

# 2007 INCITS Technical Committee Officers Symposium

San Jose, CA

INCITS Accessibility Study Group (ASG)

SG Chair: Don Deutsch (Acting)

# Study Group Scope

- January 2005: The JTC1 Special Working Group on Accessibility (SWG-A) approved by JTC 1
  - Participants represent National Bodies, JTC 1 SCs, advocacy groups, other stakeholder organizations
- INCITS ASG is US TAG to SWG-A
  - ASG members contribute to SWG-A TGs and Ad Hoc to drive the development of:
    - User needs requirements
    - Standards inventory
    - Sample mappings
  - Participants represent industry, government and user organizations

# Significant Accomplishments

- SWG-A Met 2 Times Per Year From 2005 Through Last Report in June 2006
  - Venues: England, Canada, Japan, and US
- SWG-A Meetings Since June 2006
  - 18-22 September 2006 in Brussels, Belgium
    - Released version 1 of User Needs Summary
  - 23-27 April 2007 in Hamar, Norway
    - Focused on completing output documents & submitting them to JTC 1 for publication & wide distribution
    - Scheduled 2 telecons rather than 2<sup>nd</sup> face-to-face meeting

# Significant Challenges

- US Proposal For Norway Meeting:
  - SWG-A effort should be completed
  - Outputs publicized
  - Follow-on efforts handled by JTC 1
- Others Opposed Closing SWG-A
- Compromise Reached With Support from Japan
  - Focus on completing and publishing output
  - Meet via teleconference rather than in person
  - Submit results on-time to 2007 JTC 1 Plenary

# Expected Challenges

- Section 508 Refresh Consuming Cycles
- Increasing Need for Harmonization
  - US section 508 refresh
  - W3C/WAI WCAG 2.0 progression
  - Regional initiatives in EU and Japan
  - China?
- SWG-A Continuation Requires Appointment of Permanent ASG Chair

# Liaison Activities

- ASG Has Reached Out to Advocacy Groups
- W3C Participated in ASG as an Advisory Member Until 2007
  - They and other accessibility organizations, e.g., ISO TC 159, participate directly in SWG-A

# Future Trends and Related Technical Activities

- Accessibility Pertains to Both:
  - Disabled and
  - Aging populations
- Explosion of eGovernment, Must Ensure Access to Information & Services
- Employers Want to Retain Experienced Employees & Keep Them Productive

# How Can We Help?

- Encourage Interested Parties to Join the Accessibility Study Group
- Make/Keep INCITS and JTC 1 Web Sites Accessible
  - Ensure that new infrastructure is accessible