

Engineering Accessible Design



May 10, 2005
at the World Wide Web Conference (WWW2005)
Chiba, Japan

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Forward

Previous engineering approaches seem to have precluded the engineering of accessible systems. This is plainly unsatisfactory. Designers, authors, and technologists are at present playing 'catch-up' with a continually moving target in an attempt to retrofit systems. In-fact engineering accessible interfaces is as important as their functionality's and should be an indivisible part of the development. We should be engineering accessibility as part of the development and not as afterthought or because government restrictions and civil law requires us to. These proceedings bring together a cross section of the web design and engineering communities. The papers included here report on developments, discuss the issues, and suggest cross-pollinated solutions.

Conventional workshops on accessibility tend to be single disciplinary in nature. However, we are concerned that this focus on a single participant group prevents the cross-pollination of ideas, needs, and technologies from other related but separate fields. As with the first, this second workshop is decidedly cross disciplinary in nature and brings together users, accessibility experts, graphic designers, and technologists from academia and industry to discuss how accessibility can be supported. We also encourage the participation of users and other interested parties as an additional balance to the discussion. Our aim is to focus on accessibility by encouraging participation from many disciplines. Views often bridge academia, commerce, and industry and arguments encompass a range of beliefs across the design-accessibility spectrum.

Many people contributed to the success of the program. We would like to thank the programme committee for their exceptional work and dedication in the review process. We would also like to thank the authors for their excellent work and delegates for their participation. Finally, we would like to thank our supporters: ACM SIGACCESS; ACM SIGWEB; Continental Airlines; and the Zakon Group.

It's our sincere hope that the W4A will continue to provide an excellent forum for researchers and practitioners of the accessibility and design communities to exchange ideas and to help grow this community together. We hope you all find this workshop useful, memorable, and above all, good fun!

**Simon Harper
Yeliz Yesilada
Carole Goble**

May 2005

Workshop Chairs

The International Cross-Disciplinary Workshop on Web Accessibility 2005 (W4A) was organised as a workshop within the Fourteenth International World Wide Web Conference (WWW2005). It was held on the 10th May 2005 in Chiba, Japan.

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ACM's Special Interest Group on Accessible Computing, SIGACCESS, promotes the interests of professionals working on research and development of computing and information technology to help persons with disabilities. The SIG membership (from both academia and industry) focuses on the application of technologies to serve the needs of persons with vision, motor, hearing, and speech impairments; cognitive limitations, including learning disabilities; and issues of ageing. Topics on advanced technologies, assistive technologies, and design form the core of the research topics. The SIG also strives to educate the public to support careers for disabled persons.



ACM SIGWEB

SIGWEB supports the multi-disciplinary field of hypertext and hypermedia, facilitating its application both on the World-Wide Web and also in independent, distributed and stand-alone environments. It provides a forum for the promotion, dissemination, and exchange of ideas concerning research and applications among scientists, systems designers and end-users. In addition to the established Web and Hypertext themes, the SIG is actively exploring ideas at the intersection of hypermedia and Digital Libraries, Software Engineering and the Humanities.



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Zakon Group

Zakon Group is a technology consultancy and solutions provider that brings together the right mix of technology, experience, knowledge, and innovation for clients ranging from small businesses to multinational organizations. Our projects are quite diverse and include: Design and integration of the highest WiFi network in the eastern United States; Rent-a-CTO management services to non-profit organizations; Hosting and management of 10M+ hits/month Web sites; Development of the OpenConf conference management system in use by conferences worldwide. We pride ourselves in delivering services and solutions that are not only customer-centric, on-time, reliable, creative, and effective, but also accessible.

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