Screen Reader and Machine Understandability
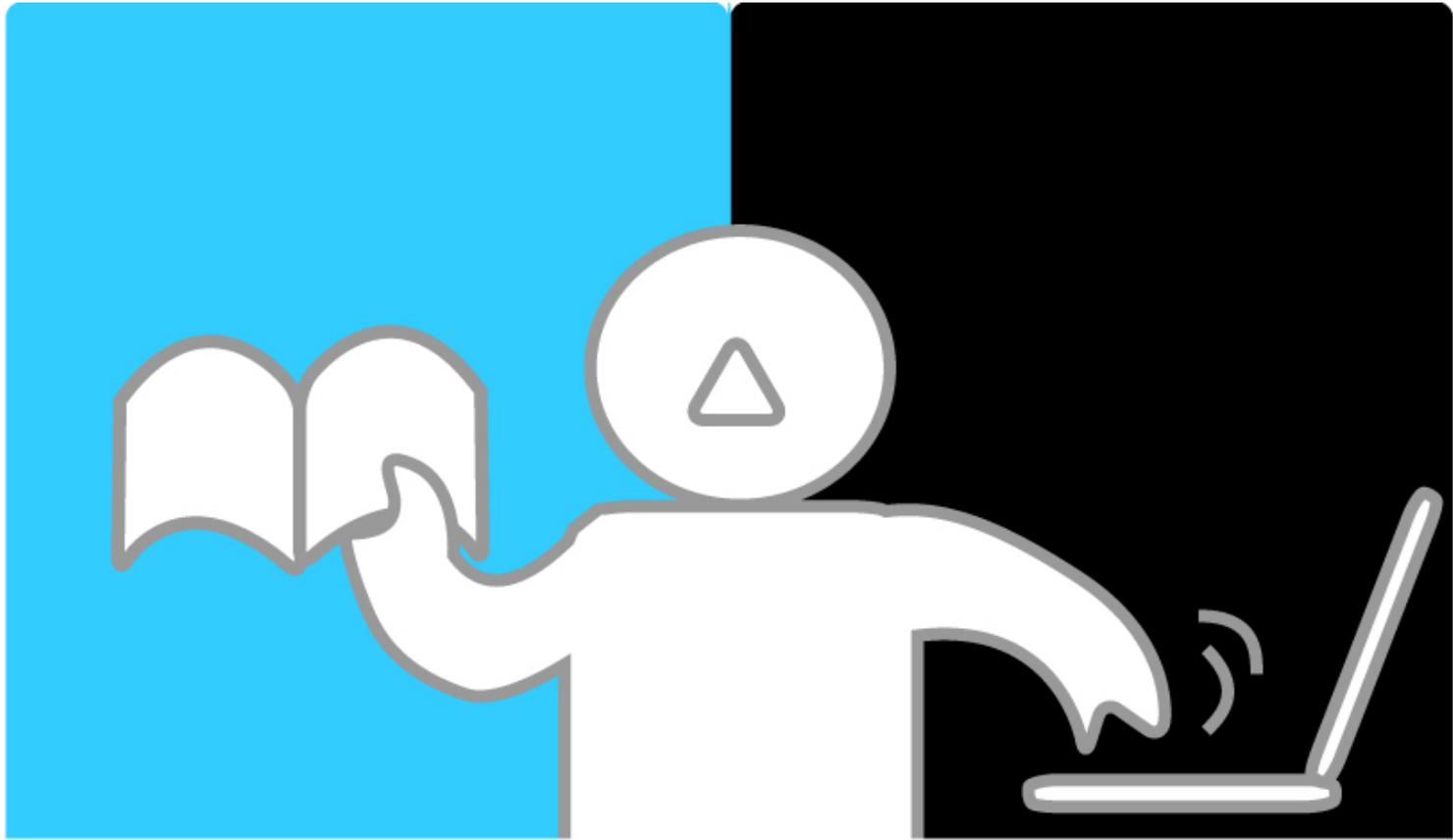
Jun Ishikawa (Ph.D.)
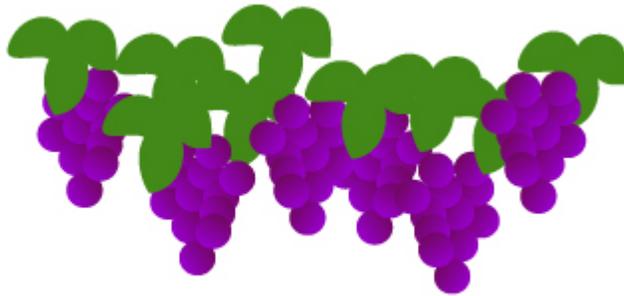
