Website Accessibility Plan

18 October 2024

In meeting #170 in April 2023, the Internet Society Board of Trustees passed Resolution 2023-8 on Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities. The resolution stated in part:

> *Further resolved that the President and CEO shall develop, or cause to be developed, a plan for ISOC to achieve and maintain at least AA level compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines ("WCAG") for ISOC's websites, applications, and content. To the extent in use, the legacy websites, applications and content would also be brought to the same standards as deemed reasonable, practical, and commensurate with the goal of benefiting the disability community. The President and CEO shall also be provided with such funds and resources as the President and CEO deems necessary to achieve such plan;*

This document outlines the plan for Internet Society-related websites to achieve and maintain at least AA level compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).

1. Overview

In general, it is the Internet Society's intention to make all its content and systems available under the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.1 or later, with a strong preference for conformance to version 2.2. Updating to future versions beyond 2.2 will be evaluated when those versions are stabilized. In all cases, success criteria conformance shall be at level AA. There are some caveats to this general intent, discussed below.

2. New Content or Systems

New content and sites that are deployed or made available by Internet Society or Internet Society Foundation are *required* to be designed to comply with WCAG AA version 2.1 or later. If a proposed new system does not comply, there must be a clear timeline for when the system will become compliant.

3. Existing Content or Systems

Existing content and systems of Internet Society and Internet Society Foundation that do not conform *should* be brought into conformance, prioritized according to both feasibility of conformance and the importance of the content or system compared to other priorities. (See Appendix)

4. Training

All staff who are creating content to Internet Society / Foundation websites will receive appropriate training to understand the steps that must be taken to ensure ongoing compliance (ex. adding ALT attributes to all uploaded images).

5. Auditing

In order to maintain compliance, the primary Internet Society / Foundation websites will be audited annually to determine the current level of compliance. Issues identified in the audits will then be queued for resolution based on priorities and budget/resources. Legacy websites will be audited on a less-frequent basis, determined in part by the amount of ongoing changes or lack thereof. It is recommended that audits be performed by organizations with specialized testing expertise, such as those certified by the International Association of Accessibility Professionals.

6. Timeline

Elements of this plan, such as design requirements and auditing, are already underway. Training programs will begin in 2025 as part of the Accessibility Operational Framework.

Appendix 1: Evaluating Legacy Websites

To determine whether conformance is feasible, the person evaluating a legacy website or legacy content contained on a primary website should consider factors such as the availability of the original source material, the license under which it was made available, the suitability of the original content's choices for processing into a conforming format, and so forth.

To determine importance, an evaluator should consider factors such as how old the content is, its current relevance to the Internet Society or Internet users more generally, how frequently the content is accessed, whether it is somehow foundational to other content, and so forth.

It is important to note that these factors are independent variables: content could be important but difficult to be made accessible (e.g. a low-quality page scan of an old document not suitable for OCR), and therefore not feasible to make accessible. It could also be material that is unimportant to achieving the mission of the Internet Society (e.g. rarely-accessed content that has become obsolete) so that, even though it would be trivial to make accessible (e.g. by producing an HTML document from available source material as opposed to only offering a PDF with poor support for people who use screen readers), the benefit would not reward the effort.

Imperfections in representation of the original content may be acceptable in the context of making older content accessible. In particular, automatic processing of materials that were originally intended to be presented for printing can sometimes introduce artifacts or remove content that was in the original. This plan does not provide a clear rule about when such introductions or removals cross the threshold into making accessibility of the content infeasible. Such decisions must be made on a case by case basis.

Appendix 2: Internet Society Websites (October 2024)

Primary Internet Society Websites

These sites are controlled by the Internet Society and are subject to this plan.

- www.internetsociety.org
- www.isocfoundation.org
- pulse.internetsociety.org
- www.internethalloffame.org
- wp.apps.internetsociety.org
- donate.internetsociety.org
- www.globalencryption.org
- www.ndss-symposium.org

Internet Society Websites Operated by Other Entities

These sites use large system / hosting providers where the Internet Society has little ability to affect change. Any identified issues will be raised with the provider, but resolution is not under the control of the Internet Society.

- community.internetsociety.org
- learning.internetsociety.org
- assets.internetsociety.org

Legacy Internet Society Websites

These are older sites that are rarely (or never) updated, or experimental sites (ex. news). They will be evaluated as outlined in Appendix 1.

- [Internet Technical Advisory Council (ITAC)](#)
- [Internet Technical Collaboration Group](#)
- news.internetsociety.org
- www.networktimesecurity.org
- www.dnssec-deployment.org