

The 2018 ICT Accessibility Testing Symposium: Mobile Testing, 508 Revision, and Beyond

Call For Proposals

Wednesday, Thursday November 7 & 8
(Workshops: Tuesday November 6)

George Mason University Arlington Campus, Arlington, Virginia, USA

Submission deadline: Friday, April 27, 2018

www.ict2018.org

This year sees continued growth in our field, and accordingly the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Testing Symposium is growing too. From our first event in 2016 to our second event in 2018 we practically doubled in size. For 2018 we have an expanded committee, we are introducing a competition, and we are expecting an even bigger gathering of accessibility testing professionals in Arlington this November.

Our conference themes this year include (but are certainly not limited to) the new rules for *Section 508* conformance, as well as addressing a need that many in our field continue to express... we need good, thorough, practical test methods for *mobile applications*.

Lainey Feingold is one of the most popular speakers in the accessibility field, and we are very excited to have Lainey as our keynote, addressing the intersection of the testing and legal worlds.

We continue to focus our event on scientific and practical discussions. Collectively, as experienced accessibility professionals, we recognize the need to encourage growth. We welcome newcomers to the field, and we are introducing for this year an optional two-day boot-camp 'Accessibility Testing 101' course prior to the event. We will also be marking symposium program tracks and workshops with audience levels (beginner/intermediate/advanced).

We welcome national and international submissions from all sectors, including disability associations, academia, government, industry, industry associations, and non-profits. We look forward to your proposals, and look forward to meeting you in November for the third annual symposium.

Sincerely, Dr. Chris M. Law, Chair, 2018 Symposium Committee

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Submissions

Research, development, and practice submissions are welcome under the following testing themes and domains.

Testing method themes

- WCAG 2.0
- WCAG 2.1
- Section 508 Refresh / Revision
- Trusted Tester
- Automated Testing
- Manual testing tools
- Standards
- Other / Cross-Cutting / Interdisciplinary

Testing management themes

- Governance and implementation of testing in the systems development lifecycle
- Management of testing teams
- Testing and procurement
- Test results and their use in organizational maturity assessments
- Testing and organizational policies
- Other / Cross-Cutting / Interdisciplinary

Program area themes

- ICT Vendors and customers
- Government (Federal, State, Local)
- Educational Sector
- Legal Sector
- Healthcare & Health Informatics
- Testing as a profession
- Provision of training to testers
- Other / Cross-Cutting / Interdisciplinary

Testing Domains

- Websites and Web Applications
- Enterprise & Desktop Software
- Mobile Applications
- Cloud Computing
- Wearables
- Electronic Documents
- Multimedia
- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Closed products (kiosks, ATMs etc.)
- Other / Cross-Cutting / Interdisciplinary

Submission requirements, format, and where to submit

For all submission formats, prepare a 1,000 word description, and indicate your preferred format, thematic area(s) and testing domain.

The submission deadline is Friday, April 27. Submit your proposal at the symposium website: www.ict2018.org

Notifications, and inclusion in the Proceedings

The lead author of successful submissions will be notified by June 4, 2018, with final 'camera ready' papers due by September 21, 2018. Camera ready papers are subject to the page limits given in the table below. Authors will be provided with a template for generating a consistent, accessible format for camera ready papers.

The proceedings for this event will be published online and in hard copy form. Both the accessible electronic copy and the hard copy will be included in the symposium registration. For reference, previous year's proceedings can be downloaded from the 'Program' page of the symposium website:

The following presentation formats will be available in the one day preconference and the two day symposium:

Format	Session length	Proceedings page limit
Papers	30 to 45 minutes each	8 pages
Competition papers	Based on number of entries, 15 to 30 minutes	6 pages, plus optional short attachments
Panel Discussions	60 to 80 minutes	2 pages
Hands-on workshops	Half day or Full day	2 pages
Hackathons	Full Day	2 pages

Additional notes on workshops and hackathons

1. Workshop submissions relating to this year’s symposium highlights are particularly encouraged (Mobile Applications Testing, and the Section 508 Refresh / Revision).
2. For workshops and hackathons, internet and power connections will be provided for all presenters and participants. Computer equipment for participants is not provided (participants can bring their own device).
3. All workshop/hackathon presenters will also need to submit a workshop outline and provisional agenda for publication on the website by June 29.

Event Preview Webinar / Mid-Year Update (new for 2018!)

This year we are introducing a free webinar previewing the program. There will also be a speaker providing a mid-year update on new developments in the accessibility testing field. The webinar is scheduled for Wednesday July 11 at 11am (Eastern Time).

Accessibility Testing 101 Course (new for 2018!)

For accessibility practitioners who are new to the field of testing, you will be able to get a two-day ‘bootcamp’ style introduction prior to the start of the symposium. This will require a separate course registration fee, and will be held on Monday and Tuesday, November 5 and 6, 2018. For more information, email the Symposium Chair.

