A Comparative Assessment of Web Accessibility and Technical Standards Conformance in Four EU States

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This presentation is also available in HTML Format at URL:
Overview

- Large Scale Accessibility Surveying: Why? How?
- Key Results
- Pervasive Defects
- Major Caveats
- Recommendations
- Thanks...
Large Scale Surveying: Why?

- Publicity/Awareness
- Public Policy/Legislation
- Education and Training
- RTD (UAAG...)

Large Scale Surveying: How?

- Automated (severe limitation!)
  - Country Sampling: Open Directory Project (ODP)\(^1\)
  - Capture: pavuk\(^2\) (Snapshot: May 2004)
  - Assessment: bobby\(^3\), W3C HTML Validator\(^4\)
  - XML Reports
  - Database postgresql\(^5\)

\(^1\)http://dmoz.org/
\(^2\)http://www.idata.sk/~ondrej/pavuk/
\(^3\)http://bobby.watchfire.com/
\(^4\)http://validator.w3.org/
\(^5\)http://www.postgresql.org/
Large Scale Surveying: Where?

- Ireland: 123 sites
- UK: 5702 sites
- Germany: 4250 sites
- France: 1545 sites
- Total sites: 4877
- Total pages: 151,514
Key Results: WCAG-A Failure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>94.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>94.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>95.6%</td>
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<td>France</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Key Results: WCAG-AA Failure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Germany</td>
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<td>France</td>
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</table>
Key Results: HTML Validation Failure (Raw)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>99.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>99.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Key Results: HTML Validation Failure (Bad DOCTYPE)

- 98% of all sites
- 82% of all pages
Key Results: HTML Validation Failure (DOCTYPE Filter)

- Retain only pages with usable DOCTYPE
- Require minimum data per site
- 30% of sites qualified for further analysis

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<tr>
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<td>96%</td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
Pervasive Defects

- P2: Bad HTML (99%+)
- P2: Rigid display coding (98%).
- P1: Missing ALT (93%).
- P2: Poor link text (70%).
- P2: Device restrictions (66%).
- P2: Inaccessible forms (62%).
- P1: HTML frames (37.0%).
Major Caveats

- Sampling.
- False Negatives.
- False Positives.
Recommendations

- Public Awareness.
- New Tools and Technologies.
- Leading by Example.
- Education and Training.
- Legislation.
- Independent Audit/Certification(?)\(^6\)

\(^6\)http://www.support-eam.org/
Thanks...

- John Kelly, Head of Business Banking, AIB PLC.\(^7\)
- Research students: Esmond Walshe and Carmen Marincu.
- RINCE\(^8\), HEA\(^9\).
- Support-EAM Project\(^{10}\)
Links

- eAccess Lab:
  [http://eaccess.rince.ie/](http://eaccess.rince.ie/)

- Full Paper:

- Presentation authored with Foil\TeX: