Computer aids for the visually impaired

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Screen magnification

Software to enlarge the text on screen

BigShot Screen Magnifier
Screen magnification

Homepage:
http://www.aisquared.com/Products/BigShot/BigShot.htm

Features:
This low-cost, easy-to-use magnification program allows you to fine tune the screen for more comfortable viewing. With 20 levels of magnification from 100 to 200 percent, BigShot allows you to focus on your work without straining to see the screen. BigShot is ideal for home and professional use and works great on laptops and desktops. It's the easy-to-use solution to everyday computer eyestrain.

-20 levels of magnification from 105% to 200%
-Unique zooming modes allow you to magnify the full screen or just the active application
-Change magnification levels using the mouse
-Intelligent tracking of all program activity keeps important information in view
-Supports True Color and High Color display modes and all screen resolutions
-Always-on-top toolbar gives you quick access to BigShot settings

Pricing: $99.00, upgrades $25.00

Free 30-day download at:
http://www.aisquared.com/Products/BigShot/BSFreeTrial/BSFreeTrial.htm

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
Pentium or compatible processor with MMX technology
One of the following operating systems: Windows XP, Windows 2000, Windows Me - Millennium Edition, Windows NT 4.0 (w/ service pack 6), Windows 98, Windows 95 (English versions only)
High Color (16 bit) or True Color (24 and 32 bit) display driver
Minimum of 32 MB of system RAM

GALILEO
Screen magnification

Homepage:
http://www.baum.de/English/enggalileo.htm

Features:
Though Galileo is an independent and autonomous program that offers every comfort of a modern screen magnification software, it has especially been developed for use with the screen reader VIRGO. By combining these two solutions all former compatibility problems between screen readers and screen magnification software now belong to the past.

Galileo can easily be adapted to your personal needs, since nearly all parameters are free of choice and can be saved. The user interface of the control window has a clear structure, the most important functions can intuitively be started. Once the preferences are fixed, Galileo runs in the background and does not occupy precious screen space.

-Magnification factor: 1x to 48x
-100% compatible with VirgoNT
-Automatic installation, doesn't need user intervention
-Compatible with any video card and any sound card
-Delivered with high visibility mouse pointers
-All interface elements contain ToolTips with a short explanation
-All interface buttons have pictures that make it easy to find and learn
-Doesn't need any files for configuration
-Is not based on a specified technology like MSAA, so it doesn't care if an application supports or not these technologies
-Was tested with the very latest product software, including Internet Explorer 5.0, Microsoft Office 2000
-Supports any speech synthesis based on SAPI
-The product is delivered with IBM Via Voice and is available in the following languages: English, German, Italian, French, Spanish, Swedish
-Screen magnification can be used with or without speech
-It can be made accessible to any application

Pricing: Not available

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
Operating system: Windows NT 4.0, Windows 2000
Video card: Works with any video card
Processor: A Pentium® 200 or equivalent
Memory: 32 Mb
Free disk space: 30 MB

Lunar and Lunar Plus
Screen magnification/Synthetic speech

Homepage:
http://www.dolphinuk.co.uk/products/lunar.htm

Features:
Lunar Screen Magnifier works with Windows and Windows applications, including word processing, spreadsheets, the Internet and email. Lunar Screen Magnifier's advanced technology means that even on high magnification, text and images remain smooth, clear and easily readable. Further clarification of activity on-screen is available thanks to strong, high contrast colors. Simply choose what works best for you.

LunarPlus Enhanced Screen Magnifier offers people with a visual impairment the same invaluable features as Lunar Screen Magnifier but with the added advantage of speech output. Any text on screen is read out so not only you can check for accuracy as you type in documents or emails but you can also hear information on menus and web pages.

-Text and images are smooth and clear up to 32 times bigger
-Control color, contrast and brightness
-Replace nuisance colors or build your own color scheme
-Choice of high visibility mouse pointers
-Synchronized Document Read highlights each word as spoken
-Choice magnification styles: whole screen; split screen; window; lens; auto lens; hooked
-Set up the screen exactly according to your requirements or swap easily between views
-Comprehensive online and context sensitive help
-Speech (LunarPlus only)
-Reads out screen text including documents, menus, web pages, and emails
-Talks as you type, by character, by word or both
-Synchronized Document Read highlights each word as spoken
-Choice of two software speech synthesizers
-Orpheus' intelligent pronunciation recognizes similar words by context
-Choice of nine Orpheus voices or create your own
-Automatically recognizes many other hardware and software synthesizers

Pricing: $395.00, $595.00

Free demo download at:
http://www.dolphinuk.co.uk/downloads/index.asp

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Windows 98, Windows Me, Windows NT v4.0 (SP 6), Windows 2000, Windows XP
-Microsoft Internet Explorer v5 or later
-Intel P2 400 Mhz equivalent or higher, 125 MB free hard disk space, 128 MB Memory
-PCI or AGP graphics card (not "on-board")
-Sound Blaster compatible sound card (not "on-board")

MAGic 8.0x (with or without speech)
Screen Magnification/Synthetic Speech

Homepage:
http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs_products/software_magic.asp

Features:
MAGic combines great magnification features with true low vision screen reading when purchased with the speech option. It gives you the ability to choose the information you want read from the screen as you navigate your applications. MAGic is easy to use with its talking large print installation, new color-coded user interface and hot keys that avoid conflicts with Windows and popular software applications.

-Talking Installation enables you to independently install MAGic
-2x to 16x magnification with smoothing
-Cursor and Mouse Tracking keep your point of focus in view
-Tether Mouse to Display brings your mouse into your view whenever the mouse is moved
-Mouse Enhancements help you easily locate and follow the mouse
-Four configurable magnification views give you the flexibility to display information in a way that fits your magnification needs
-Color Inversion improves contrast and ease of reading
-Use magnification and speech together or independently
-Mouse Speech reads words or lines as you move the mouse over them
-Keyboard Echo reads characters or words when typing them
-Use Say All to read documents with the words being highlighted as they are spoken
-Review your documents quickly using simple, easy to remember keystrokes
-JAWS inspired list boxes consolidate information and make navigation easy
-Enhanced on-line help including Shift+F1 help for all controls in MAGic
-30-day money-back satisfaction guarantee and limited 90-day warranty
-Software Maintenance Agreement is available, providing two consecutive future upgrades of the software. Multi-user agreements also are available

Pricing: $295.00, $545.00, software maintenance agreement $75.00

Free demo download at: currently unavailable

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
MAGic Standard: Windows 95, 98, Me and XP Home
MAGic Professional: Windows 95, 98, Me, NT, 2000 and XP Home and Pro
-Processor speed: 166 MHz
-RAM: 64 MB
-Available hard disk space for installation: 75 MB
-Available hard disk space after installation: 45 MB
-Video: Super VGA display
-Sound: Windows compatible sound card (for speech option)

ProVision32
Screen magnification/Synthetic speech

Homepage:
http://www.biolink.bc.ca/pvinfo.htm

Features:
Provision32 with its fractional magnification increments provide improved low vision support. With the optional speech it also becomes a true screen reading product, thus providing you with the options to read what is on the screen.

-Powerful solution to low vision access in Windows 2000/XP
-Magnification at an affordable price with or without speech support
-From 1 to 2 times magnification in 1/4 increments.
-From 2 to 4 times magnification in 1/2 increments.
-From 4 to 16 times magnification in whole number increments.
-Multiple Zoom Windows
-Adjustable Horizontal and Vertical Split Screens
-Auto Tracking
-Auto Scrolling
-Locator
-Application Specific Bookmarks
-Inverting Colours
-changing individual colours
-Cursor Control
-Compatible with Speech output.

Provision32 with exceptional text font smoothing in all zoom windows. Eliminates jagged edges without distorting graphics.

Provision32 include an MP3 recorder/player. Record documents, exam preparations, newspaper articles, etc for reading away from the computer, using a pocket MP3 player.

-Compatible with the Dragon Dictate and ViaVoice voice recognition programs. (Not included)

Pricing: $295.00, $495.00

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
Windows 2000/XP

Supernova Reader Magnifier
Screen magnification/Screen reader

Homepage:
http://www.dolphinuk.co.uk/products/supernova.htm

Features:
Whatever your visual impairment, Supernova allows you to use Windows applications, the Internet and email easily. Supernova recognizes the text and graphics which make up Windows including dialog boxes, icons, buttons, menus and other controls. The computer display is magnified so that you can see small detail more clearly and information is also presented in Braille for users of the many supported Braille devices.

The Dolphin List Utility makes sorting through links on a complex web page quick and easy. Supernova announces graphics labels automatically and reads through frames and tables quickly and accurately. Supernova includes full screen reading in speech and Braille with magnification and works on any of the supported Windows platforms.

