Richard Steinberg
Yesterday at 9:41 AM

I have a silly question. I am trying convince a sighted JAWS user that tab is not the first key most JAWS users hit when they first land in a web page. Am I correct?

4   29 Comments

Like   Comment

Michael A. Espinoza I've given up on JAWS myself, but yeah when I used it, tab was almost always the easiest way to navigate with it, since the JAWS interface is so clunky.

Like · Reply · 1d   1

Serina Nicole 🛡 I usually hit the H key to find the first heading.

Like · Reply · 1d   6

Denise Layfield Millette For me it depended on whether I was familiar with the website or not. If unfamiliar I would usually navigate by headings first. If I were familiar with the page I would probably just go to the list of links to get to the link I was looking for.

Like · Reply · 1d   2

Lori Lynn When you go to a page JAWS tells you the number of headings, links, etc; so based on that & how familiar I am with the page as to what I do. But Tab is generally the last first step if that makes any since.

Like · Reply · 1d   2

> **Richard Steinberg** Lori Lynn yes that makes sense.
>
> Like · Reply · 1d

Timothy Jones ✋ One helpful tip I can give you is to listen to the information JAWS gives you when the page 1st loads. On my computer, when the page first loads, it will say "page has x amount of headings and Ex amount of links." The page will also tell you if there are any frames as well as other visual elements. For a complete list of commands to use on the web, go to the training book in your JAWS help system called Help Online. I believe it's the seventh book in the list in the training section. If you would like to have additional help, I am happy to tandem into your system. Please send me a private message if you would like to do so.

Like · Reply · 1d   1

> **Richard Steinberg** Timothy Jones thank you for the offer. I have the training materials. I was just curious what people actually did.
>
> Like · Reply · 1d

Tom Coburn no, my instructor told me never to use tab, not even in the ribbon in Microsoft office, because it only gets you in trouble. most of the time you just hit age for headings then once you get to a heading you want, sometimes you can hit p for paragraph, u for unvisited links, V for visited links, or just hit the down arrow to see what's on the page one line at a time. I don't use any of the other keys, once in a while e four edit box if I'm trying to find that, but that's all I ever use. I don't ever use X or B or F or tab. The only time you would ever use the tab key is if you're trying to fill in multiple edit box fields like name, phone number, address, etc. jaws is kind of annoying for that because whenever you get to an edit box you want to fill-in, you have to hit enter to put text in the edit box, so if you're filling out multiple edit boxes, you have to keep pressing tab enter information tab enter information tab enter information it gets kind of redundant. In those cases I wish I could turn off browsing mode entirely at least temporarily anyway

Like · Reply · 1d

2

Tom Coburn as for the comment about Jaws, there is no other alternative except N V D A and that is pretty much Jaws. Probably 95% of the keys that you use in Jaws also work in NV DA it's pretty much a free jaws clone So that comment about Jaws wasn't really necessary. In my opinion.

Like · Reply · 1d

1

Jaafar Al Ogaili You are definitely correct. I usually go for the headings or links at first.

Like · Reply · 1d

3

Richard Steinberg Thank you for all of your comments!

Like · Reply · 1d

1

Chris Maae H for headings

Like · Reply · 1d

2

Larry Thacker Jr Tab only when filling out a form and never the first key hit. Sometimes as a last resort if a page is being difficult. This would be true for me regardless of screen reader.

Like · Reply · 1d

1

Becky Manners I may be wrong for this, but I usually hit control when the page starts reading, then I explore by heading, use down arrows or go into the links list. Tab is definitely not the first key I press.

Like · Reply · 1d

1

> **Mike Helland** I will either hit control to stop it from speaking or hit insert+F7 to get the links list.
>
> Like · Reply · 3h

Kathryn Jedynak This is why sighted people shouldn't be training blind people on a t. Rather, blind people should be given a chance to do so!

Like · Reply · 1d

4

Richard Steinberg Kathryn Jedynak I agree that would be great. I am sighted person who helps make sure web sites work with assistive technology. Tab is not the first key I hit when I land on a screen. But sometimes I have trouble convincing other sighted people.

Like · Reply · 23h   1

Gina Fugate Richard Steinberg , same here. I have RP with functional vision.

Like · Reply · 22h   1

Richard Steinberg Gina Fugate glad to hear it! Some of the people I work with are testers who may think more like programmers than end users. As you know, JAWS may announce certain things differently with down arrow than it does with tab. It seems like several people on this thread are saying they'd go for H first. Very interesting.

I hope to get JAWS certified.

Like · Reply · 22h

Gina Fugate Richard Steinberg I am considering that certification as well. Internet navigation seems to be the most varied in opinion.

Like · Reply · 21h   1

Write a reply...

Kelsi Hansen I usually hit the control key to make it stop talking

Like · Reply · 1d   1

Kit Aronoff Down arrow is the most basic movement online. Tab moves from form controls and links and it's actually really bad for screen reader users. It's usually optimized for other assistive tech that relies on tab.

But tab will miss like 90% of content.

Like · Reply · 1d   1

Deborah Pomeroy Azzarone I agree with Kathryn. I only want blind people teaching me JAWS. Sorry to say, most, but not all, sighted people only mess you up when teaching JAWS.

Like · Reply · 23h   2

Richard Steinberg Deborah Pomeroy Azzarone have tried the FS Reader based training from Freedom Scientific? If so, is it any good?

Like · Reply · 22h

Deborah Pomeroy Azzarone I received my training from a extremely talented blind instructor from the NJ Foundation for the Blind, now called Vission Loss Alliance of NJ. Sadly they no longer teach computers, just IOS. I have considered taking a certification class on line to see what I can learn now that my training was several years ago,.

Like · Reply · 20h

1

Evelyn Faix Heading first

Like · Reply · 23h

1

Christopher Mendenhall I cannot find the tab key on my Perkins Brailer, can anyone help me?

Like · Reply · 21h

2

Gerhard Erasmus I use Dolphin Supernova but I agree. tab is not the first key I use. Before Virtual Focus and the like was available I used Tab all the time but I am talking 20 years ago.

Like · Reply · 10h

1

Vicki Phillips Too slow and not always productive that tab key.

Like · Reply · 10h

1

Write a comment...