



## **Support for Cidi Labs Accessibility Checker Software**

**RES 242532**

AS&SS

**RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate recommends that the campus adopt Cidi Labs' UDOIT (Universal Design Online Content Inspection Tool) Advantage Accessibility Assistant, a learning management systems accessibility checker software. UDOIT Advantage would replace the software currently provided by Ally Software.

**RATIONALE:** Cidi Labs' UDOIT Advantage software was designed to interface directly into Canvas to advance inclusive and accessible learning. This software is approved for adoption by the Chancellor's Office has been adopted successfully by multiple other CSU campuses. UDOIT Advantage is less expensive than our current contract with Ally software and offers equivalent usability and effectiveness.

**Attachment:** Cidi Labs Response

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Approved by the Academic Senate: April 10, 2025

Sent to the President: April 25, 2025

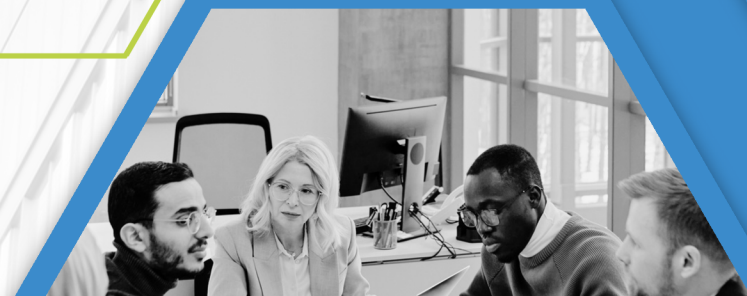
President Approved: June 5, 2025

# Learning Management Systems Software Accessibility Checker Software

## Cidi Labs Response to Proposal No: CALST-RFP-00000610-2024

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Michael Zackrison  
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November 12, 2024

Chancellor Mildred García  
California State University, Office of the Chancellor  
401 Golden Shore Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90815

Dear Chancellor García,

On behalf of Cidi Labs, I am pleased to respond to the California State University system's "Learning Management System Accessibility Checker Software" Request for Proposal aimed at advancing the system's efforts to enhance the process of ensuring content accessibility within the Canvas LMS environment. At Cidi Labs, we understand that accessibility is not just a requirement but a commitment to equity and student success. We are honored to offer UDOIT Advantage, Cidi Lab's comprehensive Canvas-native accessibility assistant, as a solution specifically designed to support ADA-defined and other essential accessibility requirements closely aligned to those the CSU system is seeking to achieve its accessibility goals.

UDOIT Advantage stands out as one of the only tools that integrates and operates directly within Instructure's Canvas LMS, streamlining the process of identifying and remediating accessibility issues without disrupting the user experience. By embedding accessibility functionality within the familiar Canvas environment, UDOIT Advantage enables faculty and instructional designers to quickly assess, understand, and address accessibility barriers in real-time. This organic integration not only saves time and enhances efficiency but also builds lasting knowledge among designers, equipping them with the insights needed to create genuinely inclusive content.

Yet, we also recognize that achieving and sustaining accessibility is an ongoing journey, encompassing design, review, and continuous improvement. In support of a holistic "Accessibility by Design" approach, we invite the CSU system to optionally consider the combined power of UDOIT Advantage alongside two companion products, DesignPLUS and TidyUP. Together, these tools offer a complete solution that addresses accessibility needs at every stage of course development, ensuring the highest standards of inclusivity for CSU's diverse student body.

### **Design: Building Accessibility from the Ground Up with DesignPLUS**

Our course design toolset, DesignPLUS, helps faculty and instructional designers build accessible content right from the start. By integrating accessibility checks and guidelines directly within the design workflow, DesignPLUS simplifies complex tasks and educates users on best practices. With built-in prompts, templates, and content structuring tools that meet common accessibility standards, designers can confidently create visually appealing and functional courses for all students. For students who rely on screen readers, keyboard navigation, or other assistive technologies, this proactive approach ensures that content is accessible from the first interaction, reducing potential barriers to learning.

