Blackboard Collaborate
Voice Authoring

Voluntary Product Accessibility
Template (VPAT)

Voluntary Product Accessibility Template

The purpose of the Voluntary Product Accessibility Template is to assist Federal contracting officials in making preliminary assessments regarding the availability of commercial Electronic and Information Technology products and services with features that support accessibility. It is assumed that officials will provide additional contact information to facilitate more detailed inquiries.

This statement describes the compliance of Blackboard Collaborate Voice Authoring, a software product from Blackboard with the United States Rehabilitation Act Section 508.

Name of Product: Blackboard Collaborate Instant Messaging, Version 4.0**+**
Contact for more Information: http://www.blackboardcollaborate.com

Summary Table

Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems	Included	Please see details on page 3
Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet Information and Applications	Included	Please see details on page 5
Section 1194.23 Telecommunications Products	Not Applicable	Voice Authoring is an Application as defined in sections 1194.22
Section 1194.24 Video and Multi-media Products	Not Applicable	Voice Authoring is an Application as defined in sections 1194.22
Section 1194.25 Self-Contained, Closed Products	Not Applicable	Voice Authoring is an Application as defined in sections 1194.22
Section 1194.26 Desktop and Portable Computers	Not Applicable	Voice Authoring is an Application as defined in sections 1194.22
Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria	Included	Please see details on page 7
Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation and Support	Included	Please see details on page 8

Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems

Criteria	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 with exceptions	Most functions in Voice Authoring require a pointing device and are not executable from a keyboard alone
(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	Voice Authoring does not interfere with accessibility features like screen magnifiers, sticky keys, on-screen keyboards, cursor sizes and 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.	Does not support	The interfaces of Voice Authoring cannot be tracked by assistive technology
(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.	Does not support	Most elements in Voice Authoring are not sufficiently identified for assistive technology

(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	Voice Authoring utilizes graphical elements in a consistent manner throughout the 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.	Supports with exceptions	Voice Authoring uses standard operating system functions for displaying text, but the tools are not accessible to assistive technology
(g) Applications shall not override user selected contrast and color selections and other individual display attributes.	Does not support	Voice Authoring does not support system settings like high contrast
(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	Animations are used to accompany audio activities, and are not the sole form of information display
(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.	Support	Voice Authoring does not rely on color alone 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	Voice Authoring does not permit users to adjust color and 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.	Supports	Voice Authoring does not use flashing or blinking text
(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.	Does not support	Most elements in Voice Authoring are not sufficiently identified for assistive technology

Section 1194.22 Web-based internet information and applications

Criteria	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.	Does not support	Most non-text elements do not have text equivalents
(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.	Does not support	There are no (textual) alternatives for voice media
(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	Supports	Voice Authoring does not rely on color alone to convey information
(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.	Support	Voice Authoring is "readable" without a style sheet
(e) Redundant text links shall be provided for each active region of a server-side image map.	Not Applicable	Voice Authoring 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	Voice Authoring does not use client side image maps
(g) Row and column headers shall be identified for data tables.	Supports	Row and column headers are 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	Voice Authoring does not use tables

(i) Frames shall be titled with text that facilitates frame identification and navigation	Supports	Voice Authoring titles all frames
(j) Pages shall be designed to avoid causing the screen to flicker with a frequency greater than 2Hz and lower than 55Hz	Supports	Voice Authoring does not have blinking or flashing within the frequency of 2Hz and 55Hz
(k) A Text0only page, with equivalent information or functionality, shall be provided to make a web site comply with the provision 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.	Supports	Voice Authoring functionalities can only be accessed via the applet
(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	Does not support	Voice Authoring 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 1194.21 (a) through (l).	Not Applicable	See Section 1194.21 above
(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.	Supports with exceptions	Not all form elements have directions for assistive technologies
(0) A method shall be provided that permits users to skip repetitive navigation links.	Does not support	Voice Authoring does not have a method for skipping repetitive 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	Voice Authoring does not require timed response

Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria

Criteria	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.	Does not support	Most areas of Voice Authoring cannot be tracked by assistive technology
(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	Voice Authoring 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	Supports with exceptions	Aspects of Voice Authoring are inherently reliant on user hearing, and do not have alternatives
(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.	Supports	Voice Authoring provides controls for volume adjustment
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.	Supports with exceptions	Aspects of Voice Authoring are inherently reliant on user speech and do not have alternatives
(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.	Does not support	Most functionality of Voice Authoring requires a pointing device

Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation and Support

Criteria	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	Documentation for Voice Authoring is available 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.	Supports	Documentation for Voice Authoring is available upon request
(c) Support services for products shall accommodate the communication needs of end-users with disabilities.	Supports	Support for Voice Authoring is available in a variety of formats including website, email and direct phone. Individuals who require it may use TTY