Request for Research Partners

- What: Request for research partners for next major revision of WCAG
- How: Help with background and user research, small and large projects
- When: Respond with interest by Friday, December 9

The W3C WCAG Working Group's Silver Task Force is seeking partners to assist with the research and analysis activities included in the Silver Design Plan. There will be a variety of levels of time commitments, depending on your interest.

The research studies will vary in objective, nature, and time required. We anticipate that some studies could potentially be used as the basis for undergraduate or graduate student projects, or for side projects that researchers can take on.

Our partnership would bring the following benefits to you and your students:
- Directions for small-to-large research projects that can be added to the curriculum
- Projects that have real-world applicability and impact
- Potential for publication of new perspectives and insights

Beginning in January 2017 we will be designing research studies, and we will perform research and analyze research results throughout 2017 (see the Timeline for a high-level schedule of activities).

We could really use your help in designing the research studies. We want to make sure the studies are valid, and are optimally designed to answer the right research questions. We would also welcome your involvement in carrying out the research and analyzing the results.

For user research, we aim to learn about needs and constraints from WCAG stakeholders using the following methods:
- Stakeholder map
- Surveys
- Stakeholder interviews
- Self-reporting

For background research, we seek to understand the problem space using the following methods:
- Literature/article review
- Secondary research from other organizations
- WCAG analysis
- Analysis of WCAG adaptations

We're conscious that involving students in research requires careful syncing with the academic calendar to ensure that there is sufficient time for the work to take place and that learning

objectives can be met. Given that most colleges and universities follow a semester academic calendar, we expect Spring semester will be best for smaller projects, and Summer term will work for larger projects, for example for Masters students. We are ready to work with you to define a partnership that fits your curriculum and your schedule and available time.

If you are interested to pursuing a partnership, let me know, and we will connect you with a member of the Silver Task Force. The Task Force member will be your partner, assisting with the research studies and coordinating the work with other Silver Task Force activities.

Background and Context

About the Silver Design Plan

WCAG 2.0 has been very successful and has provided better access to the web for people with disabilities than was available in the past. At eight years old, WCAG 2.0 is ready for a major update. We know that involving more people, robust feedback, and a thoughtful process we can improve access for people with disabilities further and provide a clear and usable standard. To that end, the Silver Design Plan follows a design-oriented process that includes research and analysis in order to make informed, data-driven decisions.

About the Silver Task Force

The objective of the Silver Task Force is to perform preliminary development of a new version of Accessibility Guidelines. Code-named "Silver", these guidelines will address the process of making content and functionality accessible to people with disabilities, including the roles of content authoring, user agent support, and authoring tool support. These guidelines will provide a base for continued evolution of accessibility standards.

About the WCAG Working Group

The mission of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines Working Group (WCAG WG) is to develop guidelines to make Web content accessible for people with disabilities and to develop and maintain implementation support materials for the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.