I was able to test this on trunk/master using JAWS+Chrome. After going to Gradebook and creating two Gradebook items and then going to “Manage Groups” in “Site Info” and using the “auto-group” option to create two groups with a couple Students each, I refreshed the Discussions tool.

## Template Settings (steps 6 – 8 of the test plan)

I then selected/activated the “Template Settings” option as indicated in the test plan (note: you can only select/activate the “Template Settings” option by using tab or shift+tab to move focus onto the control—if you use the up/down arrow keys to move the cursor onto the “Template Settings” option and press enter, the page seems to refresh, but nothing will happen)

When you navigate back down to the “Default Template Settings” level 1 heading and start to tab, JAWS will say, “Forum Posting, Moderate Topics in Forums, yes, radio button not checked, 1 of 1” and if you press spacebar, JAWS will say, “Forum Posting, Moderate Topics in Forums, yes, radio button checked” to indicate that this option has been selected. If you press spacebar again, nothing will happen—to deselect this option (because they are radio buttons you can only switch between one or the other) you need to down arrow twice (once past where the “yes” text/label appears) to where it says, “Forum Posting, Moderate Topics in Forums, no, radio button not checked, 1 of 1” and press the spacebar to select this option. JAWS will then say, “Forum Posting, Moderate Topics in Forums, no radio button checked, 1 of 1” to indicate that this option has been selected.

With the “Forum Posting, Moderate Topics in Forums, no radio button checked” (selected)—if you press shift+H to move focus back up to the “Default Template Settings” level 1 heading, and then press tab, JAWS will read, “Forum Posting, Moderate Topics in Forums, yes, not checked, 1 of 1” (as opposed to saying that the “no” option is selected) and if you press tab again, it will actually move focus to the “Forum Posting, Require Users to Post Before Reading, no, radio button checked, 1 of 1” option—you have to then press shift+tab to get JAWS to say, “Forum Posting, Moderate Topics in Forums, no, radio button checked, 1 of 1”

For the “Forum Posting, Require User to Read Before Posting” option, it is set to “no” by default, so to select the “yes” option, you actually have to up arrow twice (once past where the “yes” text/label appears) to where the “Forum Posting, Require Users to Read Before Posting, yes radio button not checked, 1 of 1” option.

static “yes” to the actual radio button and press spacebar. JAWS will say, “Forum Posting, Require Users to Read Before Posting, yes radio button checked, 1 of 1” to indicate that this option has been selected.

Note: Above, I reference the “yes” and “no” text/labels which I initially thought was static text because when you are using the up/down arrow keys to move between options, these seem disassociated from the radio buttons and there is nothing to indicate to the screen reader user that they have any sort of programmatic function, however, I found that you can press spacebar while you have focus on one of these, and it will select the radio button, even though this is not being reported to the screen reader—you only know after you move off of the control, and then back onto it.

Also, another peculiar thing I noticed about this set-up, is that only the default selected radio buttons for some items are being reported to the screen reader when using tabbed navigation. For example, if you select the “no” radio button for the first item, when you go back up to the “Default Template Settings” level 1 heading and press tab, JAWS will say, “Forum Posting, Moderate Topics in Forums, yes not checked, 1 of 1” instead of indicating that the “no” option is actually selected. However, for the second item, which is actually set to “no” by default, when you select the “yes” radio button and then tab through the list, JAWS will say, “Forum Posting, Require Users to Read Before Posting, yes radio button checked, 1 of 1” so there are some weird inconsistencies which makes for a somewhat counter-intuitive, goofy user experience.

When pressing spacebar to select the “Availability, Specify Dates to Open (Show) and/or Close (Hide)” radio button, the page will refresh and your cursor/focus will be moved to the top of the page, and when you navigate back down into the Main Content Area of the page there will be options to type in “open” and “close” dates/times.

For the “Automatically Mark All Messages in a Conversation as Read” option (which is set to “no” by default) I found that you are able to switch back and forth between the “yes” and “no” options simply by using the up/down arrow keys to move focus onto the corresponding control and then tabbing off of it, which is different than the experience with the other radio buttons.

