

20th International World Wide Web Conference
Hyderabad, India, March 30th, 2011
W3C Track Day
Room is H-01
16h.30 – 18h.00

**Web Sites Accessibility Evaluation Methodologies:
A New Imperative for State Parties to the Convention on the
Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Background:

While web accessibility principles and guidelines have already become well known and been adopted by many countries, measuring the accessibility of web sites for users living with different types of disabilities remains a complex endeavor subject to a number of possible methodological challenges. Yet, with web accessibility policies and programs increasingly implemented around the world as a result of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (98 countries representing over 75% of the world population), policy makers, organizations of persons with disabilities, web site owners and courts when legal action is taken will inevitably need to rely on well-defined evaluation methodologies and benchmarks.

The panel, which will take place during the first day of the W3C Track with focus on web accessibility and discuss current accessibility evaluation methodologies and their challenges, policy makers requirements, current plans of the W3C-WAI, and practical technical survey methodologies alternatives.

Panelists will include: Glenda Sims(Deque Systems), ShadiAbouZahra (W3C-WAI), Neeta Verma (National Informatics Centre, Government of India), NirmitaNarasimhan (Center for Internet and Society), and SrinivasuChakravarthula (Yahoo! India).

Co-organizers: W3C-WAI, G3ict, CIS.

Duration: 90 minutes.

Moderator:NirmitaNarasimhan, Program Manager, CIS and Editor, G3ict – ITU Policy Toolkit Handbook

Panel Agenda:

Introduction: Nirmita Narasimhan, Program Manager, CIS and Editor, G3ict – ITU Policy Toolkit Handbook will welcome participants on behalf of co-organizers CIS, G3ict and W3C, introduces speakers and topics:

1. **Nirmita Narasimhan** will share G3ict's perspective on the CRPD and its global impact as well as the legislative, regulatory and judicial requirements for a reliable evaluation methodology of web accessibility
2. **Shadi Abou Zahra** will describe the work of W3C-WAI in this domain, and discuss the multiple tools available, methodological challenges and future work currently planned
3. **Glenda Sims, Senior Accessibility Consultant** will present Deque's experience and the technical details of evaluating and testing enterprise level websites, comparing methodologies and suggesting solutions to establish guidelines
4. **Srinivasu Chakravarthula**, Accessibility Manager at Yahoo! India, member of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) India's National Advisory Board and of the NASSCOM's Disability Working Committee, will present industry's perspectives and the need to rely on clear accessibility benchmarks.
5. **Neeta Verma**, Senior Technical Director, Data Centre & Web Services Division, National Informatics Centre will discuss web accessibility assessment methodologies from an e-governance standpoint.
6. **Q&As** among panelists and the audience

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