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# InstantAtlas™ Desktop Edition and Web Accessibility

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## 1. Introduction

Like many graphical presentation media, most web mapping solutions are particularly challenged to meet accessibility requirements, especially in the public sector. InstantAtlas is a Flash-based application which requires that the end-user has the Adobe Flash plug-in (Version 9+) activated in his/her browser (*Version 10 is required for the image print and export functions*).

This document discusses how to configure your InstantAtlas dynamic report to best meet accessibility requirements.

## 2. Flash Player

Flash has become a de facto world-wide standard, with penetration in private households generally exceeding 99%. See table below.

### Adobe Flash Player Version Penetration (Source: Adobe\*)

Worldwide Ubiquity of Adobe Flash Player by Version - December 2009			
	Flash Player 8 & below	Flash Player 9	Flash Player 10
<b>Mature Markets</b>	99.0%	98.9%	94.7%
<b>US/Canada</b>	99.0%	99.0%	94.2%
<b>Europe</b>	99.1%	98.8%	95.6%
<b>Japan</b>	98.0%	97.7%	93.4%
<b>Australia/New Zealand</b>	98.9%	98.6%	94.3%
<b>Emerging Markets</b>	98.2%	98.0%	92.7%

\*Source:

[http://www.adobe.com/products/player\\_census/flashplayer/version\\_penetration.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/player_census/flashplayer/version_penetration.html)

As a result of this widespread penetration, Flash-based graphics have gained more acceptance in the US, UK and German data dissemination institutions. Local accessibility guidelines will still require appropriate introductory text and alternative data presentation media to be made available to address needs of some specific audiences with common visual and other physical disabilities. Flash technology enables a high-quality, intuitive and fast-responding interface compared with many html-based alternatives. With the launch of Flash Player 10, Adobe included enhanced integration with assistive technologies, and increased keyboard access\*.

<http://www.adobe.com/accessibility/products/flashplayer/overview.html>

\* With integrated support for Microsoft Active Accessibility (MSAA), Flash Player 10 makes content available via screen access technologies such as Window-Eyes from GW Micro and JAWS from Freedom Scientific.

### 3. InstantAtlas Features to Address Accessibility

InstantAtlas is a software toolset which properly handled by the publisher, can be largely configured to address the needs of many physically-challenged user communities. Like any graphic presentation, it is incumbent on the web-master to decide what alternative data presentation exists around each InstantAtlas deployment.

#### 3.1. Access to XML Data

The numeric and categorical data behind published InstantAtlas reports are in an open .xml format, facilitating interoperability with other solutions. The data can be accessed in readable html table form with a URL link replacing the “atlas.html” file in the address with “data.xml”. A small link to this file can be added on the same web-page page as the atlas itself. The xslt used to render this xml can be customised if required.

#### 3.2. CSS Style Sheets / Quality of Text and Graphics

Object line, font size and colour properties can be freely reconfigured from their initial default values using the InstantAtlas Style Editor. This CSS file can also be edited in any text editor. To meet needs specific needs of users with specific sight impairments, the same report can be loaded with different pre-published config.xml and default.css combinations using URL parameters.

#### 3.3. Selectable Legend Colour-Swatches

Colour palettes for the representation of map polygons, lines and points as well as lines and bars in each of the charts can be presented to enable the

end-user to switch legend preferences. The default colours offered are (blue shades, red/blue contrast and black-grey-white scales). The background colours of the dashboard can also be selected to provide good visual contrast. Many of the palettes offered are based on research for ColorBrewer (Penn State University) with their “colorblind safe” designations.

#### 3.4. Navigation

InstantAtlas is designed for use with a mouse to navigate and click on different parts of the dashboard. The same interaction can be achieved on the keyboard by enabling MouseKeys.

#### 3.5. Zooming Capability

For a close-up (larger view) of the display, right mouse-clicks offer access to the standard Flash resizing functionality. (supported in IA Version 5 – currently not in 6). By default InstantAtlas dynamic report components will scale as a browser window is re-sized.

#### 3.6. Addition of Buttons

It is easy to add buttons to an InstantAtlas report. These buttons can be hyperlinked to files for download, or alternative data-views.

#### 3.7. Metatext

The provision of an indicator context-sensitive metatext-box can be used for commentary on the data being visualized.

### 3.8. Pop-up Settings

Pop-ups do not need to be enabled to view reports and tool-tips.

### 3.9. JavaScript

InstantAtlas reports should generally be visible in browsers even if JavaScript is disabled. However, the atlas.html file contains a small JavaScript routine to test for the correct Flash Player version. This can be by-passed or removed if required. (Alternatively, the file atlas.swf can be addressed directly).

### 3.10. HTML Profile Template

The InstantAtlas HTML Profile Template creates a set of linked HTML pages that provide a clear, accessible view of your data on an area-by-area basis. Pages published using this template do not require the Flash Player to be installed. They will also work if JavaScript is disabled (although some elements of the report will be disabled accordingly).

## 4. InstantAtlas Support

You can find all core user guides and a wide range of other InstantAtlas support resources at [www.instantatlas.com/support.xhtml](http://www.instantatlas.com/support.xhtml). InstantAtlas customers can login to their My InstantAtlas account and download a wide range of support resources and access a searchable knowledgebase. If these resources do not provide a solution, please contact your support provider.