

Section 508 Web Development Guidelines

(from http://www.macromedia.com/macromedia/accessibility/508_guidelines.html)

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act was amended in 1998 to require Federal agencies' electronic and information technology is accessible to people with disabilities, including employees and members of the public. Section 508 went into effect on June 21, 2001. Section 508 establishes requirements for any electronic and information technology developed, maintained, procured, or used by the Federal government.

The following guidelines are provided to assist Web developers in their efforts to conform to the Section 508 technical standard 1194.22. For each priority within the 1194.22 standard, an example and explanation are provided relating to web publishing. Each priority sites the guideline and provides an explanation and example of how to meet the priority. As with all Web design approaches there are multiple ways to create and develop effective web materials, these guidelines are one example of how to create accessible web content relative to Section 508. At Macromedia we fully support the spirit of the law in Section 508 and offer this Guideline as one means of support for the creation of accessible web content.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998 Section 508 Electronic and Information Technology

- **HTML version**
- **PDF version**

§ 1194.22 Web-based intranet and internet information and applications

(a) A text equivalent for every non-text element shall be provided (e.g., via "alt", "longdesc", or in element content).

(b) Equivalent alternatives for any multimedia presentation shall be synchronized with the presentation.

(c) Web pages shall be designed so that all information conveyed with color is also available without color, for example from context or markup.

(d) Documents shall be organized so they are readable without requiring an associated style sheet.

(e) Redundant text links shall be provided for each active region of a server-side image map.

(f) Client-side image maps shall be provided instead of server-side image maps except where the regions cannot be defined with an available geometric shape.

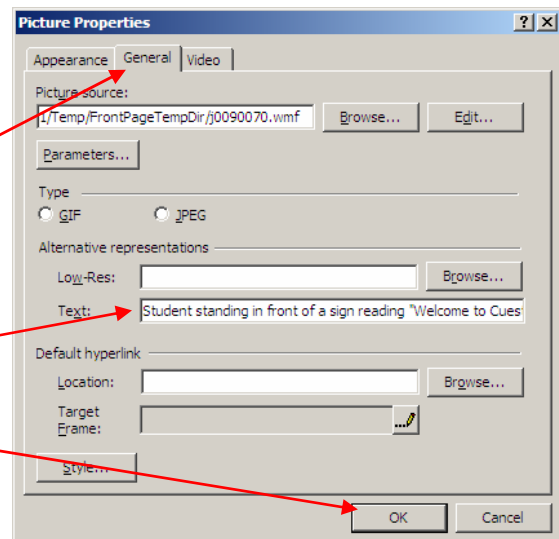
(g) Row and column headers shall be identified for data tables.

(h) Markup shall be used to associate data cells and header cells for data tables that have two or more logical levels of row or column headers.

- (i) Frames shall be titled with text that facilitates frame identification and navigation.
- (j) Pages shall be designed to avoid causing the screen to flicker with a frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.
- (k) A text-only page, with equivalent information or functionality, shall be provided to make a web site comply with the provisions of this part, when compliance cannot be accomplished in any other way. The content of the text-only page shall be updated whenever the primary page changes.
- (l) When pages utilize scripting languages to display content, or to create interface elements, the information provided by the script shall be identified with functional text that can be read by assistive technology.
- (m) When a web page requires that an applet, plug-in or other application be present on the client system to interpret page content, the page must provide a link to a plug-in or applet that complies with §1194.21(a) through (l).
- (n) When electronic forms are designed to be completed on-line, the form shall allow people using assistive technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.
- (o) A method shall be provided that permits users to skip repetitive navigation links.
- (p) When a timed response is required, the user shall be alerted and given sufficient time to indicate more time is required.

Adding an “alt” Tag to a Graphic Image in FrontPage

1. In FrontPage, right-click on the image.
A shortcut menu will appear.
2. From the shortcut menu, select **Picture Properties**.
The Picture Properties dialog box will appear.
3. Select the **General** tab.
4. Enter descriptive text in the **Text** field, then click **OK**.



For downloadable 508 guideline information, refer to:

http://www.macromedia.com/macromedia/accessibility/508_guidelines.html.

For a free accessibility tests, refer to:

<http://bobby.watchfire.com/bobby/html/en/index.jsp>

<http://www.macromedia.com/macromedia/accessibility/tools/lift.html>