

Support-EAM

Supporting the creation of an eAccessibility Mark



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DWAB-5

Web Accessibility Conformity Assessment

Prototype Demonstrator

www.demo-support-eam.org

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Table of Contents

1	Executive Summary.....	6
2	Functional Specification.....	7
2.1	Overview.....	7
2.2	Development Methodology.....	7
2.3	Component Resources.....	8
2.3.1	Demonstrator Home.....	8
2.3.2	Create a New Website Assessment.....	8
2.3.3	Manage Existing Website Assessments.....	9
2.3.3.1	Website Assessment Index.....	9
2.3.3.2	Review/Edit Administrative Information.....	10
2.3.3.2.1	Create/Edit Inclusion/Exclusion Resources.....	10
2.3.3.3	Review/Edit Sample	11
2.3.3.3.1	Create/Edit Sample Resource.....	11
2.3.3.4	Review/Edit Assessment Data	11
2.3.3.4.1	Review/Edit Assessment Data for Resource.....	12
2.3.3.4.2	Review/Edit Assessment Data for Checkpoint.....	12
2.3.3.5	Review Assessment Report.....	12
2.3.4	Create a New Report Template.....	13
2.3.4.1	Report Details.....	13
2.3.5	Manage Existing Report Templates.....	13
2.3.5.1	Report Index.....	13
2.3.5.2	Review/Edit Report Details.....	13
2.3.5.3	Review/Edit Report Headings.....	14
2.3.5.3.1	Create/Edit Report Headings.....	14
2.3.5.4	Review/Edit Report Content.....	14

2.3.6	Additional Information Resource.....	14
3	Design Description.....	15
3.1	Implementation Platform.....	15
3.2	Database Structure.....	15
3.3	Server-Side Scripts.....	20
3.3.1	Create New Website Assessment.....	20
3.3.2	Manage Existing Website Assessments.....	20
3.3.3	Review/Edit Administrative Information.....	20
3.3.4	Review Scope	20
3.3.5	Add Scope Definition.....	21
3.3.6	Create Inclusion/Exclusion Resources.....	21
3.3.7	Edit Inclusion/Exclusion Resources.....	21
3.3.8	Review Sample Resource.....	21
3.3.9	Create Sample Resource.....	21
3.3.10	Edit Sample Resource.....	22
3.3.11	Review/Edit Assessment Data	22
3.3.12	Review Assessment Report.....	22
3.3.13	Create New Report Template.....	23
3.3.14	Manage Existing Report Templates.....	23
3.3.15	Review/Edit Report Details.....	23
3.3.16	Review Report Headings.....	23
3.3.17	Create/Edit Report Heading.....	24
3.3.18	Review/Edit Content.....	24
4	User (Assessor) Interaction.....	25
4.1	Navigation.....	25
4.2	Management of the System.....	25

4.2.1	Managing Assessments.....	25
5	Annex: License.....	27
5.1	Original author and copyright holder.....	27
5.2	Legal code (full license).....	27
5.3	Human-readable summary of the license.....	28
5.4	Contact.....	28

1 Executive Summary

This document presents a description and technical outline of the Support-EAM “prototype web accessibility conformity assessment demonstrator”. This is a primarily administrative and recording tool to be used by an assessor while conducting an accessibility assessment of a website, for the purpose of issuing a site-wide accessibility “label” or *Quality Mark*. The work flow and content of this system is directly based on,

- The WAB Cluster deliverable UWEM 1.0¹
- The Support-EAM deliverable “DWAB3.5-1: Contribution to UWEM 0.5 Evaluation”. This defines a procedure for a hypothetical Web Accessibility Quality Mark, denoted EAM (e-Accessibility Mark).

The system described here is ultimately intended as just one component in an overall WAB-Cluster² demonstrator, which may also show other applications of the Unified Web Evaluation Methodology (UWEM)³ such as accessibility “observatories” and automated or semi-automated accessibility assessment tools.

As a *prototype*, the tool includes the functionality required to demonstrate the essential aspects of recording and reporting on a website accessibility conformity assessment, in association with the issuing of a Quality Mark. However, in the form described, it is not directly suitable for use in a production environment. The prototype demonstrator is packaged for release under a license (see “Annex: License”).

