



# Assistive Technology Solutions for Students who are Blind/Visually Impaired

## Computer Access

**Screen Magnification:** Screen magnification enlarges information on a computer screen in incremental factors (2x to 36x magnification). Screen magnification programs run simultaneously with the computer's operating system and

applications. Most screen magnification programs have the flexibility to magnify the full screen, parts of the screen, or a magnifying glass view of the area around the cursor or pointer. Some programs also allow for inverted colors, enhanced pointer viewing, and tracking options.

Product	Vendor	Website
<b>MAGic</b>	Freedom Scientific, Inc. Blind/Low Vision Group	<a href="http://www.freedomscientific.com">www.freedomscientific.com</a>
<b>ZoomText</b>	Ai Squared	<a href="http://www.aisquared.com">www.aisquared.com</a>
<b>Magnifier</b> Standard in Windows operating systems	Microsoft	<a href="http://www.microsoft.com/enable/products/default.aspx">www.microsoft.com/enable/products/default.aspx</a>
<b>Zoom</b> Standard in Mac OS X operating system	Apple	<a href="http://www.apple.com/accessibility/vision/">www.apple.com/accessibility/vision/</a>

**Screen Readers:** Screen reading software reads aloud everything on computer screens, including text, pull-down menus, icons, dialog boxes, and web pages. Screen readers run simultaneously with the computer's operating system and applications.

Product	Vendor	Website
<b>JAWS</b>	Freedom Scientific, Inc. Blind/Low Vision Group	<a href="http://www.freedomscientific.com">www.freedomscientific.com</a>
<b>Window-Eyes</b>	GW Micro	<a href="http://www.gwmicro.com">www.gwmicro.com</a>
<b>ZoomText</b>	Ai Squared	<a href="http://www.aisquared.com">www.aisquared.com</a>
<b>Hal</b>	Dolphin	<a href="http://www.yourdolphin.com">www.yourdolphin.com</a>
<b>Narrator</b> Standard in Windows operating systems	Microsoft	<a href="http://www.microsoft.com/enable/products/default.aspx">www.microsoft.com/enable/products/default.aspx</a>
<b>Voiceover</b> Standard in Mac OS X operating system	Apple	<a href="http://www.apple.com/accessibility/vision/">www.apple.com/accessibility/vision/</a>

## Reading Support

**Video Magnifiers:** Video magnifiers utilize closed circuit television technology to enlarge written materials and small objects for people with low vision. All printed material from textbook pages to mail can be magnified for easier viewing.

Product	Vendor	Website
<b>Prisma</b>	Freedom Vision	<a href="http://www.freedomvision.net">www.freedomvision.net</a>
<b>Clarity: portable &amp; desktop models</b>	Clarity Solutions	<a href="http://www.clarityusa.com">www.clarityusa.com</a>
<b>Traveller</b>	Optelec	<a href="http://www.optelec.com">www.optelec.com</a>
<b>PocketViewer</b>	Humanware	<a href="http://www.humanware.com">www.humanware.com</a>

**Digital Book Readers:** Digital book readers are portable CD and/or MP3 players that read DAISY-compatible audiobooks. They provide navigation functions and playback features.

Product	Vendors	Website
<b>PlexTalk Pocket &amp; PTR2 Player Recorder</b>	RFBD	<a href="http://www.rfbd.org">www.rfbd.org</a>
<b>Professor</b>	RFBD	<a href="http://www.rfbd.org">www.rfbd.org</a>
<b>Victor Reader Wave</b>	RFBD Humanware*	<a href="http://www.rfbd.org">www.rfbd.org</a> <a href="http://www.humanware.com">www.humanware.com</a>
<b>Victor Reader Classic X Plus</b>	RFBD Humanware*	<a href="http://www.rfbd.org">www.rfbd.org</a> <a href="http://www.humanware.com">www.humanware.com</a>
<b>VictorReader Stream</b>	RFBD Humanware*	<a href="http://www.rfbd.org">www.rfbd.org</a> <a href="http://www.humanware.com">www.humanware.com</a>

\* If purchased directly from Humanware, user will need to get an authorization key from RFBD to read RFBD audiobooks.

**Scan/Read Systems:** Scan/read software reads aloud printed text after it has been scanned into a computer. Textbook pages, class handouts, and tests can be made accessible to students with print disabilities.

Product	Vendor	Website
<b>Kurzweil 1000</b>	Kurzweil Educational Systems	<a href="http://www.kurzweilededu.com">www.kurzweilededu.com</a>
<b>OpenBook</b>	Freedom Scientific, Inc., Blind/Low Vision Group	<a href="http://www.freedomscientific.com">www.freedomscientific.com</a>
<b>SARA (Scanning and Reading Appliance)</b>	Freedom Scientific, Inc., Blind/Low Vision Group	<a href="http://www.freedomscientific.com">www.freedomscientific.com</a>
<b>knfbReader Mobile</b>	K-NFB Reading Technology, Inc.	<a href="http://www.knfbreader.com">www.knfbreader.com</a>

y

**Software Playback Systems:** Software playback systems are full-featured software packages designed to play RFB&D's AudioPlus CD books on a desktop or laptop computer.

Product	Vendor	Website
<b>eCclipseReader</b>	Innovative Rehabilitation Technology, Inc.	<a href="http://www.eclipsereader.com">www.eclipsereader.com</a> <a href="http://www.rfbd.org">www.rfbd.org</a>
<b>Victor ReaderSoft</b> available as a free download with membership to Bookshare.org	RFBD	<a href="http://www.visuaide.com">www.visuaide.com</a> <a href="http://www.rfbd.org">www.rfbd.org</a> <a href="http://www.bookshare.org">www.bookshare.org</a>
<b>ghPlayer</b>	gh	<a href="http://www.ghbraille.com">www.ghbraille.com</a>
<b>EasyReader</b>	Dolphin	<a href="http://www.yourdolphin.com">www.yourdolphin.com</a> <a href="http://www.rfbd.org">www.rfbd.org</a>
<b>FSReader</b>	Freedom Scientific, Inc., Blind/Low Vision Group	<a href="http://www.freedomscientific.com">www.freedomscientific.com</a>

**Braille Translation Software:** Braille translation software converts text documents into Braille and Braille files into text. The Braille file can then be sent to a Braille embosser or read on a refreshable Braille display.

Product	Vendor	Website
<b>Duxbury Braille Translator</b>	Duxbury Systems Inc.	<a href="http://www.duxburysystems.com">www.duxburysystems.com</a>
<b>WinBraille</b> free with Index embossers	Index Braille	<a href="http://www.indexbraille.com">www.indexbraille.com</a>

## Writing Support

**Portable Notetakers:** Lightweight, portable notetakers provide speech output and/or refreshable Braille without a visual display and can be connected to printers and computers for printing and uploading text. Braille keyboards and refreshable Braille displays are available for Braille users. A QWERTY keyboard version is available for people who prefer touch-typing.

Product	Vendor	Website
<b>Pac MATE Series</b>	Freedom Scientific, Inc. Blind/Low Vision Group	<a href="http://www.freedomscientific.com">www.freedomscientific.com</a>
<b>VoiceNote</b>	Humanware	<a href="http://www.humanware.com">www.humanware.com</a>
<b>BrailleNote</b>	Humanware	<a href="http://www.humanware.com">www.humanware.com</a>