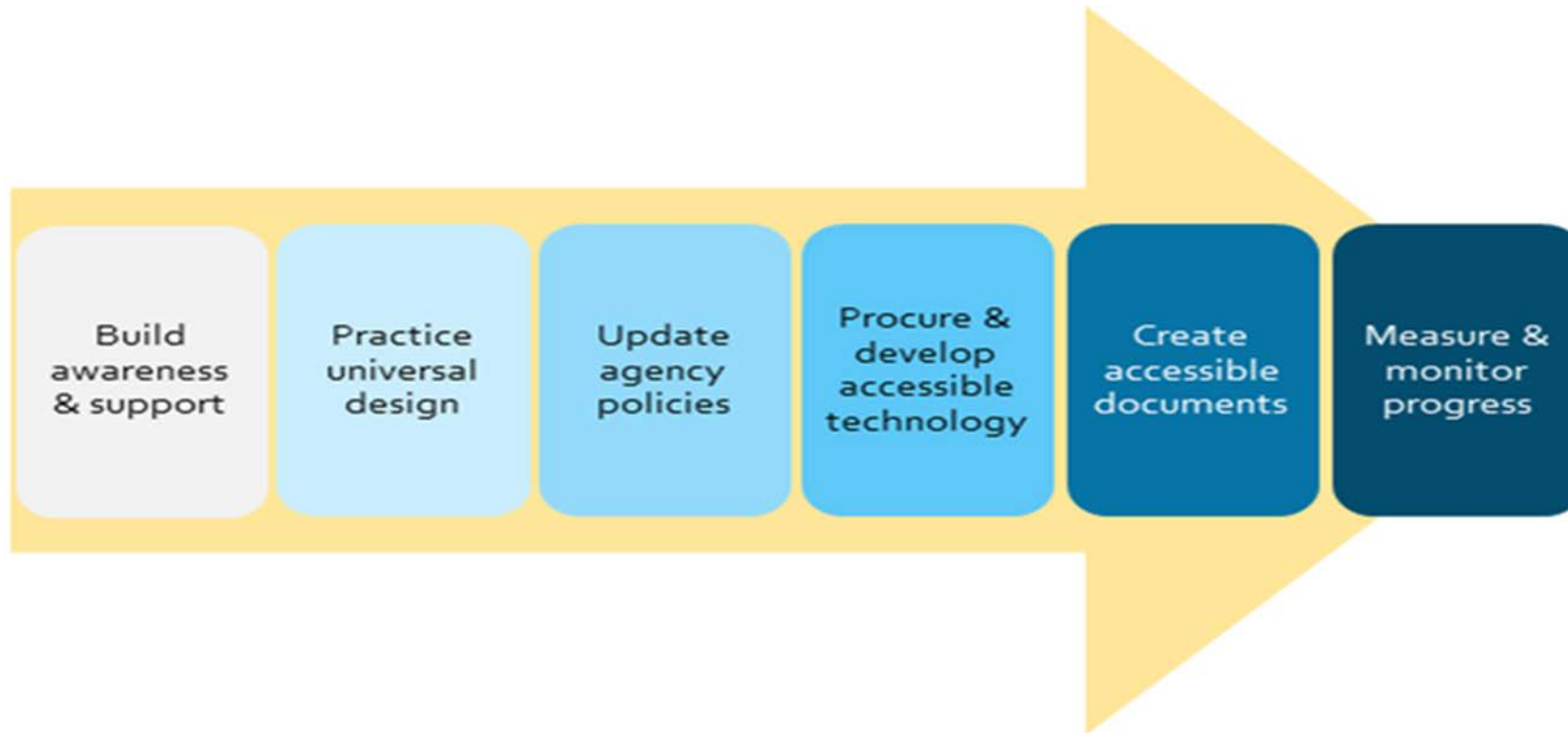
508 Toolkit & Technology Accessibility Playbook

Section 508 Toolkit - *Audience: Accessibility Program Managers*

- Where to get started from an accessibility program perspective
- Guidelines on building organizational support
- Policy Guidelines
- Acquisition Guidelines
- Developer and authoring resources
- Testing and Training resources
- https://www.section508.gov/refresh-toolkit

Technology Accessibility Playbook - *Audiences: Chief Information Officers, Chief Acquisition Officers, Accessibility Program Managers*

- Provides a framework for establishing and maturing an ICT accessibility program
- Consists of 12 plays focused on leadership, maturity basement, planning, life cycle integration, validation, training, and outreach
- Establishes clear action steps
- https://section508.gov/node/306

Trusted Tester Program

Audiences: ICT Accessibility Testers for web and software, Accessibility Program Managers

- Provides baseline tests and acceptance criteria
- Vetted through Federal CIO Council member agencies
- Version 4.0 partial WCAG conformance coverage
- Version 5.0 under development
- Tester Training & Certification Process
- https://section508.gov/refresh-toolkit/accessibility-testing

Tools, Training, Best Practices

Procurement: Automated Tools
- Accessibility Requirements Tool (ART) Release 1
- Solicitation Review Tool (SRT)

Online Training: Courses for Everyone
- Accessibility of ICT: Overview for Government Executives
- Section 508: What is It and Why is It Important to You?
- Micro-Purchases and Section 508 Requirements
- Technology Accessibility Playbook: How to Build an Effective Section 508 Program
- Procuring Section 508 Conformant ICT Products and Services

