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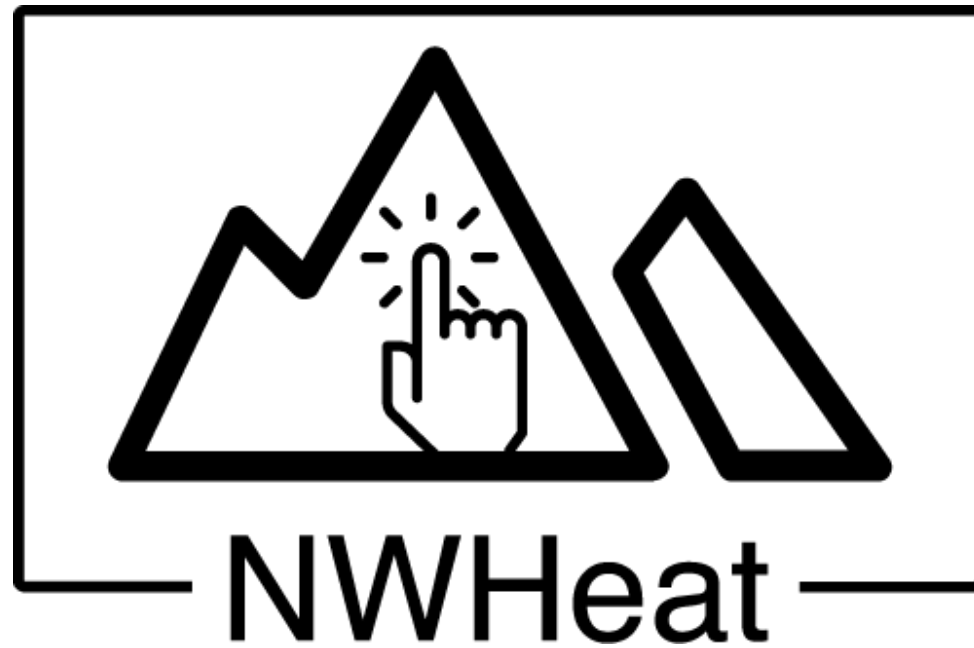
Webcast

Accessibility in EdTech: How Do Your Products Rate?

March 13, 2024



Hosted in partnership with:





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



Kelly Hermann

Vice President for Accessibility,
Equity & Inclusion
University of Phoenix



Kelly Hoyland

Director, Higher Education
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Who is 1EdTech?

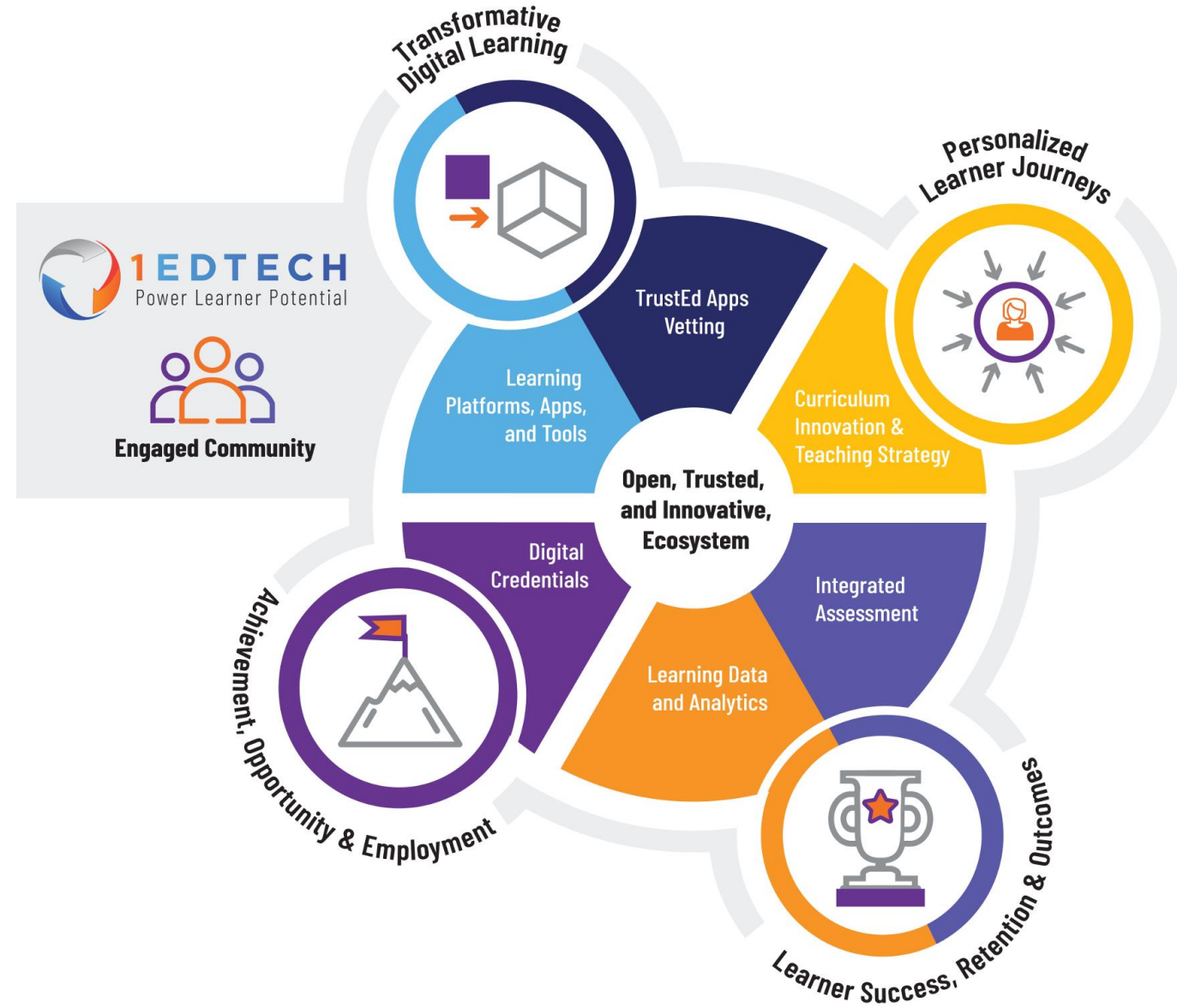
A uniquely effective collaboration:

