

ACCESSING TMS WITH JAWS

This is a brief guide to help you get started with the navigation of our new TMS (replacing LMS) within DVA. It is not meant to provide you with all of the answers you might like; rather, it is an initial guide to help you past some of the problems and difficulties which you may encounter.

First of all, let me be very clear. TMS has not been certified as Section 508 conformant. There are a number of issues – some major, some minor – which are being addressed by TMS developers at this time. It is therefore hoped that as issues are resolved better access will become available. In the mean time, if you encounter any errors, please log a ticket at [1.866.496.0463](https://support.vha.gov/hc/en-us/requests/new?ticket_form_id=18664960463).

TMS Home Page

After successfully signing in to TMS, you will be on its home page. If using a screen reader, you should activate the link to turn on accessibility mode. You will also notice the Plateau Software Checker frame. You may also see a message at the end of this frame saying that your system does not meet the minimum system requirements. In most instances, this message may safely be ignored.

FLASH

As you will notice, a portion of TMS is coded in “Flash”. It is fair to say that systems coded with Flash and screen readers do not always coexist happily together. On the other hand, it is possible to code for accessibility in Flash. While there are currently some issues with Flash and our screen readers, work is underway to resolve them.

Sue Martin, from our Section 508 VHA Office, has written the following demonstrating a quick way to get to your course of interest:

“In order to locate your To-Do list on the TMS do the following:

1. After you have logged in, from the top of the page, hit C to move to the first combo box. Ensure that the combo box has, everything, selected.
2. Then hit F to move to the next form field of any kind. The screen reader will say something like: To access details and actions... Silence speech and use the keystroke to read the current line. This is a tree view. Hit Enter to go into forms mode if you’re using JAWS or hit B to come out of browse mode if you’re using Window Eyes.

3. Now you can arrow down the tree and see your courses.
4. When you find the one you want, just hit enter and you will go to the online content structure page from which you can launch the course.”

You may also get to the Flash area by arrowing down from the top of the page or by tabbing. When you come to what is referred to as the Tree View, do not try to operate on it as you would a normal Tree View by using the Right and Left Arrow keys to expand or contract the tree. Instead hit Enter. This will hold true throughout segments of TMS coded in Flash.

There are also places within TMS where it will appear that you have an empty List View. Again, in order to bring up the List, it is necessary to hit Enter. You may then arrow through the list normally. Also, you will see things labeled as Buttons within flash segments. Normally one would expect to use either the Space Bar or the Enter key to activate the button. Once again, use the Enter key as the space bar will not work.