DOJ Enters Into Landmark Web and Mobile App Consent Decree with H&R Block

Eric,

On March 6th, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ or Justice) entered into a consent decree with H&R Block over Web and mobile app accessibility. The case (National Federation of the Blind v. HRB Digital LLC) represents the first time that Justice intervened in and required a consent decree in a lawsuit based only on Web and mobile app accessibility. Under the consent decree (cite to http://www2.hisoftware.com/e/3872/hrb-cd-htm/35pml3/672004032), H&R Block must undertake a number of stringent requirements including:

- Make its web content conform to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 level AA by January 2015.
- Make its mobile apps conform to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 level AA by January 2016.
- Appoint a Web Accessibility Coordinator to ensure compliance with the consent decree, create a detailed (and publicly posted) Web Accessibility Policy, create a Web Accessibility Committee, solicit Web Accessibility Feedback from its customers, provide special escalated customer assistance for customers with disabilities.
- Provide mandatory annual accessibility training for anyone developing web content or mobile apps for H&R Block.
- Conduct automated testing of H&R Block's web content.
- Retain a Web accessibility consultant and provide reports to NFB and DOJ on H&R Block's conformance (or nonconformance) with the Consent Decree.
- Pay $45,000 in damages to private plaintiffs and $55,000 in civil penalties to Justice.

If your company has an inaccessible website or inaccessible mobile, now is the time to address any issues before the government makes sweeping legislation that could put you at risk. Read more about the decree and what it means on our blog at http://www2.hisoftware.com/e/3872/-and-mobile-app-consent-decree/35pml5/672004032

Do you know where to start or how to improve your Web accessibility? If you are not sure what to do, download our whitepaper to help you kick start or improve your existing Web accessibility program to meet compliance in time.

Guidance at a Glance: Web Accessibility offers:
- US, industry and international regulations governing Web accessibility.
- 4 steps towards a comprehensive Web accessibility program.
- How automated solutions play a key role in addressing accessibility to comply with regulations.

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