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**SUMMARY KEYWORDS**

assistive technology, spoken, authors, content, presentation, standards, pronunciation, task force, draft, solution, html, w3c, assistant, feedback, voice, challenge, speech synthesis, approach, css3, edtech

**SPEAKERS**

Markku Häkkinen

00:06

Hello. This is an update on the work of the W3C Spoken Presentation Task Force for TPAC 2021.

00:15

My name is Markku Hakkinen. I am Director of Accessibility Standards and Inclusive Technology at Educational Testing Service.

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The challenge, accurate, consistent pronunciation and presentation of spoken web content is an essential requirement in education and other fields.

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While quality of text to speech synthesis keeps improving authors of web content do not have a means to retain control of the pronunciation or presentation of information spoken by assistive technologies or voice assistants.

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It is currently a major challenge area and vendors in the EdTech space are looking for a standards-based solution, rather than hacks.

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Why the task force.

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Standards are key to addressing the challenge and W3C is the organization where we can look for a solution.

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Existing standards such as SSML are seen as part of a potential solution. Brian talks about SSML in his presentation.

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We also recognize that prior activity in Aural CSS and CSS3 Speech, are part of the puzzle, and Leonie will talk about that in her presentation.

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However, support in content, browsers and assistive technology of any standard remains missing.

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The problem space.

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Spoken interfaces are more than an accessibility issue.

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While voice assistant app developers can utilize SSML in their applications, web content authors can't.

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Users who rely upon spoken presentation, whether via a screen reader, read aloud tool or a voice assistant, should be able to listen to content with the accurate pronunciation and presentation that the author of the original content intended.

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Key goals.

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We want to allow content authors to precisely define pronunciation and spoken style of web content.

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We want to allow consumers of web content that is presented via text to speech synthesis to listen to it as authors intended.

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Our current status.

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The task force includes members from the education community and other organizations.

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We have looked at inlining SSML in HTML as a potential solution, and quickly saw that as a non starter based upon feedback we received

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Our first public working draft was released earlier this year proposing two possible solutions for integrating SSML based spoken pronunciation cues into HTML.

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The current approaches differ.

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A single attribute versus a multi attribute approach with proponents on both sides, and with some implementations.

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Our current working draft is available for review.

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The specification for spoken presentation at HTML.

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You can find it at W3.org/TR/spoken-HTML.

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We look forward to your feedback

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Our roadmap.

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While we have received feedback on the first public working draft, more review is needed.

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Particularly from browser vendors

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screen reader and read aloud assistive technology developers

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and voice assistant developers.

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We will keep updating the draft as we respond to feedback.

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Our goal is to settle upon a single approach that can be authored and consumed by both assistive technologies and voice assistance.

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You can learn more about our work and our current drafts, which can be found github.com/w3c/pronunciation.

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We also have a video we developed for TPAC 2020 which contains demonstrations. This can be found at w3.org/2020/10/TPAC/APA-pronounciation.HTML.

04:28

Thank you.