

VHEAP Lunch & Learn Session

February 10th



2025-2026 Goal

VHEAP will support members in understanding and implementing the updated requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II, helping to ensure compliance and equitable access for all by June 24, 2026. This goal will be achieved by providing targeted training, practical implementation resources, and ongoing technical assistance to help members integrate accessibility standards into their policies, programs, and digital services.

VPAT Part II - Discussing Practical Approaches

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Today's Pannel

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Virginia Information Technology Access Act

● Purchasing Requirements

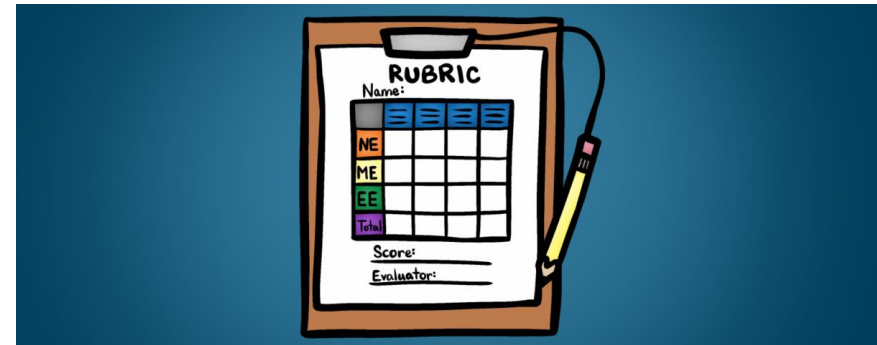
- Requires vendors to certify products **conform to accessibility (WCAG 2.1 Level AA)**. If the vendor cannot certify conformance.
 - Vendor should supply a VPAT/ Accessibility Conformance Report
 - Any areas of nonconformance shall be documented with a **vendor accessibility roadmap** highlighting areas requiring improved accessibility, including a timeline for completion.

How to judge the accuracy of a VPAT/ACR?

- Is the date of the report within the last year?
- Does the VPAT match the version you are purchasing?
- Is the scope of the VPAT comprehensive?
- Does the VPAT provide details when areas are marked as “Partially Supports” – Does it explain what parts are not supported?
- Is the VPAT completed by a 3rd Party? (Deque, Level Access. Etc.)
- Manual testing against the VPAT documentation is key, but not always possible.

Reading & Interpreting a VPAT

- **Scoring Rubrics** have been created to evaluate some of the items in the previous slide, which can be used as a first step.



Sample Scoring Rubric

Accessibility Score

Criterion: Key WCAG 2.1 A/AA success criteria.

Conformance Level:

Enter “Supports,” “Partially Supports,” or “Does Not Support.”

Points Awarded: Assign points (Supports = 2, Partially = 1, Does Not = 0).

Weight: Higher weight for Level A if desired. (Level A = 2, Level AA = 1)

Weighted Score: Multiply Points × Weight.

Notes / Remarks: Add VPAT details or issues.

Reliability Score

Reliability Factor: Transparency, Testing Methods, Balanced Reporting, Age of Report, Third-Party Review.

Score (0–5): Rate each factor. 0 = Very Poor 5= Excellent

Weight (optional): Assign importance if some factors matter more.

Weighted Score: Multiply Score × Weight.

Notes / Evidence: Add supporting details from the VPAT.

AI as a Tool: Calculate the Accessibility & Reliability of a VPAT.



Accessibility Score → Sum the weighted scores and divide by the total possible points to get a % compliance.



Reliability Score → Sum weighted reliability scores and divide by the maximum to get a % confidence rating.



Use both scores in a **risk matrix** to classify vendors (e.g., High Accessibility/Low Reliability = “review carefully”)

Demonstration of a Sample AI Prompt

- You are an accessibility analyst. I will provide you with the text of a **Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT)**.
- Your task is to evaluate it using the following **scoring framework**:
- Also, use the information to explain how the WCAG standards that are not met may impact users with disabilities.
- Finally, provide a list of questions that an RFP Committee can ask the vendor based on the results of the VPAT review.

Making Decisions: Approval or Rejection

- Risk Assessment
 - Is the vendor willing to cooperate?
 - Provide documentation & testing environment?
 - Make required remediations within a reasonable timeframe?
- What happens when the application is mandated, legacy, or too big to fail?
- The path forward...



Developing a Remediation Timeline

- Focus on **high-impact** items
- What needs to be done prior to implementation?
- What can be scheduled (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4)
- **Strategy**
 - Schedule appointments with vendors for check-ins

Accessibility Remediation Timeline			
WCAG Guideline	Affected TheirStory Page	VPAT Dated	Projected Timeline to
1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A)	Call Screen	6/15/2023	Q4 2023
	Prepare Session Wizard	6/15/2023	Q2 2024
	Testimonial Wizard	6/15/2023	Q2 2024
	Video List	6/15/2023	Q4 2023
1.2.4 Captions (Live)	Call Screen	6/15/2023	Q4 2023
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Prepare Session Wizard	6/15/2023	Q2 2024
	Testimonial Wizard	6/15/2023	Q2 2024
	Video List	6/15/2023	Q2 2024
1.4.3 Color Contrast Minimum (Level AA)	Author Page	6/15/2023	Q4 2023
	Prepare Session Wizard	6/15/2023	Q4 2023
	Testimonial Wizard	6/15/2023	Q4 2023
	Video List	6/15/2023	Q4 2023
	Manage Page	6/15/2023	Q4 2023
	Group / Folder Page	6/15/2023	Q4 2023

Resources

- [Library Accessibility Alliance - Accessibility Evaluatons](#) (database of software reviewed, vendor responses)
- [College Source Support \(Accessibility Documentation\)](#) Good vendor example
- [Sample AI Prompt for Reviewing a VPAT or ACR \(PDF\)](#)
- [Sample Accessibility Review Letter Format \(PDF\)](#)
- [How to Interpret a VPAT \(Harvard University\)](#)
- [Purusal VPAT \(good example\)](#)

Questions?

Any additional thoughts or ideas, feel free to email vheap@virginia.edu