INTRODUCTION

Accessibility and usability are somewhat related, and often used interchangeably, but are actually different things. Accessibility is frequently associated with making sure that the disabled have a similar user experience (W3C, 2010). However, accessibility is much simpler and broader than that. Accessibility requirements are meant to ensure that those with different computing systems have equivalent user experiences; for example, people using different browsers. Usability, on the other hand, is meant to describe effectiveness and satisfaction; it is the user experience itself (W3C, 2010). It asks the question “how usable and intuitive is it?”

CRITIQUE OF MY GROUP’S WEBSITE (GROUP 1)

ACCESIBILITY

1. aboutus.html (This was the page that I was responsible for.)
   1. Client-side validation for the form section worked in Firefox, but did not work in Safari. I checked, and JavaScript was enabled, so I still do not know how to fix this problem. When working on this assignment, I only tested using Firefox, Internet Explorer, and Chrome.
   2. I see the following issues using iOS from my iPad and iPhone:
      1. Client-side validation for the form in the contact section does not work. This was done with the JavaScript alert function.
2. menu.html
   1. The descriptions of the menu items displayed inconsistently when viewed on different browsers and operating systems (Mac OSX and iOS).

USABILITY

1. All pages:
   1. The menu, location, about us, and register pages all have a form for the user to give their names, email addresses, and comment. Perhaps this could be simplified by providing a single Contact Us page where the user could do this. However, each of the team members was responsible for one of these pages, so in the interest of demonstrating the ability to create functional forms, this was done on each page.
   2. The Google site search was not functional.
2. menu.html
   1. The drawings of the sandwich obstructed the view of the menu items 2, 3, and 4.
   2. Has a button to display the current date and time. Again, this was probably done to demonstrate the student’s coding ability. However, if this were a real business, I would not have this feature.
3. register.html
   1. The button at the bottom of the page “What’s Your Favorite Meal?” was not functional. I would recommend removing it or perhaps having it lead to another webpage where the user could input more information.

CRITIQUE OF GROUP 3 WEBSITE

ACCESSIBILITY

1. All pages had a similar experience when I attempted to access them using:
   1. MacOSX (Safari and Firefox)
   2. iOS (Safari).

USABILITY

1. Home page:
   1. The 5 descriptions “Lorem ipsum…” looked like they were all taken from a Microsoft template. I did not immediately know what Softdev does.
2. The following links were not functional:
   1. Latest Projects
   2. Tutorials
   3. Partners
   4. Click here for more details (All 4 occurrences)
3. The search function did not work.
4. profiles.html
   1. The Hire Now button did not seem to have an action associated with it.
   2. There were only 3 links on the left side, which was not consistent with the home page.
5. UserRegister.html
   1. There was only one password field. I think it is a good idea to give the user 2 fields to mitigate the risk that they are mistyping.
   2. The radio buttons for Account type were closer to the option not being selected. I would recommend that more space be placed between the radio button for developer and “Business”.
   3. When attempting to register, all fields cleared when my password did not fulfill the requirements. I recommend that the password requirements be stated on the page, and that all fields do not clear if a requirement is not met.
   4. When finishing registration, I recommend that an email confirmation be sent to the user.
6. CPostReq.html
   1. The field “Estimated budget per week” was unclear to me. I recommend specifying units (Dollars, GBP, etc.).
   2. When submitting a project, I received the error message “Error: You have not provided the project length. Go back and try again.”. There was no such option on the web page.
7. ContactUs.html
   1. There were a limited number of countries available for selection in the Country drop down menu. I recommend making all countries available.
   2. Clicking the submit button did not work.
8. BrowseProjects.html
   1. None of the links on the left side were functional.

CONCLUSION

Obviously, it was unrealistic to expect a finished product in only eight weeks in a module that assumed no programming experience. As I have learned in previous modules, software projects continuously undergo improvements throughout their lifecycle. In closing, I would like to commend all groups for the effort put into their websites.

REFERENCES:

W3C (2010) Web Accessibility and Usability Working Together [Online]. Available from: <http://www.w3.org/WAI/intro/usable> (Accessed: 4 July 2014)