



Feb. 16, 2023
Issue 3

Website Modernization Program

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/websitemodernization for links, resources and general information about the program.

Web systems standard

The main components of the standard include:

- **COV design system** - includes the updated Commonwealth banner, website components, templates and best practice guidelines; once finalized, it will be

- **Domain naming rules** - all agencies and boards in the Commonwealth except for institutions of higher education shall use the [virginia.gov](https://www.virginia.gov) domain name. Existing sites are grandfathered in, but must have a valid redirect (site.agency.virginia.gov)
- **Website accessibility** - sites must meet **WCAG 2 Level-AA compliance**
- **Performance, capacity and continuity planning**
- **Cybersecurity scanning** – high vulnerabilities must be remediated within 30 days of detection; VITA security currently provides quarterly scan results to agencies, but will move to an on-demand model with the launch of Acunetix 360. VITA will start migrating agencies to the new tool over the next several months.

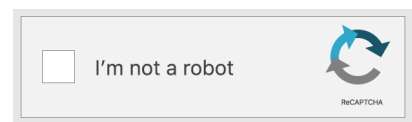
Updates to the standard

CAPTCHA

To increase the Commonwealth’s cyber-safety and to avoid possible hacking attempts by bots or other malware, the use of CAPTCHA will be required as part of the enterprise architecture (EA) web standards.

All public-facing forms that require user input and sites or applications that require login credentials will need CAPTCHA.

Guidance on CAPTCHA tools will be included in the COV design system once ready.



CAPTCHA is a test that can be easily accomplished by humans, such as picture recognition or checking an additional box, but it is hard to achieve by malware. It will stop hackers using robots to send in repeated false responses for online polls and forms. It can also stop brute force attacks on online accounts, in which hackers repeatedly try to log in using hundreds of different passwords.

Analytics

Agencies will be required to capture website analytics. Google Analytics is a common solution. The Web Mod team is also pursuing the use of analytics in Siteimprove, so the tool can act as one solution for accessibility, performance, analytics, and policy review.

Languages



The standards will officially support the 10 most common languages in Virginia, as identified by U.S. Census data: English, Spanish, Chinese (including Mandarin and Cantonese), Korean, Arabic, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Urdu, French and Hindi.





Did you miss the meeting on Feb. 2?

Check out the video recording here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1U_oYVbuM8&feature=youtu.be

And here's the PowerPoint presentation:

<https://www.vita.virginia.gov/media/vitaviriniagov/resources/pdf/Website-Modernization-Update-20230202.pdf>

More information

- FAQs are available on the VITA service portal at [KB0019243](https://vccc.vita.virginia.gov/kb_view.do?sysparm_article=KB0019243)
https://vccc.vita.virginia.gov/kb_view.do?sysparm_article=KB0019243
- These newsletters are archived on the [web hub](http://www.vita.virginia.gov/webshub)
www.vita.virginia.gov/webshub



Next Steps

- 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!
- Be on the lookout for a message soon that the finalized web standards have been posted to the VITA website.



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



Website Modernization
An official program of the Commonwealth of Virginia



VIRGINIA
IT AGENCY

Virginia Information Technologies Agency | 7325 Beaufont Springs Drive, Richmond, VA 23225

[Unsubscribe lindsay.legrand@vita.virginia.gov](mailto:lindsay.legrand@vita.virginia.gov)

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