### **Review: Ensuring Accessible, Ready-to-Launch Courses with UDOIT Advantage**

As the primary proposed solution for this CSU RFP, UDOIT Advantage enhances the Canvas environment by enabling thorough, efficient accessibility reviews during course preparation. Whether part of a quality assurance process or start-of-term review, UDOIT Advantage highlights issues that could impact students and guides course designers to address them effectively. By identifying common accessibility barriers—such as missing alt text, improper heading structures, or low contrast—UDOIT Advantage enables quick and accurate remediation. Additionally, by providing contextual guidance on each issue, UDOIT Advantage not only fixes immediate problems but also empowers designers with the knowledge to prevent similar issues in the future. This continuous learning process by faculty and course designers alike contributes directly to improved accessibility and usability, creating a more equitable experience for all CSU students.

Additionally, UDOIT Advantage offers comprehensive administrative reporting tools that provide actionable insights into the most common accessibility issues found across courses. This data enables targeted training and support, helping faculty and staff continuously improve their accessibility practices and address areas where students may experience recurring challenges.

### **Continuous Improvement: Ongoing Accessibility Refinement with TidyUP**

Accessibility is a journey that benefits from regular refinement. TidyUP enables CSU administrators and designers to take a proactive approach by identifying and managing unused files and outdated content, helping focus accessibility efforts on materials students actively use. This functionality streamlines courses and minimizes accessibility challenges by eliminating redundant or inaccessible materials.

### **Supporting CSU's Commitment to Accessibility**

At Cidi Labs, we believe that accessibility is integral to educational equity. By implementing UDOIT Advantage as the primary accessibility solution, with or without DesignPLUS and TidyUP as companion tools, CSU can empower its faculty and designers to make accessibility a seamless, supported aspect of every course. However, if the RFP evaluators agree that together, these tools provide an end-to-end solution that not only addresses the accessibility needs of today but builds a foundation of inclusive design practices that will benefit students



long into the future, then DesignPLUS and TidyUP deserve consideration to meet CSUs accessibility needs.

We are excited about the opportunity to support the CSU system in its mission to foster inclusive learning environments. Please contact us for further details or arrange a demonstration of how Cidi Labs can help transform accessibility within the Canvas environment for CSU students.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
*Mike Zackrison*  
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Michael Zackrison

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California State University's 23 campuses are deeply committed to serving a diverse student body by delivering high-quality, accessible postsecondary educational opportunities and advancing California's economy and society. Supporting more than 485,000 students and 52,000 faculty and staff members is a significant undertaking, and we recognize that creating accessible content for all learners is a critical component of this mission.

Accessibility enhances the educational experience for every student and fulfills an essential ethical and legal responsibility, supporting inclusive learning environments that respect each student's unique needs.

Cidi Labs is pleased to submit our proposal in response to the California State University System's RFP for a technology provider to support accessibility within the Canvas LMS. We are excited about the opportunity to partner with you to advance inclusive and accessible learning experiences across your institutions.

At Cidi Labs, we specialize in affordable, easy-to-use tools that enhance Canvas, empowering educators and course designers to create outstanding, accessible learning experiences. Our solutions significantly increase productivity, foster creativity, and enable the efficient delivery of high-quality content for all students. Our suite of Canvas plug-in tools includes:

- DesignPLUS: A must-have design toolkit
- UDOIT Advantage: A powerful course accessibility assistant and teaching tool
- TidyUP: A file cleanup tool
- ReadyGO: A course lifecycle management tool
- ObservEd: A student observation and monitoring tool
- Cidiscape: A free batching and reporting tool for DesignPLUS, TidyUP and UDOIT customers.

Established in 2016 as a spin-off from Utah State University's Center for Instructional Design and Innovation, Cidi Labs was founded to address common course design challenges through intuitive, user-friendly tools. Today, we proudly serve over 600 educational institutions worldwide, from higher education to K-12.

Cidi Labs tools are developed by institutions that have experienced firsthand the challenges these tools are designed to address. Our partnerships with these institutions mean that we can continue to expand and support these efforts in meaningful ways -- because of our background in instructional design, course development, and accessibility.

