

Resource

Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT[®])

Detail your product's accessibility for procurement, compliance, and customer retention

A VPAT details whether your digital product is accessible to every user, including people with disabilities. The level of accessibility is based on the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) technical standards.



Increasingly, RFPs are requiring completed VPATs, whether you're selling into the public or private sector. Companies are basing buying decisions on product accessibility, prioritizing those who can show proof of it.

Simplifying the complex

A VPAT is a complicated technical document. It's best completed by an expert with technical knowledge of digital accessibility requirements and testing procedures. It can also be more credible to leverage an independent third party to issue your VPAT. "We're able to provide VPATs on platform with confidence! We've brought focus to coding for ADA compliance as a part of everyday life."

Patrick Lucas, Product Manager, ACI Worldwide



When it comes to VPAT basics, here's what you need to know:

- A VPAT is a template. When completed, it is known as an Accessibility Conformance Report—or ACR. The two terms are often used interchangeably.
- There are different versions of the template.
 Be sure you're using the most recent, VPAT 2.5, which reflects the updated WCAG standards.
- There are also four different editions of the VPAT. <u>Select the edition</u> relevant to your target market and contract requirements.
- Not every stated standard will be applicable to, or supported by, your product. Provide accurate, credible information and supporting notes.
 This level of transparency helps the purchaser clearly understand the product's capabilities.

- A VPAT is intended to document a product's conformance with accessibility standards and guidelines. It is not intended to serve as a legal certification of compliance.
- Beyond compliance, a completed VPAT or ACR can be a public-facing declaration that you are prioritizing accessibility and that yours is a brand that considers the needs of every user.
- Completed VPATs are generally not used for websites; they are designed for products and sometimes services.
- Mobile apps may require completion of a VPAT, depending on the use case (for example, if the app's usage falls under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973).

About Level Access

Level Access takes a holistic approach to product accessibility, which includes completing VPATs to satisfy procurement processes but extends beyond this. We evaluate your product, identifying and prioritizing errors, and equipping you with the tools, training, and support to fix them. We also help you avoid future accessibility issues by seamlessly integrating into your existing design and development processes, helping you to ensure every new feature release is accessible by default, reducing accessibility costs and effort over time. LevelAccess.com



