

Open source software

The following list was originally developed to identify downloadable software to promote home access to computers for pupils with a disability. Checked Sept 09

Read aloud software

- **Natural Reader**
Text to speech program. Reads webpages and text files. Written text can be converted to MP3 files. Can be configured to read text pasted to the clipboard automatically
<http://www.naturalreaders.com/>
- **WordTalk**
Works with versions of MS Word from 97 onwards. It will speak the text, highlight as it goes along and contains a speaking dictionary. It can be adjusted in regard to the voice and speed of speech.
<http://www.wordtalk.org.uk/>
- **SpeakEasy**
A simple text to speech application, which can automatically read whatever is copied to the clipboard
<http://www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/assistive.htm>
- **ReadPlease**
Devised to support those with dyslexia or a visual impairment. It allows the reading aloud of text that is copied and pasted from a Word document or Internet page. The text can also be magnified.
<http://www.readplease.com/english/downloads/#rp2003>

Keyboard utilities

- **Click-N-Type**
An on-screen keyboard. Features include: multiple keyboard layouts, word prediction, upper/lower case, scanning and switch accessible.
<http://www.lakefolks.org/cnt/>
- **ZenKey**
Allows the use of a keyboard instead of a mouse
<http://www.camiweb.com/zenkey/>
- **Rapid Keys**
Free for home use. On-screen keyboard with prediction module. Keyboard is resizeable
<http://rapidkeys.netfirms.com/en/index.htm>
- **AutoKey**
Automate tasks by sending keystrokes and mouse clicks. Can be used to cut down text entry and automate some tasks.
<http://www.autohotkey.com/>

Mouse utilities

- **Mousetool**
For individuals who have difficulty clicking a mouse. Roll the mouse arrow over the icon or menu and MouseTool will perform a single click, double click or a drag lock.
http://www.assist-it.org.uk/assets/content/downloads_links.htm

- **Mouseketeer**
Mouse clicking replacement software. It can carry out left click, right click, double click, highlight and drag-drop actions.
<http://www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/assistive.htm>
- **MouseCageTM**
Software designed to help people with hand tremor control their computer mouse
http://www.assist-it.org.uk/assets/content/downloads_links.htm
- **Steadymouse**
Software designed to assist those with hand tremors. It includes anti-tremor mouse filtering, removal of accidental mouse clicks and an assistive "Icon Targeting" system.
http://www.assist-it.org.uk/assets/content/downloads_links.htm
- **EnorMouse**
This replaces the standard mouse pointer with an enormous mouse pointer.
<http://www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/assistive.htm>
- **Dwell**
Allows control of the mouse without the use of a keyboard. This works by using a "dwell" - that is, selection of an item or a movement is by pointing and waiting, rather than having to click.
<http://www.oatsoft.org/Software/dwell-click>
- **AutoMouse**
Clicker Dwell clicking software. Mouse movement is monitored when the mouse stops for a predetermined time a click is sent. This removes the need to use the buttons on the mouse.
<http://www.tucows.com/preview/347297>
- **Joystick2mouse**
Software to turn a gaming joystick into a Windows pointing device.
<http://www.imgpresents.com/joy2mse/j2m.htm>
- **Dwell Clicker**
As above – enables use of the mouse without pressing buttons
<http://www.sensorysoftware.com/dwellclicker.html>
- **Switch driver**
Allows you to do more with your switches that includes moving the mouse.
<http://www.sensorysoftware.com/switchdriver.html>
- **KwikLoupe**
A screen magnifier with a quick locate option to position the viewing window. The tool magnifies the area around the mouse pointer.
<http://www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/assistive.htm>
- **Sonar 4**
This provides an expanded ring around the mouse pointer for users who have difficulty locating the pointer.
<http://www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/assistive.htm>
- **Edgeless**
This application causes the mouse pointer to wrap around the screen instead of stopping at the edges.
<http://www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/assistive.htm>

Cursors

- **Bigger Cursors**
A selection of bigger cursors for anyone who finds the existing cursors too small.
<http://www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/assistive.htm>
- **Philip's Cursors**
High visibility mouse pointers.
<http://www.philip-henderson.co.uk/cursor.shtml>
- **Chunky Cursors**
A selection of chunky cursors for anyone who finds the existing cursors too small.
<http://www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/assistive.htm>
- **Large pointers**
Over 80 additional pointers and cursors for those with visual or perceptual difficulties. Icon styles include animated, coloured, large, I-beams and circles.
<http://ace-centre.hostinguk.com/index.cfm?pageid=F5F26649-3048-7290-FEA80B8B637BF760>

Screen adaptations

- **RapidSet**
Allows quick and easy changing of the background and font colours without having to go through Screen Properties.
<http://www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/assistive.htm>
- **My Cork Board**
A memory aid that uses a customisable screen saver screen containing notes to-do list and calendar.
<http://www.mycorkboard.com/>
- **On screen magnifier** at <http://magnifier.sourceforge.net/>
- **Virtual magnifying glass**
This is a magnifying glass lens that follows the mouse movement
http://www.assist-it.org.uk/assets/content/downloads_links.htm
- **Washer**
Renders everything underneath its window in a grey scale format, thus catering for a high proportion of colour deficiencies. It can be dragged around the screen to select different areas.
<http://www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/assistive.htm>
- **Vu-Bar 4.5**
Provides an on-screen, slotted ruler. This version allows the user to set the slot width/height to the required font size.
<http://www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/assistive.htm>
- **Dark Screen**
Dark Screen provides a means of dimming the screen output
<http://www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/assistive.htm>
- **ssOverlay**
Similar to Dark Screen, (the ss stands for Scotopic Sensitivity), places a coloured overlay onto the screen. The colour and transparency levels can be adjusted to suit the user.
<http://www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/assistive.htm>

Toolbar utilities

- **Techdis toolbar**
This is a useful tool for locating personal preferences on the internet through Internet Explorer.
http://www.techdis.ac.uk/index.php?p=1_20051905100544
- **My Learning Toolbar**
A toolbar that integrates with Word and provides easy access to frequently used tools
http://www.assist-it.org.uk/assets/content/downloads_links.htm
- **Fx Toolbar**
This toolbar is designed as an add in for Microsoft Word 2007. The toolbar gives you options to highlight and collect parts of the text into a new document, speak highlighted text, identify confusables, change the case of the selected text and identify if your sentences are overly long.
<http://www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/assistive.htm>

Other utilities

- **Phonetic Speller**
Werdz Supports writing, developed by IBM, this utility corrects words spelt phonetically.
<http://www.gandjlawrence.co.uk/Werdz/Werdz.htm>
- **Talking typer**
Provides speech feedback to support those with visual impairment to touch type.
http://www.assist-it.org.uk/assets/content/downloads_links.htm
- **Mind Mapping tool**
Useful concept mapping device to support writing and planning
http://freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main_Page
- **Sound Timer**
This is a free program that allows you to play a sound file at a certain time.
<http://www.sensorysoftware.com/soundtimer.html>
- **Big calculator**
<http://www.sensorysoftware.com/bigcalculator.html>
- **Talking calculator**
http://www.assist-it.org.uk/assets/content/downloads_links.htm