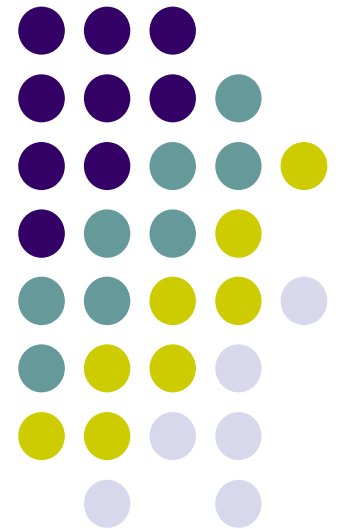


ATI Technical Assistance Workshop

Procurement of Accessible E&IT

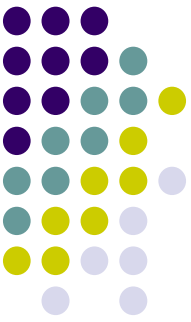
Overview of Section 508

Adapted from the presentation
“The Road to 508 Conformance”
By Gaeir Dietrich and Sean Keegan
California Community College
High Tech Center
*Used with permission

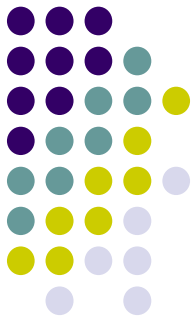


What is Section 508?

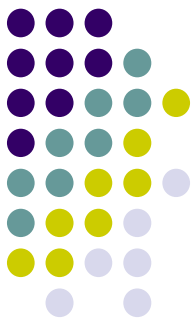
- Part of 1973 Rehabilitation Act, as amended in 1998



The 508 Philosophy

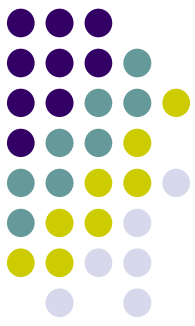


- Section 508 is about creating an open door
- Section 508 uses the purchasing power of the government to induce vendors to create accessible products
- The overall goal of Section 508 is a more accessible society



Two Different Laws

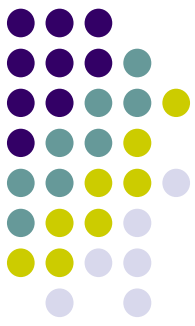
- Section 504 is about accommodation
- Section 508 is about access.



Section 504 vs. Section 508

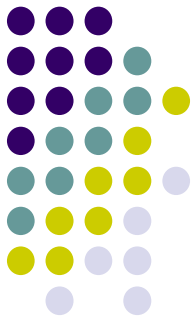
- Section 504 addresses individual disability needs. Think of the disability as a car.
- **Section 508** is the infrastructure that allows access to IT superhighway.
- With the **Section 508** infrastructure, everyone has equal access to the road.

Debunking Section 508 Myths

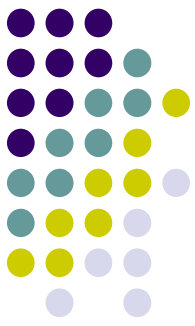


- Lots of confusion surrounding the Section 508 standards and why and how they apply

Myth #1



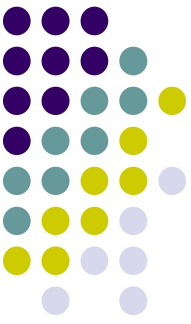
- Section 508 applies to postsecondary schools because we received federal funding (TTIP).



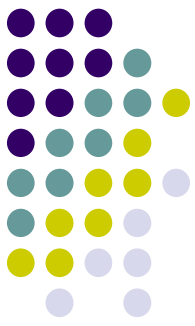
False

- Section 504 follows the money.
- Section 508 does not.
- Section 508 applies because of California state laws that adopted the Section 508 standards.
 - SB 105
 - SB 302

One Difference



- California state law actually puts some responsibility for conforming to the standards on the vendor.



§11135(d)(3) states:

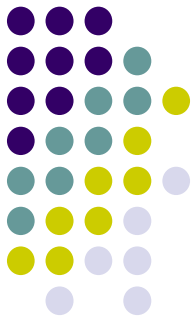
- "Any entity that contracts with a state or local entity subject to this section for the provision of electronic or information technology or for the provision of related services shall agree to respond to, and resolve any complaint regarding accessibility of its products or services that is brought to the attention of the entity."

Myth #2



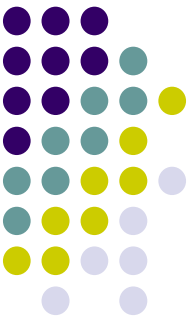
- We always have to buy the most accessible product—no matter what.

False



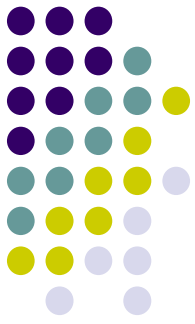
- In fact, technical requirements drive procurement.
- Determine your needs first then consider accessibility.
- You do not have to fundamentally alter your needs in order to comply with Section 508.

Myth #3



- We cannot legally buy an inaccessible product.

False



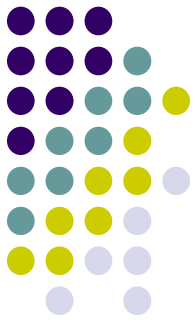
- Again, the needs of the department/entity ordering the product drive procurement.
- The specific needs for the product are given first priority then accessibility is considered.
- In some cases, there may be no accessible products that meet the needs.

