MINNESOTA IT SERVICES

Save the date: Global Accessibility Day is May 19!

May 19 is Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD). We celebrate GAAD to get everyone talking, thinking, and learning about digital accessibility and inclusion. Minnesota IT Services' (MNIT's) Office of Accessibility is hosting a series of short virtual presentations for State of Minnesota employees who buy technology, create documents or web content/applications, or are involved with projects that have a digital component.

The presentations will showcase the value of accessibility, and how accessibility improvements drive more inclusion. Minnesota created its digital accessibility standard using Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0. The Office of Accessibility is investigating how to adopt the next generation of these standards – WCAG 2.1. Sessions throughout the day will introduce what WCAG 2.1 adoption may look like for the State of Minnesota.

Join sessions throughout the day to learn how accessibility can improve how you serve Minnesotans. The sessions will take place on Microsoft Teams. You can find more information about each session below.

ASL and CART captioning will be provided. If you have questions about the event, please contact MNIT's Office of Accessibility. If you have additional accommodation requests, reach out to the Office of Accessibility by May 5.

Session 1: Introduction to accessibility standards

Who should attend?

A person who wants to learn more about the digital accessibility work done at the state of Minnesota.

What will be covered?

- Accessibility as a key component of Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI).
- How WCAG 2.1 will help people with disabilities access more digital information.
- How you might incorporate WCAG 2.1 in your work.

When is it?

Thursday, May 19, from 8:30-9 a.m. Join the Session 1 Teams Meeting.

Session 2: End user impact of accessibility standards

Who should attend?

A person who wants to understand how a person with disabilities navigates technology.

What will be covered?

- Lived experiences of people with disabilities are the most powerful ways to learn why accessible matters. Hear the first-hand experiences of individuals with a variety of disabilities and how digital accessibility impacts their professional and personal lives.
- How making information technology products and services accessible impacts end users.
- How accessible IT is important in and out of the workplace.

When is it?

Thursday, May 19, from 10-10:30 a.m. Join the Session 2 Teams Meeting.

Session 3: Buying accessible technology

Who should attend?

A person who may be involved in the procurement process, and those who don't know whether they have a role in accessible technology procurement.

What will be covered?

- Who has a role to play in a "happy path" for buying accessible products.
- How to include accessibility from the beginning.
- The real people impact when a technology purchase is not accessible.

When is it?

Thursday, May 19, from 11-11:30 a.m. Join the Session 3 Teams Meeting.

Session 4: Projects that shift left for accessibility

Who should attend?

A person who is involved in projects that have a technology component, and others interested in including accessibility in their project.

What will be covered?

- A case study in project accessibility, including why the project team included accessibility in specific parts of their project plan and timelines.
- How certain tools, knowledge, and resources impacted their work.
- The role that accessibility played in the project's success.

When is it?

Thursday, May 19, from 12-12:30 p.m. Join the Session 4 Teams Meeting.

Session 5: Document and content accessibility

Who should attend?

A person who wants to learn how to make documents accessible. In particular, graphic designers and trainers will benefit from attending.

What will be covered?

- How the WCAG guidelines benefit all document users.
- The role content creators and graphic designers play in ensuring documents, PDFs, and forms can be read and understood by everyone.

When is it?

Thursday, May 19, from 1-1:30 p.m. Join the Session 5 Teams Meeting.

Session 6: Web developers

Who should attend?

A person involved in the web development process including web developers, web designers, and application architects. Quality assurance professionals and business analysts may also find the information helpful.

What will be covered?

- The role accessibility plays in developing websites/applications to meet WCAG guidelines.
- Potential accessibility challenges developers face and possible resolutions.
- What processes, tools, and resources you can use to ensure websites/applications meet current guidelines, and what considerations may be needed to meet WCAG 2.1 success criteria.

When is it?

Thursday, May 19, from 2-2:30 p.m. [Join the Session 6 Teams Meeting](#).