DIR Enterprise Web Accessibility Scanning Program FAQs

1. What is accessibility web scanning?

    Accessibility web scanning is a method by which websites can be analyzed for accessibility using a tool or service that automatically scans pages of a website and provides data on how well the website pages meet certain technical criteria as defined in accessibility technical standards such as Section 508 (the basis for Texas Accessibility Rules 1 TAC 206 and 1 TAC 213), WCAG 2.0, or customized rules if needed. It is also sometimes referred to as automated accessibility testing.

2. Why is DIR providing free web scanning services to all state agencies and institutions for higher learning (IHE's)

    To assist agencies and IHE's in making their public websites fully accessible for all Texas citizens including people with disabilities by providing them with accessibility information about their websites that might not otherwise be available / affordable.

3. Does this service scan for all accessibility criteria as defined in Texas Accessibility Rules 1 TAC 206 and 1 TAC 213?

    Current accessibility scanning technologies have the ability to test a subset of these criteria. Testing of some provisions require human judgment or interaction to validate; however accessibility scanning provides results on many of the most common errors identified as problematic in the industry.

4. How much of our public website will be scanned, and how frequently?

    The service will scan up to 150 pages of each agency's public website. The scan will begin at the top of the agency home page and "spider" down through the links on that page and then the links on the child pages until 150 pages are reached. The scans will be done monthly. PDF files discovered during the scan will also be tested and results included in the reports.

5. Why doesn't DIR scan an agency's entire site instead of only a subset?

    The time, cost, and complexity of scanning all state website pages prevent extending the program to this scale; however, there may be opportunities to increase the page counts later in the program.

6. What information about my agency's website accessibility will I receive?

    Each agency enrolled will be given sign in credentials and access to the data for its agency's scan results. Access will provide various views into the agency's results and technical information that explains what the errors mean and examples on how they can be corrected. Results data can also be exported to an excel spreadsheet for sharing results with others in the agency.

7. Will all agencies be scanned at one time?

    Each agency will be scheduled for their scan on approximately the same day every month. DIR's plan is to notify each agency prior the scheduled scan date each month, as a precursor to the scan.

8. What do we need to do in preparation of the initial scan?

    Once we receive your agency's completed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), DIR will contact your EIR Accessibility Coordinator (EIR AC) to inform him/her of the planned initial scan date. At some point prior to that date, the EIR AC will receive sign in credentials from Deque (the service provider). Once the scan is complete, DIR will notify the agency, and set up a call to discuss how to interpret the results using the agency's results panel.

9. Why is an MOU needed?

    To ensure that agencies understand the highlights of the program, and to serve as documentation for agencies inclusion in the program.

10. When will my agency be included in the monthly scans?

    Initial scanning (and from there, ongoing) dates will be based on order of receipt of agency's completed Memorandum of Understanding to DIR. Please note that the program schedule includes bringing a minimum of 5 agencies a month; however we hope that we can increase that. If an agency feels that there is an urgent need to be included more quickly, it should contact [DIR's Statewide EIR Accessibility Coordinator](#).

11. Where will the scan results reside?

    Scan results reside on the scanning vendor's servers. As previously mentioned, results can be exported from there to an Excel file.

12. Who can see the results of the scans?

    Each agency only has the ability to view its own results. DIR's Statewide EIR Accessibility Coordinator will have visibility to the data from all agencies on its Enterprise Dashboard that will be used for analysis at the enterprise level.

13. Our agency already performs accessibility web scans. Should we also participate?

    There is value both to agencies and the state in participating even though an agency performs its own scans. Inclusion of as many agencies as possible

    - Contributes to the accuracy of the aggregated scan results with respect to the state's overall position.

- Provides agencies with a 2nd set of data points which can be used to validate / reconcile results from the agency's accessibility web scanning tool or service

14. Does this program help the state fulfill any statutory or rule requirements with regard to EIR Accessibility?
    DIR's Enterprise Web Scanning Program addresses provisions in the following statutes and rules related to EIR Accessibility:

    Texas Government Code Sec. 2054.452. TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. (a) The department shall provide training for and technical assistance to state agencies regarding compliance with this subchapter.

    Texas Government Code Sec. 2054.458. INTERNET WEBSITES. The department shall adopt rules regarding the development and monitoring of state agency Internet websites to provide access to individuals with disabilities.

    Texas Administrative Code 1TAC 206 §206.50(e) A state agency must establish an accessibility policy as described in §213.21 of this title which must include criteria for monitoring its website for compliance with the standards and specifications of this chapter…

15. Does DIR plan to expand scan coverage beyond the 150 pages to wider scans of agency internet or intranet sites?
    There is no plan to expand coverage at this time; however, DIR may consider increasing the scanned environment at a later date.

16. I would like more information. Who can I contact?
    For more information, contact the [Texas Statewide EIR Accessibility Coordinator](#).