Myth #4



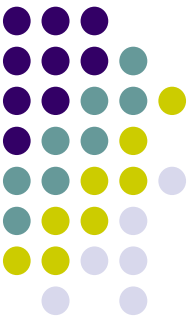
- Conforming to Section 508 is expensive.

False

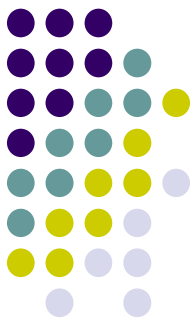


- Federal government agencies (for example, the Social Security Administration and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office) have found that accessible products generally cost little if any more than inaccessible ones.
- Retrofitting inaccessible products is the greater expense
- Responding to OCR complaints is far more expensive (in terms of both time and money).

Myth #5



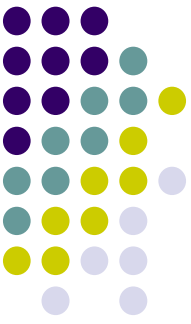
- Conforming to the Section 508 standards is very time consuming.



False

- Retrofitting is very time consuming.
- Buying accessible in the first place needn't be that time consuming.
- **HOWEVER**, until your procedures are in place and streamlined, you may be spending a lot of extra time training staff and trying to implement a system.

Myth #6

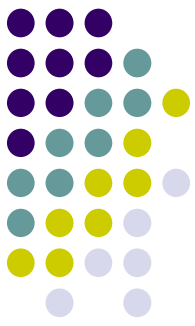


- Section 508 applies to everything we buy.

False



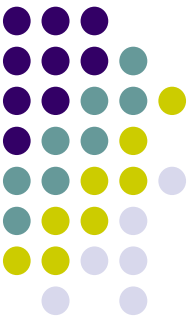
- Section 508 applies to electronic and information technology (E&IT) only.
 - Microwaves don't count...unless they send e-mail.



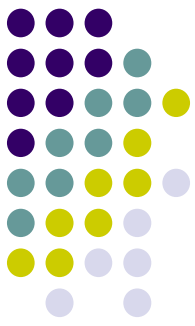
Six Categories of E&IT

- Software applications and operating systems
- Web-based information and applications
- Telecommunications products
- Video and multimedia products
- Self-contained, closed products
- Desktop and portable computers

Myth #7



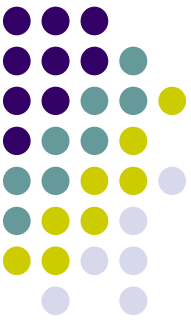
- Conforming to Section 508 will interfere with academic freedom.



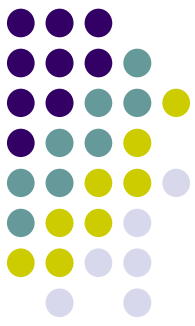
False

- Academic freedom is about the content.
- Conforming to Section 508 simply allows access to that content.
- Conforming to Section 508 should no more interfere with academic freedom than requiring a ramp does.

Myth #8



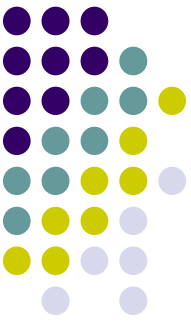
- You only need to conform to Section 508 when making purchases for something used by students.



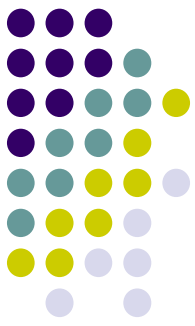
False

- Section 508 applies to all purchases.
- Technically any E&IT that is “DUMPed” falls under 508:
 - Developed
 - Used
 - Maintained
 - Procured
- Only purchases are subject to legal liability.

Myth #9



- We only need to conform to Section 508 when we have a disabled student in the class.



False

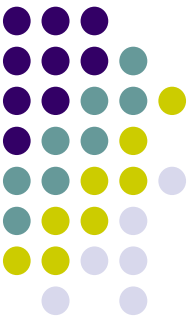
- Section 504 deals with specific accommodations for specific persons; **Section 508** deals with general access for all persons.
- The idea is to have the access already in place whenever someone who needs it shows up—even if you didn't know the person was coming.

Myth #9



- The folks in disabled student services offices should handle the Section 508 issues.

False



- Conforming to Section 508 is no more a disability services issue than conforming to the architectural standards for elevators and curb cuts is.
- Disability services may function as an information resource, but Section 508 is not specifically their issue.

Myth #10

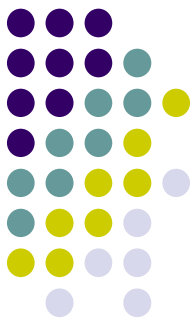


- The folks in the IT department should be in charge of Section 508 conformance.

False



- Although these folks can be helpful, they are not involved in the purchase of every fax machine, copier, scanner, telephone system, video, etc. on campus.



So Whose Job Is It?

- Everyone's!
 - Administrators buying the campus phone system
 - Department secretaries buying new fax machines
 - IT folks choosing campus-wide software
 - Department chairs purchasing videos
 - Faculty members creating Web sites
 - Purchasing deciding on bids for kiosks
- 508 touches everyone on campus involved with or using E&IT