-Supernova works on all of the supported Windows platforms
-Text and images are smooth and clear up to 32 times enlargement
-Control of color, contrast and brightness, high visibility mouse pointers
-Synchronized Document Read highlights each word as spoken
-Choice of magnification: whole screen; split screen; window; lens; auto lens; hooked
-Easy browsing of Internet web pages and other applications
-Reads or spells out any text on screen: documents, menus, web pages, emails
-Reads icons and Internet graphics labels and announces font and style information.
-Talks as you type, by character, by word or both
-Navigate Internet tables by row or column and also detect multiple or nested tables
-Choice of two software speech synthesizers
-Dolphin List Utility allows you to bring up a list of hyperlinks, frames or html headings
-Text and graphical information at your fingertips
-Choose computer or literary Braille (Grade 1 or Grade 2)
-Works automatically with a wide range of Braille displays and note takers
-Accurate information on formatting, style and physical layout

Pricing: $995.00

Free demo download at:
http://www.dolphinuk.co.uk/downloads/index.asp

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Windows 98, Windows Me, Windows NT v4.0 (SP 6), Windows 2000, Windows XP
-Microsoft Internet Explorer v5 or later
-Intel P2 400 Mhz equivalent or higher, 125 MB free hard disk space, 128 MB Memory
-PCI or AGP graphics card (not "on-board")
-Sound Blaster compatible sound card (not "on-board")

ZoomText 8.1 Magnifier
Screen magnification

Homepage:
http://www.aisquared.com/Products/ZoomText8_mag/Z8Mag.htm

Features:
ZoomText Magnifier delivers clear images, smooth navigation, ease of use and the highest level of compatibility. With magnification up to 16x, ZoomText enlarges and enhances everything on the screen, making all your applications easy to see and use.

ZoomText Magnifier also features All Color Smoothing, for clear and sharp text at all magnification levels, Pointer and Cursor Enhancements that make it easy to find the mouse pointer and text cursor, and innovative Color Filtering that let you change screen colors for improved clarity and reduced eyestrain.

-Magnification levels up to 16x. New fractional powers (1.25, 1.5 and 1.75) provide fine control for users needing minimal magnification
 -Seven zoom window types: Full, Overlay, Lens, Line and four Docked positions. Each of these windows offers a unique way of viewing what is on the screen. At any time, you can switch zoom window types to accommodate a different task or application environment.
-ZoomText's windows can be sized and/or moved to occupy a different portion of the screen
-Freeze window allows you to monitor information at one location while you simultaneously view and edit information in other locations
-Color enhancements improve screen clarity for easier viewing and reduced eyestrain
-Pointer enhancements make it easy to locate and follow the mouse pointer
-Cursor enhancements make it easier to locate and follow the text cursor
-Desktop Finder helps you find and launch programs on the desktop, system tray and quick launch bar
-Web Finder helps you find links and controls in any webpage
-All-Color Smoothing
-Zoom Window View
-Mouse navigation options make it easier to explore and move around the screen

Pricing: $395.00, SMA $149.00, upgrades $75.00

Free trial download at:
http://www.aisquared.com/Products/ZoomText8_mag/FreeTrial/Z8FreeTrial.htm

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Pentium II or higher processor (including compatible processors)
-Windows XP, ME, 2000, NT4 (SP6) or 98
-High Color (16 bit) or True Color (24 or 32 bit) display driver
-Minimum 128 MB RAM (256 MB recommended)

ZoomText 8.1 Magnifier/Screen Reader
Screen magnification/Synthetic speech

Homepage:
http://www.aisquared.com/Products/ZoomText8_mag_reader/Z8MagRead.htm

Features:
ZoomText Magnifier/ScreenReader gives you all the features of ZoomText Magnifier, plus screen reading that's powerful and easy to use.

ZoomText Magnifier/ScreenReader echoes typing, reads information pointed to by the mouse, and speaks program events as they occur. Flexible verbosity settings give you complete control over the amount of information spoken by ZoomText.

The new AppReader reads documents, web pages and email, from within the parent application. And with ZoomText's specialized application support for Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, Internet Explorer, Acrobat and Java, you'll be reading documents and web pages with 100% accuracy.

-All of the feature of ZoomText plus:
-Turns speech output on and off
-Controls how fast ZoomText speaks - in words per minute
-Typing echo provides immediate feedback of the keys and words that you type
-Mouse echo automatically reads text that you point to
-Verbosity allows you to adjust the amount of information spoken when a program item receives focus
-AppReader provides continuous reading of documents, web pages and email, within the parent application programs
-DocReader to read text from the last active application
-SpeakIt tool allows you to read selected areas of the screen by clicking or dragging with the mouse
-Navigation keys make it easy to read while creating and editing documents
-ZoomText 8.1 reads any web page, in the proper reading order

Pricing: $595.00, SMA $199.00, upgrades $99.00

Free trial download at:
http://www.aisquared.com/Products/ZoomText8_mag_reader/FreeTrial/Z8FreeTrial.htm

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Pentium II or higher processor (including compatible processors)
-Windows XP, ME, 2000, NT4 (SP6) or 98
-High Color (16 bit) or True Color (24 or 32 bit) display driver
-Minimum 128 MB RAM (256 MB recommended)
-Windows sound card

Synthetic speech

Software to read the text on screen

Hal Screen Reader
Screen reader/Internet Browser

Homepage:
http://www.dolphinuk.co.uk/products/hal.htm

Features:
Hal Screen Reader provides the very best intelligent screen access for visually impaired computer users through speech and Braille. Hal's sophisticated technology makes all kinds of Windows applications, the Internet and email, easy to use. Hal works by recognizing and reading information from the computer screen aloud through your computer's soundcard. Screen information is also displayed in Braille for users of the many supported Braille devices.

Dolphin's Virtual Cursor allows you to browse the Internet without a mouse. Hal announces graphics labels automatically and reads through frames and tables quickly and accurately. The Dolphin Links Navigator makes sorting through links quick and easy.

-Easy browsing of Internet web pages and other applications
-Reads or spells out any text on screen: documents, menus, web pages, emails
-Reads icons and Internet graphics labels and announces font and style information
-Talks as you type, by character, by word or both
-Spoken prompts allow easy navigation
-Choice of two software speech synthesizers
-Orpheus' intelligent pronunciation recognizes similar words by context
-Choose how much speech feedback you want to hear
-Automatically recognizes many other hardware and software synthesizers
-Bring up a list of hyperlinks, frames or html headings with a hot key
-Text and graphical information at your fingertips
-Choose computer or literary Braille (Grade 1 or Grade 2)
-Works automatically with a wide range of Braille displays and note takers
-Intelligently reads ahead so dialog information is conveyed in context
-Braille hotkeys, pre-programmed and user-programmable
-Choose how much information you want and how it is displayed

Pricing: $695.00

Free 30-day download at:
http://www.dolphinuk.co.uk/downloads/index.asp

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Windows 98, Windows Me, Windows NT v4.0 (SP 6), Windows 2000, Windows XP
-Microsoft Internet Explorer v5 or later
-Intel P2 400 Mhz equivalent or higher, 125 MB free hard disk space, 128 MB Memory
-PCI or AGP graphics card (not "on-board")
-Sound Blaster compatible sound card (not "on-board")

JAWS for Windows
Screen reading/Internet browser

Homepage:
http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs_products/software_jaws.asp

Features:
The most popular screen reader worldwide, JAWS for Windows works with your PC to provide access to today's software applications and the Internet. With its internal software speech synthesizer and the computer's sound card, information from the screen is read aloud, providing technology to access a wide variety of information, education and job related applications. JAWS also outputs to refreshable Braille displays, providing unmatched Braille support of any screen reader on the market. A training tutorial is included.

-JAWS installs with an enhanced, multi-lingual software speech synthesizer, "Eloquence for JAWS."
-The JAWS interactive talking installation makes it easy to get started without sighted assistance
-Supports all standard Windows applications without special configurations
-Enhanced support has been added for today's most popular applications
-Supports Internet Explorer with special features: links lists, frames lists, forms mode, reading HTML tables and graphic labels and more
-Includes a unique scripting language for further customization with nonstandard Windows applications and proprietary software
-New tools for easier customization without the need to write scripts
-Output to most popular refreshable Braille displays in computer or Grade 2 Braille
-Includes a Windows Basic Training Tutorial with more than five hours of audiocassette instruction to help those to understand how to navigate the Windows environment with JAWS
-30-day money-back satisfaction guarantee and limited 90-day warranty
-Software Maintenance Agreement is available, providing two consecutive future upgrades of the software. Multi-user license agreements also are available

Pricing: $895.00, software maintenance agreement $120

Free demo download at:
http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs_downloads/jaws.asp

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Windows operating system from version 95 through XP Professional.
-Windows compatible sound card
-RAM: 256 MB is recommended for best performance
-60 MB of available hard disk space
-Super VGA - 256 color or higher display adapter. A 32 bit true color recommended
-233 MHZ or faster processor

Protalk32
Synthetic speech

Homepage:
http://www.biolink.bc.ca/ptinfo.htm

Features:
Protalk32 for Windows Standard and Professional provide access to today's most popular software applications and Internet in an inexpensive manner by supporting a line of popular Braille devices and Microsoft SAPI compatible speech.