Student travel bursaries

At the time of writing, one USD \$1,500 student travel bursary is available to help cover costs of travel, accommodation and registration. (More bursaries may be added in the future, based on sponsorship interest.)

To be eligible for a travel bursary, students must:

- Be currently enrolled full or part time in a higher education institution;
- Have their submission accepted as lead author; and
- Indicate on the submission form they wish to be considered for a travel bursary.

Notifications of being awarded a travel bursary will be made at the same time as authors are notified. In the event that more applications are received than bursaries available, committee review scores will determine allocations.

Sponsorship opportunities

We welcome three types of sponsorship opportunity:

- Sponsor of student travel bursaries;
- Sponsor of awards (best paper, best presentation, competition winners);
- Sponsor of symposium events

Please contact the symposium committee chair to inquire about sponsorship opportunities.

Please also note that this event does not feature opportunities for commercial demonstrations or exhibits.

Build-your-own Website Tool Competition (new for 2018!)

We know that there are plenty of build-your-own-website authoring tools being advertised to small business owners and hobbyists.

Do they generate accessible websites? Can they?

Let's find out!

Step 1: Send your Letter of Interest

To enter the competition, send a Letter Of Interest (LOI) to the Competition Chair, Erin Lucas, by emailing competition@ict2018.org. Include the name and affiliation of yourself and any other team members (up to 6 people in total), along with a brief description of your accessibility testing experience. To be eligible, LOIs must be received by March 1.

Notes:

- Each entry will use a different authoring tool/CMS. Choice from the list of common build-your-own-website authoring tools will be on a first-come/first-served basis. (The competition will be limited to 6 teams.)
- The cost to use each authoring tool and publish a site differs. To be fair to all entrants, we will refund costs incurred to use the tool and post your site via the tool through the end of November, 2018. Refunds will *only* be issued if you present your paper at the symposium, and *only* receipts for tool use will be reimbursed (personnel and other ancillary costs will not be eligible for the refund). The limit for the refund is \$300.

Step 2: Develop and test your site

1. By March 29 the Competition Chair will send you a website packet, containing the images, text, and other content to use on your site (the theme will be Guide Dogs running their own dog-themed business).
2. Using the specified the build-your-own-website company authoring tool, develop and publish a 3-5 page website that includes at least the minimum content (as provided), including images, a video, internal and external links, a contact web-form, a simple and a complex table, and a downloadable file.

3. Using any tools and methods you like, test the website for WCAG2.0AA conformance.
4. Work with the build-your-own-website company support materials and/or customer support teams to resolve any accessibility shortcomings revealed by your tests.
5. By September 21, post a final website that, in your opinion, is as accessible as it can be.

Notes:

- This competition is intended as simulation of development by novices. For this reason, complex coding work-arounds (ARIA included) should be avoided, unless they are offered and supported by the company.
- You do not have to make a fully conformant website to win the competition. We are looking for the site to be as accessible as it can be using the available authoring tool, along with your assessment of this.
- Entrants are welcome to assess the accessibility of the authoring tool itself, and may include comments on this in their paper. However, this aspect is not required, and is not part of the scoring or judging of the competition.

Step 3. Paper submission, and symposium session,

By September 21, Submit a paper describing your experiences with the tool, customer support, etc. Papers are limited to 6 pages, but short supporting appendix information can be provided. Your paper must include:

- A description of the accessibility offerings/assertions of the company (if any)
- A before and after comparison of your testing results, along with a description of the testing tools you used
- An account of your interactions with customer support (if it was required)
- An account of whether you had to sacrifice or compromise UX/Design elements to make the site accessible

Present your paper and website at the symposium's competition session, which will be scheduled on November 7 or 8. (At least one team member must be registered to attend and present at the symposium.)

Judging and awards

Papers will be judged by the symposium committee. The criteria for scoring are: Testing method and results description: 40%; Tenacity demonstrated by authors in dealing with customer support: 20%; Overall quality of the paper: 20%. Presentations will be judged by audience vote, and will count for 20%.

The *Top-Dog Trophy* winners will be announced at the awards session of the symposium. The winners will win back one symposium registration fee (including any workshop fees) for a total value of up to \$500. The winners will also receive a cash prize similar to the awards for best paper and best presentation.

Additional questions on the competition? Contact the Competition Chair, Erin Lucas, competition@ict2018.org

Keynote Speaker: Lainey Feingold

We are very happy to announce that Lainey Feingold will be our keynote speaker for the 2018 event. Lainey will be presenting on the relationships and issues concerning ICT testing requirements and legal agreements.

