



Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT)

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Product Name: CourseNetworking or CN

Product Version Number: Version 4

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APPENDIX A: Suggested Language Guide

Summary Table Voluntary Product Accessibility Template		
<i>Criteria</i>	Level of Support & Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems	Supports	See Section 1194.21 for details
Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet Information and Applications	Supports	See Section 1192.22 for details
Section 1194.23 Telecommunications Products	Not Applicable	
Section 1194.24 Video and Multimedia Products	Not Applicable	
Section 1194.25 Self-Contained, Closed Products	Not Applicable	
Section 1194.26 Desktop and Portable Computers	Not Applicable	
Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria	Supports	See Section 1194.31 for details
Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation and Support	Supports	See Section 1194.41 for details

**Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems -
Detail
Voluntary Product Accessibility Template**

<i>Criteria</i>	Level of Support & Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
(a) When software is designed to run on a system that has a keyboard, product functions shall be executable from a keyboard where the function itself or the result of performing a function can be discerned textually.	Supports	<p>Users can navigate through the entire site using a keyboard. All the interactive interface elements can be keyboard focused. We also provide access keys for users to navigate through main sections on different pages.</p> <p>Major elements on the CN platform provide text equivalent for every non-text element (i.e. images, icons, etc.), such as alt tags or aria-labels.</p>
(b) Applications shall not disrupt or disable activated features of other products that are identified as accessibility features, where those features are developed and documented according to industry standards. Applications also shall not disrupt or disable activated features of any operating system that are identified as accessibility features where the application programming interface for those accessibility features has been documented by the manufacturer of the operating system and is available to the product developer.	Supports	The CN platform does not interfere with or deactivate the accessibility features of the operating system or any other related software such as web-browsers.
(c) A well-defined on-screen indication of the current focus shall be provided that moves among interactive interface elements as the input focus changes. The focus shall be programmatically exposed so that Assistive Technology can track focus and focus changes.	Supports	Some properties are integrated into the systems for interactive interface elements, which provide sufficient support for users, such as using highlighted colors and rectangles for active elements or short descriptions for them to be useful for screen readers.

(d) Sufficient information about a user interface element including the identity, operation and state of the element shall be available to Assistive Technology. When an image represents a program element, the information conveyed by the image must also be available in text.	Supports with Exceptions	The majority (95%) of the elements on the CN platform meet this requirement. We are consistently reviewing the website, especially user generated content, to make sure this is supported.
(e) When bitmap images are used to identify controls, status indicators, or other programmatic elements, the meaning assigned to those images shall be consistent throughout an application's performance.	Supports	The CN platform doesn't use bitmap images, but uses png and jpeg images. All images are used consistently throughout the site.
(f) Textual information shall be provided through operating system functions for displaying text. The minimum information that shall be made available is text content, text input caret location, and text attributes.	Supports	Textual information is provided as either HTML code or ASCII text through the web browser or any standard text viewer, or equivalent assistive technology. Text content and text input caret location is available to assistive technologies.
(g) Applications shall not override user selected contrast and color selections and other individual display attributes.	Supports	CN does not override any color, contrast, or other user-selected browser interface elements.
(h) When animation is displayed, the information shall be displayable in at least one non-animated presentation mode at the option of the user.	Supports with Exceptions	CN does not have key features that utilize animation except for user uploaded gif and video files, for which CN only provides general alt tags.
(i) Color coding shall not be used as the only means of conveying information, indicating an action, prompting a response, or distinguishing a visual element.	Supports	CN does not rely on color-coding as the only means of conveying information. We also use legends, shapes, title tags and text to convey information.
(j) When a product permits a user to adjust color and contrast settings, a variety of color selections capable of producing a range of contrast levels shall be provided.	Not Applicable	CN does not have any color or contrast adjustment settings now, but it is in our development pipeline.
(k) Software shall not use flashing or blinking text, objects, or other elements having a flash or blink frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.	Not Applicable	No flashing or blinking text, objects or other elements exist in the CN.