New in Protalk32 instant messaging made easy, chat online without having to search for incoming answers. Protalk32 provide support for MSN messenger.

Protalk32 excellent for dependable web surfing. Full and accurate access to all the accessible items on a web page with automatic readout or use the tab key or protalk cursor to read individual items and/or locates them.

The interface for Protalk32 for Windows XP home (Protalk32 Standard version), Protalk32 for Windows 2000/XP (Protalk32 Professional version) in all of the available operating systems is exactly the same.

Protalk32 operates in two different modes: Application mode, which is used for text and data input, and Protalk32 mode, which lets you use the keyboard to move the Protalk cursor (just like the mouse cursor) around windows.

Protalk32 include an MP3 recorder/player. Record documents, exam preparations, newspaper articles, etc for reading away from the computer, using a pocket MP3 player.

Protalk32 fully support PDF files with built in PDF reading capability and/or with the Adobe PDF accessibility support.

-Compatible with the Dragon Dictate and ViaVoice voice recognition programs. (Not included)
-Variety of display and readout options. At the touch of a key, it reads:
-Characters, words, sentences, paragraphs, columns, and tables.
-The contents of the Clipboard, marked blocks of text, and message and dialog Boxes.
-Status lines, menu bars, toolbars, and toolbox button bars.
-Line indentation, the type and size of a font, and text color.

Pricing: $295.00, $595.00

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
Windows XP home or Windows 2000/XP

Read Text
Synthetic speech

Homepage:
http://www.colligo.us/Products/rtmain.html

Features:
ReadText speaks digital files and web pages to you with the clearest of voices

ReadText can magnify text to any size desired. For further enhanced readability you can change the type face and color of the text as well.

ReadText reads html and PDF files and the thousands of books that are online. There are unlimited resources for free books and libraries online that you can join, such as Questia.com. Colligo also provides accredited online school and K-12 curriculum accessible with ReadText.

Pricing: $199.00

Free demo at:
http://www.colligo.us/ReadText%20Final.wmv

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-speakers or earphones
-800 Mhz,
-256 Mb of RAM
-500Mb of hard drive space available

The Universal Reader
Synthetic speech

Homepage:
http://www.premier-programming.com/ureader.htm

Features:
The Universal Reader is a very easy-to-use utility that reads to you. The best part is that it works with virtually any application. Use it to read your email, your WORD documents even PDF files. It is as simple as selecting what you want it to read and then click on the floating toolbar and it starts to read. It takes about 2 minutes to install and even less time to learn how to use it.

The floating toolbar can be set so that it is always on top, it can be minimized onto the status bar or it can be running behind everything as you do other stuff. The Universal Reader has a view window, which will display what is being read. If you only want to listen without the on-screen display, you can close this window and still have the toolbar active. To make viewing easier, you can change the text and background color, select a font and even enlarge the font up to 5 times it's original size. It even highlights the word as it is being read.

The most useful part is that it works with virtually every application on your computer from Microsoft Word to Microsoft Outlook. If you are in a window that has selectable text, then the Universal Reader can read it.

-Selectable voices, it comes with many voices to pick from. The AT&T Natural Voices are included when it is ordered on CD
-Adjustable speaking speed and pitch
-View window – Displays what is being read
-Highlights the word as it is read
-Adjustable Fonts and Font Sizes
-Selectable Colors Foreground and Background
-The ability to keep the Toolbar on top at all times
-Works with ALL programs
-Can Read PDF files, Web Pages and even Help Files

Pricing: $29.95

Free demo download at:
https://www.premier-programming.com/Downloadsform.asp

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Operating System: Windows 98SE, ME, NT, 2000, XP Home and Professional
-CPU: 200 MHz Pentium or Faster
-Memory: 64 MB of Ram (128 MB of RAM is required for the AT&T Natural Voices)
-Disk Space: 35 MB (400 for the AT&T Natural Voices)

VIRGO 4
Synthetic speech/Screen magnification

Homepage:
http://www.baum.de/English/engVirgo4.htm

Features:
When developing VIRGO 4, we set a high value on making the presentation and exploration of Windows as comfortable and individual as possible for the visually impaired user. VIRGO 4 makes the user choose the sort of information to be displayed on the braille display and to be given via speech-output. Users with a rest of sight have the choice to work also with the integrated screen magnification "Galileo". The complete integration of braille, speech and screen magnification brings the power of media together to the benefit of the user. Of course, VIRGO 4 can as well be used only with braille-output or only with speech-output or just with screen magnification.

The explore mode is activated whenever the user moves the braille display or speech with the navigation keys. The display no longer follows the focus and the user has full command over horizontal and vertical movement of braille and speech within the current window.

With the help of the screen wizard you will be able to work with high efficiency in many situations. He allows you to read in a simple way the content of the current window or of the entire screen. You just jump from line to line with the arrow keys, while a cursor is displayed on your braille line to your orientation - so you may navigate within a window as easily as in a word processing program. This is especially interesting for windows without a cursor, such as some encyclopaedia or the Windows help function. No problem to click on a cross reference or to use "Drag & Drop".

-Details about Windows element and their descriptive text are shown in distinct windows
-Reads menus/dialogue boxes as they appear on the screen for immediate audio feedback.
-Configure speech functions, including voice, speed, pitch and the type of information
-Supports over 20 braille-displays of different manufacturers.
-User specific bookmarks
-Full UNICODE support for other languages
-Contains new Baum macros for a user-friendly WinWord and Excel
-Implemented JAVA support

Pricing: unavailable

Free demo download at:
http://www.virgo4.de/downloads/virgo40p3d.exe

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Windows NT, Windows 2000 as well as under Windows XP

Window-Eyes
Synthetic speech

Homepage:
http://www.gwmicro.com/products/

Features:
-Support for over 50 speech synthesizers and 40 Braille displays.
-Breakthrough support for Macromedia Flash
-Full command prompt support for Windows 2000 and XP
-Enhanced Internet support
-Label controls, reclassify controls, and obtain control information on the fly
-Support for all video systems
-A read-to-end feature for reading nonstop from the beginning to the end of a document
-Standard look, feel, and intuitive operations of the Windows environment
-Flexible verbosity settings for hearing exactly what you want to hear
-46 cursoring keys which allow speech to be added to normal application keystrokes
-50 user windows for reading/monitoring specified areas
-26 hyperactive windows for monitoring specified areas
-Access to voice rate changes on the fly
-Access to task manager in Windows 2000/XP
-Full keyboard access for moving the mouse pointer without having to use a mouse
-Automatically reads information under the mouse as it is moved
-Mouse pointer dictionary
-Set up the speech rate, pitch, tone, volume independently for screen, keyboard, mouse
-Numbers can be spoken as digits or full numbers
-Keyboard can voice characters or words
-Allows speech to be silenced with the press of a key
-All major displays are supported
-Several factory Braille tables for 6 and 8 dot Braille
-Visual Braille window for visually displaying the information on the Braille display
-Switch to any Braille display at any time
-Full control over how and what information is presented on the display

Pricing: $595.00

Free demo download at:
http://www.gwmicro.com/demo

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Windows 9X, or Windows Millennium (Me) and Window-Eyes Professional supports Windows 2000, Windows XP Home or Windows XP Professional, Windows 2003.
-300 MHz or 400 MHz or greater
-128 MB RAM
-20 MB available hard-disk space
-CD-ROM drive

Internet browser

Software and Hardware to read Internet pages

Connect Outloud
Internet brower

Homepage:
http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs_products/software_connect.asp

Features:
Connect Outloud is designed for the beginning to experienced blind or low vision computer user to access the Internet through speech and Braille output.

This software is based on our popular JAWS for Windows technology and offers additional access to the Windows XP operating system. Also, Connect Outloud version 2.0 has even more support for the Web, including support for Internet Explorer 5 and 6, and support for Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0.

General features of Connect Outloud allow users to surf the Web, send and receive email and create documents in the easy to use Freedom Scientific word processor. It has no complicated configurations to learn or difficult menus to navigate. With the Tutor Mode, getting started is a snap. The Eloquence speech synthesizer for seven languages is included. Connect Outloud also supports most popular Braille displays and notetakers.

