State University of New York
- 64 Campus public higher education system of New York State
- 380,000+ students
- 40,000+ staff
- Millions of web pages

The Web is a way of life, for those fortunate.

Today Situation
- Lack of awareness of the technical and legal issues about accessibility
- Lack of training or training that does not include accessibility
- Accessibility is not (yet) a design criterion
- Most think it (accessibility) is too hard to do
- Remediation, however is not easy

What is Universal (Web) Accessibility?
- The content or service offered on a site is universally accessible if the end user can choose their preferred method of acquiring the information and interacting with that site.
Federal Initiatives

- Americans with Disabilities Act 1990
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act 1973
- Section 508 of the Workforce Investment Act 1998
- Section 508 delayed until March 2001

NYS takes the lead

- Technology Policy 99-3 - Universal Access to the Web 9-30-99
- Priority 1 Level A by 9-30-2000
- World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
  - Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)
  - W3C - Web Content Accessibility Guidelines

Strategies that

- Inform everyone of the policy and its requirements, and the benefits
- Develop or use existing curricula to train students on accessible web design
- Provide training for your staff that includes accessibility
- Include accessibility requirements in contracts with vendors
- Include accessibility requirements in the design
- Make universal accessibility a way of life - It's not that hard

SUNY supports Universal Access to the Web

- Doing so will increase our ability to attract, educate and graduate students with disabilities
- Increase our ability to hire, retain and promote staff with disabilities
- Remove potential legal actions
- Position SUNY as a leader in disability rights and services

Everybody Benefits

- Persons with disabilities identified the need, but the need benefits from curb cuts and automatic doors and increasingly from:
  - Speech recognition
  - Voice synthesis and digitized voice
  - Closed captioning
- New technologies require it! PDA’s, WebPhones, Internet phones, WebTV

If the technology (or the web site) isn’t ready yet

- PDF files - Provide text or html - Conversion utilities are available
- Provide alternative methods (in accessible form)
- For fill in forms, provide assistance
What SUNY has done
- Advised campus president's of policy
- Presidents appointed Web Accessibility

Contacts
- Provided awareness through meetings, sessions, listserv's
- Conducted survey on compliance
- Serving on NYS Information Technology Access Steering Committee
- Conducts monthly training

What can you do?
- Develop an Accessibility Strategy
- Advise managers/staff/faculty/students of what universal access really means
- Include accessibility requirements in web site design
- Insist upon (and provide) proper training
- Assume the responsibility of providing access to electronic information

Resources
- World Wide Web Consortium www.w3.org
- Web Accessibility Initiative www.w3.org/wai
- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines www.w3.org/tr/wai-webcontent
- The WAI's Curriculum for WCAG 1.0 A self-teaching guide for Web Content Accessibility www.w3.org/wai/wcag-curric
- NYS Office for Technology www.oft.state.ny.us

- Lynx browser www.fdisk.com/doslynx/lynxport.htm
- Accessibility-Prompt toolkit http://aprompt.snow.utoronto.ca/
- W3C html Validation http://validator.w3.org/
- W3C CSS Validation http://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/