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**Interested in membership in the Accessibility Forum?**

Sign up at:

[www.accessibilityforum.org/teaming/join\\_teaming.html](http://www.accessibilityforum.org/teaming/join_teaming.html)

For more information on Section 508 go to:

[www.section508.gov](http://www.section508.gov)

For more information about the standard developed by the Access Board, go to:

[www.access-board.gov](http://www.access-board.gov)



[www.accessibilityforum.org](http://www.accessibilityforum.org)



**An Introduction**

**and**

**An Invitation to**

**The Accessibility**

**Forum**

[www.accessibilityforum.org](http://www.accessibilityforum.org)

## Mission Statement

The Accessibility Forum is an ongoing collaboration among stakeholders affected by Section 508 including industry, government, and other communities in order to benefit employees and members of the public with disabilities.

The Forum will identify, prioritize, and conduct projects that assist government in making informed decisions about Section 508 related procurement, and allow government, industry, and users to communicate and highlight areas where further effort is needed.

The Accessibility Forum is sponsored by GSA to address Section 508 technical assistance through long-term solutions developed by collaboration among the stakeholders.

## Approach:

The approach involves bringing individuals representing key stakeholders together in an open and neutral environment to foster collaboration. Forum projects are aimed at addressing Section 508 technical assistance through long-term solutions. The first two Forum projects are “Assistive Technology and Electronic and Information Technology Interoperability” and “Objective Measures for Section 508 provisions.”

## Who is involved now?

We have contacts in over 300 organizations representing:

**Electronic & Information Technology Industry**

**Assistive Technology Industry**

**Advocacy Groups for People with Disabilities**

**Academic, Research, & Standards Groups**

**Government Procurement and Information Technology Areas**

## Why Pursue this Effort?

Accessibility to electronic and information technology (E&IT) is mandated by law for the Federal Government.

More than that, making E&IT accessible is the right thing to do: information is critical to quality of life and to engage as much of the workforce as possible.

Tremendous benefits are possible as the various stakeholders take an active part in the Forum’s direction and focus.

Making E&IT products accessible to the 20% of the population with disabilities increases the value of the products for the whole population. The graying population will increase the need for products that are accessible to those with vision, hearing, speech, mobility, and dexterity-related disabilities.