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Guidelines, Methods and Processes for Accessibility

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Special Interest Group on

Guidelines, Methods and Processes for Accessibility

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Proposal for a Special Interest Group

This Special Interest Group intends to gather knowledge about software accessibility for the widest possible range of capabilities. It will discuss guidelines for accessibility for possible inclusion in the forthcoming ISO standard on ergonomics of Human system interaction – guidelines for software accessibility based on position statements submitted by potential contributors. The authors are requested to be prepared for the discussion by reading the Technical specification from ISO and by reading all the accepted position papers.

We welcome submissions to address the need and provision of guidelines for increased accessibility. By accessibility we refer to the ISO TS 16071 definition of **accessibility** as:

The usability of a product, service, environment or facility by people with the widest range of capabilities.

This definition implicitly indicates that accessibility is measurable through its relation to usability, which is defined as “the extent to which a product can be used by specified users, to achieve specified goals, with effectiveness, efficiency and satisfaction, in a specified context of use[2].

Potential participants should submit a position paper discussing, disseminating or evaluating guidelines for accessibility for people with special potential requirements, providing guidance on design of accessible (work, home, education) software. It should cover issues associated with designing accessible software for the widest range of visual, hearing, motor and cognitive abilities, including people who are elderly and temporarily disabled. The position paper should address software considerations for accessibility that complements general usability design covered by, e.g. ISO 9241, or processes and procedures to increase the potential accessibility of the product, e.g. according to ISO 13407.

The findings could address one or more of the following specific potential requirements:

- users who are blind
- users who have low-vision
- users who are deaf
- users who have hearing impairments
- users who have physical impairments
- users who have cognitive impairments
- users who are elderly
- users who have temporary disabilities
- users who have multiple disabilities
- users who have environmental disabilities

Selection of participants will be based on the organiser's review of the submitted position papers.

Position papers should be submitted to Clemens Lutsch (mailto:clemens.lutsch@iconmedialab.com) and Jan Gulliksen (mailto:Jan.Gulliksen@hci.uu.se).

Biography

Jan Gulliksen is an associate professor of human-computer interaction at the university of Uppsala in Sweden and a guest researcher of CID (Center for user oriented IT-design) Stockholm, Sweden. Jan has participated in the ISO TC 159/SC4/WG5 work on producing the Technical Specification ISO TS 16071 Ergonomics of human-system interaction – guidance on software accessibility.

Clemens Lutsch is a competence coach of human-computer interaction at Icon Medialab in München, Germany. Clemens has also participated in the ISO TC 159/SC4/WG5 work on producing the Technical Specification ISO TS 16071 Ergonomics of human-system interaction – guidance on software accessibility.

References

1. International Organisation for Standardisation (2000) *ISO 16071 Ergonomics of human-system interaction – guidance on software accessibility*. Technical Specification. (Switzerland: International Organisation for Standardisation)
2. International Organisation for Standardisation (1998) *ISO 9241 Ergonomic requirements for office work with visual display terminals (VDTs), Part 11 Guidance on Usability*. International Standard. (Switzerland: International Organisation for Standardisation)