

# Configuring Windows for the Visually Challenged

This is a short article on how we can make a difference for visually challenged people to enjoy computers.

## The Logon and Logoff Wallpapers.

Most Wallpapers which come with XP, Vista and Windows7 have light clear backgrounds. Wherever possible choose a plain dark blue background. It is much easier to see the white mouse.

## Presentations.

Presentations being prepared for visually challenged people should always be done in dark blue backgrounds.

## Text to Speech Readers

Using Text to speech readers may help with the reading of mail/documents/e-books etc. Both Windows Vista and Windows 7 have a Text to Speech reader software program. You will find this by navigating as follows: Start/All Programs/Accessories/Ease of Access/Narrator.

Make sure the volume is turned on for the speakers, in order that the instructions to initially setup can be heard.

## Speech to Text Converters.

These have been around for quite a while, one of the more common ones being Dragon Naturally Speaking.

## Screen Resolution.

Using the resolution with the biggest texts and fonts as per the Monitors Display capabilities will go a long way towards making it easier for the person to use the computer. The ideal resolution will vary from person to person and can only be found by repeated trials. The settings can be found by Right clicking on the Desktop/Personalise/Display Settings.



## Large File Icons.

Increasing the size of the Icons on the Desktop will make it much easier for Visually Challenged people to see them.

Right click on the Desktop/go to Personalise/View/choose large Icons.

## Magnifier.

Windows Vista and Windows 7 comes with many accessibility features. One very useful item for the Visually Challenged is the Magnifier. This can also be found in Ease of Access. It is a good idea to run at either the top or bottom of the screen, in order that as the mouse pointer is moved around they will see the magnified image to help them navigate and click on files.

## **Creating a Special User Profile**

Once these additional helpful tricks have been setup it is a good idea to make a separate User Profile for the person going to use them.

Peggy.