The demonstrator is available as a (controlled access) web service at the following URL:

- <http://www.demo-support-eam.org/>

¹URL: <http://www.wabcluster.org/uwem1/>

²URL: <http://www.wab-cluster.org/>

³URL: http://www.wabcluster.org/uwem05/uwem_0_5.html

2 Functional Specification

2.1 Overview

The main features of the system include:

- It shall⁴ be a web based application
- The only technology support required by an assessor to access the full functionality of the application (the assessor technology baseline) shall be HTML 4.01 strict.
- The assessor interface shall itself conform to WCAG 1.0, Level Double-A.
- The prototype shall be implemented in English, but shall be designed, as far as possible, to facilitate multi-lingual extension.
- As far as practical all required development and implementation tools should be available under open source licence.
- The work flow of the system shall involve:
 1. The assessor traversing a sequence of application resources (presented as HTML pages, including forms as appropriate), entering or modifying relevant data at each stage.
 2. Where form data validation is required, this shall done on the server-side; in case of invalid data entered, the original form shall be returned for revision, with a clear indication of the reason for the failure.
 3. All assessor submitted data shall be stored by the system.
 4. The results of the individual assessment tests shall be automatically aggregated and a summary report generated.

2.2 Development Methodology

Although a formal functional specification is presented here for reference, the development process shall employ an *agile* development methodology⁵, with early release of partial functionality and frequent iteration in consultation with users. Delivered functionality may therefore evolve from this initial functional specification, as dictated by user (assessor) feedback.

⁴See IETF RFC 2119 for the interpretation of "may", "should", "shall" etc., throughout this document. URL: <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>

⁵URL: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agile_software_development

2.3 Component Resources

Each component resource of the system shall be delivered to the assessor as an HTML page, typically including links and/or form controls to enable user interaction.

2.3.1 Demonstrator Home

- A brief introduction to the Support-EAM project.
- A brief explanation of the Web Accessibility Conformity Assessment Prototype Demonstrator, and the (hypothetical) EAM-A Quality Mark.
- Link to "Additional Information" page.
- Links to:
 - Create a new website assessment (enter administrative information).
 - Manage existing website assessments.

2.3.2 Create a New Website Assessment

The assessor shall input administrative information on the website to be assessed and the website owner/operator. It shall contain the following fields:

- Assessment Title (a unique identifier for the assessment)
- Scheme
- Reviewer Information
 - Reviewer/Review Team Name
 - Organisation Name
 - Contact:
 - Email Address
 - Telephone
- Website Information
 - Website title (normally taken from the TITLE element of the Home resource).
 - Primary Domain Name (mandatory). This shall be a single fully qualified domain name (see RFC 1123⁶).

⁶URL: <http://www.faqs.org/rfcs/rfc1123.html>

- Primary Natural Language (if applicable). This shall be expressed as an HTML compatible language tag (RFC 1766⁷).
- Website Owner/Operator Contact Information:
 - Organisation Name.
 - Contact:
 - Name.
 - Email address.
 - Telephone number.

On successful submission, transfer to the "Website Assessment Index" for the new website assessment.

2.3.3 Manage Existing Website Assessments

A page of links to the "Website Assessment Index" pages for all existing assessments. Each assessment shall be identified by an assessment title, the primary domain name, the website title, the aggregate status of the assessment and the date of the last revision. The list shall be sorted by reverse date order (i.e., most recent assessment first). The aggregate status shall be one of:

- incomplete
- pass
- fail
- not applicable

and shall be determined as follows:

- If no resources have yet been specified in the website sample, or any test has not been completed for any resource, then the aggregate status shall be "incomplete".
- Otherwise, if any test has been failed for any resource, then the aggregate status shall be "fail".
- Otherwise, the aggregate status shall be "pass".

2.3.3.1 Website Assessment Index

Contains links, for the particular website, to:

- Review/Edit Administrative Information.
- Review/Edit Scope.

⁷URL: <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1766.txt>

- Review/Edit Sample.
- Review/Edit Assessment Data.
- Review Assessment Report.

2.3.3.2 Review/Edit Administrative Information

This allows review and editing of all administrative information for a single website assessment. The fields presented are as specified in section 2.3.2 Create a New Website Assessment. Review/Edit Scope

This page shall contain:

- Explanatory notes regarding the overall scoping of the website. Free form text field.
- A list of external "inclusion" resources (if any). In each case there shall be links to edit or delete.
- A link to "Add Inclusion Resource".
- A list of "Exclusion" resources (if any). In each case there shall be links to edit or delete.
- A link to "Create Exclusion Resource".

