**Product Development – Design Testing Process**

To create a born accessible product, it is recommended that accessibility requirements be integrated at the beginning of product development.

A product is created in 4 stages

1. **Design**
2. **Development**
3. **Staging (Strictly QA)**
4. **Production**

Testing occurs in Development and influences Staging. In Production, testing takes the form of a health check to insure nothing has been missed or things have not been broken over time.

**Step 1: Build a Tester team that represents each Disability and is preferably embedded in Design Team**

1. Motor
2. Blind
3. Low Vision
4. Color Blindness/Sensitivity
5. Deaf
6. Neurodiverse
7. Comorbid Disabilities/Multiple Disabilities

A Tester should…

* Be a native user
* Have credentials into the product and tools necessary to test, as well as dummy/test data if necessary (e.g, billing address and credit card numbers)

**Step 2: Create a Lab (optional) and set up stations per user type**

* Each station should identify the differing Assistive Technology that users interact with for that Product. (Note: Several disability types overlap on the same Assistive Technology)

**Step 3: Create a unified Test plan and a Reporting plan**

**Step 4: Test Plan intake (Development)**

* Fill out a Testing Brief that defines scope of what the product/application should do
  + Summary of what to solve for
  + Requirements established
  + Should the testing be (a) per screen or (b) per user journey
    - Identify which screens or user journeys
* Standardize how a product is tested
  + Create a check list of standards to qualify a product or service
  + Define methodology
  + What machines where used for testing (i.e. iPhone / Andriod / Mac / PC)
    - Which platforms to test: desktop/laptop, RWD (web on mobile), native, 10-foot TV app
    - Which screen readers or browsers
    - Any “special” test cases like Dragon, switch
  + Identify obstacles
  + Propose solutions

**Step 5: Test Standards (Development)**

Apply WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) [www.w3.org](http://www.w3.org) minimum standard AA

**Step 6: Quality Assurance (Staging)**

Findings sent to QA Test Lead for review and quality check

**Step 7: Release Findings (If findings conflict with current Product state and key requirements, send Product back to Development then Staging then Production)**

Approval of testing standard complete and released for application