



# Accessibility Interoperability Alliance

## Engineering Solutions to Advance Accessible Technology

### Who We Are

The Accessibility Interoperability Alliance (AIA), the technical and engineering 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 industry adoption and widespread use.

### Our Mission

The AIA's core mission is to significantly reduce the cost and complexity of building accessible mainstream products and compatible assistive technology products. The AIA accomplishes this by encouraging the enhancement of current technologies, the creation of new technology, and promoting the implementation of Accessibility APIs and specifications across devices, platforms and 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 global 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 directly affect aging workers' ability to use computing devices and the Internet – tools that have become fixtures in today's digital global economy.

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

### Our Structure

The AIA is led 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. The AIA has completed two short-term projects and has two currently active longer-term projects:

- UI Automation/Express Specification – defining UIA extensions to address additional scenarios
- Interoperability of Accessibility APIs – how to best leverage the work done on multiple platforms

Additional projects currently are being organized. Contact us to learn more or to suggest a new project.

## Why You Should Join

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

- Participate in Working Groups where you can collaborate with other engineers to solve challenging AT/IT interoperability challenges and contribute to new industry standards
- Access AIA research, best practices and other resources
- Access the Members-only Web site

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Developer</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Supporter</b>
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 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	Yes	Yes
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).