2.3.3.2.1 Create/Edit Inclusion/Exclusion Resources

The assessor shall enter and/or edit the details of a resource that they wish to include or exclude from the scope.

These forms shall contain the following fields:

- URL (mandatory)
- Rationale (mandatory in the case of exclusions; optional in the case of inclusions). Free form text field.

In the case of an 'exclusion' resource the following additional fields shall be present:

- Known accessibility barriers associated with the resource (mandatory). Free form text field.
- URL of a functional, accessible, alternative (if available).
- Plans and/or timeline for the remediation of the barriers (mandatory). Free form text field.

2.3.3.3 Review/Edit Sample

The assessor shall enter/review/edit the sample resources, representative of the website as a whole, that are to be subject to assessment (the "Core Resource Set").

This shall include the following:

- A list of resources already identified as belonging to the sample (if any). In each case there shall be links to edit or delete.
- A link to "Create Sample Resource".

2.3.3.3.1 Create/Edit Sample Resource

The assessor shall enter or edit the details of a resource to be included in the sample. Each resource added to the sample may be associated with specific sampling criteria. This shall contain the following fields:

- URL (mandatory)
- Title (normally taken from the resource TITLE element in the case of HTML resources). Free form text field.
- Sampling Criteria (the list of sampling criteria associated with the chosen scheme, the assessor must choose one or more criteria for a given resource)
- Explanatory note, normally identifying relevant information on the sampled resource.. Free form text field.

2.3.3.4 Review/Edit Assessment Data

This shall present a list of resources in the sample, by URL and title, with a summary of assessment status (incomplete/pass/fail/not applicable) and a link to "Review/Edit Assessment Data for Resource". The algorithm for summarising the status shall be:

- If any test has not been completed, then status shall be "incomplete".
- Otherwise, if any test has been failed, then status shall be "fail".
- Otherwise, if at least one test has been passed (and all others are "not applicable"), then status shall be "pass".
- Otherwise (i.e., *all* tests recorded as "not applicable") then status shall be "not applicable".

2.3.3.4.1 Review/Edit Assessment Data for Resource

This shall present a summary of the assessment status (incomplete/pass/fail/not applicable) of the specified resource by WCAG 1.0 Checkpoint. The status shall be evaluated using the same aggregation rule as above, but now at the individual Checkpoint level.

There shall be a link to "Review/Edit Assessment Data for Checkpoint" corresponding to each Checkpoint.

2.3.3.4.2 Review/Edit Assessment Data for Checkpoint

This shall present the assessment status of the specified resource, for the specified WCAG 1.0 Checkpoint.

For each test associated with the given Checkpoint the assessor shall be able to enter or revise the following data (in each case, the currently recorded data, if any, shall also be displayed):

- Status: incomplete/pass/fail/not applicable. In each case the status shall initially default to "incomplete" (when the resource is first added to the sample).
- Assessment notes/comments. Free form text field.

2.3.3.5 Review Assessment Report

This shall present a report for the complete website assessment including (but not limited to):

- Administrative Information
- Overall Status (as defined in section 2.3.3)
- Website Scope (as defined in section 2.3.3.2)
- Website Sampling (as defined in section 2.3.3.3)
- Detailed test results organised by resource and WCAG 1.0 Checkpoint status (as defined in section 2.3.3.4.1).

The assessor can select a 'user defined' template (see section 2.3.4) for the generated report, allowing them to determine (to a certain degree) the content and layout of the report.

The generated report may be saved in a variety of formats including,

- a single HTML 4.0 web page

- a PDF file
- an RTF file

2.3.4 Create a New Report Template

2.3.4.1 Report Details

The assessor shall input the information on the report template they wish to create. It shall contain the following fields:

- Report Information
 - Report Title (a unique identifier for the report)
 - Display Title (the assessor may select to display the report title)
 - URL of logo to display on the report
 - Alt text for the logo
- Level two headings (the assessor shall select the 'pre-defined' level two headings they wish to include in the report. 'Pre-defined' headings refers to the sections detailed in section 2.3.3.1 above and shall include, Administrative Information, Overall Result, Scope, Sampling, Assessment Data)

2.3.5 Manage Existing Report Templates

A page of links to the "Report Index" pages for all existing report templates. Each report template shall be identified by a unique report title.

