

# Basic Concepts: Computer Desktop Navigation with JAWS

Age(s) / Grade Level(s): Elementary

Subject(s): Technology

Length of time: 30-45 minutes

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## Curriculum Standards:

- RULE §126.8 Technology Applications, Grade 3, Adopted 2022
  - (12) Practical technology concepts--skills and tools. The student selects appropriate methods or techniques for an assigned task and identifies and solves simple hardware and software problems using common troubleshooting strategies. The student is expected to:
  - (A) communicate an understanding of terminology related to operating systems and network systems such as internet, intranet, wireless network, short-range wireless technology, and learning management systems;

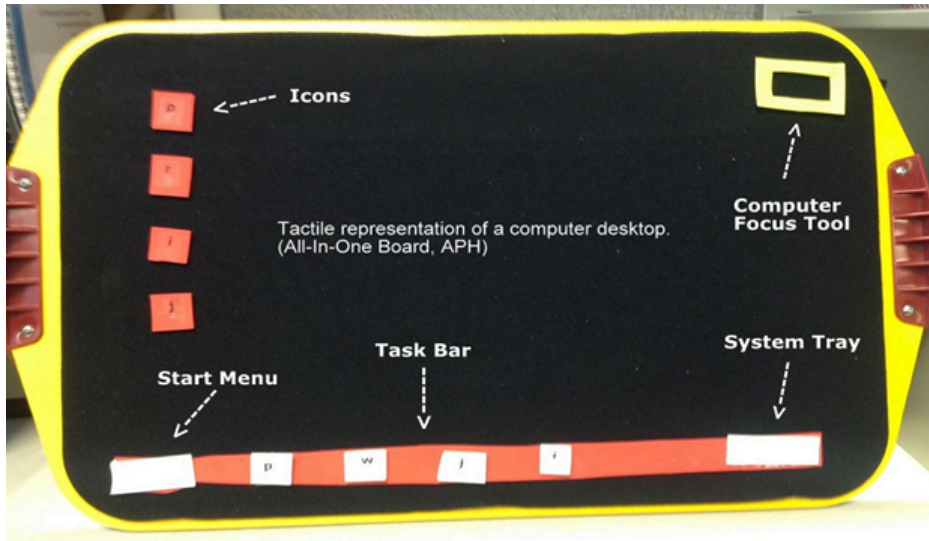
## Objective(s):

- Understand the digital area of the computer called the computer desktop

## Materials Needed:

- Computer

- Tactile Desktop



### Lesson/Activity Sequence:

- The objective of this lesson is for you to learn what the computer desktop is and how to navigate it.
- Computers and operating systems
  - Computers have operating systems that help them do work. An operating system (or OS) is the name for a group of computer programs and other things that let a user work with a computer. An operating system has many jobs, including storing work that you do on the computer and providing you with an organized way to use your computer. The operating system that you are using is called Microsoft Windows and you are using a Personal Computer (PC). Microsoft is the company that made and manages the Windows operating system. Another popular operating system is iOS. Have you ever used an iPad? That's the operating system for an iPad. Apple is the company that made and manages the iOS operating system.
- Let's turn your computer on and log in (if it isn't already on; ensure that JAWS is set to turn on at the logon screen [change this setting in Startup Wizard] so that the student can practice logging in independently).
- Once you log in to your computer, you are in an area called the Computer Desktop.
  - The Computer Desktop is the main "home base" of the computer, where most important tools and programs can be found. You can press the tab key (Dots 4 5 chord) to get from one area to the next and can follow JAWS instructions for how to navigate.

- If you are not sure if you are on the Computer Desktop, you can press Windows Key + D (Dots 4 8 chord, Dots 1 4 5) to get there.
- Now, let's move to the different areas of the Computer Desktop. When you hear "Desktop," you are actually located in a specific part of your "home base." It is the place where your Icons are located. Icons are pictures that represent programs. They reside on the desktop and look like pictures to users with vision. A blind user can access them through JAWS, which reads the titles of each icon. Visually, can be placed anywhere on the screen.
- Press Tab (Dots 4 5 chord) to move from area to area on the computer desktop and listen to what you hear: JAWS may say some of the following (exact language/controls vary from computer to computer): Start Button, Type Here to Search Button, Task View, Task Bar, System Tray, Show Desktop Button, FolderView ListView (Icons). (Note - reinforce these concepts with the tactile desktop, if needed)
  - Start Button (Menu): This is the complete list of programs and apps that can be accessed on the computer and it lies on the computer desktop.
  - Task Bar: This is an area found only on the computer desktop. Shows what tasks (or programs) are open. It is also possible to "pin" programs to the task bar for easy access.
  - System Tray: This is the "toolbelt" -- where a user can change the volume, access wifi settings, and check battery status, among other tasks.
- What did you notice after you kept pressing Tab (Dots 4 5 chord)? That's right, you ended up back where you started (you completed a circle)! This is basic navigation of the different areas of the desktop.
- What did you notice about the information JAWS give you when you get to each area? That's right, he often gives instructions for how to navigate the area. Let's try this in the icon area - how does he say to navigate? Yes, by arrow keys. Let's try this!
- Excellent! You learned a little bit about your computer desktop. We will continue to explore some features of the desktop as we learn more about how to use JAWS to access our computer. Let's review. What is the computer desktop? How do you get to your desktop (Windows Key + D or Dots 4 8 chord, Dots 1 4 5)? Show me how you can move around the areas of your desktop (Tab or Dots 4 5 chord). Can you stop when you are in the area where your icons are? How do you navigate your icons (arrow keys)? Great job!

- Questions?

**How will I assess student progress?**

- When asked, student can explain what the computer desktop is and can name some features found on the desktop.
- Student can go to the desktop and navigate around the different areas.

**Differentiation:**

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**Next steps/lesson:**

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