The JAWS settings center

Aside from the convenient dialog boxes you looked at for changing basic JAWS settings, JAWS has a setting center where you can change pretty much any option.

The settings center allows you to change how JAWS works with specific programs, so that you could have it read differently in Word than it does in Internet Explorer if you wanted it to for example. You might want more punctuation read in word documents than on the internet, and/or you might want to know about blank lines in word documents, but skip them on the internet.

Customizing these settings can take more time and energy, but if you are going to spend a lot of time using one computer for college or on the job, making some of these changes can make your life a lot easier.

Navigate to JAWS, go to the Utilities menu, and open the settings center. By default, you are in the folder to change settings for JAWS in all situations.

Press insert-F1 now to hear JAWS tell you more about this window.

1. Tab through this window to locate all the available sections. List them.

Notice that all the settings are arranged in a tree view. Arrow down to see the list of settings topics, and use your tree view commands to look at the different options.

You can change an option using the spacebar. If you press the spacebar repeatedly it will take you through a circle of all the options for that item so that you can see what they are. If you want more information about an option, use tab or F6 to get to the other pane of the window and then tab through the items; in this second pane you can press insert-F1 on any option to learn more about it.

Locate each of the items below and write the current setting; feel free to change whatever you would like as you go.

2. Typing Echo

3. Say punctuation level

4. Identify “same page” links

5. Say blank lines during say all

6. Expand Acronyms

7. Braille dot firmness

8. Select forms mode

9. Progress bar announcement update

10. Indicate Headings

11. Braille Translation Input

12. Pick one setting that you would like to set differently for two different programs. Make the changes. Write the setting below, the two programs for which you set it, what setting you chose for each program, and why you chose to set this the way you did.