

Raising The Floor

Making Access Attainable for the Other 25-75% of Users with Disabilities

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Problems in eAccessibility

- Costs
 - Modern Assistive Technology (AT) unattainable for many (most?) users
 - Greater in developing countries
- Technology
 - Heterogenous AT: Hard to aim for compatibility
 - Evolution to Ubiquitous and Cloud Computing
 - Adapting individual computers will not work well in the future
 - Need to move to Access as a service (ubiquitous access)
- Innovation vs Keeping Up
 - AT industry spending: most of their effort just to keep up with fast pace in mainstream technologies
 - Innovation impeded

Raising the Floor (RtF) and National Public Inclusive Infrastructures (NPII)

- RtF - Open source international collaborative effort
 - Coordinated by Trace Center and Benetech
 - Partners globally invited to join
- Building access technologies directly into the Internet
 - Accommodate all types of disability
 - Built-in basic access features affordable by all since no cost to use
 - Can be invoked from the network anytime, anywhere, on any computer
 - Can be used at home, in education, at work, in the public

Raising the Floor (RtF) and National Public Inclusive Infrastructures (NPII) (Cont.)

- NPII – Building National Infrastructure to allow
 1. Delivery system for anytime, anywhere, any computer access
 - Commercial and free public
 - Accessibility as a Service
 2. Personalization Service - User Profiling
 3. Building open-source core modules (for Commercial and Public AT)
- RESULT
 - Basic access available for all
 - Support AT industry to build on and innovate
 - Support mainstream IT: More consistent AT target

How RtF/NP11, EZ Access and URC can advance eInclusion (1)

- EZ[®] Access
 - Cross-disability interaction techniques by Trace
 - Suitable for self-service terminals
 - Used in over 20,000 locations in US
 - USPS APS, Amtrak Ticketing, Phoenix Airport, War Memorials
- Universal Remote Console
 - ISO/IEC 24752
 - Users can opt to control kiosk with their own personal device
 - Tailored user interfaces may be provided by third parties



<http://trace.wisc.edu/ez/>



<http://myurc.org/>

How RtF/NPII, EZ Access and URC can advance eInclusion (2)

- RtF/NPII: Free support for building access into products
 - Frameworks and code libraries with accessible technology solutions
 - Kiosk manufacturers
 - AT vendors
 - User groups
 - AT portal
 - Standardization of a suitable solution for universal access to self-service terminals
 - Secure standardized personalization profile system
 - Standardization
 - User profiles for public kiosks and AT
 - Using NPII approach (towards INPII)
 - Make this an international effort
 - Inclusive infrastructure in Europe
 - Provides awareness and educational materials for public and policy makers
 - Involve user groups
 - Mainstream IT industry
 - AT industry
 - Support European policy makers

Thank You

Acknowledgments

**For more
information:**

<http://raisingthefloor.net>

<http://npii.org>

<http://myurc.org>

**For questions and
feedback:**

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RtF Areas of Activity

(Includes and builds on NPIIs)

- Identification & Discussion of Needs & Solutions
- Research
- Individual Solutions for Consumers
- Unified Resource and Delivery Infrastructure
- User / Peer Support for RtF Solutions
- Awareness, Dissemination & Business Cases
- Legal & Policy
- Tools and Resources (Developers, Authors, Researchers)

National Public Inclusive Infrastructures (NPII)

- **a virtual delivery system**
 - that allows any person to call up the access assistive technologies and extended-usability features they need on any Internet connected computer they encounter, anytime, anywhere
- **a secure personalization profile system**
 - that allows users' access features to be automatically invoked and set up for them, as well as evaluation “wizards” to help people identify the features that will work for them
- **a rich development environment with open-source modules and services**
 - that reduces costs and lowers entry barriers for development of both commercial and free public access features
- **an awareness program to ensure**
 - that all who need these features are aware of them and how to access both free and commercial aids
- **a set of technologies and policies**
 - that protect author rights while allowing people to access information and services in a form they can perceive and use.