2.3.5.1 Report Index

Contains links, for the particular report template, to:

- Report Details
- Report Headings
- Report Content

2.3.5.2 Review/Edit Report Details

This allows review and editing of all information for a single report template. The fields presented are as specified in section 2.3.4

2.3.5.3 Review/Edit Report Headings

This allows the assessor to add additional 'user defined' level two headings to the report template.

2.3.5.3.1 Create/Edit Report Headings

It shall contain the following fields

- Heading (the title of the heading)
- Position (the position of the heading in the report template, it may be place, at the beginning, at the end or after a specified 'user defined' heading.)

2.3.5.4 Review/Edit Report Content

This presents the assessor with an outline of the report template and allows them to specify the content to be included in the report. Under each level two heading the user can

- Enter text in a free form text field
- In the specific case of 'pre-defined' level two headings the assessor shall select the information gathered during a website assessment which they wish to include in the report template.

2.3.6 Additional Information Resource

Static page with links to relevant external material, including:

- DWAB-3.5-1
- Support-EAM Web Accessibility Evaluation Curriculum (WAEC)
- Support-EAM Public Site⁸
- WAB Cluster Public Site⁹
- W3C/WAI¹⁰

⁸URL: <http://www.support-eam.org/>

⁹URL: <http://www.wab-cluster.org/>

¹⁰URL: <http://www.w3.org/WAI/>

3 Design Description

3.1 Implementation Platform

The system is hosted so far by a commercial hosting provider (Dreamhost¹¹).

The following platform technologies were selected,

- PHP¹² (version 5.1.2): PHP was selected as the server-side scripting language as it is specifically designed to facilitate agile web service development, is widely deployed, and is available under an open source licence.
- MySQL¹³ (version 5.0.16): MySQL is a fast, robust, and very widely deployed relational database management system. Again, it is available under an open source licence.

Both PHP and MySQL have extensive internationalisation support.

3.2 Database Structure

The system design incorporates two key features to facilitate flexible enhancement of the prototype:

- As far as possible, all distinct text strings are stored in the database, with unique functional identifiers, tagged by language. Text displayed to the user (assessor) is extracted, by functional identifier, from the database. This should ease internationalisation: the bulk of the work of supporting additional languages is achieved simply by providing alternate strings with the same functional identifiers but different language tags.
- The sets of assessment tests are stored in the database, cross-referenced to WCAG 1.0 checkpoints. Interaction forms for recording test data are dynamically populated from these tables. Thus altering or extending the test suite can be achieved largely, if not entirely, by modifying the content of these tables.

¹¹URL: <http://www.dreamhost.com/>

¹²URL: <http://www.php.net/>

¹³URL: <http://www.mysql.com/>

In more detail, the database contains the following tables and fields (columns):

- authorised_users
 - 1.name
 - 2.password
- schemes
 1. scheme_id(primary key)
 2. text_identifier
 3. name
- evaluations
 - 3.eval_id (primary key)
 - 4.creator
 - 5.title
 - 6.domain
 - 7.lang
 - 8.owner_id (foreign key)
 - 9.reviewer_id (foreign key)
 - 10.schemes_id (foreign key)
 - 11.template_id (foreign key)
 - 12.scope_defn
- website_owners
 - 1.owner_id (primary key)
 - 2.organisation
 - 3.surname
 - 4.firstname
 - 5.email

- 6. phone
- reviewers
 - 1. reviewer_id (primary key)
 - 2. reviewer_name
 - 3. reviewer_organisation
 - 4. reviewer_email
 - 5. reviewer_phone
- inclusions
 - 1. incl_id (primary key)
 - 2. eval_id (foreign key)
 - 3. url
 - 4. rationale
- exclusions
 - 1. excl_id (primary key)
 - 2. eval_id (foreign key)
 - 3. url
 - 4. rationale
- sample_urls
 - 1. sample_id (primary key)
 - 2. eval_id (foreign key)
 - 3. url
- SCHEME_criteria
 - 1. criteria_id (primary key)
 - 2. stringcriteria_id (foreign key)
- SCHEME_sample_criteria_mapping

