Hi, I’m Alasdair King, and this is a demo of the new WebbIE Web Browser version 4.

WebbIE is a web browser designed for screenreader users. It presents web pages as simple text only, and makes it easy to search the web and get to the page content you want. It works with any screenreader. Thunder, or NVDA, or JAWS or Hal or WindowEyes. You can get it from the webbie site, which is [www.webbie](http://www.webbie), that’s w e b b I e, dot org dot uk.

So I’m using the built-in Windows Narrator screenreader to demonstrate that it works with any screenreader, and I’m going to start WebbIE now.

WebbIE has started up with its home page. You can cursor up and down it and hear the contents: all web pages work like this. Lines that are links start with the word link. When you get to a link you want to follow just press the return key.

You’ll hear a ticking sound while WebbIE navigates to the new page and a dong sound when it gets there so you know it has finished. The title of the page is always put at the top of the page here. Again, you can cursor down the page and hear links and content.

Finding the bit of the page of interest can be a bit tedious, though. You’ll find that most pages have these great lists of links at the top, which are a pain to get through. WebbIE provides you several ways to get at the content.

* You can press K to crop the page: this chops links and forms out of the page and tries to present just the useful content. You can then read more easily, and then press K again to bring all the links back so you can go somewhere else.
* You can press Control and Down, which will skip over links and forms and go straight to the next bit of readable text.
* You can press H, which will take you to the next heading in the page. Many pages use headings to start content area or subdivide the page, so this lets you hop down the page easily.
* If the page has a “skip links” or “skip to content” link at the top of the page you can use that.
* You can press Control and F key to find text in the current page. This is useful if, for example, you’re looking for something like a login form. [Type F, search for login, cursor around a bit].

Here I am at the bit of the page I want to read. You can also probably press a shortcut key in your screenreader to read from the current cursor position onwards, so you can sit back and listen when you’ve got to the bit of the page of interest.

When you’re on a page many people find it helpful to be able to bring up a list of links. Just press L and you’ll find all the links on a page in a simple list you can cursor up and down. Press return on a link to follow it.

I’ll go back to the home page now. This home page lists all your Internet Explorer Favorites or Bookmarks, but you can make it go to the Internet Explorer homepage if you want. And that’s the basics of how web pages and links work in WebbIE.

So the second important thing to show you is the set of features in WebbIE that make it quick and easy to do the things you want to do.

The top one is probably searching the web using Google. WebbIE lets you do this more easily than using the standard Google search page. Just press W and you get this form. Type the search words into the first box, like this. Then press return. The results from Google will appear in a simple list and you can just cursor up and down them. The link to the next page of results is at the bottom, of course. When you’ve found a link you want to follow, just press return.

You can also use forms in WebbIE. This means you can use sites like Gmail, or Amazon, to buy things. Form elements like buttons or text input areas – for example, “buy now” or “send” buttons, or “enter your credit card number” fields – are all displayed by WebbIE as plain text. You just press return to press the button or enter the text or check the checkbox. I’ll buy a book from Amazon to demonstrate.

YouTube also works in WebbIE: YouTube videos start up. Of course, you can’t get at the controls. However, sites using the modern HTML5 video element give you this handy pop-up control.

Some people have some sight and benefit from high contrast text and from large text. WebbIE respects the visual settings of your Windows computer, so if you have set it to High Visibility then WebbIE will be yellow-on-black or whatever. I’ll just quickly show you that. How you change the settings depends on your version of Windows, of course. There, you can see it’s now yellow on black. You can also change the font and size used in WebbIE in the Options menu here: Alt and O for options, first item is Font. Set the values you want and hit return, WebbIE will use those values from now on.

Many sites have something called an RSS News Feed. This gives you a simple index to the pages on the site. They are especially common on blogs and news sites. For example, if I go to news.bbc.co.uk, and press E for News (yeah, yeah) then I get this simple list showing the latest stories, and I can cursor up and down them and pick the one I want by pressing return.

Finally, you can get more information on shortcut keys, other features and options in the WebbIE help manual, which you can bring up by pressing F1. This is a simple document you can cursor around and save and print out if you want.

Thanks for listening, and I hope WebbIE is useful for you!