



# Accessibility Interoperability Alliance

## Standardizing Technologies, Improving Lives

### Who We Are

The Accessibility Interoperability Alliance (AIA), a division of the Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA), brings companies together to collaborate on the design and delivery of solutions to long-standing Accessible Technology/Information Technology (AT/IT) interoperability challenges. The AIA may also pursue formal standardization of the resulting technologies and/or specifications, recognizing the value of adoption by standards bodies (such as ANSI and ISO) in driving mainstream use.

### Our Mission

The AIA exists to improve the lives of those people who can benefit from accessibility technologies. The AIA accomplishes this by encouraging the enhancement of current technologies, the creation of new technology, and promoting the implementation of these APIs and specifications cross-platform and across the industry.

### What is Accessibility?

Technology has served as an equalizer for people with disabilities, increasing opportunities for employment and independent living while reducing social isolation. Working in concert, these technologies provide workers with the ability to personalize their computing environment and adapt it to meet their specific needs, allowing employees of all ages and abilities to realize their full potential.

### The Need

The need for accessible technology is growing. As the U.S. workforce ages, along with the general population, accessibility challenges and disabling conditions will increase, heightening employers' need to accommodate people with disabilities and age-related impairments. Changes in vision, hearing and manual dexterity will directly affect aging workers' ability to use computing devices and the Internet, tools that have become fixtures in today's economy.

To deal with these challenges, hardware, software applications, Web sites and user interfaces must be both functionally usable and technically accessible. Focusing on accessibility will enhance usability and improve computing and Web experiences for users of all ages.

### Our Structure

The AIA is run by a five-member Steering Committee, which consists of two (2) IT members, two (2) AT members, and one At-Large member as Chair of the group. The AIA conducts its activities via working groups composed of representatives of member companies, each focused on one project. The first four AIA projects include:

- UIA Automation/Express Specification
- Support of Web ARIA via UIA Express
- Interoperability of Accessibility APIs and UIA and IAccessible2
- Keyboard Accessibility

## Why You Should Join

By joining the AIA, your organization will be able to:

- Participate in Working Groups in creation of industry standards
- Access AIA research and other resources
- Access Members-only Web site

| Benefit                                                                   | Developer | Contributor | Supporter |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| May supply representatives to each Working Group                          | Yes       | Yes         | No        |
| Will receive AIA standards prior to public release                        | Yes       | Yes         | Yes       |
| May access members-only Web site                                          | Yes       | Yes         | Yes       |
| May attend all plenary meetings                                           | Yes       | Yes         | Yes       |
| May receive link on AIA Web site                                          | Yes       | Yes         | No        |
| May display logo and company description on AIA Web site                  | Yes       | No          | No        |
| May issue press release re: membership in AIA                             | Yes       | Yes         | Yes       |
| May use AIA mark on Web site to indicate membership                       | Yes       | No          | No        |
| Will have full voting privileges in Working Groups                        | Yes       | No          | No        |
| May chair Working Groups                                                  | Yes       | No          | No        |
| May propose initiatives and contribute to development of AIA deliverables | Yes       | Yes         | No        |

## Join Today!

To see the current AIA member companies and Steering Committee members, or to download a membership application, visit the AIA Web site at [www.atia.org/AIA](http://www.atia.org/AIA).

