



Is my organization required to provide captioning for its communications?

Ramped up enforcement actions pertaining to ADA and 508 compliance are increasingly resulting in expensive litigation and fines for many corporations, universities, and even federal and local government entities. Understanding if and how these rulings affect your organization today may save you a great deal of time and money tomorrow – EEG can help!

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 508.

In short, **Title I of the ADA** prohibits employer discrimination against people with disabilities. It also mandates that employers must provide “reasonable accommodations” for such employees (unless such accommodations would cause undue hardship).

Section 508 was entered into the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in 1998. To summarize, **Section 508 requires Federal agencies (and their partners, vendors, and contractors) to make all electronic and information technology (EIT) accessible** to people with disabilities.

The 508 guidelines were refreshed in January 2017 with the goal of “...enhancing accessibility to ICT [information and communication technology] for people with disabilities.” As part of the refresh, the guidelines were restructured to recognize advancements in modern communication technology as well as to “...harmonize the requirements with other standards in the U.S. and abroad.”

What Does This Mean For You?

For employees with full or partial hearing disabilities or other cognitive / language-related disabilities, being provided with a **clear transcription alongside company video or audio presentations is an absolute necessity.**

In response, many organizations are taking advantage of inexpensive and high quality automatic captioning technology, such as **EEG Lexi**, to alleviate budget concerns over service costs. In-line with this, newly specialized connectivity devices, such as **the AV610 CaptionPort and Falcon**, are bringing live caption capabilities to meeting rooms and streaming applications for a fraction of the cost of the encoders required by television broadcasters to meet far more complex needs.

With the availability of such technology; an **“undue hardship” caused by implementing a captioning solution has become less likely for most, and has been usurped by the looming risk of fines and litigation costs stemming from non-compliance.** As a result, most major organizations are now looking into providing these accommodations or have them in place already.



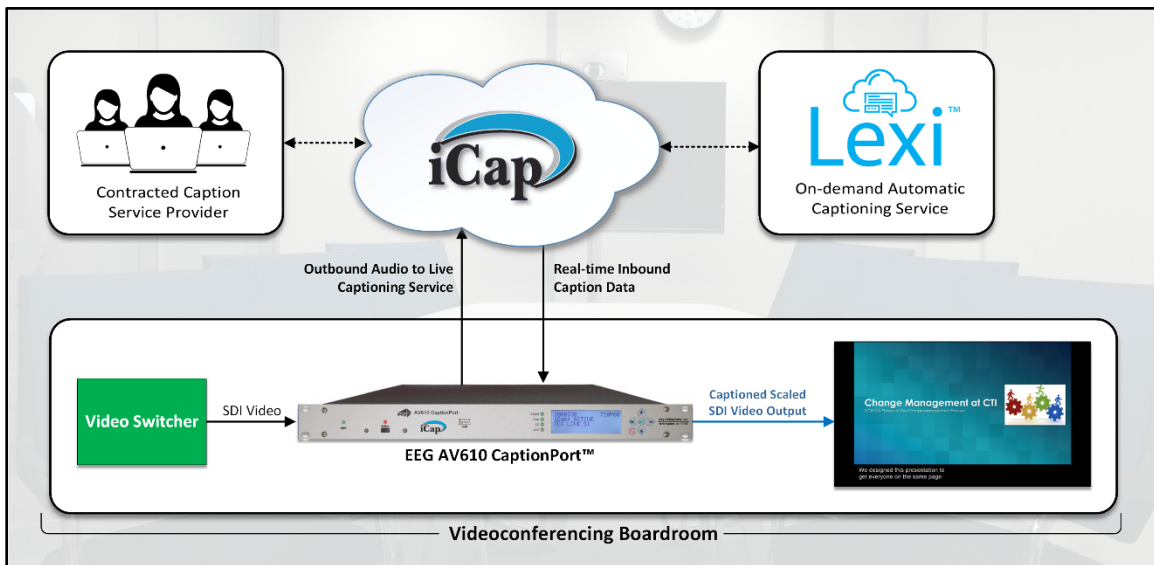
Don't Take the Risk. Take Action!

Identify the video workflow type(s) you need to caption. **Are you presenting slides to employees or students in a meeting room onsite? Are you streaming a presentation to remote viewers outside of your facility?** Here are two workflow diagrams to consider that highlight specialized EEG products often used to address these common scenarios.

a. Captioning Onsite AV Presentations: The AV610 CaptionPort

The **AV610 CaptionPort** is a simplified captioning solution designed specifically for video conference displays. **In addition to displaying captions, the CaptionPort keeps presentations fully visible by scaling the input video down by 15% with the option of placing caption data above or below the video area.** This feature allows the use of standard presentation templates without visual interference from captions.

