Grant Rynders

IT2040C

Module 1:

Mini Research Assignment -Web Standards

1. What organization creates standards for the web, and how did this organization get started?

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is the main source of web standards. Today, they also partner with other smaller organizations. Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web, saw the rapid progress happening around him and aimed to provide stability for the web’s future. In collaboration with peers and investors of the time, he created the World Wide Web Consortium in 1994 (“History”).

1. Why do we need web standards?

As technology constantly and often unexpectedly changes, there is a need for a strong foundation that will not become obsolete or outdated. Furthermore, people’s needs, but also their skillsets are diverse and bringing the web to more people can only lead to more improvement. Web standards are necessary so that the web can be accessible to everyone.

1. What is the purpose of Section 508 of the Americans with Disability Act?

Section 508 aims to make all technologies and components of the web accessible to those with disabilities. Like W3C, section 508 sets a standard for how accessibility should be implemented and offers resources and guidance to do so. It seeks to incorporate accessibility into everything from planning and pre-production to the final product.

1. What is Universal Design, and how can you apply the concept to web design?

According to the National Disability Authority, Universal design is can be defined as “the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability” (“What is”). Like anything else the web is accessed by countless and diverse people, so it should be designed accordingly. Just as the principles of flexibility and expandability are implemented into the design of websites, accessibility should also be included, whether it be text-to-speech, multiple language options, etc.

Works Cited

“About Us.” *Section 508*, General Services Administration, May 2022, <https://www.section508.gov/about-us/>.

“History” *World Wide Web Consortium*, 2023 <https://www.w3.org/about/history/>.

“What is Universal Design?”. *Center For Excellence in Universal Design*, National Disability Authority, 2020, <https://universaldesign.ie/what-is-universal-design/>.