

Q&A

What are the accessibility features on my computer, and how do I access them?

The accessibility features built in to the operating system of your computer vary according to the type of computer and which version of the operating system.

Following is a list of URLs to various websites that explain in detail what accessibility features are available in a variety of systems.

Microsoft Accessibility

<http://www.microsoft.com/enable/default.htm>

Accessibility Features in Windows 98

<http://www.wata.org/pubs/articles/win98.htm>

Mac OS X Jaguar Universal Access

<http://www.apple.com/macosx/jaguar/universalaccess.html>

MacOS Systems 7.x, 8.x and 9.x Accessibility Features

<http://www.apple.com/disability/easyaccess.html>

Current Work on Linux Accessibility

<http://www.tracecenter.org/linux/current.html>

Designing More Usable Computers and Software

http://www.tracecenter.org/world/computer_access/

Send your questions to communications@more.net for MOREnet to answer in this column.

Website accessibility: Part 1

Disability legislation serves a small minority, a tiny special interest group. Compliance with accessibility standards requires an undue burden of time, money and resources. Accessible websites are boring and unattractive. If you believe these statements are true, please read on:

The Disability Statistics Center estimates that 54 million people, or 20.6 percent of all Americans, have some level of disability, including 10 percent who have a severe disability.

America's population is aging, and disability increases with age. The number of Americans aged 65 and older is projected to increase 135 percent between 1995 and 2050, according to the Census Bureau.

According to the Census Bureau, 9.7 million people in the United States have difficulty seeing the words and letters in ordinary newsprint, equal to 5 percent of the total population.

Another 10.9 million people, or nearly 6 percent of the total population, have difficulty hearing what is said in an ordinary conversation with another person, according to Census Bureau statistics.

The World Wide Web provides technological advances that can help eliminate many barriers for people with disabilities. It can deliver information and services in ways unimagined not many years ago, but it can also create barriers for persons with disabilities. For many of us, using the Web has become a common experience of having the world "at your fingertips" at the click of a mouse — if you can use a mouse and if you can see the screen and if you can hear the audio. In other words, if you don't have any disabilities.

"What does 'Web accessibility' mean?" Chuck Letourneau of Starling Access Services explained, "To me, it means that anyone using any kind of Web browsing technology must be able to visit any site and get a full and complete understanding of the information contained there, as well as have the full and complete ability to interact with the site."

A visually impaired person might use screen-reader technology. Some websites are simple and do a good job of describing their content, including pictures and charts. Others are confusing or simply too dense to translate by reading a description.

A wheelchair user might navigate the Web with a trackball. But many people with mobility impairments cannot use a trackball; they need mouse-less ways to navigate and clear, simple organization. Voice-recognition technology could make sites accessible for people who can't use their hands.

Hearing-impaired Internet users can be frustrated by online newscasts and streamed video webpages that do not provide either closed captioning or transcripts. After all, film reports of emergency crews milling around a disaster without additional context or explanation don't mean much; it could be any time, anywhere, any calamity.

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), an international organization of more than 500 organizations has been developing common protocols and standards for the Web since 1994. It offers a checklist of Web accessibility standards (<http://www.w3.org/TR/WAI-WEBCONTENT/full-checklist.html>) organized into three priority levels. Web designers can measure their own sites according to these internationally recognized standards and find suggestions for how to improve accessibility and usability.

To read the complete article, visit MOREnet's website at <http://www.more.net/about/articles/accessibility01.html>.

http://www.more.net

Each month, MOREnetworking features a section of the MOREnet website you might be unfamiliar with. This month, MOREnet features:

MOREnet Security

<http://www.more.net/security/index.html>

MOREnet provides security services and event response to and on behalf of its customers. The MOREnet Security Team is a Computer Security Incident Response Team dedicated to handling security event response for participating Missouri K-12 schools, colleges and universities, libraries, state government and teaching hospitals and clinics. MOREnet Security also provides security consulting, training and alerts to its customers.



Please print *MOREnetworking* out and post in a common area of your organization to share with colleagues.

MOREnetworking is published monthly by MOREnet, Missouri's state education network. MOREnet is part of the University of Missouri System and provides Internet connectivity, training and technical support to the state's K-12 schools, colleges and universities, public libraries, state government, teaching hospitals and clinics and other affiliates.

Find past issues of *MOREnetworking* at:
<http://www.more.net/about/newsletter/>.

To have a link to *MOREnetworking* delivered to your e-mail Inbox each month, visit:
<http://www.more.net/services/managed/accu/>
and subscribe to the *MOREnetworking* category through MOREnet's e-mail notification service, Accunounce.

Please send comments or suggestions to communications@more.net.

MOREnet
Missouri Research & Education Network
3212 LeMone Industrial Blvd.
Columbia, MO 65201

(573) 884-7200
Fax: (573) 884-6773
<http://www.more.net>

quiz

When was the Transfer Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP), the networking protocol that allows the Internet to function, first used?

- A. September 2, 1969, when the first two computers on ARPANET, the precursor to the Internet, were networked together.
- B. January 1, 1983, when the 400 or so computers on ARPANET switched to using TCP/IP.
- C. November 13, 1989, when Tim Berners-Lee released his first draft of what would become the World Wide Web.
- D. August 25, 1995, when Microsoft first released the Windows 95 operating system.

Answer: B
Read about it at
http://www.worldcom.com/global/resources/certs_up/

MOREnet Training

January

- 21-23 Pre-CNA
- 22-23 Videoconferencing with Polycom
- 27-31 MS1572: Implementing and Managing Microsoft Exchange 2000
- 28 Exploring MOREnet's Online Resources
- 29 Search Engines
- 30 SMART Board Use
- 30 SMART Board Use
- 31 Configuring TCP/IP
- 31 Mining the Deep Web

February

- 3 Internet Essentials
- 3-4 Introduction to PC Hardware
- 3-7 CNA 560
- 3-7 MS2152: Supporting MS Windows 2000 Professional and Server
- 4 TNP/REAL Contact Training
- 5 Exploring MOREnet's Online Resources
- 5-6 Videoconferencing with Polycom
- 6 Networking 101
- 7 *kinetic*
- 10-11 Beginning HTML
- 10-12 Introduction to Windows 2000 Advanced Server

MOREnet classroom training is provided for MOREnet customers.

See eligibility requirements, cost and registration information at:

<http://www.more.net/training/registration.html>.