VoiceThread Voluntary Product Accessibility Template

This Voluntary Product Accessibility Template provides a framework to aid Federal contracting officials and other buyers making preliminary assessments regarding the accessibility, and features that support accessibility, of commercial Electronic and Information Technology products and services. This document assumes that buyers or officials will provide additional contact information when making further inquiry with respect to accessibility.

We have made every effort to provide complete, accurate, and truthful information to the best of our knowledge as of the date stated. However, this document should be viewed as informational and for market research only. This document does not grant or imply legal advice or warranty, or guarantee the ability for an individual or institution to fully comply with the applicable accessibility standards and requirements; this onus lies solely with the purchasing entity.

VoiceThread includes the VoiceThread.com site and its derivative sites, the asynchronous communication environment, the VoiceThread player, and supporting user integration services (including registration and authentication).

Compliance and Remediation Statement for Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act

This statement describes the compliance of the VoiceThread asynchronous collaborative framework, a software product from VoiceThread, LLC, with the United States Rehabilitation Act Section 508.

Date:	February 14th, 2014
Name of Product:	VoiceThread
Contact for more information:	http://voicethread.com/contact/
	accessibility@voicethread.com

We present a summary table of the relevant sections of the 508 Standards that are applicable to this class of technology. In the following table, we elaborate on how VoiceThread technology currently complies with the guidelines. T h e VoiceThread platform offers a minimum of three separate applications that provide users with access to the very same virtual discussion space: the VoiceThread Web Application, iOS App, and a purely HTML based VoiceThread Universal. Throughout this document, we will differentiate between VoiceThread Universal, the VoiceThread Web Application, and the VoiceThread iOS App, which all provide complementary functionality but through different interfaces. When the term VoiceThread is used singularly, it implies all of the various VoiceThread applications.

Summary Table VoiceThread Voluntary Product Accessibility Template		
Standard	Status	Comments
Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems	Included	
Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet Information and Applications	Included	
Section 1194.23 Telecommunications Products	Not applicable to VoiceThread	VoiceThread is defined according to Section 1194.22
Section 1194.24 Video and Multi-media Products	Not applicable to VoiceThread	VoiceThread is defined according to Section 1194.22
Section 1194.25 Self-Contained, Closed Products	Not applicable to VoiceThread	VoiceThread is defined according to Section 1194.22
Section 1194.26 Desktop and Portable Computers	Not applicable to VoiceThread	VoiceThread is defined according to Section 1194.22
Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria	Included	
Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation and Support	Included	

508 Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems VoiceThread Voluntary Product Accessibility Template		
Criteria	Available Support	Remarks and explanation
(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.	Supported with exceptions	VoiceThread Universal is completely executable from a keyboard alone. Several operations within the VoiceThread Web Application require a pointing device.
(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.	Supported	VoiceThread does not interfere with accessible features including mouse, keyboard, magnification, onscreen keyboard, or blink rates.
(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.	Supported with exceptions	VoiceThread Universal supports exposing current focus through Assistive Technology. The VoiceThread Web Application cannot be tracked by Assistive Technology or programmatically expose focus changes.
(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	Supported with exceptions	VoiceThread Universal exposes all user interface elements to Assistive Technology. The VoiceThread Web Application provides users with text tool-tips, but cannot be used with Assistive Technology.

		available in text.		

(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.	Supported	VoiceThread employs a consistent and predictable navigation workflow throughout the entire application.
(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.	Supported with exceptions	VoiceThread Universal provides full support to all textual elements. The VoiceThread Web Application uses system elements for displaying text; however, these elements are not available to Assistive Technology.
(g) Applications shall not override user selected contrast and color selections and other individual display attributes.	Supported with exceptions	VoiceThread Universal uses standard HTML to display content; however, certain features such as non-textual comment playback rely on the VoiceThread Web Application, which does not respect these attributes. The VoiceThread Web Application uses Adobe Flash for rendering the communication environment and does not respect user-defined attributes. The sections of VoiceThread that do not involve the VoiceThread player do respect these attributes.
(h) When animation is displayed, the information shall be displayable in at least one non-animated presentation mode at the option	Supported	Animations are used to accompany textual information, but are not necessary to convey information.
(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.	Supported	VoiceThread uses a simple, uniform color scheme and does not rely on color to define or distinguish visual elements.