- 1. sample_id (foreign key)
- 2. eval_id (foreign key)
- 3. criteria_id (foreign key)
- SCHEME_tests
 - 1. test_id (primary key)
 - 2. dwab_url
 - 3. stringdesc_id (foreign key)
 - 4. stringappl_id (foreign key)
 - 5. string_result (foreign key)
- SCHEME_strings_criteria
 - 1. stringcriteria_id (primary key)
 - 2. language_id
 - 3. string_criteria
- SCHEME_strings_description
 - 1. stringdesc_id (primary key)
 - 2. language_id
 - 3. string_desc
- SCHEME_strings_applicability
 - 1. stringappl_id (primary key)
 - 2. language_id
 - 3. string_appl
- SCHEME_strings_result
 - 1. stringappl_id (primary key)
 - 2. language_id
 - 3. string_result

- SCHEME_checkpoint_mapping (WCAG 1.0)
 - test_id (foreign key)
 - maj (major number)
 - min (minor number)
 - wcag10_priority
- test_data
 - 1. data_id (primary key)
 - 2. sample_id (foreign key)
 - 3. test_id (foreign key)
 - 4. eval_id (foreign key)
 - 5. status
 - 6. notes
- report_template
 - 1. report_id(primary key)
 - 2. title
 - 3. display_title
 - 4. logo
 - 5. logo_alt
 - 6. creator
 - 7. fields for the data to include in the report
- report_template_headings
 - 1. report_id(primary key)
 - 2. heading_id
 - 3. heading
 - 4. text

3.3 Server-Side Scripts

3.3.1 Create New Website Assessment

(Specification: section 2.3.2)

When the assessor submits the relevant data it is inserted into the `evaluations` table, `website_owners` table and the `reviewers` table.

An error is flagged if the assessor has not submitted data for any of the mandatory fields, and no tables are updated.

3.3.2 Manage Existing Website Assessments

(Specification: section 2.3.3)

This script extracts the relevant data from the `evaluations` table and presents the list of assessments ordered by `eval_id`.

3.3.3 Review/Edit Administrative Information

(Specification: section 2.3.3.2)

This script extracts the relevant data from the `evaluations` and `website_owners` tables for the preselected evaluation and presents this information to the assessor in a HTML form.

When the assessor submits the form, the relevant rows in the `evaluations` and `website_owners` tables are updated.

An error is flagged if the assessor has not submitted data for any of the mandatory fields, and no tables are updated.

3.3.4 Review Scope

(Specification: section 2.3.3.2)

This script extracts the scope details for the preselected evaluation from the `evaluations` table, the `inclusions` table and the `exclusions` table, and presents the information to the assessor.

3.3.5 Add Scope Definition

(Specification: section 2.3.3.2)

This script inserts the text entered by the assessor into the relevant row in the `evaluations` table.

3.3.6 Create Inclusion/Exclusion Resources

(Specification: section 2.3.3.2.1)

This script inserts the relevant data into the `inclusions` and `exclusions` tables. An error is flagged if the assessor has not submitted data for any of the mandatory fields, and no tables are updated.

3.3.7 Edit Inclusion/Exclusion Resources

(Specification: section 2.3.3.2.1)

This script extracts the relevant data from the `inclusions` and `exclusions` tables for the preselected evaluation and presents this information to the assessor in a HTML form.

When the assessor submits the form the relevant data in the `inclusions` and `exclusions` tables is updated.

An error is flagged if the assessor has not submitted data for any of the mandatory fields, and no tables are updated.

3.3.8 Review Sample Resource

(Specification: section 2.3.3.3)

This script extracts the list of Sample URLs for the preselected evaluation from the table `sample_urls`. Using the data in the table `sample_criteria_mapping` it also associates each sample URL with one or more `sampling_criteria`. This information is then presented to the assessor.

3.3.9 Create Sample Resource

(Specification: section 2.3.3.3.1)

This script inserts the relevant data into the table `sample_urls`. It also makes an association between each sample URL and relevant sampling criteria by inserting a row with the relevant data into the table `sample_criteria_mapping`.

3.3.10 Edit Sample Resource

(Specification: section 2.3.3.3.1)

This script extracts the relevant data from the `sample_urls` and `sampling_criteria_mapping` tables for the preselected evaluation and presents this information to the assessor in a HTML form.