For the “Instructor,” “Teaching Assistant,” and “Student” role permissions, I was able to use the up/down arrow keys to move between the various options before tabbing onto the next item (note: when you use the up/down arrow keys to move between the selections, JAWS will just say the role, like “Owner” or “Contributor”—the screen reader doesn’t associate the user type with the selected role unless you are using tab or shift+tab, at which point JAWS will say, “Instructor, combo box, Owner” or “Student, combo box, Contributor” for example)

For the “Customize Tab” options associated with each role, I was able to press spacebar to “expand” or “collapse” these menus, and could tab through the different options and use the spacebar to toggle on or off the checkboxes which JAWS would report as “checked” or “not checked” to indicate its current state.

For the group permissions, JAWS indicated that these were combo boxes and that they were set to the “none” setting by default, and I could then use the up/down arrow keys to access other options before tabbing off of the selected item.

Finally, I was able to tab onto either the “Save” or “Cancel” buttons and press enter to select/activate them.

## Forum Settings (steps 9 – 14 of the test plan)

Just like with the “Template Settings” option, you can only select/activate the “New Forum” option by using tab or shift+tab to move focus onto the control—if you use the up/down arrow keys to move the cursor onto the “New Forum” option and press enter, the page seems to refresh, but nothing will happen.

From the “Forum Settings” level 1 heading, I was able to tab into the “Forum Title” field and use the provided text field to type in a title for the new Forum.

Next, I was able to tab into the “Short Description field and use the provided text field to type out a short description (note: JAWS will indicate that the text field has a 254 character limit, and as you begin to type, each time you pause, JAWS will report how many characters you have remaining)

If you tab again, your cursor is placed into the edit field of the CK Editor and you can beging to type out a “Description” for the new Forum.

For the “Forum Posting, Forum Locked,” “Forum Posting, Moderated,” and “Forum Posting, Post First” options, able to use spacebar to toggle the checkboxes on or off, which JAWS will report as “checked” or “not checked” to indicate their current status.

I was then able to tab onto the “Availability, Specify Dates to Open (Show) and/or Close (Hide) radio button checked, 1 of 1” option which is set to open (Show) by default, and tab into the provided text fields to revise the default open and close dates (optional) using the standard MM/DD/YYYY HH:MM AM” convention.

Under the “Grading” level 2 heading, JAWS indicates that the “Gradebook Item, Select a Gradebook item” option is a combo box, and you can use the up/down arrow keys to move between selections, before tabbing off of the selected item.

Note: It wasn’t clear to me what the “(More) link” does?? I pressed enter on this, but nothing seemed to happen??

For the “Automatically Create Multiple Forums for Groups, radio button checked, 1 of 1” option, you have to press up arrow to move focus onto the “Create One Forum” option, but when you press enter to select it, JAWS does not indicate that the item has been checked even though it has been—you have to navigate off of the control, and then back onto it to get JAWS to read that it is in its “checked” state.

After toggling the “Automatically Creating Multiple Forums for Groups” radio button back on, I was able to tab to the options for the two available groups and use the spacebar to toggle on or off their respective checkboxes.

In the permissions section, I was able to use the up/down arrow keys to move between the different selections for each role before tabbing off of the selected item. After pressing spacebar to expand the “custom” options for the “Teaching Assistant” role, was able to confirm that JAWS reads out the role prior to the label for the option that is in focus, followed by whether the option is currently in its “checked” or “not checked” state which can be toggled on or off by pressing the spacebar.

Finally, was able to tab onto either the “Save” or “Cancel” buttons and press enter to select/activate them.

## Topic Settings (steps 15 – 19)

After creating at least one “Topic” for the new Forum, was able to navigate down into the Main Content Area of the page to select/activate the “Topic Settings” link.

Was able to tab through the various options and use the up/down arrow keys to change between selections, use the spacebar to toggle on or off checkboxes, etc.

When selecting the “Automatically Create Multiple Topics for Groups” option, when tabbing down onto the options for each group, JAWS says the name of the group prior to reading the label for that option and whether the option is currently in its “checked” or “not checked” state.

## Spot-Check Forum/Topic Settings (steps 20 – 21 of the test plan)

After navigating back to the main “Discussions” page and pressing enter to select/activate the “Forum Settings” link, was able to tab through and spot-check that the proper settings are enabled/disabled.

Then I navigated back to the main “Discussions” page and pressed enter to select/activate the “Topic Settings” link, and tabbed to move through and spot-check that the proper settings are enabled/disabled.