- 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



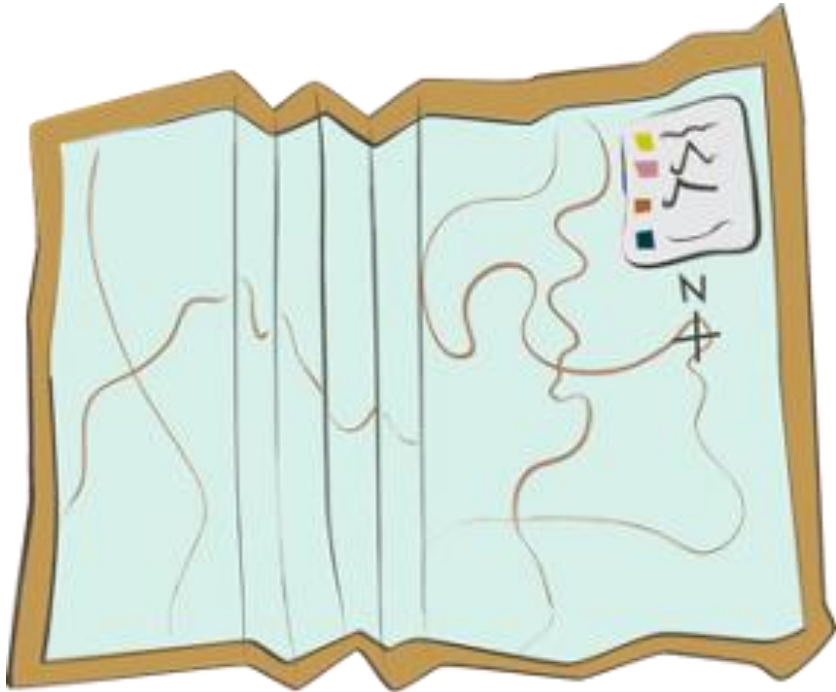
Accessibility means...

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?

Instrument Name	Description/Purpose
VPAT® Voluntary Product Accessibility Template	A format to explain how products meet the <u>Revised 508 Standards for IT accessibility</u> .
Accessibility Conformance Report	Demonstrates how a product meets the Section 508 Technical Standards. The VPAT can be used to create the ACR.
1EdTech Accessibility Rubric	A common framework for discussions with suppliers' accessibility practices. Includes VPAT/ACR reports information, and questions about design cycles, testing, documentation and staff qualifications
Educause HECVAT	A framework designed to measure vendor risk associated with PII. It <u>includes a small section on accessibility</u> .

