

WebAnywhere: A Screen Reader On-the-Go

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Summary

People often use computers other than their own to browse the web, but blind web users are limited in where they access the web because they require specialized, expensive programs for access. WebAnywhere is a web-based, self-voicing browser that enables blind web users to access the web from almost any computer that can produce sound. The system runs entirely in standard web browsers and requires no additional software to be installed.

- **Screen Reading Web Application**
- **Designed to be Low Cost (free to users)**
- **Minimal System Requirements**

Public Terminals

Public terminals are available in many locations, including:

- **Airports**
- **Computer Labs**
- **Internet Cafes**
- **Kiosks**
- **Libraries**



Survey of 15 public computer terminals located in Seattle, WA.

	WebAnywhere Usable	Screen Reader Help Available	Flash Installed	Other Sound Installed	Sound Initially Played	Headphones Jack	Headphones	Speakers
Internet Cafes (3)	3	0	3	3	3	3	2	1
Kiosks (3)	2	0	2	2	3	2	3	0
Libraries (5)	5	0	5	5	4	3	3	1
Other (4)	4	0	2	4	3	4	3	0
All (15)	14	0	12	14	13	12	13	2

WebAnywhere

WebAnywhere

The system is initialized and is ready to use. [WebAnywhere](#) works much like screen readers that you may have used before, such as JAWS or Window-Eyes. The keyboard commands that are currently available are as follows:

- **CTRL-L** - move the cursor to the location box where you can type a URL to visit.
- **Page Down** - read from the current position.
- **Arrow Down** - read the next element on the page.
- **Arrow Up** - read the previous element on the page.
- **Arrow Left** - read the previous character.
- **Arrow Right** - read the next character.
- **CTRL-H** - skip to the next heading.
- **CTRL-I** - skip to the next input element.

Please send comments using our [feedback form](#).

End of Page

Find: Next Previous Highlight all

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Navigation Functionality

CTRL + l	Focus location text field.
CTRL + f	Focus finder text field.

Reading Granularity

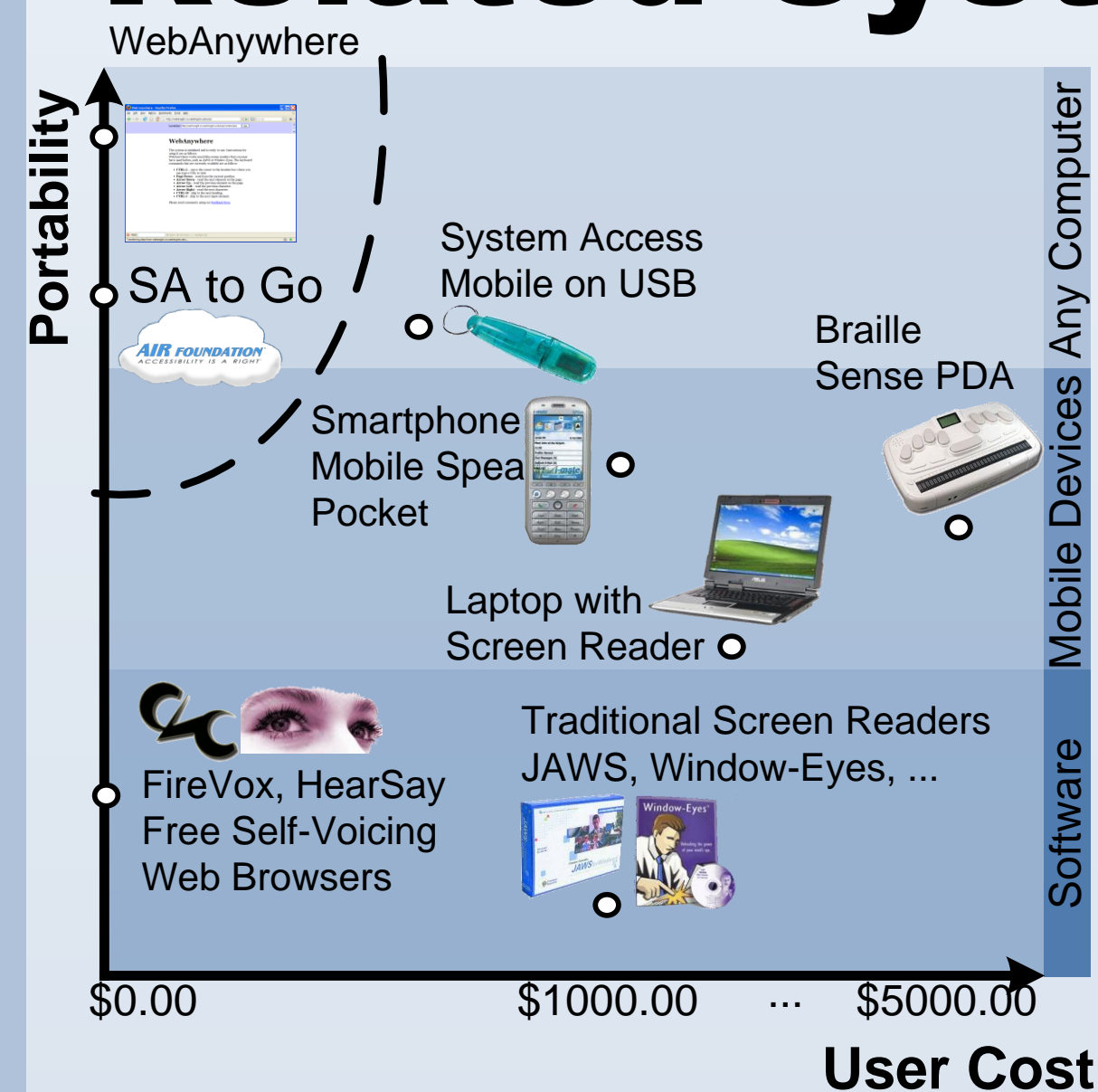
↑ or ↓	Read next/previous element.
↑ or ↓	Read next/previous word.
SHIFT + ↑ or ↓	Read next/previous word.

Skipping Functionality

TAB	Skip to next focusable element.
CTRL + h	Skip to next heading.
CTRL + i	Skip to next input element.
CTRL + r	Move to next row in table.
CTRL + d	Move to next column in table.

* Pressing SHIFT in combination with these keys will reverse skipping direction.

Related Systems



A number of systems seek to provide blind users with access to the web from wherever they happen to be. Many are costly or are inaccessible on secured public terminals.

WebAnywhere provides basic web browsing support to blind users from any computer with a web browser than can play sound. To access it, users just open a web page.

WebAnywhere System

