



Job Access With Speech

Screen Reader

JAWS stands for **Job Access With Speech**. It is a **screen reader software** designed to help **people who are blind or visually impaired** use computers. It converts the content on a computer screen into **speech output or Braille**, allowing users to navigate applications, websites, and documents without seeing the screen.

The software is developed by Freedom Scientific and runs primarily on **Microsoft Windows**.

Key Features

1. Text-to-Speech Output

JAWS reads aloud everything displayed on the screen such as:

- Menus
- Buttons
- Text documents
- Web pages
- Dialog boxes

Users hear the information through speakers or headphones.

2. Braille Display Support

JAWS can connect to a **refreshable Braille display**, which converts on-screen text into **tactile Braille characters** that users can read with their fingers.

3. Keyboard-Based Navigation

Since many users cannot rely on a mouse, JAWS enables **full keyboard navigation**. It includes hundreds of keyboard shortcuts to:

- Move between headings
 - Navigate links
 - Read lines, words, or characters
 - Jump between form fields
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4. Web Accessibility

JAWS works with web browsers such as:

- Google Chrome
- Mozilla Firefox
- Microsoft Edge

It helps users navigate websites using:

- Heading lists
- Landmark regions
- Links and form controls

This is why many organizations test websites for **screen reader compatibility**.

5. Application Support

JAWS integrates with common software like:

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft Outlook
- Adobe Acrobat Reader

Users can read documents, send emails, and work with spreadsheets.

Why JAWS Is Important

JAWS is widely used for **digital accessibility** and helps organizations comply with accessibility standards such as:

- WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines)
- Section 508 (U.S. Rehabilitation Act)
- Americans with Disabilities Act

Because of this, **QA testers and developers often test applications with JAWS** to ensure visually impaired users can use their software.

Typical Use Cases

JAWS is commonly used for:

- Browsing websites
 - Reading documents
 - Email communication
 - Software development environments
 - Enterprise applications (ERP, CRM, banking systems)
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Simple Example:

If a user tabs to a button labeled “**Submit**”, JAWS will say something like:

“Submit button”

If they move to a heading on a webpage, it might say:

“Heading level 2: Account Information”

Summary:

JAWS is assistive technology that reads computer screens aloud or in Braille, enabling blind and visually impaired users to independently use digital systems.

Keyboard Commands:

These commands control how JAWS reads text on the screen.

| Command | Action |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Insert + Up Arrow | Read the entire current window |
| Insert + Down Arrow | Start continuous reading |
| Insert + Left Arrow | Read previous word |
| Insert + Right Arrow | Read next word |
| Insert + NumPad 5 | Read current line |
| Insert + Tab | Read current control or item |

For a full list of commands please visit the link

<https://www.freedomscientific.com/training/jaws/hotkeys/>