IBM has been at the forefront of accessibility innovation for 100 years

IBM is creating parity for the broad range of individual human needs so everyone has equal access to digital knowledge.

Factors Driving Accessibility

- 7 billion people on the planet
- 1.2 billion have a disability
- 6.8 billion mobile subscriptions worldwide
- 600+ million are over the age of 60
- 900+ million have low or no literacy
- 2.4 million children have cognitive learning difficulties

2014 IBM appoints Frances West as Chief Accessibility Officer bringing accountability for access to C level attention

2014 IBM standardizes on ePUB content publishing standards to enable seamless cross device user interaction and experience

2013 IBM advises the US Senate on the business impact of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities

2013 IBM launches “Safe at Home” pilot in Italy, giving seniors independence through sensors and big data

2012 IBM launches automated captioning and editing tool for video media to improve employee productivity

2011 IBM begins My NYC pilot: Designed to enhance the tourism experience for visitors with disabilities

2005 IBM champions internet accessibility for people with disabilities in testimony to U.S. Congress

2004 IBM begins efforts to make rich internet content accessible through WAI-ARIA global standard

2000 IBM launches global accessibility centers to accelerate product compliance internally

1997 IBM creates web-page content reader

1975 IBM introduces the braille printer

1960 IBM creates talking typewriter

1914 IBM hires first disabled scientist

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