

# Sruti Vijaykumar

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## UX Researcher & Designer / Accessibility Specialist

*Delivering research and insights to bridge gaps between end-users and product teams*

Web accessibility advocate, connecting product teams to user needs to develop safe, user-friendly products and provide equitable access to information and opportunities. Conduct UX research and usability studies to uncover hidden needs and drive design decisions that improve user experiences. Draw on management and team leadership experience to collaborate effectively in cross-functional teams and with internal/external stakeholders at all levels. Core competencies include:

Ideation | Storyboarding | Interviewing | Focus Group Facilitation | Competitive Analysis | Heuristic Evaluation  
Prototyping | Participatory Design | Data Visualization & Analysis | Web Accessibility | Collaboration | Client Relations  
3D Printing | WCAG 2.1 | Section 508 | HTML | Document Remediation

*Technical Skills:* Sketch, Figma, Tableau, JAWS Screen Reader, VoiceOver, Dragon Naturally Speaking, ZoomText, Tobii Eye-Tracker, MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams)

## Professional Experience

USERWORKS, INC., Silver Spring, MD

*Provider of user research, usability engineering, interaction design, and accessibility consulting services for government, non-profit, academic, and private sectors*

### UX Specialist

06/2019 – 05/2022

Moderated and supported usability test sessions for websites and medical devices, improving efficiency, inclusiveness, and safety. Conducted 20+ accessibility audits and remediated 500+ pages of documents using assistive technology, automated testing tools, and WCAG 2.1 guidelines for private-sector and government agencies. Mentored internal staff and trained client product teams to craft accessible experiences by sharing best practices.

- Conducted one-on-one interviews with users, documented and synthesized data for summative usability test of Austrian blood warming medical device and German dialysis machine to verify safe, effective use on patients. Collaborated with medical technology research and development center based in Austria to provide design recommendations to improve ease of use and submit final report to FDA for U.S. launch approval.
- Supported formative usability study to improve information architecture of postal service website; analyzed data, recruited participants, and created documentation for usability test sessions.
- Exceeded client expectations by recruiting 500+ participants within challenging deadline, resulting in long-term partnership with consulting firm and \$56K revenue increase.
- Crafted project proposals that led to 30% expansion of active customer base.
- Evaluated web applications for accessibility shortfalls across platforms and operating systems and discussed potential remediation methods with developers:
  - Smart WA dashboard for safe businesses reopening during COVID-19 pandemic (March 2021).
  - Mobile application for public stakeholders to track current/upcoming MassDOT projects, activities, and meetings.
  - Several Massachusetts government internal web applications for state employees.
- Remediated 500+ pages of PDFs, Word documents, and presentation slides, allowing individuals with disabilities to access information 3x faster.
- Delivered seminar at DCUX 2019, sharing practical tips on integrating empathy and accessibility principles into product development process.
- Turned around escalated situation with demanding client upon transfer of project from colleague, per management request. Collaborated with client, providing frequent progress updates and negotiating demands, thereby improving relationship and retaining client's account.

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## Professional Experience

CODITAS TECHNOLOGIES, Pune, India

*Application developer, offering solutions across entire software development life cycle*

**UI/UX Designer**

**02/2018 – 06/2018**

Created low- and high-fidelity prototypes for customer support automation system in collaboration with product managers and developers.

- Interviewed CEO and CTO; used continuous feedback to create prototypes for seamless design handoff to developers, thereby maintaining client satisfaction.
- Received recognition for leadership in designing customer support automation system for startup company.

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## Additional Projects

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY, DARE Research Lab, Baltimore, MD

**UX Research**

**04/2020 – 02/2021**

Documented experience of special education teachers during COVID-19 pandemic through one-on-one interviews.

Consolidated insights and published paper in *Frontiers in Computer Science* journal.

THE UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL MARYLAND, Baltimore, MD

**UX Research for Public Policy**

**02/2020 – 05/2020**

Collaborated with legislators to develop policy roadmaps using design thinking principles for bringing financial stability to low-income communities in Maryland.

AIR-U KNOWBILITY, Austin, TX

**Web Design and Development**

**02/2019 – 04/2019**

Led team of 5 developers and designers to build accessible website for non-profit organization by extracting firsthand insights from participants with disabilities. Won AIR-U, a national web accessibility competition sponsored by Knowbility.

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## Education & Certifications

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY, Baltimore, MD

**Master of Science (M.S.), Human-Centered Computing**

**05/2020**

SAVITRIBAI PHULE PUNE UNIVERSITY, Pune, India

**Bachelor of Engineering (B.E.), Computer Science**

**05/2017**

COLLABORATIVE INSTITUTIONAL TRAINING INITIATIVE (CITI)

**Human Subjects – Social/Behavioral Research Course Certification**

**valid through 08/2024**

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## Publications

E. Long, **S. Vijaykumar**, S. Gyi, F. Hamidi, "Rapid Transitions: Experiences with Accessibility and Special Education during the COVID-19 Crisis," *Frontiers in Computer Science*, vol. 2, Article 617006, pp. 1-10, February 2021.

S. Khedkar, A. Kumar, A. Sasi, **S. Vijaykumar**, Y. Daudani, "A Survey on Head Mounted Display to Enhance the Capabilities of a Soldier," *International Journal of Innovative Research in Computer and Communication Engineering*, vol. 4, no. 11, s.no. 143, pp. 20264-20267, November 2016.