

# SightWeaver – User Manual

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SightWeaver is a tool for repairing HTML tables so that they comply with existing accessibility standards. The program imports existing HTML documents, and attempts to determine accessibility information from the markup. The user is then presented with the corrected tables and may verify and refine the table structure and accessibility information before exporting the document.

Features:

- Can import XHTML, HTML and CSV files formats. Invalid or badly marked up HTML is supported by using JTidy.
- Microsoft Word and Excel “Save-As-HTML” documents are also explicitly supported.
- All existing accessibility information in the original document is preserved and re-used.
- Documents can contain up to 10 tables. Non-table content is preserved and also “cleaned” using JTidy.
- Robust table parser - cell spanning, short rows, thead, etc.
- The user is given full control over all accessibility information in the tables; including table summaries, captions and cell headers structure, header associations, axes and abbreviations.
- Output is well-formed, valid XHTML.
- (Table) output conforms to WCAG and Section 508 web standards.
- Program conforms to ATAG.

## Running the Program

SightWeaver is a java application and therefore must have the Java Runtime Environment (JRE) installed in order to use. The JRE can be downloaded from Sun Microsystem’s website<sup>1</sup>. Version 1.4 or greater is needed to run this program, and it has been tested and operates correctly under the Windows, Linux and Solaris operating systems.

To start the program, type “java -jar sightweaver.jar” in a command prompt or terminal window. This will start the graphical user interface, which is the main interface for importing, manipulating and exporting documents.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.sun.com/>

## Importing Files

To import an existing document, click on “Import” in the “File” menu. This will bring up a standard dialog box, from which the document can be selected. Supported file types are HTML, XHTML and CSV. The tables must be data tables (as opposed to layout tables) and must not be nested. If the document does not contain any tables, the document will not be opened.

Existing table accessibility information in the table will be maintained, and the program will attempt to guess other informations such as incorrectly marked up headers, and header associations.

Other document content will also be preserved but will not appear in the table window.

## The Table Display

The first table in the document will be displayed in the table display window. Other tables can be selected from the “Table” menu.

The table is displayed in its *logical* form, so no formatting or styling information will be displayed. Also, text will be cropped so as to appear in the table without resizing the cells.

Table *headers* are displayed in a bold font and cells that are *spanned* are blank with with a diagonal line.

Cells may be selected by clicking the cell with the left button of the mouse. Multiple continuous cells may be selected by clicking again on the next cell while depressing the “CTRL” button.

The following information about selected cells is displayed in the status bar of the program window:

- The unique **ID** of the header cell.
- The **Abbreviation** of the header cell.
- The associated **Headers** of the header or data cells.
- The **Axis** of the header or data cells.

## Repairing Tables

The table summary describes the relationship among cells, including their headers, spanning information or other relationships that may not be obvious from analysing the structure of the table but that may be apparent in a visual rendering of the table. The table summary may be edited using the “Edit Summary” menu item of the “Table” menu.

The table caption is used to describe the table in two to three sentences and may be edited using the “Edit Caption” menu item of the “Table” menu.

If the program has not correctly identified the table headers, then these can be set using the “Make Header Cell” menu item. If the program has incorrectly set the table headers, then use the “Make Data Cell” menu item to change these to data cells.

Cells should be associated with headers in order to identify the relationship between header and data cells. This can be achieved by selecting the data cells associated with a header, clicking “Add Header” and selecting the correct header. If all cells under a header can be said to be associated with it, then this header has a ‘column’ scope. This can be set with the “Add Header Scope” menu item. This dialog can also be used to set row scope, which means all the cells to the right of a header are associated with it.

The table ID is a unique identifier used by cells to refer to their headings and the header abbreviation should be used to give a terse abbreviation for headers with long descriptions. These can be set using “Edit Header Info”.

The cell axis is used to label cells based on some list of categories. Use the “Edit Axis” menu item to set this.

## Exporting Files

Once the table is satisfactory, it may be exported using the “Export” menu item of the “File” menu. This displays a standard ‘Save As’ dialog box, from which the file can be saved as usual. The document will be saved in XHTML Strict 1.0 format, which should be backwards compatible with most browsers.

At this stage, the document will be checked for accessibility. If an error occurs, a descriptive dialog will be displayed and the document will not be exported.

At any stage during the table repair process, the document HTML source can be viewed using the “View Source” menu item of the “File” menu.