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## Software Accessibility Services

### Reasons to Consider the Accessibility of Your Software

You may be a software developer, an employer responsible for the software your employees use or in charge of software procurement for your organisation.

There are many reasons why it is very important to consider not only how the software in question looks and operates, but also how easily it can be accessed by those with a disability.

Firstly there is the legal responsibility you have as an employer to your employees or as a developer to your customers, as enshrined in legislation (for example, the Disability Discrimination Act of 1995).

There is also the obvious business case. Organisations are increasingly insisting on accessibility in their software procurement, and there are 8.5 million potential customers with disabilities in the UK who have a cumulative disposable income of over £50 billion.

But probably most significantly, the effective implementation of good practice in the design of your software benefits every user - whether they have special access requirements or not. This is because good practice is concerned with the best implementation of a wide range of elements including effective keyboard access, use of colour and graphics and compatibility with the specialist access technologies used by disabled individuals.

Using this approach the result is software that is easy to use for all - regardless of the needs of the user, or the technology being used to access it.

### Software Auditing Services

AbilityNet can audit your software applications for compliance with any of the widely recognised standards in software accessibility. These are:

- Section 508 Standards - Software applications and operating systems
- IBM Software Accessibility Checklist
- Irish NDA Accessibility Guidelines for Application Software

AbilityNet also has a comprehensive knowledge of the hardware and software used by those with a disability, and our audits include testing with technology such as screen-reading software for blind users.

Increasingly applications are a combination of software and web based technologies. AbilityNet can audit software applications that include web based components.

A typical software audit costs £750-£1500.

## **Our Customers**

Customers of AbilityNet's software accessibility services include:

- Microsoft
- Barclays
- NatWest
- HSBC
- University for Industry
- Remploy
- Citizen's Advice
- Cambridge Training & Development
- Cadbury's

## **Contact us for more information**

For all enquiries:

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\* Messages charged at standard rate. You will receive two confirmation messages charged at £1.50 each. AbilityNet will receive your donation net of charges applied by mobile network operators and a processing fee. If you have any questions regarding this service, please call 020 7549 2222.