Rubric Categories

- Information and Documentation
- Procurement Process and Communication
- Accessibility Conformance
- Alternatives and Accommodations

Accessibility Rubric Results: Optimized

Rubric Area	Expectations		
	OPTIMIZED	ADVANCING	EMERGING
GENERAL			
GEN1 - How are changes to key policies managed? <small>ANSWER: Notification is provided to the user in advance of a change</small>	✗	⚠	✗
INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION			
D1 - Does the supplier have a publicly available statement regarding accessibility? <small>ANSWER: Supplier has a comprehensive statement that includes identification of a standard and associated conformance documentation. Statement may also include information about accessibility development and conformance testing conducted by the supplier, including compatibility with assistive technology.</small>	✓	✗	✗
D2 - Does the supplier provide accessibility conformance documentation? <small>ANSWER: Accessibility conformance report (a completed VPAT) has comprehensive detail about how the criteria are met. May also provide information about alternative access options if needed.</small>	✓	✗	✗
D3 - Are the documents shared by the supplier accessible? <small>ANSWER: Fully accessible documents.</small>	✓	✗	✗
D4 - How long ago was the accessibility conformance documentation completed and/or updated? <small>ANSWER: Less than 12 months prior to the completion date of the rubric.</small>	✓	✗	✗
D5 - Does the supplier have a documented roadmap for accessibility improvements and enhancements? <small>ANSWER: Minimal information about planned accessibility improvements and enhancements.</small>	✗	⚠	✗
PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND COMMUNICATION			
P1 - Does the supplier provide a demonstration of accessibility (features) as part of the sales process? <small>ANSWER: Led by accessibility and/or technical staff; deep dive that includes discussion of conformance testing (including significant detail) and compatibility with commonly used assistive technology.</small>	✓	✗	✗
P2 - How are accessibility gaps identified? <small>ANSWER: There is a comprehensive strategy employed by the supplier to include qualified accessibility professionals, native users of assistive technology, third party accessibility consultants and others to reflect a variety of experiences.</small>	✓	✗	✗

ITEM # Description	Other Accessibility Vetting Efforts	Score +2	Score +1	Score 0
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Rubric Scoring: Maturity Scale

Max Score: 34 points

- Emerging: 1-10
- Advancing: 11-21
- Optimized: 22+

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.msglobal.org/membership/members>
- Learn more about 1EdTech membership:
<https://www.1edtech.org/about/membership/hed>



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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 to explore our Policy and Practice work, Events, Membership, and Sponsorship.

Learn more about the benefits of joining our community:
wcet.wiche.edu/join-us

WCET is the leader in the practice, policy & advocacy of digital learning in higher education.

Community

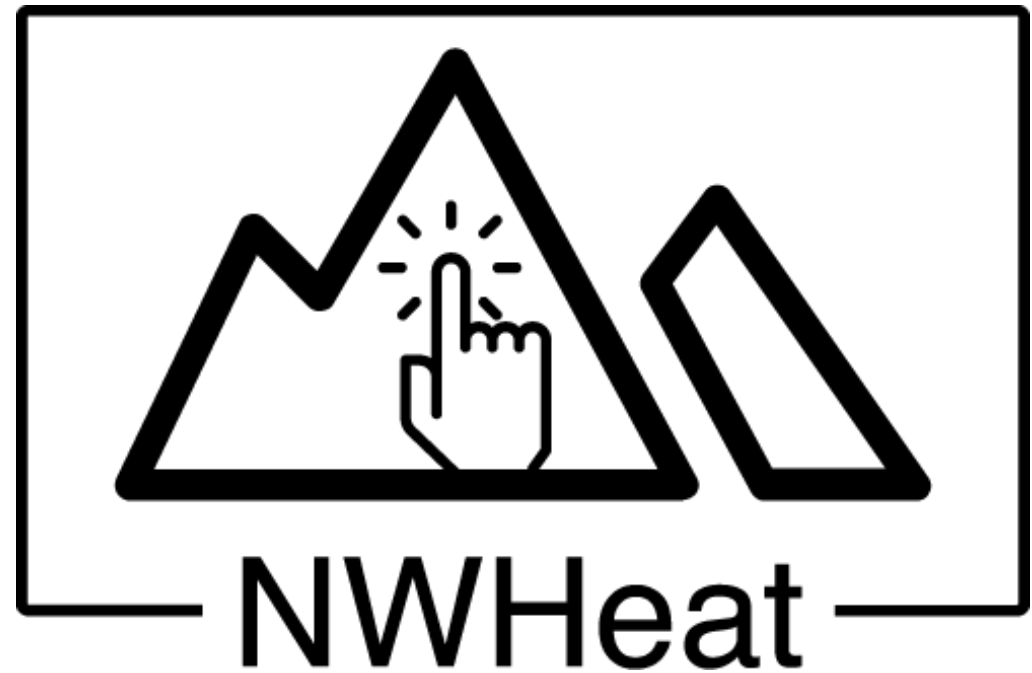
Equity

Policy

Practice

Learn more about our webcast partner:

Northwest Higher Education
Accessibility Technology Group
(NWHeat) – nwheat.org.



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

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Thank you for attending!

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