NVDA Accessibility Guide - Professional Communities

The APH Hive
Last Updated: Sept. 22, 2024

Table of Contents

Overview

This accessibility guide was developed for users accessing the APH Hive with the screen readers, JAWS and NVDA.

Troubleshooting

This guide was developed and tested using the following screen reader and browser versions. If you experience consistent issues inconsistent with this guide, update your screen reader and browser to a version later than those listed below.

Screen Readers

- NVDA Version 2024.3.0.33433

Browsers

- Google Chrome Version 128.0.6613.138

Using This Guide

Before proceeding, it is important to remember that there are multiple ways to access web applications with a screen reader. When learning to use a screen reader to access an application like The Hive's Discussion Boards, some users prefer to read a predefined process or "route" to access the application, and some prefer to understand multiple ways to access that tool and find the process that works best for them. This guide aims to cater to both types of users.

For those that prefer to follow a predefined set of steps, we recommend navigating to the sections labeled (Process). In these sections, we have outlined what we believe is the easiest way to complete the defined goal. For example in the section labeled Reading Posts (Process). We give you the easiest way to read a single topic. In these sections, the related key command will be listed next to the step in parentheses as is shown in the example below:

1. Select the "sign in" link. (U)

Alternatively, for those users that want to find the process that is most comfortable for them, we recommend focusing on the sections labeled (Commands and Context). In those sections, we

simply provide context by explaining how the interface is laid out and a table of key commands (if applicable) that will be important for completing the defined goal.

Note that some tasks like "Creating an Account" do not lend themselves to a "Commands" section

Creating an Account

2. Navigate to the Hive.
3. Select the "sign in" link. (K)
4. Select the "Create an Account" link. (K)
5. Create an account using the registration form. (Tab)

Signing In

1. Navigate to the Hive.
2. Select the "sign in" link. (K)
3. Sign in using the "Sign in" form. (Tab)

Accessing Your Community (Process)

This section shows you the process to access your desired community once you are signed in. Ensure you have Created an Account and are Signed In.
1. Ensure you are on the page titled "My Dashboard" by finding the "My Dashboard" heading at level 1. (1)
2. Select the "Professional Community" link. (K)
3. Select the "View Resources" link related to the desired professional community. (K)
4. Ensure you are on the page for your selected professional community by finding the heading at level 1. (1)
5. Find the "Professional Community" link. (K)

Accessing Your Community (Commands and Context)

Once you have created your account and signed in, you need to navigate a series of webpages to access your desired professional community. Read the sub-sections below for additional context on each webpage in the process:

Commands

Function	Command
Next Link	k

Function	Command
Previous Link	Shift + k
Next Unvisited Link	u
Previous Unvisited Link	Shift + u
Next Visited Link	v
Previous Visited Link	Shift + v
Next Heading	h
Previous Heading	Shift + h
Next Heading 1	1
Previous Heading 1	Shift + 1

Dashboard

The Dashboard Page lists all of the course content that you have access to. At the top of the Dashboard page, above all of your courses, there are two links, one to access the Professional Communities and the other to access the entire Course Catalog. Select that "Professional Communities" link to go to the "Professional Communities" page.

Professional Communities HomePage

The Professional Communities Page lists all of the professional communities provided by the Hive. Each community has its own heading, description and link to navigate to the specific community. Each link begins with "View Resources for …". Select the link for the community you wish to visit. Once selected, you'll be brought to that specific Community's Page. For example, if you select the link "View Resources for Accessible Coding" you'll be brought to the "Accessible Coding" Page

Your Community's Page

Each Community has a page in which you can browse resources related to that community. Each community age has multiple headings to assist with quick navigation. For the purposes of this guide, we will navigate to the "Professional Community Discussion Board" by navigating to the "Professional Community" link underneath the "Discussion Boards" heading, although you can investigate the other links and resources on this page by navigating by either heading or link.

Navigating Your Community (Commands and Context)

Commands

Function	Command
Next Button	b
Previous Button	Shift + b
Next Landmark	d
Previous Landmark	Shift + d
Next Heading 1	1
Previous Heading 1	Shift + 1
Next Clickable Object	Tab
Previous Clickable Object	Shift + Tab
Next Table	t
Previous Table	Shift + t
Next Row	Ctrl + Alt + Down Arrow
Previous Row	Ctrl + Alt + Up Arrow
Next Column	Ctrl + Alt + Right Arrow
Previous Column	Ctrl + Alt + Left Arrow

Context

You should now be on the discussion board. Whether or not you were logged in to the Hive prior to this point, you need to log in again. To do this, select the "Log In" button.

