

ROSS SAMPSON CONSULTING

Additional Information on Accessible Web Services

If your company supplies software or hardware to any U. S. government agencies, you are probably familiar with the *Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards* or U.S. Federal Government Section 508 Guidelines, which have recently become enforceable. This standard describes features that will improve accessibility for persons with disabilities, and must be incorporated in the design of products procured by “any Federal department or agency, including the United States Postal Service.” Read more about the standards at => <http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/508standards.htm>

The document above lists another interesting fact, “Based on Bureau of Census statistics from 1994, 20.6 percent or 54 million persons in the United States have some level of disability.” From a business standpoint, it makes sense to include access-facilitating features, especially in Web sites that have the ability to reach many potential customers. Ross Sampson Consulting incorporates the Accessibility Standards in all new Web pages and Web-based applications we develop. If you have an existing Web site that may not be accessible, we offer an Accessibility Analysis service with a report of compliance suggestions you can implement to increase your Web audience. We can also re-design your Web site for you, adding accessibility compliance and the new features you desire - your Web software can stay current with Accessibility Standards without the expense of a full-time Access Compliance Officer.

You control the level of commitment:

- For new Website Development or existing Website Re-development – contracts are on either a “project” basis with a negotiated payment schedule, or a “consulting” (hourly) basis. A project starts when we begin collecting requirements and ends when the new site pages are published to your ISP (available for public viewing). Consulting contracts work well for tasks, or “partial development” such as an Accessibility Analysis or revisions for Accessibility compliance, respectively.
- For on-going Website Revisions and Support – contracts are on either a “consulting” basis or on a “retainer” (maintenance) basis. The retainer option may provide more flexibility if your site requires regular or frequent updates, such as: weekly sales ads, unscheduled corporate announcements, product offering changes, or seasonal content updates.

What to expect:

Website Development or Re-development - Ross Sampson Consulting develops accessible Web sites to your specific requirements. We follow an adapted Software Development Lifecycle model for all Web site projects. The phases include:

- Project Analysis – requirements acquisition to establish scope and draft specifications (T).
- Preliminary Design Documentation – site layout and page mockups for the development to follow (T).
- Application Development – HTML and CSS file creation (to Web Accessibility compliance parameters), JavaScript coding if required for site functionality.
- Testing – thorough page navigation and link testing, site content proofing and verification, problem report analysis and correction (T).
- Delivery & Acceptance – documentation to customer, support with your acceptance testing, completed pages published to ISP (T).

(T) – Customer Touchpoints, to verify the project specifications and progress agree with requirements

Website Revisions and Support - Temporary or on-going support, as a piece of your project. We can provide an analysis of your site’s accessibility and suggestions for access improvement, content updates, and additional site capabilities.

Ross Sampson Consulting is ready to be your Accessible Web resource, supplying experienced professionals to supplement your workforce. Please contact us for information specific to your next Web project and our availability.

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