July 28, 2023
Issue 8

Website Modernization Program

The Commonwealth of Virginia (COV) website modernization program was created to ensure all state websites provide an accessible, trusted and secure experience for all Virginians. Specifically, the program looks to aid agencies in meeting the COV web standards.

Visit the web hub

Accessibility Standards

Office hours
Accessibility office hours are moving to Wednesdays at 10 a.m.! Please update your calendars. Michelle Pinsky, VITA's accessibility and user experience guru, will be taking over starting Wednesday, Aug. 2.

Join Michelle on Microsoft Teams using this link: Click

here to join the meeting

Or call in here: 434-230-0065, Conference ID: 195 978 362#

Topics can include whatever is on YOUR list: Siteimprove questions, design, special projects, search and branding bar are among likely topics.

This new Q&A help session replaces the two weekly sessions scheduled previously.
Once per quarter, Michelle will also host a special topics session for a deep dive into topics helpful to our work.

A special THANK YOU to Ted Huff and the Accenture team for all the great help starting up the office hours and for the engagement from all our agency partners!

Security Vulnerability Reporting

All agencies have been converted over to VITA's new, cloud-based instance of Acunetix. With web modernization, we are highlighting security, but VITA's security policy has not changed. All critical and high vulnerabilities are to be remediated within 30 days of first being scanned.

Agencies that fail to remediate issues in that timeframe will begin to receive notifications from VITA. In addition, VITA's enterprise architecture is developing an automated process to create security exceptions in Archer. Expect more partnership and engagement from your agency-assigned enterprise architects as issues are identified and tracked through to remediation.

If you are not sure, your agency's architects are listed alongside your customer account managers and business relationship managers here:
www.vita.virginia.gov/media/vitavirginiagov/services/pdf/CAM-BRM-Assignments.pdf

Software Rollouts

The Web Mod team will have a custom software request form via the VITA customers care center available in the near future. In the meantime, continue to email webmod@vita.virginia.gov for any requests.

We've previously discussed Siteimprove, Siteimprove Analytics, Fusion / JAWS Inspect, and Google reCAPTCHA. Please continue to reach out with any questions. Next up is Elasticsearch (https://www.elastic.co/). Elastic currently powers the enterprise search functionality in the Commonwealth branding bar. Soon you will be able to leverage it directly on your websites. Elastic will help improve search engine optimization and fine-tune search results with custom algorithms, allowing end users to have a more targeted experience when using your website's search functionality.

The vendor will be assisting with implementation, training, and support for Elasticsearch. Please reach out today if you are interested so we can begin prioritizing agencies for implementation.

Next Steps

Mark your calendars for the new accessibility office hours day and time: Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

If you need help in the meantime, please email **webmod@vita.virginia.gov**.

If you have questions or would like to be added to the distribution list for this newsletter, please contact **webmod@vita.virginia.gov**.

Website Modernization
An official program of the Commonwealth of Virginia

VIRGINIA IT AGENCY