

Web Accessibility Workshop

The 123 communicate programme, supported by Objective 1 ERDF and WAG funding, provides friendly and informal workshops on a range of information and communication technologies. We aim to assist voluntary groups and community organisations to communicate more effectively.

Web Accessibility Workshop

This whole topic is about providing access to information and services without restriction.

Anyone should be able to access products and services without discrimination.

In particular this refers to disabled, blind and deaf Internet users as well as users of older browsers. They should all be able to use your website.

In the UK there is specific legislation that has been passed by Parliament that requires anyone providing a service or product to make it accessible to all.

This includes owners and developers of websites and requires them to make their sites easily accessible by all visitors. This is covered in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995.

There are well established guidelines on accessibility provided by the Worldwide Web Consortium (W3C) www.w3.org and the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) www.w3.org/WAI/.

Key Accessibility Resources

In the workshop we look extensively at the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) website (www.drc-gb.org).

Additionally we look at the following sites and resources;

- World Wide Web Consortium W3C - <http://www.w3.org/>
- Web Accessibility Initiative - <http://www.w3.org/WAI/>
- HTML Validator - <http://validator.w3.org/>
- CSS Validator - <http://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/>
- WebAim, American accessibility website - <http://www.webaim.org/>
- Watchfire - Tool for testing site accessibility at <http://webxact.watchfire.com/>

If you wish to benefit from the programme please contact Patrick, Gavin, Catherine or Sue on 01437 769 422 or email us on communicate@pavs.org.uk



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Summary of Terms

"Alt" tags

The descriptive tags that go with the images on your website. These are used by screen readers and also by the search engines.

HTML

HyperText Markup Language (HTML) is the simplest part of what makes web pages on the World Wide Web. It is a markup language, which means it has a mix of normal language that people can read, and special language that tells computer programs what to do.

XHTML

Extensible HyperText Markup Language, or XHTML, is a markup language that has the same expressive possibilities as HTML, but a stricter syntax.

CSS

Short for *Cascading Style Sheets*, a new feature being added to HTML that gives both Web site developers and users more control over how pages are displayed. With CSS, designers and users can create style sheets that define how different elements, such as headers and links, appear. These style sheets can then be applied to any Web page.

The term *cascading* derives from the fact that multiple style sheets can be applied to the same Web page. CSS was developed by the W3C.

Further Information:

The 123 communicate team also run workshops on making videos, creating oral histories and many more subjects related to website development.

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