Oracle Accessibility Program

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Program Agenda

1. Overview of Accessibility
2. Oracle’s Accessibility Program
3. Conformance
4. FAQs
5. Conclusion
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Overview of Accessibility

Definition

Accessibility is about making user interfaces perceivable, operable, and understandable by people with a wide range of abilities.

Don’t look at my disability
Overview of Accessibility

What it means

• Making products work for users with...
  – visual impairments
  – hearing impairments
  – motor impairments
  – cognitive impairments

• Impairments may occur:
  – at birth
  – due to accident or illness
  – in certain situations
  – due to aging
Overview of Accessibility

AT: Assistive Technology

Any software or hardware that enables people to perform tasks that they were formerly unable to accomplish, or had great difficulty accomplishing.

Input (operate) → Output (perceive)
Overview of Accessibility

Procurement and Discrimination Laws

- Section 508
- ADA
- CVAA
- Section 504
- Section 503 (including 7% utilization goal)
- Each state, many counties and cities
- Executive Order 13548

- AODA
- ACA

- U.K. Equality Act
- Public Sector Bodies Accessibility Regulations
- BITV

- Mandate 376/EN 301 549
- European Accessibility Act
- Web Accessibility Directive

- Disability Discrimination Act

- United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities
  - 155 signatories; 127 ratifications
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“Oracle is committed to creating accessible technologies and products that enhance the overall workplace environment and contribute to the productivity of our employees, our customers, and our customers’ customers.”

– Safra Catz, Chief Executive Officer
Oracle’s Accessibility Program

The Accessibility Program Office

• Determines what standards Oracle products should follow
• Develops coding and testing guidelines
• Assists Development and Program Management with understanding the guidelines
  – Training classes, corporate wiki, forums, newsletters, videos
• Reviews and posts VPATs (accessibility conformance reports) to oracle.com/accessibility
• Engages with customers in pre- and post-sales situations
• Active member of standards bodies and regulatory processes:
  – TEITAC, W3C, ISO, JTC-1
Oracle’s Accessibility Program

Process
Oracle’s Accessibility Program

Design and Develop Checklists

• Prior to May 2013:
  – U.S. Section 508 and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 (WCAG 1.0)
  – Used WCAG 2.0 language where possible

• May 2013 through June 2017:
  – Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 AA (WCAG 2.0) and U.S. Section 508

• June 2017 to February 2020:
  – Revised U.S. Section 508 and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 AA (WCAG 2.0)

• February 2020:
  – Revised U.S. Section 508 and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 AA (WCAG 2.1)

• Each product team is developing a roadmap to make this transition
  – Corporate Accounting policies prevent us from disclosing exact plans and dates.
Oracle’s Accessibility Program

Testing

• We recommend several styles of tests:

  Algorithmic
  1. Automated Tests

  Human Judgment
  2. Tool-Assisted Tests
  3. Visual inspection
  4. Manual Operation

  With Assistive Technology
  5. By persons without a disability
  6. By persons with a disability
Oracle’s Accessibility Program

Documentation

• Must itself be accessible
• Include instructions for how to configure and use the product
• If it is an ‘authoring tool’, include instructions for how to use it to build accessible output
• Many Oracle products have an ‘Accessibility’ chapter in their reference manual, and some have a separate whitepaper.
Oracle’s Accessibility Program

Global Customer Support

• Accessibility defects prioritized just like any other defect
• Dedicated Accessibility Program Management within Support
• Subject Matter Experts trained on various AT
• Support Engineers engage with an Accessibility Engineer
• My Oracle Support website enhanced for accessibility
• Phone support is always available
Oracle’s Accessibility Program

Promoting Accessibility

• Collaboration with the National Federation of the Blind (NFB)
  – Sharing and review of standards
  – Presentations at Oracle Open World, Web Accessibility Day, and Train the Trainers
  – Sponsorship of Annual Convention, Junior Science Academy, and Youth Slam
  – Oracle Scholarship

• Member of Partnership on Employment and Accessible Technology (PEAT)

• Sponsor of Teach Access (teachaccess.org)

• Awareness Articles
  – Oracle Corporate Citizenship report
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Conformance

Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) / Accessibility Conformance Report (ACR)

- Industry-standard conformance report – the degree to which a product meets the Accessibility standards
  - Standard-by-standard remarks for what the product was tested for, and defects found (if any)
  - Allows purchasers to make informed choices based on their needs
  - Originally designed for Section 508, but readily adaptable to any standard
  - Learn more at ITI: Reporting Conformance to ICT Accessibility Standards: A practical approach to public and private sector ICT acquisitions.
Conformance

Oracle ACRs Based On The VPAT

• Posted to Product Status (ACRs)
• May list important exceptions and known defects
• One ACR may reference additional ACRs - reflects the complexity of enterprise-class applications
• If you cannot locate an ACR for a particular product, contact accessible_ww@oracle.com
Conformance

Product Accessibility is just one piece of the puzzle
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FAQS

• Are Oracle products certified with specific Assistive Technology?

Oracle does not certify products to run with any particular assistive technology or version. Oracle products are coded to standards, and are capable of providing comparable access to individuals with disabilities when they are used in accordance with Oracle's product documentation and provided that assistive technologies and other products used with them properly interoperate with our products.
FAQS

• Are custom products built with Oracle technology automatically accessible?

Oracle tools enable you to build accessible products, but you must follow the guidelines documented for each tool, and you must be aware of accessibility requirements in general. An accessible product requires proper design, coding and testing.
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Conclusion

• Oracle is committed to creating accessible products and technologies
• Oracle develops to standards – Revised U. S. Section 508 and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA
• We use the ACR to indicate the degree of conformance
• Learn more at www.oracle.com/accessibility
  – ACRs
  – Policies
  – Whitepapers
  – Videos
Hardware and Software
Engineered to Work Together