(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	VoiceThread does not provide the ability for users to adjust colors or contrast settings.
(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.	Supported	VoiceThread does not use flashing or blinking elements.
(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.	Supported with exceptions	VoiceThread Universal provides assistance to all elements that use forms. From within the VoiceThread Web Application, commenting environments are not available to Assistive Technology, but VoiceThread provides a version of all forms in an equivalent form that is supported by Assistive Technology.

508 Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet information and applications VoiceThread Voluntary Product Accessibility Template		
Criteria	Available Support	Remarks and explanation
(a) A text equivalent for every non-text element shall be provided (e.g., via "alt", "longdesc", or in element content).	Supported with exceptions	VoiceThread Universal provides a textual equivalent description for all non-textual elements where necessary. If use of a textual description for a non-textual element is completely redundant, we use the in-element content to describe the non-textual element. The VoiceThread Web Application's non-text elements do not have text equivalents.
(b) Equivalent alternatives for any multimedia presentation shall be synchronized with the presentation.	Not supported	There are no alternatives for multimedia presentations.
(c) Web pages shall be designed so that all information conveyed with color is also available without color, for example from context or markup.	Supported	VoiceThread does not rely on color information to convey content.
(d) Documents shall be organized so they are readable without requiring an associated style sheet.	Supported	VoiceThread may be read without the use of a style sheet.
(e) Redundant text links shall be provided for each active region of a server-side image map.	Not applicable	VoiceThread does not use server-side 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	VoiceThread does not use client-side image maps.
(g) Row and column headers shall be identified for data tables.	Supported with exceptions	

(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.	Supported	VoiceThread identifies the association of data cells and header cells of data tables.
(i) Frames shall be titled with text that facilitates frame identification and navigation	Supported with exceptions	VoiceThread identifies most frames with information that enables navigation.
(j) Pages shall be designed to avoid causing the screen to flicker with a frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.	Supported	VoiceThread does not use blinking or flashing objects.
(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.	Limited support	VoiceThread Universal provides a text-based interface to interact with VoiceThread; however, for elements such as multi-media comment playback, there are no text equivalent elements. The VoiceThread Web Application environment requires the use of Adobe Flash. VoiceThread does include additional interface methods external to the Adobe Flash player.
(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.	Limited support	All scripts used within VoiceThread Universal are completely compatible with Assistive Technologies. The VoiceThread Web Application is not accessible to Assistive Technology
(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 sections 1194.21(a) through (l).	Supported	See section 1194.21

(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.	Supported with exceptions	Forms within VoiceThread Universal are completely accessible to Assistive Technologies. Forms within the VoiceThread Web Application environment are not available to Assistive Technology, but VoiceThread provides a version of all forms in an equivalent form that is supported by Assistive Technology.
(o) A method shall be provided that permits users to skip repetitive navigation links.	Not supported	VoiceThread Universal avoids excessive duplicate navigational elements. VoiceThread does not provide a method to skip repetitive navigation links.
(p) When a timed response is required, the user shall be alerted and given sufficient time to indicate more time is required.	Not applicable	VoiceThread does not require timed responses.

508 Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria VoiceThread Voluntary Product Accessibility Template		
Criteria	Available Support	Remarks and explanation
(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.	Limited support	VoiceThread Universal is compatible with Assistive Technologies; certain features require the use of the VoiceThread Web Application and may not be supported by these technologies. Assistive Technologies cannot track most sections of the VoiceThread Web Application.
(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.	Supported	VoiceThread supports screen magnification software.
(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.	Supported	VoiceThread provides multiple means of communication, including support for the inclusion and display of Closed Captions.
(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.	Limited support	VoiceThread does provide support beyond the volume control system included in the client's operating system.
(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	Supported	VoiceThread provides alternatives to using solely speech.

disabilities shall be provided.		
(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.	Supported with exceptions	VoiceThread Universal navigation does not require fine motor skills and can be used exclusively without a pointing device. Most functionality of the VoiceThread Web Application requires the use of a pointing device.

508 Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation and Support VoiceThread Voluntary Product Accessibility Template		
Criteria	Available Support	Remarks and explanation
(a) Product support documentation provided to end-users shall be made available in alternate formats upon request, at no additional charge	Supported	VoiceThread provides documents in multiple formats at no additional cost upon request.
(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.	Supported	VoiceThread provides documents in multiple formats at no additional cost upon request.
(c) Support services for products shall accommodate the communication needs of end-users with disabilities.	Supported	Support for VoiceThread is available in a variety of formats including website, email, and direct phone.