



June 12, 2023
Issue 6

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.

Visit the web
hub

Siteimprove's Frontier Focus Groups for the COV

We are using Siteimprove as our accessibility scanning tool for websites. In addition to the tool, VITA is procuring enterprise licenses to Frontier, Siteimprove's training academy. Frontier will be personalized for the Commonwealth of Virginia, with custom introductory videos, training paths, and available credentials.

To build a training program that is enjoyable and adds value for COV employees, we're running focus groups to better understand employee perspectives on web accessibility.

Sessions are capped at 20;
register today!

REGISTER
HERE

<https://vita2.virginia.gov/Events/chooseSession?MeetingID=150>

Why:

Web accessibility is a major component of the website modernization effort. Per industry standards, it's estimated that at least 20% of website visitors require a user experience that conforms with web accessibility standards. The digital experience is a major part of life today. If that experience is not accessible for people, they are simply missing a major part of life. Because the digital world is so tightly integrated into everything we do, as employees of the Commonwealth of Virginia, we're all responsible for ensuring all Virginians can experience, engage, and thrive in the digital world.

Confidentiality:

Data from this study will be analyzed by VITA staff and anonymized in a training recommendations report.

No individual participant will be identified or linked to the results. All information obtained in this study will be kept strictly confidential.

How the focus group will work:

We will host 60-minute virtual focus group sessions held in a small group of fellow employees from throughout the Commonwealth. There will be a facilitator who will ask questions and facilitate the discussion. The sessions will be recorded so participant perspectives can be studied and synthesized afterward. If you volunteer to participate in this focus group, you will be asked some questions relating to your experience with web accessibility. These questions will help us to better understand how to design a high-quality web accessibility training program tailored for the needs of COV employees.

Sessions will be held at the below dates and times and will be capped at 20 people - first come, first served.

Tuesday, June 20 at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, June 20 at 4 p.m.

Wednesday, June 21 at 10 a.m.

Wednesday, June 21 at 2 p.m.

Wednesday, June 21 at 4 p.m.

Branding Bar

REMINDER: Branding bar implementation due Friday, June 30

Thank you to the 27 agencies that have completed implementation and the eight others that have started the process. For those that have not yet started, the deadline is rapidly approaching! If you have any questions or issues during implementation, please reach out to developer@vita.virginia.gov.

Note: This only applies to the implementation of the new COV banner. The other modernization issues, including accessibility updates based on Siteimprove, do not fall within the same 90-day deadline.

Accessibility Standards

Office hours

This is a reminder to join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m. to discuss Siteimprove and accessibility in general.

We've had some really productive discussions and seen great improvements from agencies that have taken advantage of this opportunity.

Feel free to join us on Teams here: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

- Or call in to the office hours here: 213-436-3432, Conference ID: 240 969 085#

Additional tools

VITA is procuring 200 Fusion (JAWS screen reader and zoom text) licenses, as well as an enterprise license for JAWS Inspect. These tools are intended for web developers and communications / content creators to ensure your content is compatible with screen readers.

You can learn more about the tools here:

<https://www.freedomscientific.com/products/software/fusion/>

<https://www.tpgi.com/arc-platform/jaws-inspect/>



Next Steps

- The Web Mod project team will be managing the Fusion and JAWS Inspect licenses. Please email our team at webmod@vita.virginia.gov if you are interested in gaining access to them.
- **Sign up** for Frontier focus groups today! We look forward to your input.



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



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