-Simple interface: no menus or complicated configurations to learn.
-Eloquence software speech synthesizer includes: English, Spanish, German, Italian, French, Finnish and Brazilian Portuguese.
-Most of the great features found in JAWS for Windows for use with Internet Explorer 5 and above. Detects and reads links, headers, frames, tables, and graphics.
-Provides an easy transition to the full JAWS screen reader.
-CD includes Outlook Express for email, and Internet Explorer 6.x for web browsing.
-Supports all Windows operating systems including XP.

Pricing: $249.00, upgrade $20.00

Free 30-day download at:
http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs_downloads/connect.asp

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Windows 95, 98, Millennium, NT 4.0 or 2000 professional. If you are running Windows NT 4.0, you must have Service Pack 4 or later installed
-16-bit sound card
-32 MB RAM (64 MB required for Windows 2000 Professional)
-50 MB of available hard disk space
-VGA or higher-resolution video adapter (Super VGA 256-color recommended)
-Connect Outloud will not work in the Windows 3.1x environment

FreedomBox
Internet browser

Homepage:
http://www.freedombox.info/prodinfo.html

Features:
Introducing the FreedomBox, a revolutionary new product that allows a disabled user full access to the Internet just by talking to it. No more waiting for someone to read your mail or information you want. Now you can use the Internet just like anyone else!

No more high-cost computer systems with hard-to-learn adaptive technology. The FreedomBox connects to your favorite Web sites and turns all the links on the page into voice commands. Gone are the days of learning how to use a mouse, keyboard, operating system, and confusing adaptive technology.

Available as a USB "key":
Now you can walk up to any Windows-based computer with a USB port, sound, and a modem or broadband connection and, by plugging in your Key to Freedom, you can be online and using your FreedomBox account in less than 3 minutes.

Or as a "stand alone" PC:
The FreedomBox Standalone connects to the Internet using a standard phone line or Ethernet connection. Using the included microphone, the user speaks to the base unit to instruct it to perform its functions. The product includes a full PC keyboard, but a smaller keypad is also available.
The FreedomBox Lifestyle is an all-in-one design with all the features and functionality you expect in a top of the line PC, but so, so much smaller! Weighing in at less than 2 pounds and measuring just 6 inches by 5 inches by 2 inches, this is the desktop system you can take anywhere in your backpack, briefcase or purse. But remember, it does not have a battery, it plugs in the wall so it is not classed as a portable.

Pricing: $99.00 (software), $199.00 (key), $999.00 (standalone), $1499.00 (lifestyle), internet account $9.99 per month (key), $21.99 (others)

Free trial download at:
http://www.myfreedombox.com/trial_signup.php

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Windows 98 or later
-366 MHz processor (recommend 500 MHz processor)
-128 MB of RAM (recommend 256 MB of RAM)
-600 MB of free hard disk space (recommend 1 GB of free hard disk space)
-Multi-channel sound card
-Windows Media Player 6.1 or later

IBM Homepage Reader 3.021
Internet browser/Screen magnification

Homepage:
http://www-306.ibm.com/able/solution_offerings/hpr.html

Features:
Home Page Reader brings the Internet to blind and low vision users. This innovative product uses the power of voice to guide users in exploring the World Wide Web.

-Easy-to-use, web-based mail feature
-Totally self-voiced Internet access
-Increased productivity with rapid speech rates and valuable keyboard shortcuts
-Enhanced usability with helpful auditory and visual distinctions and highlighting
-Speech for selected multimedia applications and plug-ins

Home Page Reader gives people with low vision the ability to resize windows and panes to make the screen easier to see. Users can change the font size, type, color, and background color. In addition, the voice of Home Page Reader is synchronized with a moving cursor to make reading even easier. Home Page Reader uses the IBM ViaVoice text-to-speech synthesizer to speak Web-based information aloud just as it is presented on the computer screen.

Home Page Reader reads the full range of Web page data in a logical, clear and understandable manner. It reads tables, forms, and frames and allows users to search for specific text on a Web page as well as on the entire Web. It also speaks link information or ALT text for objects like images and image maps.

With Home Page Reader, low vision users can quickly change the font size, type, and colors to customize the information to their visual needs.

Pricing: $142.00

Free 30-day download at:
http://www-306.ibm.com/able/solution_offerings/hprtrial3.html

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Microsoft Windows 98, Millennium, Windows 2000, or Windows XP
-Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher
-Processor equivalent to Intel Pentium 233 MHz and 256K L2 cache or equivalent
-48 MB RAM for Windows 98 & Millennium, 64 MB RAM for Windows 2000 7 and XP
-SVGA graphics card (640 x 480, 256 colors)
-Hard Disk Space: 80 MB of available hard disk space for Home Page Reader
-28.8 KBPS or higher Windows-compatible modem
-Windows-compatible 16-bit sound card
-Windows-compatible quad-speed CD-ROM drive

PnC Net
Internet browser

Homepage:
http://www.jbliss.com/pncNet.html

Features:
PnC Net is software that provides people with low vision the same power to use the Internet that fully sighted people have. You can easily read the daily newspaper, get up-to-minute stock quotes, make travel reservations, purchase goods, get information on almost any topic, and participate fully in the World Wide Web!

PnC Net enlarges the Internet screens and speaks the text, all with easy to use controls. For example, Internet Explorer controls for accessing the Internet require good vision to see the menu selections and good eye-hand coordination to position the pointer in 2-dimensions on specific spots and click the mouse button. Internet Explorer's web page presentation doesn't speak, and a portion of the screen is taken by the controls at the top, leaving only a part of the screen to display the web page.

PnC Net's controls display menu selections in a simple list called "Pick 'n Click" (PnC).

The text can be enlarged as needed. Each menu item is highlighted and spoken with the arrow keys, a simple one-dimensional mouse movement, or by typing the first letter of the item to be highlighted. Selection of the menu item can be made with either a key or mouse button. Tests with people having low vision indicate easier and faster operation with "Pick 'n Click controls.

PnC Net's web page presentation enlarges the web page a desired amount on the screen and reads the text aloud. As each word is spoken it is also highlighted. Page layout is preserved and lines are word wrapped to reduce the necessity for left/right movements to keep the text on the screen. The text is read down each column correctly.

-Simple to operate – only two keys, in addition to the mouse or arrow keys, are needed to operate PnC Net
-Web page layout is preserved, with pictures enlarged, or not as desired, and enlarged text word wrapped
-Speech can be made to start at any selected point
-Links can be downloaded by pressing the Tab key to select the Link, then pressing the Enter key
-Pop-up windows can be automatically closed or not as desired

Pricing: $245.00

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Windows 98, Me, 2000, or XP

WebWizard
Internet browser

Homepage:
http://www.baum.de/English/webwizard.htm

Features:
Most of today's Internet sites contain a lot of sophisticated graphics and are divided by tables or frames into various sections. Such a well-structured page for the sighted user may represent a real problem for the blind or partially sighted user, when searching text information or following links. Especially for users of Braille displays the Browser window often is rather confusing and the cursor routing is complicated and takes much time.

All these problems now belong to the past thanks to WebWizard! This program extracts the information contained in an Internet site and represents it in a simple text window, in order to allow the blind user to easily follow the text. WebWizard is not an independant browser, but uses the information of the MS Internet Explorer

-Cursor routing
-Jumping from link to link with the tab key
-Current elements of a page, such as option buttons, edit boxes or frames are recognised and reported at their respective position in the text window
-Links can be selected by the cursor in the text window
-A separate list of all links of an Internet page can be created and sorted according to the position or to the alphabet
-A separate list of all downloads of a page can be created
-By a simple key combination you can switch between 80 or 40 characters a line, according to the Braille display used
-WebWizard runs with any screen reading software

Pricing: unavailable

Free demo download at:
ftp://ftp.baum.de/public/webwizard/webwiz174/webwiz174.exe

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Windows 95/98/ME, Windows NT/2000/XP
-MS Internet Explorer 5.x with configured Internet access

Optical character recognition

Software and Hardware to scan a document and read it on a PC

Cicero Text Reader
Optical character recognition/Screen magnification

Homepage:
http://www.dolphinuk.co.uk/products/cicero.htm

Features:
Cicero effectively takes your computer and scanner and turns them into a reading machine for people with a visual impairment. Printed text documents are placed on the scanner and can then be translated into speech, Braille or simply held as a text document which can be adjusted, saved, edited and printed out.

Cicero starts talking automatically as soon as the page scan is complete. It is fast, accurate, and easy to use and includes context sensitive help. Start and stop speech instantly with a key press, or browse through a document using the cursor keys. Cicero comes with full lifetime technical support by telephone or email.

For those with low vision, Cicero allows you to view your document on screen in large print. You can also choose high contrast colours and select your preferred font.
Cicero also supports refreshable Braille displays, so that you can scan your printed correspondence and read it directly in Braille. Scanned text can also be exported directly to a Braille translation program for the production of embossed Braille documents.

