



National Capital Region Chapter of the
ACM Special Interest Group on Computer Human Interaction

Perspectives on Accessibility

A Panel Discussion

Thursday March 27, 2003 at **Nortel Skyline**

What?

Accessibility of information systems – especially for persons with disabilities – seems to have recently appeared on everyone's radar screen. This is particularly true for those involved in the field of usability. The purpose of this presentation / panel discussion is to help to bring awareness to this community of some of the issues that surround this field.

What is accessibility? *Why* is accessibility important... and to *whom*? *When* should accessibility be considered? *How* should it be 'done'? All four panel participants have expertise in some or all areas of IM/IT accessibility – in fact, two of them also *have* disabilities.

Through demonstration, presentation and discussion (including the audience) it is hoped that, regardless of each person's knowledge or experience level in this topic, that everyone will come away with a more informed and broader perspective on accessibility.

Who?

- **John Foliot** is an Internet consultant, web site developer, and corporate trainer, who has been creating and managing web sites for over 7 years. Currently he consults as a member of the WATS testing team, advising and recommending government departments on issues of web accessibility. In the past year John has completed an in-depth web audit for the International Business Branch at Industry Canada focusing on Accessibility issues and Common Look and Feel compliance, as well as a similar Accessibility Audit for the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship. He has also developed and delivered seminars on Accessibility and Common Look and Feel for the Canadian Space Agency and the Supreme Court of Canada. In November 2002, John was invited to become an accessibility advisor to the Board of Directors of the Hiwatha Software Company, developers of the Award Winning AccVerify suite of compliancy testing tools.
- **Paul Girvin** is an Accessibility Specialist with 15+ years extensive consulting & advising experience in adaptive technology, accessibility and disability related issues for government, education and private industry. Engaged as a demonstrator/facilitator for (WATS), Website Accessibility Testing Services, since its inception in February 2000, evaluating 300 government websites for accessibility. Has been using voice recognition technology and involved in Internet and pre Internet activity since 1987. Graduated Carleton University, has assisted organizations like Bell Canada, Neil Squire Foundation and the Federal Government with technology/public relations projects.
- **Rodney Carpenter**
- **Bill Shackleton**

When and Where?

The meeting takes place on Thursday March 27, 2003 at 7:00 PM in the Conference 2 Boardroom at the Nortel Skyline location. Visit our web site for more details... www.capchi.org/nextmeeting.html

Note: All attending will be required to register with security. Please arrive 5-10 minutes earlier to allow for registering.

The meeting fee is \$5 for non-members and free for CapCHI members (\$20/year). Membership is for the session period (September 2002-September 2003) - anyone can join!

Refreshments will be provided for the meeting.