

Cognitive Accessibility TestBed:  
Tools to Make the Internet More Understandable for People with Cognitive Disabilities

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Abstract

The Internet has the potential to inform and bring people together like never before. But potential users are being left behind because much of the Internet is not cognitively accessible. At the same time, the Internet has become a critical resource in our society, providing access to information, products, and services of all kinds.

The Cognitive Accessibility TestBed will provide a platform to conduct research by implementing and evaluating proposed techniques for improving understanding by people with cognitive disabilities.

The TestBed is an open source information, research and development platform that will allow developers and researchers to test and refine tools for making information on the Internet accessible to people with cognitive disabilities, and provide a database repository for all test results that can be shared worldwide.

Why is this work so important?

- ✓ The existence of a common, open source TestBed and repository for information will encourage the development of innovative techniques to assist people with cognitive disabilities in using the Internet
- ✓ The TestBed will encourage developers to offer improved techniques in their applications
- ✓ The TestBed will have an positive impact on the investment of research funding in the United States in the area of cognitive accessibility on the Internet
- ✓ The TestBed will make it possible for people with cognitive disabilities to use the Internet who find it too difficult to use today.

The TestBed will enable researchers and developers to cycle through the following four steps in developing useful cognitive assistance techniques:

- Implement techniques quickly
- Test techniques quickly
- Analyze techniques using standard metrics and tools
- Identify promising new techniques or modification of existing techniques