Text Reader
-Scans and reads automatically, using RECOGNITA'S OCR engine
-Simple one key operation
-Scanned text can be converted onto any word processor or translated into Braille with the appropriate equipment
-Switch languages on the fly
-Adjusts for paper orientation and italic text automatically
-Adjust for faint text automatically
-Hot key to switch between plain text and text in columns
-Display scanned text in high contrast colors and large print

Pricing: $395.00

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Windows 98, Windows Me, Windows NT v4.0 (SP 6), Windows 2000, Windows XP Home & Windows XP Professional.
-Microsoft Internet Explorer v5 or later
-Intel P2 400 Mhz equivalent or higher, 125 MB free hard disk space, 128 MB Memory or higher
-PCI or AGP graphics card (not "on-board")
-Sound Blaster compatible sound card (not "on-board")
-Twain compatible scanner

Homepage:
http://www.premier-programming.com/CRS/CRS.htm

Features:
The Complete Reading System is an easy to use, self-contained OCR/Reading program with full talking menus. The full talking menus mean you won't need a screen reader to navigate through the settings. The system works equally well on desktops or laptops because it doesn't require an external keypad.

Most major functions are single-key operated. Place your reading material on your scanner, and press F5 to scan and recognize the text. When it's finished, just press F6 to begin reading. It's that easy! Our simple design ensures easy installation- you'll be up and reading within 30 minutes.

-24 Different Voices
-AT&T Natural Voices™ (free of charge)
-Zoom up to 400%
-Talking Menus
-Automated Document Feed (ADF) Support
-Works with ANY USB scanner
-Large Print Menus
-Change Font and Background Colors
-Single Key Operation
-Word Tracking While Reading
-Open and Read Existing Documents
-Auto Page Orientation
-MP3 Player Compatibility

Pricing: $199.95

Free 50 scan download at:
http://www.premier-programming.com/Downloadsform.asp

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Operating System: Windows 98SE, ME, 2000 and XP.
-Memory: 64 MB of RAM
-CPU: 200 MHz or Faster
-Storage: 50 MB of Free space (400 MB if you install AT&T Natural Voices)
-CD ROM Drive: 12X or Faster
-Sound Card with Speakers
-Keyboard and Mouse

EzVIP and VIP
Optical character recognition/Screen Magnification

Homepage:
http://www.jbliss.com/ezvip.html
http://www.jbliss.com/vip.html

Features:
Once configured, ezVIP operation is performed with four large buttons on a trackball mouse. This easy and intuitive interface quickly enables you to learn to read and listen to printed documents, magazines, and books with less effort and more efficiency than you can imagine. ezVIP scans and automatically converts text into the type font, letter size, letter spacing, colors, format, and presentation that suits your low vision needs.

-Word Wrap fills the screen with text
-RSVP displays one word at a time
-Image View shows you the original page and a magnified line of text scrolling beneath it
-Page View is an enlarged image of the page
-Hear the text spoken in any of nine different voices. The speech may be turned on or off
-Magnify images and store them in an album for future viewing
-When a Video Camera is connected to an ATI All-in-Wonder Video Capture card in the PC, full screen live images are displayed. This feature is ideal to monitor handwriting as you sign checks or complete hard-to-see forms

VIP software offers all the features of ezVIP plus these features:
-Read Books on CD (over 600 books have been stored and indexed on a single CD)
-Scanning as many pages as desired before viewing allows you to read them later
-Templates customize scanned areas on a page, display the portions of billing summaries
-Create, send, save, and receive E-mail on the Internet
-Write and edit memos with a talking keyboard. Three speech modes facilitate document creation: normal reading, proofreading, and spelling
-Auto dial phone numbers stored for all your friends in the talking address book
-A large print/talking calculator is included for arithmetic operations

Pricing: $295.00, $395.00, shipping and handling $10.00, $25.00 for demo CD

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Windows 95,98,Me, and XP but not Windows NT or 2000
-100 MHZ minimum processor speed (200 highly recommended)
-16 MB RAM (32 highly recommended), 100 MB free disk space
-2MB video card (the camera feature requires a video capture graphics card)
-VGA or higher resolution monitor
-SoundBlaster compatible sound card
-Speakers
-TWAIN compatible scanner
-CD ROM and 3.5" floppy drive

Galileo Reading System
Optical character recognition (PC optional)

Homepage:
http://www.robotron.net.au/galileo.htm

Features:
The Galileo Reading System represents is at the top of the range of Robotron reading machines. Elegant, easy to use, this powerful multi-lingual machine is the product of choice for many vision-impaired people world-wide. The following paragraphs explain why.

Place the text on the scanner and press the Start button. Within half a minute the text is being read aloud in a high-quality voice. What could be simpler? Browsing through text, storing and retrieving files and customising reading parameters are all menu-controlled in a comprehensible user interface designed for simplicity and learning ease.

The Galileo excels in recognition of a wide range of texts, with special strengths in processing mixed fonts, draft quality print and skewed copies. The user's ability to customise scanner settings for particular reading tasks broadens even further the scope of readable documents.

Each language installation in the Galileo brings with it the best available synthetic speech for that language, to provide intelligibility and ease of listening to the user.

The comprehensive File Management System makes storage and retrieval of documents simple, particularly for users without computer expertise. The Galileo in-built file management facility simplifies data transfer in a variety of ways, including serial transfer of files to a PC, and the in-built floppy disk drive.

Galileo can read a vast range of printed documents, including letters, magazines, books and newspapers. The large glass area and double-hinged cover make it possible to read large and thick documents or books.

The in-built hard disk makes it possible for the user to store scanned text for later reading, as well as untranslated images. The in-built floppy drive makes it possible to import text from other sources and then read at the user's leisure.

The Galileo Reading System can be also connected to a computer using the in-built serial interface and communications software. It can be used as an image scanner for a personal computer, as well as controlled remotely via a personal computer.

Pricing: $3195.00

Hardware/Requirements: not available

Kurzweil 1000 v8.0
Optical character recognition

Homepage:
http://www.kurzweiledu.com/products_k1000.asp

Features:
Kurzweil 1000 is scanning and reading software that makes printed or electronic text accessible to people who are blind or have limited vision. It is the direct descendent of the first reading machine for the blind invented by Ray Kurzweil in 1976.

Kurzweil 1000 turns text into speech, and does much more. It reads the words aloud in a variety of life-like voices

Kurzweil 1000 can display magnified text and images from scanned pages in either color or black and white, as well as highlight words as they are spoken, providing added information for those who desire further visual reinforcement. Also, the word spacing option enables users to read in comfort.

-Easy-to-use audible text editor, dictionary, thesaurus and prioritized spell checker
-Quickly obtain online e-books and magazines from Bookshare.org and Web Braille
-Send files to Blazie, Book Courier, BrailleNote, PAC Mate, and Road Runner devices
-Create MP3 and WAV files in the background
-Electronic files, including .doc, .pdf, and .rtf, can be opened
-Full-function talking scientific calculator
-Print and share images of a scanned page
-Send and receive scanned images by FAX.
-Accommodates Braille embossers
-VoiceText (synthetic speech software)

Pricing: $995, free upgrades < 1 year from date of purchase, > 1 year $95

Free trial CD ROM available at:
http://www.kurzweiledu.com/products_k1000_demo.asp

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
Operating System: Windows 98, 2000, ME, XP,Windows NT (Service Pack 6)
Processor speed: 200 MHz Intel Pentium-class processor. If you are using VoiceText TTS, you'll need 400 MHz Pentium II or faster.
RAM: 64 MB, 256MB for VoiceText
Hard Disk space: 500MB and an additional 625MB if using VoiceText
Sound Card: Sound Blaster compatible sound card with speakers
Keyboard: Full-size keyboard or 17-button keypad
CD-ROM Drive
Scanner: requires a TWAIN-compatible scanner (link below)
http://www.kurzweiledu.com/downloads_k1000_scanners.asp

OmniPage Pro 14
Optical coherence recognition
(not specifically designed for visually impaired)

Homepage:
http://www.scansoft.com/omnipage/standard/

Features:
OmniPage Pro 14 is a powerful productivity tool that delivers the most accurate and precise document conversion available today. Quickly turn PDF files and stacks of paper - letters, contracts, tables, manuals - into easily editable word processing and spreadsheet documents. OmniPage Pro 14 delivers everything you need to efficiently convert, edit, process, and share your paper and PDF documents.

Precision OCR technology, advanced layout analysis and powerful editing capabilities allow you to quickly and cost effectively turn your paper documents into over 30 different PC application file formats for editing, searching and sharing with a single application. Custom workflow creation makes it easier than ever to handle large volumes of paper. The renown ScanSoft RealSpeak Text-to-Speech solution included in OmniPage Pro 14 enables you to hear recognized texts read aloud and save them as audio books.