When the assessor submits the form the script updates the list of sample URLs in the table `sample_urls`. It also updates the associations between each sample URL and indicated sampling criteria by updating the relevant row in the table `sample_criteria_mapping`.

3.3.11 Review/Edit Assessment Data

(Specification: section 2.3.3.4)

Using the tables `seam_tests`, `strings_description` and `strings_applicability` this script extracts the relevant data in order to present a list of the assessment tests to the assessor. It also makes an association between each test and a WCAG 1.0 checkpoint by using the table `checkpoint_mapping` so that the tests are ordered under WCAG 1.0 checkpoints.

Using the table `test_data` it also extracts any data that has been entered by the assessor for the preselected sample resource in the preselected evaluation and presents it to the assessor in a HTML form.

When the assessor submits the form this script updates relevant rows in the table `test_data`.

3.3.12 Review Assessment Report

(Specification: section 2.3.3.5)

This script extracts the relevant data from the tables `evaluations`, `website_owners`, `inclusions`, `exclusions`, `sample_urls` and `test_data` for the preselected evaluation so that it can be presented in the form of a report to the assessor.

The assessor may select a 'user-defined' report template for the report in order to control the content and layout of the report.

The report may be viewed or saved in a variety of formats including,

- a single, printable HTML 4.0 web page
- a PDF file
- a RTF file

3.3.13 Create New Report Template

(Specification: section 2.3.4)

When the assessor submits the relevant data it is inserted into the `report_template` table and the `report_template_headings` table.

An error is flagged if the assessor has not submitted data for any of the mandatory fields, and no tables are updated.

3.3.14 Manage Existing Report Templates

(Specification: section 2.3.5)

This script extracts the relevant data from the `report_template` table and presents the list of report templates ordered by `report_id`.

3.3.15 Review/Edit Report Details

(Specification: section 2.3.5.2)

This script extracts the relevant data from the `report_template` and `report_template_headings` tables for the preselected report template and presents this information to the assessor in a HTML form.

When the assessor submits the form, the relevant rows in the `report_template` and `report_template_headings` tables are updated.

An error is flagged if the assessor has not submitted data for any of the mandatory fields, and no tables are updated.

3.3.16 Review Report Headings

(Specification: section 2.3.5.3)

This script extracts the relevant data from the `report_headings` table for the preselected report template and presents this information to the assessor.

3.3.17 Create/Edit Report Heading

(Specification: section 2.3.5.3.1)

This script extracts the relevant data from the `report_template_headings` table for the preselected report template and presents this information to the assessor in a HTML form.

When the assessor submits the form, the relevant rows in the `report_template_headings` table are updated.

An error is flagged if the assessor has not submitted data for any of the mandatory fields, and no tables are updated.

3.3.18 Review/Edit Content

(Specification: section 2.3.5.4)

This script extracts the relevant data from the `report_template` table for the preselected report template and presents this information to the assessor in a HTML form.

When the assessor submits the form, the relevant rows in the `report_template` table are updated.

An error is flagged if the assessor has not submitted data for any of the mandatory fields, and no tables are updated.

4 User (Assessor) Interaction

4.1 Navigation

The assessor can navigate the pages using a navigation bar which is normally positioned (via CSS) at the left of each page. The active section is always highlighted to give the assessor a good understanding of current location.

Breadcrumbs normally positioned at the top of each page also provide a quick way for the assessor to know what section of the website he/she is in. (see Illustration 1)

