

WeCo

GAAD: Live Demos

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Hi, sue Ann. Andy's here with the members of Zoom. We'll show them what you're doing here.

Sue Ann: Great! Are you ready?

Yeah. Are you ready?

Sue Ann: You don't have to stand behind me. Whatever I have on my laptop is projected on that big monitor over there in front of you. I'm also going to have JAWS. It might be better to close the door to hear JAWS better. We can try it with it open and see if you can hear it. Or, you can close it right off.

OK. I'm going to turn up JAWS.

Is everybody familiar with JAWS in general?

Participant: Kind of.

Sue Ann: JAWS is a particular screen reader software program. There are others. There's one that one of my coworkers uses. It's called NVDA. I don't know what the acronym stands for. It's a free version that works well, but it's not as compatible with other programs and software as JAWS is.

I'm going to turn up the sound. You can hear him. It's kind of funny because JAWS' logo is the head of a shark. You know Jaws? The movie?

Basically, your typical screen reader reads the text on the screen. A couple more points to note is that JAWS cannot read images like text within an image. It cannot read that. That's one thing to keep in mind.

Also, JAWS users or screen reader users in general only can see what the screen reader cursor is focused on. Try to look at that web page through a straw. That's the only part that I can see/hear, what the JAWS cursor is on. Basically, it is the little hole that you see through. Whatever you see through the hole is what I hear through my screen reader.

That's why it's important when I talk about different components on the page. It's important to have these components because I always say that people that are disabled are human first. Then we're disabled after that.

What I mean by that is a person without a disability, they want it on a page. They're in a hurry to get to a page, to a heading, where they can find the information, that search box, to hurry through the search box. We, as blind individuals or low vision individuals who use screen readers, want the exact same thing.

Any questions before I start to let you hear JAWS?

Participant: Is there something analogous with apps as opposed to website?

Sue Ann: I'm sorry. What's your question?

Participant: For phones or tablets, is there something that works comparably?

Sue Ann: To JAWS? To a screen reader? Good question.

After you've seen me and others, go see Dane's demonstration. His is on an Apple iPhone. I think pretty much all Apple products have their own built-in screen reader called Voiceover. That's the comparable screen reader on those products.

If you see Maureen, she can show you her braille display laptop. She has an iPhone, too. She's not going to demonstrate it, but she uses Siri a lot.

I have an iPhone that I just got. I'm still practicing on it. I can't use that because I have a speech impediment along with being blind. Me and Siri don't get along well. She's like, "I'm sorry. Can you repeat that?"

I'm just trying to learn how to do text messages. Everyone's like, "Hit that button so you can say what your text message is." I tried that. It doesn't work very well

Also, the Android phone has a screen reader as part of its product. It's called Talk Back.

There is no JAWS or no NVDA screen readers on those devices because they already have their own.

Any other questions before I let you all hear JAWS? Alright.

A couple things to keep in mind. In the browser window, you see the title. It tells you the page title. I believe it says . . .

Screen reader: Welcome to WeCo... [reading page title and program]

Sue Ann: It tells you page title and program I'm in. As a WeCo employee, I have so many different windows open at a time. My screen reader tells me the title of the page and program I'm in. In this case, it's the web browser, Internet Explorer.

Tonight, I have this other window open in Chrome.

Screen reader: [Reading chrome page]

Sue Ann: It tells me the page title of this and that I'm in Chrome.

This is one reason why page titles are really important to individuals who use screen readers.

If it just said, "About us" and "chrome," about us whom? Is it about us from the U of M, from the independent county library? It's really important to have the page title and an indication of what site I'm on.

We'll go back to WeCo.

Another thing that we do -- I say "we" as in screen readers -- is when we load a page -- I'm going to try to go to a page now -- the screen reader provides me with information when it loads the page so I get an idea of what's on the page.

[Screen reader announcing what Sue Ann is typing]

Can you hear JAWS OK?

JAWS: [Reading WeCo screen]

Sue Ann: It's not talking. I'm going to have it tell me the title to see what's going on with this title.

JAWS: [Reading target website]

Sue Ann: It said one region. I think it said 16 headings and 100 and something links.

A region is basically a block or container that you probably visually see on the screen, but I don't have any indication that there's a block or container with a border around it. I don't have any indication that that's there.

One way to tell assistive technology that there's something in what they call a region is for them to code whatever they want the content to be within that container/region.

It told me some information. It told me how many headings, that there was some kind of content in a region on this page, and how many links. It gives me an idea of what's on the page.

Screen reader users typically navigate via headings. That's why it's really important to have headings on a page. I know for the WCAG 2.0 guidelines and [Inaudible] standards, it doesn't require you have to have headings. The only thing it says is if you have headings, make sure that they're clear and descriptive so when a user like a screen reader user -- I mentioned we only know what we land on. That's why it's important that headings are descriptive.

The other requirement is if you have headings, start with heading 1. Don't skip heading levels.

I'm going to go on this page and jump from heading to heading on the page. I'm going to assume it has a heading 1. This is what I do when I go to a site.

It said, "home page heading level 1." It says, "clickable." I'm going to assume you click on it and something will happen. Sometimes that's not the case. Sometimes that's an issue with the way that the page is coded. Sometimes, it can be a quirk in the screen reader/and browser that you're on.

It says home page. I know what page I'm on. I see heading 1.

Now we have the shortcut keys for screen readers. If I hit the H key, it jumps me to the next heading on the page. It doesn't matter what heading level it is.

Can you hear that OK? It said, "women's swim." I'm going to assume this has to do with women's swimwear.

JAWS: Level 3 clickable.

Sue Ann: These headings are pretty descriptive. I'm getting a good idea of what's under this if I decide to use my down arrow key.

JAWS: [Inaudible] links clickable.

Sue Ann: I'll use the down arrow key to view the content. I'll know what's under there via headings.

[Screen reader speaking]

I can also jump to different headings by levels. I'll see if there's any more heading level 1's.

It told me there are no more level [coughing] 1 headings on this page. Those are some shortcut keys that we use.

Up here, I believe it's visible. I'm going to tab to it.

We can also use the tab key. The tab key is important for those who have vision who are keyboard dependent because of their fine motor skills. There's something impairing them. It can be a wide range of things. Or, individuals who prefer to use a keyboard.

I'll tab.

[Screen reader says "skip to main content"]

These are what we call "skip-to links."

This is another way for screen reader users to jump to what they say, to main content of the page.

If I hit enter, it should take me to the heading 1 home page or something like that for the main content on the page.

You're probably asking what's the reason for the skip-to link? On this page, you'll see a navigation menu, advertising, etc. on the top, before you get to the main content of the page. This is an easy way for users to jump to the main content of the page.

[Screen reader reading]

We don't have to hear that part, but it said, "heading [Inaudible] home page." It took us to the right spot, to the main "content" of the page.

Another quick point that I'd like to make. This is really important. We find out that clients have trouble with this a lot.

Assistive technology, screen readers in particular, just because of what you see displayed on the screen doesn't mean it's always red or can fade to a user that way.

What I mean is that assistive technology, screen readers in particular, takes the information from the HTML source code page. That's where it takes its information from to convey it to the user.

We just recently had a client -- where you see home heading 1, they had some kind of heading, but it wasn't coded using the HTML level 1 heading. It looked like it was in a larger font and bold, but they didn't use the HTML heading 1 page. My screen reader just read it as, For example, "home page." It didn't say it was a heading. I didn't have any indication. I would assume [No audio.]

We're going to head over and see Chad.