-Instantly convert paper into useable Microsoft Office documents
-Turn PDF files into editable documents while retaining their layout
-Create unlimited searchable PDF files for electronic archives
-Automatically process images from MFPs and scanners
-Scan and convert Documents into PDF, TIFF and more
-Share documents using e-mail and Web

Pricing: $149.99

Free demo at:
http://www.scansoft.com/omnipage/standard/demos/

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Microsoft Windows 98 SE, 2000 with Service Pack 2 or higher, Me, XP, Windows NT
-Intel Pentium III processor or equivalent
-Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.01 Service Pack 2 or later
-128 MB of memory (RAM), 256 MB recommended
-135 MB of free hard disk space for application files and sample images
-Additionally: 20-67 MB per RealSpeak™ speech module
-5 MB for Microsoft Installer (MSI) if not present
-800 x 600 pixel color monitor with 16-bit color or greater video card
-CD-ROM drive for installation
-Compatible scanner with its own scanner driver software (link below)
http://support.scansoft.com/compatibility/

OpenBook v7.0
Optical character recognition

Homepage:
http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs_products/software_open.asp

Features:
OpenBook allows you to convert printed documents or graphic based text into an electronic text format using accurate optical character recognition and quality speech. Quickly read documents with automatic page advances, or move by words, lines, sentences or paragraphs. The Skim Reading command provides a quick overview of document content by reading only the first or the first and last sentence of every paragraph. Quickly jump to the next reading unit during skim reading or Say All.

OpenBook's many low vision features allow you to customize the appearance of text on your screen, including font, size, character spacing, and background/character colors. The Masking feature and highlighting help you focus on the text being read and follow along with the speech.

-Search and download books from Bookshare.org, Baen Free Library, Project Gutenberg
-Fax capability lets you send and receive faxes using your PC's modem
-Create photocopies of printed documents
-Export OpenBook documents to other applications like Microsoft Word or Notepad
-Import documents from other applications so you can read/work with them in OpenBook
-RealSpeak and ViaVoice (synthetic speech software)

Connect Outloud is included to provide access for blind and low-vision users to the Windows operating system, Internet Explorer, Outlook Express, Adobe Acrobat, more.

Pricing: $995 for version 7.0, Upgrades $120-150

Free 30-day download at:
http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs_downloads/openbook.asp

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Operating System: any Windows versions
-Processor speed: 166 MHz
-RAM: 32 MB
-Hard Disc space: 460 MB
-Video: Super VGA display
-Sound Card: Windows compatible sound card and speakers
-Keyboard: 104 key Keyboard
-CD ROM Drive
-Scanner: A supported TWAIN-compatible scanner or a supported Hewlett-Packard flatbed scanner (link below)
http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs_support/OPENBookSL5.asp

Optical Brail Recognition
Optical character recognition

Homepage:
http://www.neovision.cz/prods/obr/

Features:
OBR - Optical Braille Recognition - is a Windows software that allows you to "read" single and double sided Braille documents with a standard scanner. The retrieved information is presented as the text that can be used in all types of Windows applications. The Braille information in a small letter or a complete Braille Book can be retrieved into computer form in the same easy way, even if you do not read Braille at all.

The recognition from a good quality Braille document is excellent. But even scanning an old worn-out Braille document, the fault frequency is surprisingly low. By using standard Windows functions your Braille handling system will be complete and effective.

Everyone who works with Blind people and does not read Braille will benefit from using the OBR. For example: teachers who do not read Braille, public organisations communicating with Blind individuals and Computerised Braille Libraries.

The scanning process is quick and simple. With just a few commands and in a less than thirty seconds, you can receive the text representation of the Braille page, both sides in one scan!

-Maximal scanning area: A4 in Standard, unlimited in Extended version
-Recognition quality: 99.98%, i.e. 1-2 wrong dots on a page
-Braille paper color: from bright white to brown
-Braille page size: unlimited (can merge from smaller scans)
-Braille page type: single and double sided, 6 and 8 dot cells
-Braille cells size: from 2.2 mm to 3.2 mm dot distance

Pricing: $895.00

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Operating system: Windows 95, 98, NT, 2000, Me, XP

Homepage:
http://www.robotron.net.au/pronto.htm

Features:
The Pronto is Robotron's simplest and most affordable reading machine. Much emphasis has been placed on true simplicity of operation. The Pronto is a reading machine as simple to operate as a photocopier; just place your text on the glass, press the start button, and *pronto*, it reads!

Even though it is so simple to use, and the most affordable of all comparable reading machines, the Pronto is an extremely powerful reading machine for the new millennium. In addition to the impressive performance and simplicity of use, the Pronto sets a world price-breaking record. It is currently the only stand-alone reading machine of its kind available under US$2,000.

The Pronto also sets a standard in simplicity of use. There are only two commands (start and stop), three voice settings (volume, speed and pitch), and easy-to-remember text navigation cursor controls. The Pronto designers have cleverly eliminated all the complex settings necessary on other reading machines and improved reliability and performance, to give you an all-in-one outstanding product. With its elegant looks, Pronto will suit your home or office environment equally well.

A result of over a decade of experience in developing and manufacturing a successful range of reading machines (and over 16 years of experience of manufacturing assistive technology products), the Pronto is the latest member of the Robotron product family. It is designed for the widest possible user base - busy people who want a no-nonsense reading machine for work and home, students, elderly people, public libraries, educational and support organizations.

The efficient, reliable, accurate and affordable Pronto will not disappoint.

Pricing: $1895.00

Minimum Hardware Requirements: Not available

Scan N Talk
Optical character recognition (Scanner included)

Homepage:
http://www.colligo.us/Products/stmain.html

Features:
Scan N Talk is your reading machine, simply place a book, magazine or printed page on the scanner, push ONE button, and in a few seconds, Scan N talk reads back to you in the clearest of voices and displays the magnified text on your computer monitor.

Scan N talk can magnify text to any size desired. For further enhanced readability you can change the type face and color of the text as well.

ReadText is the supplied reader with Scan N Talk and will read ALL digital text files, even PDFs. Plus it can read WEB Pages and the thousands of online books that can be found.

Pricing: $399.00, includes scanner

Free demo at:
http://www.colligo.us/SNTDemo.WMV

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-speakers or earphones
-800 Mhz,
-256 Mb of RAM
-500Mb of hard drive space available

Homepage:
http://www.premier-programming.com/scan_&_read_pro.htm

Features:
If you find reading difficult, Scan and Read Pro will make reading easy and enjoyable. Scan & Read Pro changes printed text into understandable sound. The program helps you in reading and comprehension by highlighting each word as it's read aloud. Scan & Read Pro's voice can also be turned off if you prefer to focus on the visual input only.

If you have trouble reading text on computer screens, Scan & Read Pro can change the spacing between words, lines, or even characters so you can see everything clearly. There is no limit to the amount of space you may insert between words. Once you are done reading your document, the original format is easily regained if so desired.

-Predictor Pro Industrial Strength Word Prediction
-Word View Cursor Tracking Technology
-Change the Reading Speed While Reading
-Highlight by Word, Sentence or Paragraph while Reading
-17 different voices
-Talking Spell check with 250,000+ Word Dictionary
-Thesaurus
-Zooms (magnifies) up to 400%
-Can import existing electronic images (e.g. MS WORD)
-Automatic Image Rotation and Alignment
-Works with other screen readers
-Works with any TWAIN compatible scanner
-Can create MP3 audio files
-Adjustable spacing for lines, words and characters

Pricing: $149.95

Free demo download at:
http://www.premier-programming.com/Downloadsform.asp

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Operating System: Windows 98SE, ME, 2000 and XP.
-Memory: 64 MB of RAM
-CPU: 200 MHz or Faster
-Storage: 500 MB of Free space
-CD ROM Drive: 4X or Faster
-Sound Card with Speakers
-Keyboard and Mouse
-USB port for scanner.

ALVA 544 Satellite
Braille display

Homepage:
http://www.aagi.com/catalogue/ProductVersion.asp?101021

Features:
The ALVA Satellite 544 embodies a level of style, high-tech functionality and ease-of-use that is often associated with a fine, precision instrument. At CBIT 2000, the world's largest hi-tech conference and exposition in Hannover, Germany, the Satellite 544 was the recipient of one of the prestigious **iF Product Design Awards** from the Industrie Forum Design Hannover.

Whether the Satellite 544 is used in the office, at school or at home, users will appreciate its exceptional design and innovative control features that lend to increased productivity. If superior braille output, ease of use, enhanced navigation, durability, advanced technology, portability and style are important, the Satellite 544 is the right choice.

