



Accessible Courses Help All Students Succeed

Networking Academy students with visual, auditory, and physical limitations are taking advantage of accessible course versions to further their networking education.

"I'm confident that the CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration accessible courses will greatly benefit our students and help them succeed."

Cláudia Medronho Naumann,
Networking Academy Instructor

Cisco is committed to making its Cisco® Networking Academy® curricula accessible and usable by all students to help them achieve their goals. In support of this commitment, Networking Academy introduced new versions of the Cisco CCNA® Exploration and CCNA Discovery courses to address the needs of students with visual, physical, or auditory limitations. As a result, graduates will be able to pursue college degrees or IT careers that may otherwise have been considered beyond their capabilities.

The accessible course versions include tab and keyboard navigation; adjustable font size, type, and color; and presentation options for media and content. The course and lab text, assessments, and hands-on learning activities are all available in accessible format.

"Before the accessible content was available, the school had to special order an electronic book so I could participate," recalls Katie Robinson, a Networking Academy student at the Delaware Area Career Center in Ohio. "I used to miss some of the content because of the graphics, but now I don't miss any of it. The accessible CCNA Discovery curriculum gives me more options. I'm very happy."

Visually impaired students can use display options such as adjustable font settings, or they can employ media text transcriptions that are compatible with screen reading software such as Freedom Scientific's JAWS. JAWS supports the CCNA curricula in the following languages: English, French, and Spanish.

Iain Murray, course coordinator for the Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Research Laboratory at Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Australia, leads a team at Curtin's Cisco Academy for the Visually Impaired (CAVI) that provided media text descriptions and advice for the accessible CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration courses. "CAVI offers courses to well over 100 blind and vision-impaired students in Australia, India, Sri Lanka, the United States, and Canada," he says.



Networking Academy students using accessible curricula at UFRJ

Elise Lonsdale, one of Murray's students, says, "I use both a screen reader and my limited vision to navigate the CCNA Discovery curriculum. Being able to use the accessible version of CCNA

Discovery makes studying easier for me. I commend Cisco on their efforts in making this material accessible.”

Besides screen readers, the accessible curricula are compatible with other assistive technologies such as magnification and reading software, voice recognition software, and special keyboard setups. There is no audio in the courses, which makes them usable by deaf or hard-of-hearing students, and the keyboard access and compatibility with voice recognition software facilitate learning for people with mobility or dexterity impairments.

Cláudia Medronho Naumann, an instructor at Brazil’s Universidad Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) also led a team that contributed media text descriptions for the accessible course versions. “We have been developing accessibility tools and helping the Networking Academy team with accessibility issues for many years now,” says Naumann. “I’m confident that the enhanced CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration accessible courses will greatly benefit our students and help them succeed.”

The accessible versions of the CCNA curricula generally conform to guidelines established in the United States and worldwide, including Section 508 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act and the International Web Content Accessibility Guidelines v1.0.

For more information, please contact accessibility@cisco.com.



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