You will be directed to a page entitled "Discussion Board Login Validation". If you reach this page, you should be logged in and redirected back to your Discussion Board automatically. If you are not redirected within 10 seconds, select the "Redirect back to the Discussion Board" button.

The purpose of this page is to log you into your discussion board based on your APH Hive Account credentials. If you do not complete this step, some discussion board features such as creating topics, liking topics and replying to topics will be unavailable to you.

Once logged in, you will be directed back to the homepage of the discussion board.

Navigation Sections

Once you are logged in, you can begin navigating your community's discussion board. Discussion boards are divided into 3 main sections:
1. Top Bar - Contains the home link, login button and account profile button
2. Side Bar - Contains all of the links that assist with quick navigation through the discussion board including categories, and tags.
3. Main Content - Contains all of the main content within the discussion board.

Navigating Between Sections

As you interact with content in the Discussion Boards application, you will need to navigate between these three sections often. To navigate between these sections, you will need to employ the following methods:
- Top Bar: Navigate to the "Navigation" landmark.
- Side Bar: Navigate to the "Main" landmark. See Navigating the Sidebar for more details
- Main Content: If on the homepage, or in a list of topics, navigate to the next table. If you are within a topic, navigate to the previous heading at level 1.

Navigating the Top Bar

You can navigate to the Top Bar section by finding the "Navigation" Landmark. Remember, the top bar is at the top of the page so you may need to move to the previous landmark. There are only a few items in the Top Bar and they are all clickable so, you can navigate within this section with Tab/Shift + Tab.

Navigating the Sidebar

You will use the sidebar to select the categories or topics you'd like to read about or contribute to.

You can navigate to the sidebar by either navigating to the "Main" landmark or by navigating to the "Topics" link. Although navigating to the "main" landmark is quicker, it is not as straightforward. Let me explain:

The "main" landmark contains two sections: the Sidebar and the Main Content. Therefore, you will most likely be spending most of your time within the "Main" landmark. To navigate quickly to the top of the sidebar, you can:

1. Navigate to the previous landmark (Shift + d) which should be the "Navigation" landmark then,
2. Navigate to the next landmark (d) which should be the "Main" landmark.

For simplified, more procedural directions, see [Reading Topics (Process)](#).

While in the sidebar, you can navigate by the next Clickable Object (Tab / Shift + Tab) or by every element (down / up arrow keys).

Navigating the Main Content

You will use the Main Content section to actually read, and interact with posts or "topics" as they are called in The Hive.

Navigating to and through the main content section depends on where you are in the Discussion Boards.

If you are on the homepage, or on a Category page, i.e: the first page you land on within the Discussion Board, the Main Content section will be formatted in a table. That table will contain a list of topics that may be of interest. To navigate to the Main Content when on the homepage, you can navigate to the next table (t). Your screen will say "Topic List".

Now, use your table navigation commands to navigate between the rows and columns. Before allowing you to navigate, your screen reader may say, "Not in a table cell". If this happens, it may mean that you are at the very edge of the table. Move forward or backward one element and try again.

Once you select a topic you would like to read, you will be brought to the Topic page. In Topic Pages, the Main Content will no longer be formatted as a table. Instead, the topic title will be a Heading at Level 1, with the topic's text and interaction buttons underneath. On these pages, to skip to the Main Content section, navigate to the next heading at level 1, then use your up and down arrow keys to read the topic. You can always cycle through the interactive elements in a topic with Tab/Shift + Tab or by cycling through the nearby buttons (b).

Reading and Replying to Topics (Process)

1. Navigate to the Sidebar to choose your topic by moving to the "main" landmark (d).
2. Select your category or topic (up and down arrow keys) or continue for "general" topics.
3. Navigate to the "Topics" table in the "Main Content" section via Quick Keys table (t).
4. Navigate through the topics using table navigation commands (ctrl + alt +arrow keys). If you hear, "Not in a table cell, navigate to the next element (down arrow key) and try again.
5. When a topic is opened, navigate to the Topic title via Quick Keys Heading (h or 1)
6. Read the topic using arrow keys.

7. Navigate to interactive buttons (b), or by opening Buttons List.
8. To navigate through the replies, navigate by heading (h).

Creating Topics (Process)

A topic is like a post. Topics are what you read, and interact with while in Professional Communities. To create your own topic, follow the steps below:

1. Navigate to the Sidebar by moving to the "main" landmark (d).
2. Select the "New Topic" button (b).
3. Complete the "New Topic" form (Tab / Shift + Tab).
4. Select the "Create Topic" button (Tab).