The ALVA Satellite 544 will operate for a minimum of 15 hours on easily replaced rechargeable and/or non-rechargeable batteries. When plugged into AC current, the Satellite will fully energize rechargeable batteries in about 3 hours

-Two satellite keypads, six keys each
-44 piezoelectric braille cells
-Double Touch Cursors
-Four navigation front keys
-Two operating front keys
-Selectable sound schemes
-Use three status cells and forty reading cells or use forty-four reading cells
-Status cells at right or left side
-Switch satellite keypad functions from left to right and vice versa
-Rearrange front key functions
-Save and load different settings

Pricing: $6295.00

Hardware/Requirements:
-12.2" x 11.4" x 0.9" or 310 x 290 x 24 mm (width x depth x height)
-Weight: approx. 4.6 pounds or approx. 2.1 kilograms
-Long and short USB and serial cables
-Two downstream USB ports for connecting other USB devices
-Upstream USB port for PC connection
-IBM compatible PCs
-Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000/ and Windows X
-Open Standard enables compatibility with most screen reader software and operating systems.

ALVA 570 Satellite Pro
Braille display

Homepage:
http://www.aagi.com/catalogue/ProductVersion.asp?101022

Features:
Arguably the most feature-rich and attractive braille display in its class, the ultra slim, lightweight and durable ALVA 570 Satellite Pro gives a blind person unprecedented capabilities to read, navigate and obtain speech information, all without removing your hands from the braille display. The ALVA 570 Satellite Pro is the first desktop model designed specifically for use within a graphical interface that gives users the advantage of a wide braille line, but in an elegant and ergonomic profile. Slightly longer than a standard qwerty keyboard, the ALVA 570 Satellite Pro delivers virtually the same amount of information as a conventional 80-character display but with less reach and hand motion.

Introduced in early 2001, the 570 Satellite Pro is the pinnacle of ALVA's 16 years of braille display design and technological innovations. The ultra-slim, enhanced ergonomic profile, combined with several new hardware features, users have more control and ease-of-use in comparison to any other braille display. The ALVA 570 Satellite Pro is the first desktop braille display designed specifically for a graphical interface.

-Two satellite keypads, six keys each
-70 piezoelectric braille cells
-Double Touch Cursors
-Six navigation front keys
-Two operating front keys
-Selectable sound schemes
-Use three status cells and sixty-six reading cells or use seventy reading cells
-Status cells at right or left side
-Switch satellite keypad functions from left to right and vice versa
-Rearrange front key functions

Pricing: $9995.00

Hardware/Requirements:
-24.4" x 11.4" x 0.9" or 620 x 290 x 24 mm (width x depth x height)
-Weight: approx. 6.6 pounds or approx. 3 kilograms
-Long and short USB and serial cables
-Two downstream USB ports for connecting other USB devices
-Upstream USB port for PC connection
-IBM compatible PCs
-Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000/ and Windows X
-Open Standard enables compatibility with most screen reader software and operating systems.

ALVA 584 Satellite Pro
Braille display

Homepage:
http://www.aagi.com/catalogue/ProductVersion.asp?101023

Features:
The ALVA Satellite 584 Pro combines the convenience of the ALVA Satellite legacy with the capabilities of an 80-character model into a low-profile, extended length display for the professional.

This ultra slim, lightweight, yet durable instrument is ideal for those users who need as much braille as possible, such as for use in a data intensive application or programming environment.

The 584 Satellite Pro is the pinnacle of nearly two decades of braille display design and technological advancements from ALVA. With an ultra-slim, enhanced ergonomic design, combined with technologically advanced features, users experience a sense of control and ease-of-use that is unheard of in other braille displays. Whether you're looking for superior braille output, ease of use, enhanced navigation capabilities, flexible connectivity or durability, the 584 Satellite Pro is guaranteed to meet or exceed your expectations

-Twin satellite keypads enable instant speech feedback and easy navigation through complex graphic screens
-Stylish slim-line design
-Smooth feeling with new front key design and new braille cell caps
-A double-touch curosr integrates braille and speech feedback
-Three status cells provide additional informaton about text attributes
-Fast operation and quick response with smoothly coated front keys
-Easy maintenance with modular assembly
-CE safety guarentee

Pricing: $10495.00

Hardware/Requirements:
-19.1 x 11.4 x 0.9 inches
-Weight: 6 lbs 10 ozs
-Long and short USB and serial cables
-Two downstream USB ports for connecting other USB devices
-Upstream USB port for PC connection
-IBM compatible PCs
-Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000/ and Windows X
-Open Standard enables compatibility with most screen reader software and operating systems.

ALVA Delphi Multimedia 440 and 480
Braille display

Homepage:
http://www.aagi.com/catalogue/ProductVersion.asp?101031
http://www.aagi.com/catalogue/ProductVersion.asp?101032

Features:
With its Double Touch Cursors, four navigation keys and three operating keys, the
ALVA Delphi MultiMedia offers full access to even the most complicated graphic
screens. And thanks to its comprehensive, slim, and ergonomic design, the ALVA Delphi
Multimedia is both easy and comfortable to use. A notebook computer can easily be
placed on top of it. So, whether you want to write a letter in MS Word, work in Lotus
spreadsheets, browse the Internet with Netscape or Internet Explorer, or just relax and
read text line-by-line, it can all be done with the slim ALVA Delphi Multimedia, even
when you are on the go.

By using the Double Touch Cursor (DTC) technology, the ALVA Delphi MultiMedia
provides an easy way to invoke screen feedback through the braille display. Press a DTC
and receive information about text attributes when you need it, rather than receiving
continuous readout. If a braille cell displays a two-character code for a specific graphic
symbol or Windows icon, press the DTC to hear the full name of that item.

The 43 cell ALVA Delphi Multimedia 440 represents forty characters in braille. The
three status cells provide additional useful and functional information. (The 85 cell
ALVA Delphi Multimedia 480 represents eighty characters in braille. The five status
cells provide additional useful and functional information.)

-43 (or 85)piezoelectric braille cells
-double touch cursors
-four navigation keys
-three operating keys

Pricing: $5295.00/ $9995.00

Hardware/Requirements:
-12 x 12 x 1 inch (or 24 x 12 x 1 inches) width x depth x height
-Weight: 5.5 lbs (7.7 lbs)
-headphone connection
-Built-in battery (8 hours operating time)
-parallel and serial cable
-two keyboard supports
-IBM compatible PC's
-MS-DOS, Windows 3.11/95/98/ME/NT/2000 and Windows XP
-outSPOKEN, Jaws, WindowEyes, HAL, Protalk, SWB, Visionbraille and many others
-various hardware and software speech synthesizers

Braille Star 40 and 80
Braille display/Note taker

Homepage:
http://www.pulsedata.com/Products/Complementary/braille_star_40.asp
http://www.pulsedata.com/Products/Complementary/braille_star_80.asp

Features:
Only Braille Star gives you a "scratchpad" to jot a few notes independently while connected to, or disconnected from, your PC. Only Braille Star lets you download your data from a PC into the "scratchpad", then disconnect Braille Star to read, edit, add to and save your data when you travel.

-Revolutionary scratchpad stores up to 4,000 pages of text
-Unique triple action navigation keys for simply yet powerful control
-4 user-exchangeable batteries provide up to 20 hours use
-Lightweight, ultra-slim design

Unique to the Braille Star, the triple action navigation keys are easily located at your fingertips to efficiently and intuitively navigate in multiple Windows applications without moving your hands from the Braille display. Braille Star's "scratchpad" feature allows up to 4 MB of data storage (approximately 4,000 pages of text). The scratchpad enables you to take notes "on-the-go", using only one piece of equipment.

The well-defined and strategically placed 8-key Braille keypad allows for mnemonic commands to effortlessly operate within the windows environment and to enter your preferred grade of Braille data into the scratchpad. Braille Star's 2 space bars enable you to either execute chording commands or simulate thumb-keys to navigate the Braille display. A standard qwerty (PC-type) keyboard is included with the Braille Star to allow for convenient data entry into the scratchpad.

The Braille Star 80 includes all the features of the Braille Star 40. In addition the Braille Star 80 enables access to 2 PC's in parallel. Two keyboard inputs from two different PC's can be connected to the Braille Star 80. A PC keyboard can be placed directly on top of the Braille Star 80. In addition to a 16-key numeric block, the Braille Star 80 is also equipped with 8 function keys.

Pricing: $5999.00, $10,999.00

Hardware/Requirements:

40 concave "easy-read" Braille cells	80 concavely shaped Braille cells
40 cursor routing buttons	80 Cursor-routing keys
Dimensions: 13.2" (W) x 13.5" (D) and 1" (H)	Dimensions: 23 x 9.65 x 0.94 inches
Weight 3.08 lbs	Weight: 6.18 lbs
USB and serial ports	USB and serial ports
4 MB text memory	4 MB text memory Braille translation

Braille Voyager 44, 44+, 70, and 70+
Braille display

Homepage:
http://www.optelec.com/Merchant2/merchant.mv?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=OS&Category_Code=CAT10

Features:

The **Braille Voyager 44** is designed to work as a USB plug & play device with any laptop or PC with Windows '98, Windows ME or Windows 2000, and works with all screen reader software.