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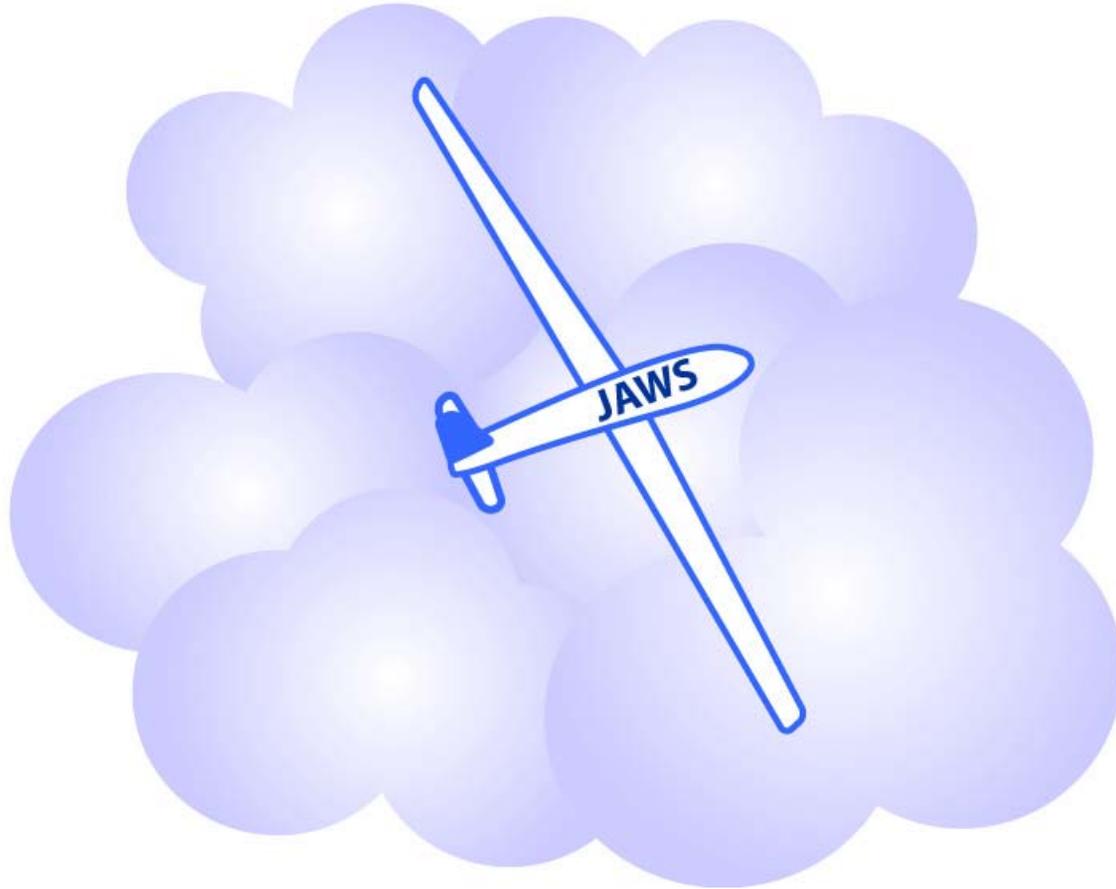
Why a sociologist works as a programmer