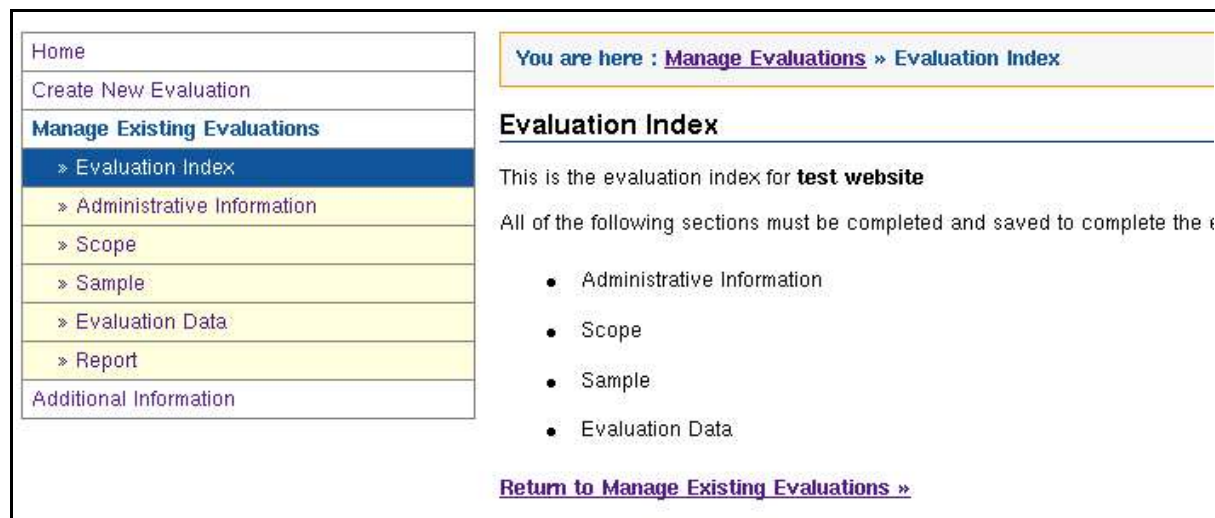


Illustration 1: Navigation Features

4.2 Management of the System

4.2.1 Managing Assessments

The assessor can create a new assessment at any stage. Once the assessor has filled in all of the required administrative information the assessment is created on the system. The assessor can now review or edit all of the data for that assessment. In order to select an assessment to review/edit the assessor is presented with a complete list of the existing assessments in the system (see Illustration 2).

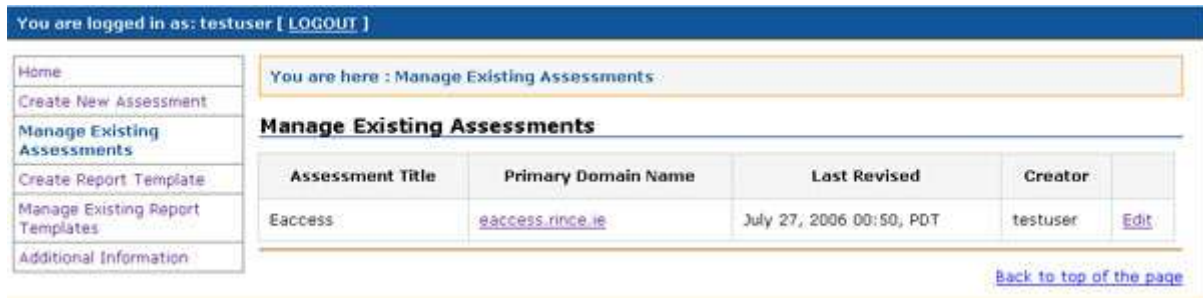


Illustration 2: Manage Assessments

While completing the assessment the assessor can choose to save the data they have entered and return to it at a later stage.

They can also view the automatically generated report at any stage during the assessment.

Once the assessor accesses the report they are also presented with a list of 'report options' allowing them to choose the template used to generate the report and alternative formats for viewing/saving the report. Managing Report Templates

Report templates are managed in a similar fashion to assessments (see 4.2.1). The assessor can create new report template at any stage and review/edit the data for a given report template. In order to select a report template to review/edit the assessor is presented with a complete list of the existing report templates in the system (see Illustration 3).



Illustration 3: Manage Report Templates

5 Annex: License

The **Support-EAM “prototype web accessibility conformity assessment demonstrator”** has been developed within the Support EAM project (IST-2-004754-SSA, <http://www.support-eam.org>) under the coordination of the Association BrailleNet.

The actual version (corresponding to this report) of this prototype is 1.1 released on 31st July 2006.

5.1 Original author and copyright holder

The **original author and copyright holder** of the Support-EAM “prototype web accessibility conformity assessment demonstrator” is : the 7 Support EAM partners and the European Commission. The 7 Support EAM partners are:

- Association BrailleNet (France)
- Technosite (Spain)
- Bartimeus Accessibility Foundation (Netherlands)
- Dublin City University (Ireland)
- Universität Linz (Austria)
- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven Research & Development (Belgium)
- AccessInMind Ltd (United Kingdom)

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