Accessible Technology Working Group (ATWG)

Supporting digital accessibility at Michigan Tech

Agenda

- ATWG team introductions
- Update on new Department of Justice (DoJ) ruling revising Title II of the ADA
- Discussion and guidance

ATWG History

- ATWG formed in early 2017
- Jeff (CTL), Amy (IT), Desiree(UMC), Eric (UMC)

What is Digital Accessibility?

The ability of a website, electronic document, or mobile application to be easily navigated and understood by a wide range of users, including those users who have visual, auditory, motor or cognitive disabilities.

Web and document accessibility (digital barriers)

Removing barriers that prevent access to information and functionality. A website or document is accessible when it can be easily understood and used by **everyone**, regardless of the browser, software and assistive technology used.

DoJ Final Ruling

- <u>New Rule</u> on the Accessibility of Web Content and Mobile Apps Provided by State and Local Governments published on April 24, 2024.

- Specific requirements about how to ensure that web content and mobile applications are accessible to people with disabilities (WCAG)

- MTU compliance date is April 24, 2026

Standard adopted in new rule

- WCAG Version 2.1 Level AA as the standard to meet the requirement of being "accessible" under the ADA

- WCAG 2.1, Level A consists of 30 success criteria, Level AA consists of 20 success criteria, and Level AAA consists of 38 success criteria. **To meet requirements of this rule, web content and mobile apps must conform to the 30 A and 20 AA success criteria**.

[1.15](link)-Accessible Information and Communication Technology Policy

The ATWG has developed several procedures in support of Policy 1.15

- Web accessibility procedures

- Document accessibility procedures

- ICT Procurement procedures

Web accessibility

- MTU has adopted <u>WCAG 2.1 A/AA</u> for conformance

- All university employees with edit access to the public website CMS must complete accessibility training

- Identified issues should be addressed based on procedure-defined timelines.

Web accessibility (important elements)

- Keyboard only access to elements (links, buttons, etc.)
- Proper heading structure

- Images with alternative text descriptions

- Descriptive link text

- Proper list structure

- Tables contain proper header information

- Color alone not used to convey meaning

- Color contrast ratios between foreground and background elements meet minimum standards (WCAG)

Web accessibility (linked documents)

- Documents posted on MTU public websites must be accessible to all visitors.

- Commonly these documents are PDF files, but can be Word, PowerPoint, Excel, etc.

- See <u>document accessibility procedures</u> for more information

Document accessibility (important elements)

- Proper heading structure

- Images with alternative text descriptions

- Descriptive link text

- Proper list structure

- Tables contain proper header information

- Color alone not used to convey meaning

- Color contrast ratios between foreground and background elements meet minimum standards (WCAG)

- Document title and language defined

Accessible ICT Procurement

- See <u>ICT Procurement Procedures</u>

- Solicit and review vendor Accessibility Conformance Reports (ACR) or Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT).

- Identify university impact of proposed ICT purchase

- Where necessary, create Equally Effective Alternative Access Plan (EEAAP) for purchased products with identified accessibility problems.

- Purchaser is responsible for addressing accessibility issues that arise due to the use of inaccessible ICT by university employees and/or students

Digital Accessibility Barrier Reporting form

- Access form from MTU's "<u>Report a Concern</u>"page.

Digital Accessibility Barrier

Report a barrier that impedes access for people with disabilities in the digital space including inaccessible websites, electronic documents, training materials, and course materials.

[Report a Digital Accessibility Barrier]

Process Information
- **Who receives this**: Michigan Tech Accessible Technology Working Group
- **Next steps:** The report will be reviewed and appropriate action will be taken.
- **Your involvement:** You may be contacted for more information.

Digital Barrier Reporting Form

Michigan Technological University provides equal opportunity for all employees, students, and members of the public, including those with disabilities, who access our services, programs, and activities. This includes providing equal access to university information and communication technologies (ICT) such as university systems, websites, electronic documents, and educational and training materials. In the event you encounter a digital barrier that impedes your access please complete and submit this Report a Digital Barrier form to the Accessible Technology Working Group (ATWG).

jetooron@mtu.edu <u>Switch account</u>

Not shared

* Indicates required question

Type of Digital Barrier (check items) *
- [ ] Website
- [ ] Document
- [ ] Instructional Materials
- [ ] Software
- [ ] Other: _____

Describe the digital barrier (include full website links to the digital barrier if applicable) *

Your answer

Training Resources

- ATWG website has <u>training resources</u> for accessible websites, documents, presentations, video, etc.

- Curated accessibility training resources from <u>LinkedIn Learning</u> available to all staff/faculty.

- <u>Get help</u> from the ATWG

Questions?