FACT SHEET

What is the Trusted Tester Program (TTP)?

The Trusted Tester Program is a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Accessible Systems & Technologies (DHS-OAST) initiative to address key Section 508 areas related to:

1) Test and Evaluation standardization: Trusted Testers follow the *DHS Section 508 Application Test Process* that is based on the interagency *Harmonized Processes for Section 508 Testing: Baseline Tests for Software & Web Accessibility.* The test process includes the steps required to determine conformance with Section 508 software and web application requirements, using a consistent code-inspection based testing approach.

2) Increasing the workforce 508 test skillset: OAST developed a comprehensive set of training courses for applying the approved testing methods and tools. Students are tested in a rigorous certification exam.

3) Sharing 508 test results: The test results provide management with an objective tool for making informed Section 508 compliance decisions throughout the IT governance process. Trusted Tester results are centralized in a database (developed and managed by DHS OAST) that can be accessed by other Trusted Testers and sub-agency 508 teams within DHS.

What is a Trusted Tester?

A Trusted Tester is an individual who has achieved at least 90% on the DHS Section 508 Trusted Tester Certification Exam.

How do I become a Trusted Tester?

To become a Trusted Tester an individual must complete the DHS Trusted Tester online training course requirements **and** pass the DHS Section 508 Trusted Tester Certification Exam.

Course ID	Course Name	Description	Continuous Learning Points (CLP)	Notes
FAC 049	Section 508: What is it and Why is it Important to You?	Designed to describe what Section 508 is and why it is important to make Information and Communication Technology (ICT) products accessible to people with disabilities.	1 CLP	
FAC 050*	Section 508: Tools Installation	Enables students to install or coordinate the installation of the required software used	1 CLP	*FAC 050 is the tools installation course. Please note that all of the tools must be

		for testing web and software applications. **Prerequisite: FAC 049**		installed in order to complete FTE 250 and FTE 251.
FAC 051	Section 508 Standards for Applications	Provides a basic understanding of the Section 508 standards for web and software applications. **Prerequisite: FAC 049**	8 CLPs	
FTE 250	Section 508 Trusted Tester Training	Teaches the Trusted Tester process for testing web and software applications for conformance with Section 508 standards. **Prerequisites: FAC 049, FAC 050, and FAC 051**	40 CLPs	Information in this course is intentionally inaccessible. Students with disabilities may require assistance to complete this course. For further accessibility guidance email the accessibility helpdesk.
FTE 251	Section 508 Trusted Tester Certification Exam	This exam provides hands-on testing of a multi-page application for Section 508 compliance using the DHS Section 508 Compliance Test Process for Applications. **Prerequisite: FTE 250**	8 CLPs	Students must complete all of the online training courses in order to enroll in the online Section 508 Trusted Tester Certification Exam (FTE 251). Information in this course is intentionally inaccessible. Students with disabilities may require assistance to complete this course. For further accessibility guidance, email the DHS Accessibility Help Desk.

Who can attend Trusted Tester training?
Trusted Tester training is open to all individuals.

How do I register for Trusted Tester training?

Please contact the DHS Accessibility Help Desk at accessibility@dhs.gov to register for training.

Benefits:

- ✓ Promotes a common understanding of the 508 standards.
- ✓ Unifies the test process.
- ✓ Unifies the set of test tools.
- ✓ Unifies test results reporting.
- ✓ Test results can be shared for common applications (i.e. Shared Services, COTS, etc.)
- ✓ Supports IT governance by integrating Section 508 into the development and acquisition lifecycle.
- ✓ Promotes the successful adoption of the changes required to integrate the TTP within an agency.
- ✓ Improves ability for developers to reproduce test results which expedites remediation of nonconformance.
- ✓ Promotes the successful adoption of the changes required to integrate the TTP within an agency. (UTAP)
- ✓ Improves ability for developers to reproduce test results which expedites remediation of nonconformance.

What is the Interagency Trusted Tester Program (ITTP)?

To promote the adoption of unified testing with a common set of tools, test procedures, and evaluation criteria across the federal government, DHS is leading the effort to stand up the *Interagency Trusted Tester Program (ITTP)*.   ITTP is modeled after the DHS OAST Trusted Tester Program and is a strategic solution with a three-pronged approach:

1. Promoting across the federal government common evaluation processes and procedures for Section 508 testing of electronic and information technology (EIT).
2. Increasing the workforce skillset and capability by implementing a certification program for Section 508 conformance testing.
3. Creating a central repository containing trusted tester test results that can be shared amongst government agencies to reduce redundant testing.

How can Federal agencies participate in the Interagency Trusted Tester Program (ITTP)?

Federal agencies that wish to implement the Trusted Tester Program (TTP) can initiate a *Unified Testing for Accessibility Project (UTAP)* at their agency. In the UTAP Pilot, DHS OAST staff assisted four outside federal agencies with adopting a 'Trusted Tester' approach to testing for conformance with Section 508 standards. UTAP is a six stage process that agency stakeholders follow to develop their own design and implementation plans for adopting Trusted Tester.

Benefits of ITTP:

- ✓ Stakeholders can interact with, learn from, and share resources with peer agencies that are testing in a consistent manner.
- ✓ Supports interagency governance for changes to the Baseline Test Requirements, Test Process, and test tools.
- ✓ Trusted Tester model is Section 508 Refresh ready.   Note: Minor adjustments will be required when the 508 Refresh is complete.

For more information and resources please visit http://www.dhs.gov/accessibility or contact the DHS Accessibility Help Desk.

DHS Accessibility Help Desk
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST
202-447-0440 (voice)
202-447-5857 (TTY)
Email: accessibility@dhs.gov

The Accessibility Help Desk is managed by the Office of Accessible Systems & Technology (OAST), located within the DHS Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO).