Towards the Evaluation and Testing of Web Accessibility

Realization: Sandor Herramhof

Description:

The thesis demonstrates strategies which could direct the web a step closer towards accessibility. The efforts described are made within
the EU-Project BenToWeb (http://www.bentoweb.org), which the author takes part in. BenToWeb aims to support the European public and private sector to implement the recommendations of the eEurope 'Action Plan' by providing new software modules and methodologies that satisfy some of th accessibility recommendations of the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) of the World Wide Web Consortium. The strategy for this challenge is manifold.

The first tasks is the development of an accessibility test suite (a test suite consists of a bunch of test cases) for XHTML and CSS technology. The test suite on the one hand forms the basis for reproducible benchmarking of Evaluation and Repair Tools (E&R tools), and on the other hand allows atomic evaluation of web technology by users with specific equipment.

The second task is the implementation of a web-based test case evaluation framework. The evaluation framework is designed to conduct user evaluations of test cases in a controlled environment.

The third task is to support the generation of the Evaluation and Report ing Language (EARL). EARL is a RDF-based language developed by the Evaluation and Repair Tools Working Group (part of WAI) to describe test results.