

508 Compliant Does Not Mean Usable

Abstract

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 created regulations that govern the intersection of Education, Employment, and Disability Rights. In the following decades, the advent of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and updates to Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation act added mandates but very little guidance as to how they are to be actually implemented. As more and more technology proliferates the workplace, assistive technology is utilized to provide access for people with all types and degrees of disabilities. Unfortunately, the intersection of where efficiency and productivity intersects with these technologies tends to fall on the IT professionals. This Tech talk will discuss how IT professionals can save time money and valuable resources in the implementation and maintenance of assistive technology on IT recourses.

Speaker Bio:

Mr. Martin has had a long and diverse working background. He has multiple engineering degrees and a degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Engineering Psychology. He has been a practicing rehabilitation engineer for the past twenty years and was last employed on staff at the Veterans Administration Research and Development Center of Excellence for Aging Veterans with Vision loss as a Research Health Scientist. He currently is a graduate student at Georgia Tech in the first years of his PHD studies. His pursuits have led to a Master's degree in Human Computer Interaction and will culminate with his dissertation research work in the field of Human Centered Computing. He also is a retired Paralympian who competed in 1996, 2000, and 2004 in track and field in the pentathlon and discus throw.