(l) When electronic forms are used, the form shall allow people using Assistive Technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.	Supports	Forms on CN support assistive technology by using placeholder text, descriptive labels, legends and fieldsets, etc.
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**Section 1194.22 Web-based intranet and Internet information and applications - Detail
Voluntary Product Accessibility Template**

<i>Criteria</i>	Level of Support & Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
(a) A text equivalent for every non-text element shall be provided (e.g., via "alt", "longdesc", or in element content).	Supports	CN provides text equivalent for non-text elements, such as alt tags, aria-labels, title tags etc.
(b) Equivalent alternatives for any multimedia presentation shall be synchronized with the presentation.	Supports through Equivalent Facilitation	Users on CN can embed YouTube videos in their content. The video player CN uses is a simplified YouTube player that doesn't support closed captions. However, users can click through to watch the video on YouTube and turn on closed captions.
(c) Web pages shall be designed so that all information conveyed with color is also available without color, for example from context or markup.	Supports	CN does not rely on color-coding as the only means of conveying information. We also use legends, shapes, title tags and text to convey information.

(d) Documents shall be organized so they are readable without requiring an associated style sheet.	Supports with Exceptions	95% of the content on CN is readable without a style sheet. We take the following approaches to ensure this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not override user defined style sheet. • Clearly name headers and distinguish different levels of headers in order to have a clear page structure. • Avoid use of the before, after, pseudo classes for non-decorative content. However, there are a few small action icons that do not meet this requirement.
(e) Redundant text links shall be provided for each active region of a server-side image map.	Not Applicable	CN does not use image maps.
(f) Client-side image maps shall be provided instead of server-side image maps except where the regions cannot be defined with an available geometric shape.	Not Applicable	CN does not use image maps.
(g) Row and column headers shall be identified for data tables.	Supports	Data tables in CN follow this requirement and have the column and row headers appropriately identified.
(h) Markup shall be used to associate data cells and header cells for data tables that have two or more logical levels of row or column headers.	Not Applicable	CN doesn't have complicated data tables that have two or more logical levels. The most complicated data table in CN is the instructor GradeBook. To make it fully accessible, we provide an alternative view, "Grading Individually", to simplify the data structure.
(i) Frames shall be titled with text that facilitates frame identification and navigation	Supports	CN does have meaningful title for frames (and iframes). Therefore, they can be easily identified and navigated.
(j) Pages shall be designed to avoid causing the screen to flicker with a frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.	Supports	CN pages do not cause any screen flicker with a frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.

<p>(k) A text-only page, with equivalent information or functionality, shall be provided to make a web site comply with the provisions of this part, when compliance cannot be accomplished in any other way. The content of the text-only page shall be updated whenever the primary page changes.</p>	Not Applicable	<p>CN is an academic social networking platform. Users oftentimes need to interact with the site. Therefore, the page design and functions cannot be represented and maintained as a text-only page.</p>
<p>(l) When pages utilize scripting languages to display content, or to create interface elements, the information provided by the script shall be identified with functional text that can be read by Assistive Technology.</p>	Supports	<p>Content and functionality provided by scripting (e.g., Javascript pop-up modal dialogues) is directly accessible to assistive technologies and the keyboard.</p>
<p>(m) When a web page requires that an applet, plug-in or other application be present on the client system to interpret page content, the page must provide a link to a plug-in or applet that complies with 1194.21(a) through (l).</p>	Supports	<p>CN only uses flash for a couple of integrated third-party tools. If users need to install flash, they will be guided by a clear instruction and a link to download and install the missing plugin.</p> <p>Note: the CN ePortfolio does not have any features that use flash.</p>
<p>(n) When electronic forms are designed to be completed on-line, the form shall allow people using Assistive Technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.</p>	Supports	<p>Forms on CN support assistive technology by using placeholder text, descriptive labels, legends and field-sets, etc.</p>
<p>(o) A method shall be provided that permits users to skip repetitive navigation links.</p>	Supports	<p>Skip navigation links are provided on all pages, such as “Go to main area”, “Go to sidebar navigations”, “Go to calendar”, “Go to video player”, etc.</p>
<p>(p) When a timed response is required, the user shall be alerted and given sufficient time to indicate more time is required.</p>	Supports	<p>The only place in CN that requires timed response is timed quizzes, where we do give users an alert 1 minute before time runs out.</p>

Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria – Detail Voluntary Product Accessibility Template

<i>Criteria</i>	Level of Support & Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
(a) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user vision shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are blind or visually impaired shall be provided.	Supports when combined with Compatible AT	All content and functionalities on CN are keyboard accessible and any non-text content can be described by using a screen reader.
(b) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require visual acuity greater than 20/70 shall be provided in audio and enlarged print output working together or independently, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are visually impaired shall be provided.	Supports when combined with Compatible AT	When it is needed, users can use the zoom-in option provided by web browsers to enlarge content on the website. CN also supports Assistive Technology (such as screen readers) used by people who are visually impaired.
(c) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user hearing shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are deaf or hard of hearing shall be provided	Not Applicable	The operation of CN does not require user hearing. The only exceptions are user uploaded video and audio files, embedded YouTube videos and BigBlueButton (a video conferencing tool).
(d) Where audio information is important for the use of a product, at least one mode of operation and information retrieval shall be provided in an enhanced auditory fashion, or support for assistive hearing devices shall be provided.	Not Applicable	CN does not utilize or employ audio to present any important information.
(e) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user speech shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people with disabilities shall be provided.	Not Applicable	The operation of CN does not require user speech. The only exception is BigBlueButton, a third-party video conferencing tool CN has integrated. In BigBlueButton users can use chat to replace speech if it is needed.

(f) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require fine motor control or simultaneous actions and that is operable with limited reach and strength shall be provided.	Supports	CN is keyboard accessible and supports speech recognition browser extensions if users have difficulties operating a mouse. CN does not require simultaneous actions.
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Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation and Support – Detail Voluntary Product Accessibility Template

<i>Criteria</i>	Level of Support & Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
(a) Product support documentation provided to end-users shall be made available in alternate formats upon request, at no additional charge	Supports	Hints are given to users throughout the site. User support documentation that covers a variety of topics is available at support.thecn.com. In addition, user can access the helpdesk through the email help@thecn.com. The support documents and helpdesk service are both free of charge.
(b) End-users shall have access to a description of the accessibility and compatibility features of products in alternate formats or alternate methods upon request, at no additional charge.	Supports	CN offers a general accessibility guide as well as hints for key shortcuts throughout the site. These are free of charge.
(c) Support services for products shall accommodate the communication needs of end-users with disabilities.	Supports	CN provides user support through various formats, such as email, voice (phone calls), on-site training, etc.

APPENDIX A (of the DoS VPAT/GPAT Checklist)

Suggested Language for Filling out the VPAT/GPAT

In order to simplify the task of conducting market research assessments for procurement officials or customers, ITIC (Information Technology Industry Council) has developed suggested language for use when filling out a VPAT/GPAT. You may choose to employ all or some of the language below. Once you determine what language you intend to use, we recommend that use is consistent throughout all of your VPAT/GPATs.

Supporting Features (Column 2 on VPAT/GPAT)

Supports

Use this language when you determine the product fully meets the letter and intent of the Criteria.

Supports with Exceptions

Use this language when you determine the product does not fully meet the letter and intent of the Criteria, but provides some level of access relative to the Criteria.

Supports through Equivalent Facilitation

Use this language when you have identified an alternate way to meet the intent of the Criteria or when the product does not fully meet the intent of the Criteria.

Supports when combined with Compatible AT

Use this language when you determine the product fully meets the letter and intent of the Criteria when used in combination with Compatible AT. For example, many software programs can provide speech output when combined with a compatible screen reader (commonly used assistive technology for people who are blind).

Does not Support

Use this language when you determine the product does not meet the letter or intent of the Criteria.

Not Applicable

Use this language when you determine that the Criteria do not apply to the specific product.

Not Applicable - Fundamental Alteration Exception Applies

Use this language when you determine a Fundamental Alteration of the product would be required to meet the Criteria (see the access board standards for the definition of fundamental alteration).

IMPACT Outreach Center

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