

Section 508 and Accessibility Standards

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Problem

- **Section 508 of the Workforce Rehabilitation Act requires electronic and information technology developed, procured, maintained or used by the federal government to be accessible to people with disabilities.**
- **Accessibility = compliance with standards set out by the Access Board.**
- ***Compliance is far from straightforward!***

Background



UK and Australia: Disability Discrimination Act



Japan: METI (formerly MITI) making recommendations for accessibility

International accessibility legislation exists, but Section 508 is the most far-reaching.



Portugal: Legislation modeled on W3C WAI



Prediction: Some degree of turmoil now among government agencies and vendors, but in next 5-10 years accessible E&IT will be part of the IT landscape, just as wheelchair ramps required by the ADA are part of the architectural landscape

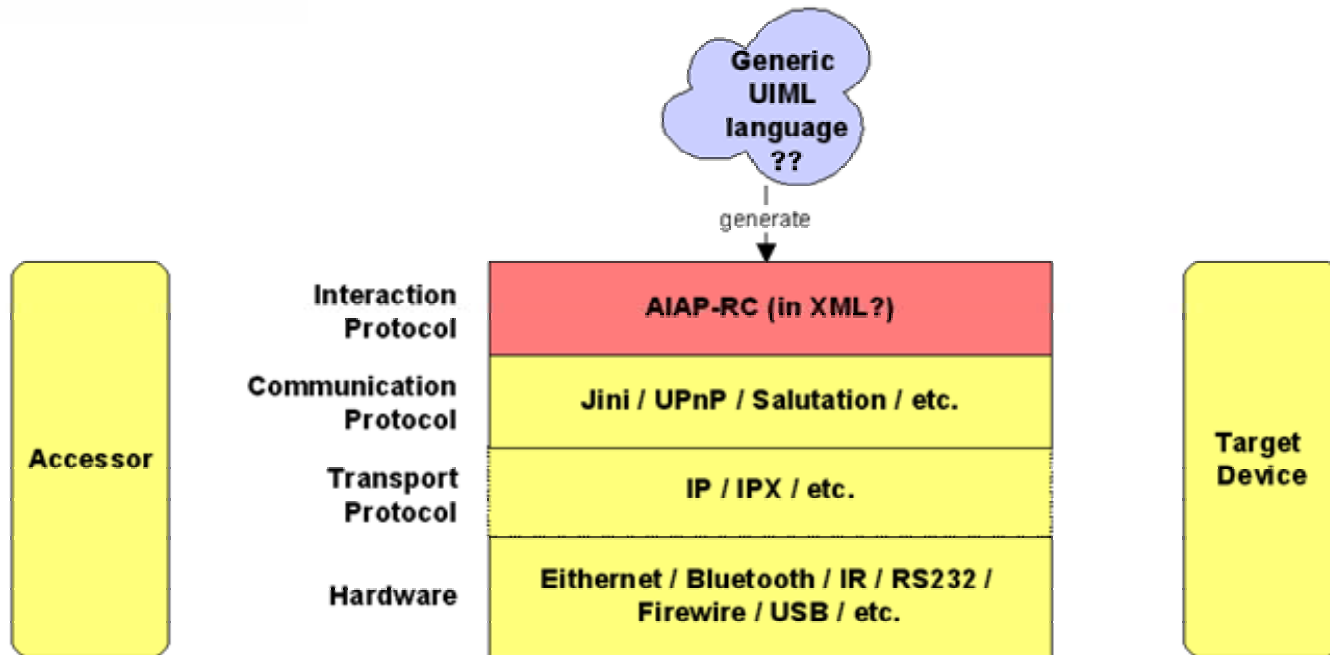
Objective

- **Monitor and influence government and commercial trends**
- **Provide corporate reach back in area of Section 508 and Universal Access**

Activities

- **Continue participation in National Committee for Information Standards (NCITS) V2 Committee on Access Standards and selected related activities sponsored by government**
- **Continue to provide corporate reach back through mini-TEM on Section 508 and Universal Access**

Emerging Standards



Roadmap for AIAP-RC

- (1) Define functional and non-functional requirements for the standard.
- (2) Outline an architecture for the standard.
- (3) Define AIAP-RC & requirements for (a) the underlying protocols, (b) the target device, and (c) the accessor.
- (4) Implement prototypes for different communication protocols (e.g. Jini, UPnP), in collaboration with respective companies, along with sample implementations for target and accessor devices.
- (5) Establish the standard (consisting of the AIAP-RC definition and requirements for underlying protocols, target devices and accessors).

Section 508: Reach Back to Sponsors



Impacts

- **MITRE representation in voluntary standards body that will influence vendor and sponsor communities: NCITS V2 Committee on IT Access Standards**
- **Expect to influence sponsor compliance with Section 508 and universal access**

Future Plans



Section 508 and the Web Universal Access

