Accessibility in EdTech: How Do Your Products Rate?
March 13, 2024
Hosted in partnership with:

NWHeat
Welcome!

- Slides can be downloaded via the link in chat.
- Please use the Question box for questions and Chat for other information exchange.
- Slides, recording, and shared resources will be emailed to attendees.

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Speakers

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Vice President for Accessibility, Equity & Inclusion
University of Phoenix

Kelly Hoyland
Director, Higher Education Programs
1EdTech
Who is 1EdTech?

A uniquely effective collaboration:

- A trusted network of leading organizations and individuals
- Foundation and assurance of an open, trusted and innovative edtech ecosystem
- Leadership and investment across boundaries
- A sustainable force multiplier for every member and all of edtech
The ecosystem we are shaping

- **Open:** Connectivity based on open standards as the first option; choice enabling
- **Trusted:** Safe, transparent, verifiable, engendering lasting partnerships
- **Innovative:** Catalyzing advancements in education and digital learning
Accessibility means...

A person with a disability is afforded the opportunity to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions and enjoy the same services as a person without a disability in an equally integrated manner with substantially equivalent ease of use.

US Department of Education,
Office for Civil Rights
Why Accessibility Vetting Matters

Accessibility is a journey, not a destination
• Ensure equal access to educational technology
• Promote inclusivity and diversity in education
• Share expertise among accessibility professionals and influence the market
The Who: TrustEd Apps Accessibility Task Force

• Higher Education and K-12 members meet along with the edtech suppliers
• Development of a rubric for assessing accessibility policies and programs by edtech vendors and products, for inclusion in the TrustEd Apps program
• Chair: Kelly Hermann, University of Phoenix
Main Purpose of the Rubric

• Leverage accessibility expertise across 1EdTech member organizations.
• Provide a common framework for discussions and evaluating tools with tool providers and suppliers about accessibility.
• Supplement legislated requirements and/or accessibility conformance documentation.

What it is not:
Not a replacement for legislated requirements or accessibility conformance documentation, nor legal advice.
What problem does the rubric solve?

The rubric helps institutions:

• Evaluate important non-technical aspects of accessibility that should impact a purchasing decision.

• Leverage the accessibility expertise of the 1Ed Tech member community, if the institution does not have accessibility experts on staff

• Provides standard information that many institutions ask for by consolidating it in one place.

Suppliers: Build trust
The What: Trusted Apps Accessibility Rubric

A self-evaluation tool about the accessibility of a product and its organization’s commitment to accessibility.

• Self-evaluation with task force review to ensure accuracy and thoroughness
• Help member organizations manage their accessibility vetting process
• Encourage suppliers to develop organizational maturity
• Enable accessible edtech tools for all learners
# VPAT, ACR, & the Rubric - What’s the difference?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument Name</th>
<th>Description/Purpose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VPAT® Voluntary Product Accessibility Template</td>
<td>A format to explain how products meet the <a href="https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/it/equipment-and-vendor-accessibility/508-standard">Revised 508 Standards for IT accessibility</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility Conformance Report</td>
<td>Demonstrates how a product meets the Section 508 Technical Standards. The VPAT can be used to create the ACR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1EdTech Accessibility Rubric</td>
<td>A common framework for discussions with suppliers’ accessibility practices. Includes VPAT/ACR reports information, and questions about design cycles, testing, documentation and staff qualifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educause HECVAT</td>
<td>A framework designed to measure vendor risk associated with PII. It includes a small section on accessibility.</td>
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Rubric Categories

- Information and Documentation
- Procurement Process and Communication
- Accessibility Conformance
- Alternatives and Accommodations
# Rubric Scoring: Maturity Scale

Max Score: 34 points
- Emerging: 1-10
- Advancing: 11-21
- Optimized: 22+

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM # Description</th>
<th>Other Accessibility Vetting Efforts</th>
<th>Score +2</th>
<th>Score +1</th>
<th>Score 0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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[Table showing the scoring rubric]
In Practice

• Suppliers conduct self-evaluations of their accessibility posture using the rubric
• 1EdTech provides a quality assurance check, prior to publishing
• Members can provide feedback on the completed rubric through an email link which will be directed to the appropriate 1EdTech contact
• Submissions are available to member institutions
Exploring Partnerships & Collaborations

- EDUCAUSE
- Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights
- CAST/CITES (Center for Inclusive Technology & Educational Systems)
- Teach Access
What can you do?

Promote use of the rubric

• Rubric is posted to website and viewable by anyone
  • Completed rubrics are only available to 1EdTech Members

• Encourage suppliers to complete the rubric
  • 1EdTech membership is required to have it published in the directory

Are you already a member?

• Check to see if you are a member: https://site.imsglobal.org/membership/members

• Learn more about 1EdTech membership: https://www.1edtech.org/about/membership/hed
Questions from the Audience
Contact Information

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Additional Information and Resources

The webcast recording and additional resources will be available in the next week: wcet.wiche.edu/events/webcasts.
Learn more and stay connected:

Visit [wcet.wiche.edu](http://wcet.wiche.edu) to explore our Policy and Practice work, Events, Membership, and Sponsorship.

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*WCET is the leader in the practice, policy & advocacy of digital learning in higher education.*
Learn more about our webcast partner:

Upcoming WCET Events

Learn more and register: wcet.wiche.edu/events

• Seismic Shifts in Distance Ed Regulations: Gauging Department of Education Rulemaking – March 20, 1:00 MT

• AI Ethics, Governance, Policy, and Practice in Higher Education: A Strategic Webcast for Leaders and Practitioners – April 4, Noon MT
Join us for a WCET and SAN special event:

Distance Ed at a Crossroads: The Changing Landscape of New Regulations
July 30-31, 2024 | St. Louis, Missouri
Submit Your Session Idea for the WCET Annual Meeting

Deadline: Tuesday, April 2

bit.ly/WCET2024proposals

Join us October 8-10 in Long Beach, CA!
Thank you

Learn more about our annual sponsors: wcet.wiche.edu/sponsorship/wcet-sponsors
Supporting members make an additional investment and support WCET’s mission to advance the effective use of technology for teaching and learning.
Thank you for attending!

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