The CaptionPort communicates over a standard broadband connection. Simply connect a live input video source, and **captions from your choice of remote human captioner or our automatic captioning service, Lexi, will be displayed on the output in real-time.**



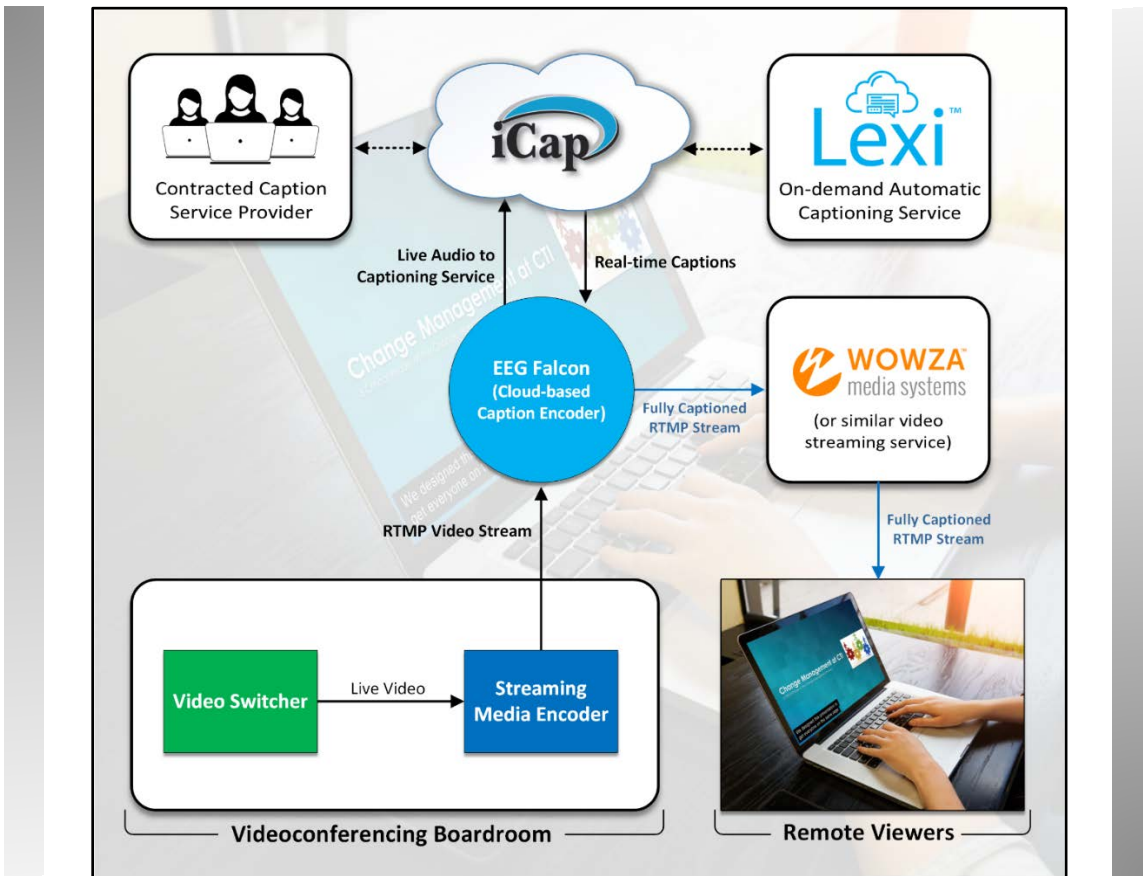
Example of a Standard AV610 CaptionPort Workflow

b. Streaming Captioned Video to Remote Viewers: Falcon

Falcon is a cloud-hosted caption encoding service for streaming-only workflows. **No hardware is required to use it which keeps costs down, and the service is accessed on demand with an active subscription via the EEG Cloud Services website.**



The web-based app provides users with a unique ingest URL and stream key to enter in their streaming media encoder settings; which directs the RTMP stream to Falcon first in order to be captioned (by your choice of contracted human captioner or automatically with Lexi). Because details of the end streaming service destination are provided during initial setup, Falcon is then able to securely route the fully captioned RTMP stream to the designated end streaming destination in real-time to be viewed by attendees.



Example of a Standard Falcon Streaming Workflow

For more information on EEG products and services or for questions about captioning, contact us at 516-293-7472 and an expert from our team will help you get started!