

Transcript

Add alt text to navigation controls

In this video, I'm going to show you why it's important to add alt text to any navigation controls, that you manually add to your e-learning resource.

Many authoring tools have pre-programmed navigation tools, and these should automatically be programmed, so that they can be read and activated by screen reader users.

Some authoring tools, however, may give you the option to add your own navigation controls. If this is the case, it's very important that you manually add alt text to the controls, so that they work for screen readers.

In this demonstration, I'm going to be using Articulate Storyline, but the same principle applies, to any authoring tool which allows you to manually add navigation controls.

In these first slides, I'm going to demonstrate the JAWS screen reader, reading navigation controls, that are automatically available as part of the player in this tool. I haven't added any alt text to the next and back buttons, but they are automatically recognised by the screen reader.

JAWS reads:

"Fire safety. Slide 1 of 3. This topic will tell you everything you need to know about keeping yourself and others safe if there is a fire at your place of work. Back button to activate press space bar. Next button to activate press space bar. Space. Fire safety. Fire alarm information. Slide 2 of 3. If you have a visual... There will be a fire... Fire alarms are tested once a week... Back button, to activate press space bar. Next button, to activate press space bar. Space. Fire safety. Slide 3 of 3. Well done you have found out about fire safety at your place at work. Select Next to finish this first topic and move to the next one. Back button, to activate press space bar. Next button, to activate press space bar. "

In this next slide I'll show you some navigation controls that I've added, but that I haven't put any alt text on.

JAWS reads:

"Fire safety. Fire alarm information. Slide 2 of 3. Group button, to activate press space bar. If you have a



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visual or a mobility... There will be a fire evacuation... Fire alarms are tested once a week... Group 1 button, to activate press space bar. Group 1 button, to activate press space bar."

Because I haven't added alt text to these navigation buttons, you can hear that the screen reader will just read them as Group 1, which won't help a screen reader user to navigate through the e-learning resource.

In this slide, I've manually added the alt text to the navigation buttons, and this means that a screen reader user, can understand and navigate through the e-learning resource with no problems.

JAWS reads:

"Fire safety. Fire alarm information. Slide 2 of 3. Home button, to activate press space bar. If you have a visual or a mobility impairment... There will be a fire evacuation practice... Fire alarms are tested once a week... Back button, to activate press space bar. Forward button, to activate press space bar."