- I have led the double life of sociologist by day and programmer by night.

- The screen reader is absolutely essential software if people who cannot see the screen are to operate the computer.

Desire of Making Tools, Considering methods and Creating cultures

- People have always made tools in order to overcome physical limitations.

- The taste of joy in being able to do something today that was not possible yesterday through making something of definite usefulness.

- The development of the screen reader needs high-level technical skills.

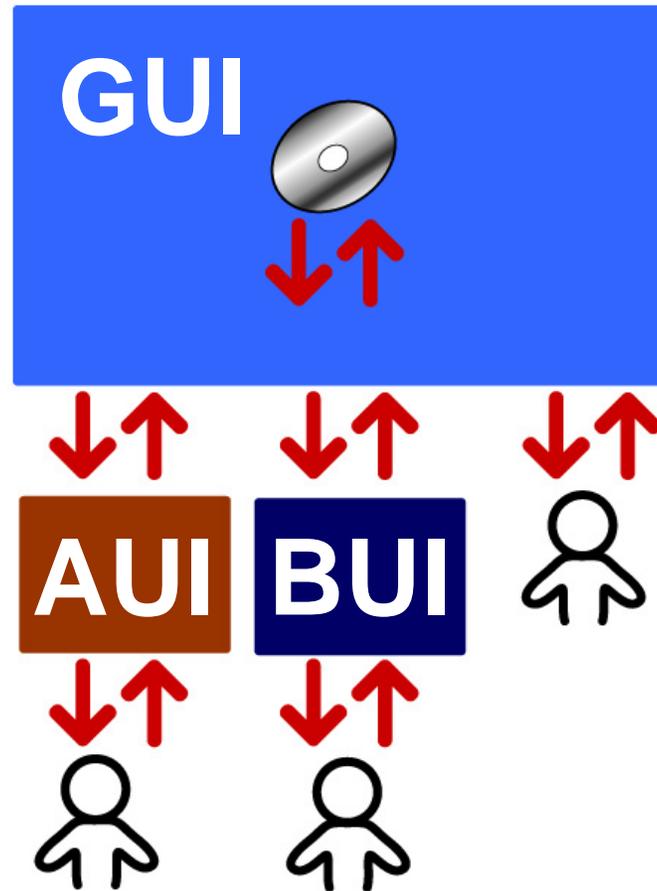- I've developed many software for the blind.

Fighting with JAWS

- My policy is "We develop the tools we need".
- JAWS was not only monster but also black box.
- We released Japanese version of JAWS only in 4 months.
- JAWS is an abbreviation of Job Access With Speech.
- Customizing JAWS to adapt to various office application package used at hospital, library and administrative agency.
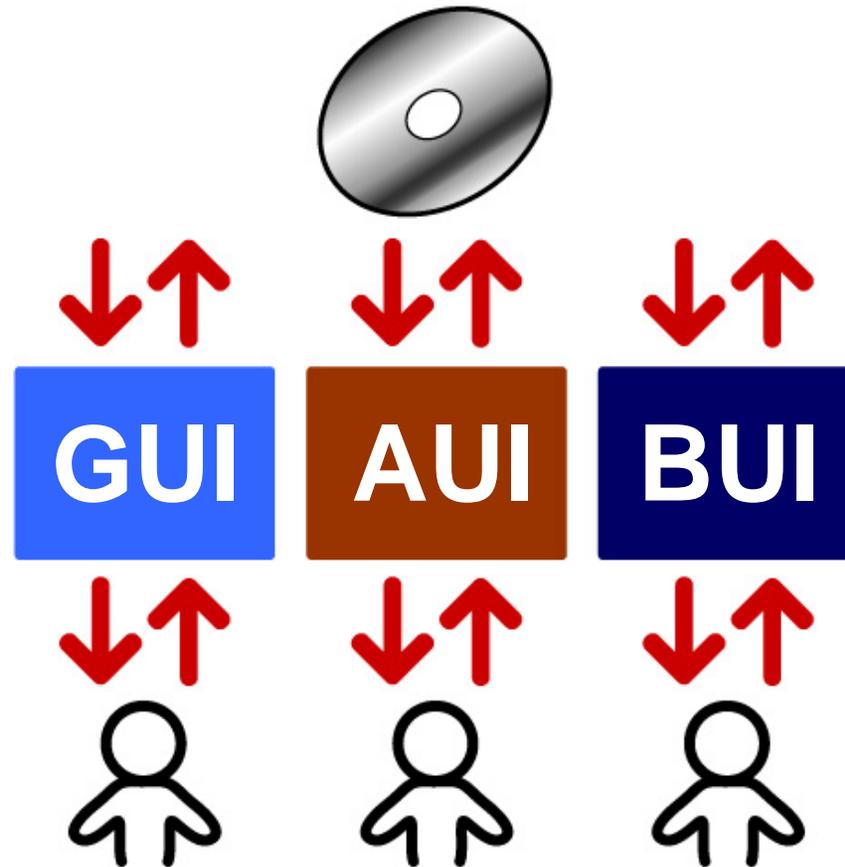
GUI
as dominant user interface

- The GUI screen reader is a necessary tool for the visually impaired to use mainstream ICT technology.

Multiculturalism of user interface

- Accessibility is collaboration of universal design and assistive technology.
- Accessibility is realized by high technology and right thought.
- Machine understandability is the future goal of universal design of computer software.