

# Axe DevTools and axe Monitor enable USCIS to run reliable, automated tests for Section 508 Compliance



## About United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

**Industry:** Federal Government

**Partner Since:** 2014

**Deque Products Utilized:** axe DevTools, axe Monitor

**Scope of Digital Products:** Internal/external websites, applications and pdfs.

USCIS is a United States federal government organization that administers the nation's lawful immigration system. USCIS provides naturalization and immigration services and resources.

### Story Snapshot:

- Accessibility products used by USCIS must be compatible with their robust security technology. Deque's enterprise tools work with USCIS's preferred system.
- USCIS practices accessibility with a centralized team that requires custom, consistent rulesets.
- USCIS reports to the Department of Homeland Security for Section 508 compliance. Deque's tool suite is customized to build and automate tests in accordance with Trusted Tester.

### Prioritizing Security

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) conducts an extensive evaluation period of vendors and technologies prior to purchasing. USCIS requires that all critical and major issues found by security scanning software must be responded to within 30 days of the original report date. In order to do that, Deque products must support a 30-day release cycle.

When USCIS began searching for an end-to-end solution for digital accessibility, a defining factor in their decision-making process was compatibility with their security scanning software. Deque's accessibility testing software products ship defect-free with USCIS's preferred security system. This means that the USCIS Section 508 Compliance Team can use Deque's accessibility products without interruption to their existing software processes.

### Tools for a Centralized Accessibility Team

USCIS practices accessibility through a sophisticated, centralized team. Deque's axe DevTools and axe Monitor are built to be used within mature development processes. axe DevTools is used to catch issues early on in the development process, while axe Monitor continually scans and monitors the accessibility of their web pages once in production.

Both axe DevTools and axe Monitor offer the ability to set custom accessibility rulesets, allowing for them to be used seamlessly in conjunction by USCIS.

### Automated Reporting of Trusted Tester Standards

USCIS conducts reporting up to the Department of Homeland Security. Of particular importance is the Trusted Tester Methodology, which helps achieve Section 508 compliance. Because of ongoing reporting requirements, USCIS wanted to test against the Trusted Tester methodology and automate the tests as much as possible.

Deque's and USCIS's Trusted Tester experts collaborated to create custom rules that were then introduced into axe DevTools and axe Monitor. Deque helped to automate approximately 30% of the Trusted Tester rules in short order. Automating Trusted Tester rules effectively eliminates time-consuming back-and-forth between developers and the central Section 508 team, saving the USCIS time and money while maintaining compliance.

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