



## Website Modernization

An official program of the Commonwealth of Virginia



Website Modernization  
Information Hub



Feb. 3, 2023  
Issue 2

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# Website Modernization Program

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*The Commonwealth of Virginia (COV) website modernization program was created to ensure all state websites provide an accessible, trusted and secure experience for all Virginians. Specifically, the program looks to aid agencies in meeting the COV web standards.*

**The "Website Modernization" web hub is now live!**

Visit [www.vita.virginia.gov/webmodernization](http://www.vita.virginia.gov/webmodernization) for links, resources and general information about the program.

## Website Standards

VITA is developing and testing an updated banner, similar to what can currently be found at <https://www.developer.virginia.gov/downloads/commonwealth-banner/>. **Implementation of the banner is required for all main and sub-web pages.**

The new branding bar expands upon the previous design and now includes the agency's name and the "VA" mark to provide a unifying introduction to each website. It will also include a link to services and a search drop-down.

VITA is also developing a design system that includes style guides, templates and a consistent color palette. **Use of the design system is optional but recommended**, especially for agencies that have not updated their websites recently.

## Templates



There will be four options available for use: Drupal, WordPress, Terminal Four and a download with code if you do not use the aforementioned content management systems (CMS). You can take the template and integrate it in any CMS or have a vendor do it for you.

## Branding Bar 90-Day Deadline

Development and testing of the new COV branding bar is still in progress. Once it is final, the clock will start on the 90-day deadline for agencies to implement it. We will keep you updated so you have time to plan for the 90-day implementation window.



*Note: The 90-day timeframe refers just to the implementation of the new COV banner. The other modernization issues, including accessibility updates based on Siteimprove, do not fall within that same 90-day deadline.*

## Accessibility Standards

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All websites have been loaded in Siteimprove. It is currently crawling 175 sites so it could take a few more days to complete. Once they are all scanned, they will be re-scanned every 5-10 days or on demand.

- If your agency has its own Siteimprove license, you no longer need it.
- The goal is to have all sites be at or better than the industry standard of 85% accessibility.
- We are required to meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 level AA.



**Resource:** Accessibility needs to include captioned videos posted on websites or on videos with links to YouTube. Here is a captioning resource: <https://vheap.org/vheap-captioning-initiative/>

## Accessibility Training

There are two sessions scheduled for accessibility training on **Thursday, Feb. 16**. Click the link below to register for one of the sessions. More classes will be scheduled soon.

- [Register for accessibility training on Feb. 16 \(Choose either 10 a.m. or 2 p.m.\)](#)

## Security Standards

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The scanning tool, Acunetix 360, will be provided to agencies free of charge to proactively scan and remediate websites.



- The VITA security team will provide guidance on remediation support.
- There are VITA-approved vendors available to help.

**Note:** High vulnerabilities are to be remediated within 30 days of the scan date.



**Did you miss the meeting on Feb. 2?**

Check out the video recording here:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1U\\_oYVbuM8&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1U_oYVbuM8&feature=youtu.be)

And here's the PowerPoint presentation:  
<https://www.vita.virginia.gov/media/vitavirginia.gov/resources/pdf/Website-Modernization-Update-20230202.pdf>

## FAQs

**We have a number of web-based applications. Some are custom developed and some are SaaS solutions. Can you confirm the banner requirement only applies to our websites and not our web applications?**

If you have a public landing page on an application, the landing page needs to have the banner. Pages behind a login are not required to have the banner.

**Are intranet and other internal agency sites exempt from using the banner?**

Yes, internal agency sites are exempt from using the banner. (But, as a general rule, all of your internal websites should be secure and accessible!)

**If we have the current banner installed, will the updated banner be automatically pushed or do we need to re-embed?**

The banner will not be updated automatically. You will need to get the updated version and re-embed it on your site(s).

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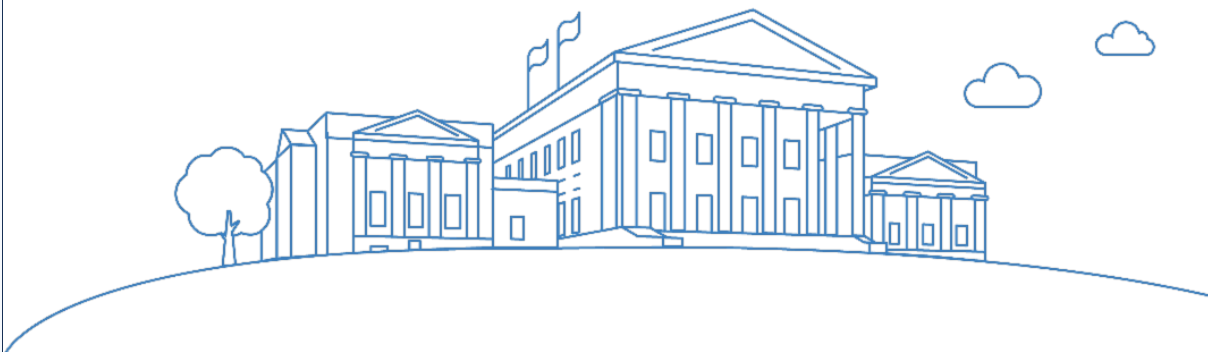
More FAQs are available on the VITA service portal at [KB0019243](#).



## Next Steps

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- Accessibility training will be held Feb. 16. See above for information.
- Our team will be reaching out to learn about your agency's current web landscape and resources (e.g., staff involved in maintaining your agency's sites).
- Watch for an announcement that the new banner is ready to be deployed. The 90-day clock to implement the banner will then begin!



If you have questions or would like to be added to the distribution list for this newsletter, please contact [webmod@vita.virginia.gov](mailto:webmod@vita.virginia.gov).



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