Technical Assistance: Policy and Best Practices
- Request Accessibility Information
- Revised 508 Standards Applicability Checklist
- How to Define Accessibility Provisions Clauses
- Transition Roadmap
- Accessibility Automated Error Checking (Digital Dashboard)

Accessibility Requirements Tool (ART)

Solicitation Requirements Tool (SRT)

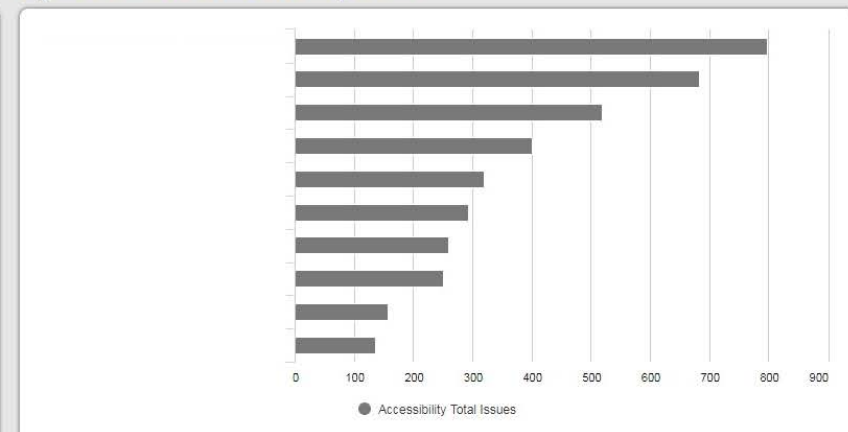# Website Accessibility Error Checking

Top Agencies with Average Total Accessibility Issues
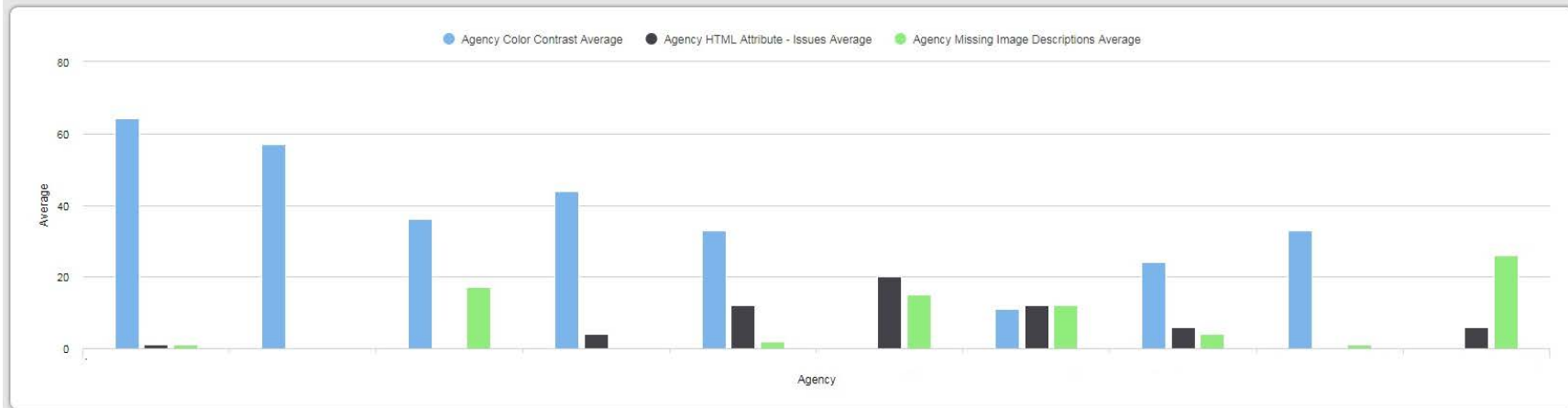
Government-Wide Accessibility by Issue Type
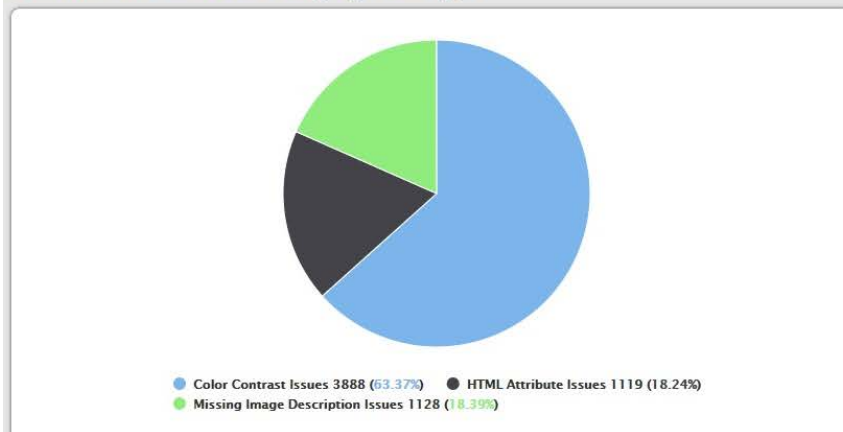
Agencies with Most Accessibility Issues

Section508.gov Toolkit

Questions? Contact us!

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