[Lainey Feingold](#) is a disability rights lawyer focusing on digital access, an international speaker, and the author of *Structured Negotiation, A Winning Alternative to Lawsuits*. Lainey's book is packed with win-win stories of accessibility advocacy with some of the largest organizations in the U.S., all without lawsuits. In 2017 Lainey was named one of the 13 Legal Rebels by the ABA Journal, the national magazine of the American Bar Association. That year she was also named the individual recipient of the John W. Cooley Lawyer as Problem Solver award, given annually by the Dispute Resolution Section of the ABA. Lainey has twice been recognized with a California Lawyer Attorney of the Year (CLAY) award (2000 and 2014) for her digital accessibility and Structured Negotiation legal work.

Venue, Hotel & Registration

Venue

The Symposium will be held at
George Mason University Arlington Campus
Founders Hall, 3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA, 22201

Hotel

The hotel is a short walk from the Symposium Venue. A shuttle bus is planned for attendees who would prefer to ride:

The Westin Arlington Gateway
801 North Glebe Road,
Arlington, VA, 22203

The event room rate will be \$209. A booking link will be made available on the event home page in the near future.

Room block rates are good through September 21, or until booked out.

Registration

The two day conference fee will be \$300

Preconference workshops: half day, \$100; full day, \$200

Preconference hackathons: Full day, \$200

Registration for attending the symposium will be via the conference website, and will open on July 9 and close on October 31.

Please note: There is no on-site registration; this event is in-person, and will not be streamed online.

Symposium Committee

Symposium Chair: Chris M. Law

Symposium Co-Chair: Norman Robinson

For general inquiries, email the Symposium Chairs: info@ict2018.org

For specific inquiries, email the Chairs:

Marketing & Outreach Chair: [Laura Renfro](#)

Awards Chair: [Andrew Nielson](#)

Program Chair: [Chris M. Law](#)

International Engagement Chair: [Shadi Abou-Zahra](#)

Software Testing Industry Engagement Chair: [Karl Groves](#)

Competition Chair: [Erin Kirchner-Lucas](#)

Presentations Chair: [Wendy Chisholm](#)

Workshops Chair: [Matt Feldman](#)

Shadi Abou-Zahra
Strategy and Technology Specialist, W3C
Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)

Jennison Asuncion
Engineering Manager (Accessibility),
LinkedIn

Jon Avila
Chief Accessibility Officer, Level Access
(formerly SSB Bart Group)

Cristopher Broyles
Chief Accessibility-Solutions Officer,
American Foundation for the Blind

Jennifer Chadwick
Lead Accessibility Strategist (North
America), Siteimprove

Wendy Chisholm
Principal Accessibility Strategist, Microsoft

Katherine Eng
Accessibility Specialist, Assistive Technology
Resource Center (ATRC), Department of
Justice

Matt Feldman
Director of Services, Paciello Group, A VFO
Company

Karl Groves
Founder and President, Tenon.io

Jon Gunderson
Coordinator, Accessible Information
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Accessible Systems & Technology,
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Erin Kirchner-Lucas
Accessibility Coordinator, RedShelf

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Organizational Accessibility Consultant,
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Senior Accessibility Lead, Renfro Consulting

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Cyndi Rowland
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Korey Singleton
Assistive Technology Initiative Manager,
George Mason University

Dominique Wheeler
Technical Quality Assurance Specialist,
Paltech Planning and Learning Technologies,
Inc.

Gian Wild
Founder, Owner and CEO, AccessibilityOz

Terri Youngblood
President, Accessible Systems, Inc.

General dates for all symposium attendees

The 2018 ICT Accessibility Testing Symposium: Mobile Testing, 508 Revision, and Beyond
(www.ict2018.org)

Provisional program available:	Monday, July 9
Symposium registration opens:	Monday, July 9
Event preview webinar:	Wednesday, July 11
Last day to...	Friday, September 21
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last day to request disability accommodations• Last day to guarantee spots in preconference sessions• Last day to get guaranteed rate on room block at event Hotel (if not filled by this date)
Preliminary program available:	Friday, October 5
Symposium registration closes:	Wednesday, October 31
Accessibility Testing 101 course:	Monday 5 & Tuesday 6 November
Workshops and hackathons:	Tuesday, 6 November
Symposium:	Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 November

Submission dates in 2018

Dates for competition entrants

Call For Proposals announced: Thursday, February 1

Competition Letter Of Interest due: Thursday, March 1

Competition packets available: Thursday, March 29

Competition placeholder sites due: Thursday, April 26

Competition Deadline Day: Friday, September 21

- Camera-ready papers due
- Competition sites must be finalized
- At least one team member must be registered for the symposium

Competition presentations: To be decided, either Day 1 or Day 2 of the Symposium (November 7 or 8)

Dates for papers, panels, workshops, hackathons

Call For Proposals announced: Thursday, February 1

Proposals (1000 words) due: Friday, April 27

Notifications to all authors: Monday, June 4

Accepted workshop agendas due: Friday, June 29

Submission Deadline Day: Friday, September 21

- Camera-ready papers due
- At least one author must be registered for the symposium

www.ict2018.org