

Accessibility Lab

Why test for Accessibility?

As a public product or service provider you are legally obligated under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) to make any reasonable adjustment to ensure that all users, including those with disabilities or special needs, can use that product or service.

At present approximately 15% of the UK population have a disability, all of which are covered by the DDA, and this figure is rising due to the population ageing. Users with disabilities also have an estimated annual purchasing power of around £40-£50 billion, so if your website or software is not fully accessible to these users you risk losing their business.

What do we test?

Disabilities can include visual and hearing loss or impairment, reduced motor skills, cognitive impairments such as autism, dyslexia and a range of language and communication difficulties. Epicentre will ensure that your product meets accessibility standards by using a broad range of assistive technology tools, such as:

- screen readers
- screen magnifiers
- voice recognition software
- alternative input devices.

Using these tools, and visually impaired testers, we are fully able to meet the stringent requirements of the W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) with the use of browser compliance and HTML/CSS validation testing, either manually or with dedicated tools such as AccVerify.

Why use the Epicentre Accessibility Lab?

Our Accessibility Lab has been ensuring that our clients' products function and look as expected on their end users' machines for over fifteen years. Other benefits include:

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- a wide range of equipment
- comprehensive test plans
- ISO9001 approved methods
- a dedicated specialist testing team
- clear reporting techniques.

Epicentre services

Alongside the Accessibility Lab, Epicentre also offers a range of other testing and support services:

- Interoperability Lab
- Compatibility Lab
- Functionality Lab
- Content Testing Lab
- Service Desk

Our complete software testing service takes you through the development cycle, ensuring you can rest easy knowing your brand is rock-solid, your reputation is protected and your product is ready to go. Over the past 20 years we have acquired unrivalled experience in testing software, websites, e-learning, DVDs and CD ROMs.

Post-delivery Epicentre offers a personable Service Desk, allowing you to rest assured that your customers' issues are being dealt with whilst you are able to move on to your next project.

Our clients range from big to small and we're proud to have long term relationships with the likes of Oxford University Press, Barclays, BBC, Pearson Education, Nelson Thornes, Scholastic, Macmillan, Smart Learning, British Medical Journal and many more.

"Epicentre have been testing UFI's courseware for several years now. Throughout this time, they have provided us with a high-quality, flexible testing service to suit our deadlines, which are often tight and liable to move at short notice. They are also keen to identify ways to improve their service so that it meets our needs as fully as possible, and respond positively to feedback."

Adam Russell, UFI.

Test now, save later

We can provide you with initial advice and best practice guidance through to comprehensive testing and practical solutions for a range of specific accessibility issues.

We can assess your needs and requirements and make recommendations for increasing the usability of your products and services.