UDOIT, initially developed by the University of Central Florida with a \$10,000 innovation grant from Canvas' creator Instructure, is a uniquely tailored solution to address accessibility

challenges specific to Canvas courses. In 2019, Cidi Labs partnered with UCF to provide ongoing maintenance, support, training, and development for UDOIT, ensuring that the tool remains adaptive to evolving accessibility needs. In February 2023, we launched UDOIT Advantage, expanding its features beyond the original open-source version to support even more inclusive course content creation. We continue to innovate and add functionality to this day as we will explain in our proposal.

As standards, technologies, and learner needs evolve, we remain committed to providing tools that not only correct inaccessible content but also guide educators in fostering inclusive, accessible learning experiences. UDOIT Advantage empowers educators to think about online content through an accessibility lens. It equips them with strategies to create content that supports diverse learning and teaching approaches and fosters inclusivity across all courses.

Cidi Labs customers of UDOIT Advantage include the University of Minnesota System, the University of Wisconsin System, the University of Missouri System and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System as well as the University of Florida and Northeastern University.

Our customer base in California continues to grow. You may know that several CSU campuses are Cidi Labs customers. These include:

- Channel Islands -- licensing TidyUP
- Cal Poly Humboldt -- licensing DesignPLUS and TidyUP
- Fresno State -- licensing TidyUP
- Cal State LA -- licensing TidyUP
- San Diego State Global -- licensing DesignPLUS, TidyUP and ReadyGO
- And most recently Cal Poly San Luis Obispo -- licensing TidyUP

Beyond the CSUs, we work with the following University of California institutions and community colleges (this is not an exhaustive list):

- University of California Office of the President
- UCLA
- UC Riverside
- UC San Diego
- UC Santa Cruz
- UC Davis
- UC Berkeley (and Extension)
- UC Irvine
- City College of San Francisco
- Bakersfield College
- Riverside Community College District
- Mt San Antonio Community College District
- San Bernardino Community College District
- Coast Community College District



Of this list, Coast Community College District, San Bernardino College District, Riverside College District, UC Berkeley Extension, Bakersfield College and Mt San Antonio College District are UDOIT Advantage customers.

We believe that Cidi Labs is exceptionally positioned to meet the California State University System's needs, providing effective accessibility and reporting tools that align with your goals. With our extensive experience in delivering high-quality technology solutions, we are confident our tools will support the University in developing, delivering, and maintaining accessible content and materials within Canvas.

Thank you for considering Cidi Labs as your partner in supporting an inclusive, accessible, and effective learning environment for California State University's students.

## REFERENCES:

We are happy to reference – and connect the evaluation committee-- to those California customers listed in the Executive Summary in addition to those listed below.

### **University of Minnesota System**

#### **Khaled Musa**

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The University of Minnesota System began using Cidi Labs tools for Canvas in 2017 as an early adopter of DesignPLUS. In 2019 they adopted the Cidi Labs hosted version of UDOIT.

Khaled Musa works closely with the Cidi Labs product and development teams to provide insights and feedback as the tool expanded. Khaled's perspective as a user of assistive technology was critical to the improvements made by Cidi Labs in the release of UDOIT Advantage in 2023.

The University of Minnesota System is one of the most comprehensive in the nation, with offerings to meet the interests of every student and the changing needs of our society.

We're proud of our land-grant mission of world-class education, groundbreaking research, and our commitment to partnering with communities in our drive to serve Minnesota.

The University of Minnesota System includes five diverse campuses and supports 68,000 students annually.

### **University of Missouri System**

#### **Danna Wren**

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The University of Missouri began using UDOIT Advantage across its four campuses in early 2024. While one of Cidi Labs' newest system-wide UDOIT Advantage customers, the University of Missouri became a DesignPLUS customer in 2017.

The University of Missouri is a public land-grant research university in Columbia, Missouri, United States. It is Missouri's largest university and the flagship of the four-campus University of Missouri System.

**Northeastern University**

**Marlena Bravender**

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The University of Missouri System supports more than 70,000 students across four universities, serves all 114 counties and generates billions of dollars of economic impact for the state of Missouri.

Northeastern University began using Cidi Labs tools for Canvas in 2019 and adopted UDOIT Advantage in 2013. Northeastern University is a private research university with its main campus located in Boston Massachusetts. With more than 38,000 students, Northeastern is the largest university in Massachusetts by enrollment.