The **Braille Voyager 44+** can operate in two ways. It can operate as a standard Braille Voyager 44 USB plug & play device with any laptop or PC with Windows '98, Windows ME or Windows 2000. It also can operate as a serial device to work with DOS, Windows '95, Windows NT4 and Linux, and works with all screen reader software. The Braille Voyager 44+ also enables you to emulate other Tieman Braille displays such as the CombiBraille / BrailleWindow and MultiBraille.

The **Braille Voyager 70** is designed to work as an externally powered USB plug & play device with any laptop or PC with Windows '98, Windows ME or Windows 2000, and works with all screen reader software.

The **Braille Voyager 70+** can operate in two ways. It can operate as a standard Braille Voyager 70 USB external powered plug & play device with any laptop or PC with Windows '98, Windows ME or Windows 2000. It also can operate as a serial device to work with DOS, Windows '95, Windows NT4 and Linux, and works with all screen reader software. The Braille Voyager 70+ also enables you to emulate other Tieman braille displays such as the CombiBraille / BrailleWindow and MultiBraille.

Pricing: $4540.00, $9080.00

Hardware/Requirements:
-Pentium processor or better
-USB port, or a self powered USB hub
-Serial port
-Power socket

Focus Braille Displays
Braille display

Homepage:
http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs_products/displays_focus.asp

Features:
Discover the newest technology, features and rapid navigation to the entire Windows
environment with the world's most advanced series of refreshable Braille displays. Users
can choose among three Focus models, the 44-, 70- and 84-cell versions depending on the
workstation requirements. All three models include easy-to-remember Braille commands
for Windows, JAWS for Windows and Braille settings. Used with the JAWS screen
reader, the refreshable Braille cells act as a tactile monitor that allow users to navigate
and read information in dynamic Braille. Sleek, portable and adjustable, Focus provides
unparalleled accuracy, navigation and customization.

-Unidirectional advance bars and Whiz Wheels for superb navigation
-Rapid Reading mode configures the display to 20 cells for faster reading with minimal
hand movement.
-All buttons are individually configurable, allowing the user to set up hot keys for
individual applications
-Navigation controls are on the display; users can navigate without needing to reach for
the computer's keyboard
-Ergonomically designed to be positioned close to the keyboard
-Exclusive adjustable keyboard/laptop accessory; users can angle both for comfort
-Two audio inputs and one audio output for simultaneous connection to both the
computer and a telephone.
-Braille dots can be adjusted for intensity with the VariBraille feature
-Lightweight, attractive aluminum casing
-30-month warranty against manufacturing defects from date of receipt

Pricing: $5495.00, $9595.00, $10,595.00, PMA: $550.00, $950.00, $1050.00

Hardware/Requirements:
-Serial connection for use in the Windows Professional environment
-Two USB ports; connect to the right or left side of the unit

PAC Mate Portable Braille Display
Braille display

Homepage:
http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs_products/PACmate_20.asp
http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs_products/PACmate_40.asp

Features:
This first-of-its-kind, truly portable display not only makes PAC Mate more accessible, but it also can be used with desktops and laptops. Featuring a low-cost, simple platform this 20-cell (or 40-cell) refreshable Braille unit adds functionality to any computer with a USB port. With a pair of three-way Whiz Wheels for rapid navigation and dual purpose cursor routing buttons, users can quickly and accurately obtain the information they need. The built-in VariBraille and programmable hot keys make the PAC Mate 20 (or 40) Portable Braille Display a convenient extension to any Windows or Windows CE operating environment.

-Whiz Wheels for superb navigation by line, sentence or paragraph through files, dialogs, lists and menus
-20 (or 40) cells of refreshable Braille for fast reading with minimal hand movement
-10 dual-purpose hot keys in the center for shortcuts to applications
-Dual cursor router buttons on the back row
-Pan forward and backward with buttons on the left and right
-Braille dots can be adjusted for intensity with the VariBraille feature
-Powered by a USB A-Mini B cable
-Carry case can tether to any PAC Mate for ergonomic use
-Foam keyboard stand for use with unit
-Support for Line, Structured and Speech Box modes
-30-day money-back satisfaction guarantee and limited one-year warranty against manufacturing defects
-Renewable, annual Product Maintenance Agreement

Pricing: $1995.00, $3995.00

Hardware/Requirements:
-Operating Systems Supported: Windows 98 SE, Windows Me, Win2k, Windows XP, Windows CE 3.0
-Dimensions: 4.8 inches x 11 inches x 1.53 inches
-Weight: 1 pound, 12 ounces
-USB Mini B connection on the left side

PowerBraille Displays
Braille display

Homepage:
http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs_products/displays_40.asp

Features:
For accurate and reliable access to your computer screen, the Power Braille computer display units instantly translate screen data into 6-dot or 8-dot refreshable Braille for those using many popular software screen readers, such as JAWS for Windows. Instant cursor routing and ergonomic controls highlight the economy and performance of Power Braille. These slim, portable units come in 40- and 80-cell models to accommodate the particular needs of students, writers and professionals worldwide.

-State-of-the-art Braille cell technology, one parallel and two serial interfaces and a printer pass-through port
-Seven-hour rechargeable battery (on 40-cell only)
-Includes serial cable, parallel cable, print, disk and Braille manuals
-One-touch, instant cursor routing moves the cursor to any character on the Braille display
-Ergonomic, thumb-controlled rocker bars allow fingers to roam a screen while reading text through the independent movement of display and cursor
-Supported by more screen access packages than any other Braille display
-30-day money-back satisfaction guarantee and limited 30-month warranty against manufacturing defects
-Renewable, annual Product Maintenance Agreement available

Pricing: $4495.00, $10,550.00, PMA $450, $550 annually

Hardware/Requirements:
-For use with DOS, Windows or UNIX operating systems
-PB-40 size: 12 inches by 11.5 inches by 1.5 inches, black
-Weight: 5 pounds (PB-40) and 8 pounds (PB-80)

Braille Translation

Translates Arabic to Braille

Cipher Braille Translator
Braille translation

Homepage:
http://www.dolphinuk.co.uk/products/cipher.htm

Features:
Whether for someone with a visual impairment who wants on-screen text turned into printed Braille or for anyone who needs to create a Braille document, Cipher is the simplest and most efficient product to use.

Accurate
To many people with a visual impairment, Braille is an invaluable tool for collecting and sharing information. Cipher requires little time to install and allows you to translate text rapidly and accurately with a minimum of training.

Simply translate your text document with a single key press, and print your Braille document using a Braille embosser.

Whether for business or pleasure, Cipher helps you share information and keep lines of communication open with friends and colleagues.

Easy to use
Create Grade 1 or Grade 2 Braille at the click of a button. No prior knowledge of Braille is required. For those familiar with Braille, Cipher offers full control over formatting, and allows you to create and save style templates.

Cipher is stable and reliable, whether in use on a single PC or on a network. Installed on a network, Cipher can be used with a networked embosser.

Pricing: not available

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Windows 98, Windows Me, Windows NT v4.0 (SP 6), Windows 2000, Windows XP Home & Windows XP Professional.
-Microsoft Internet Explorer v5 or later
-Intel P2 400 Mhz equivalent or higher, 125 MB free hard disk space, 128 MB Memory or higher
-PCI or AGP graphics card (not "on-board" - Windows Hardware Compatibility List approved.)
-Sound Blaster compatible sound card (not "on-board")

Homepage:
http://www.duxburysystems.com/dbt.asp

Features:
DBT is simple to use, yet its depth, power and accuracy are such that it is used by most of the major braille production centers throughout the world.

-Built-in interline printing to have ink-braille and print together
-American Math/Science Code (Nemeth) translation
-Intermediate levels (between grade 1 and 2) for American braille
-Ability to include tactile graphics files for mixed text-and-graphic documents
-Separate versions for Windows, DOS and Mac
-Identical file formats for each version of DBT
-Imports from popular word processors including Microsoft Word and WordPerfect, HTML, ICADD, formatted and plain ASCII, earlier braille editors such as EDGAR and Polkadot, and Duxbury's own historical file formats, and more
-Bidirectional (print-to-braille and braille-to-print) translation
-American Computer Braille Code (CBC) translation
-American textbook layout according to Braille Authority of North America (BANA) standards, and likewise the Braille Authority of the United Kingdom (BAUK)
-"translated line" showing the "other" form in either print or braille files
-Six-key chording for braille and print entry, compatible with most keyboards
-Documentation in print, braille & electronic formats
-Over 100 formatting & translation codes for a high level of flexibility
-Library of user-configurable styles
-User-extendable template library for even more flexibility
-Spell-checker with 300,000-word dictionary
-"Quick Find Misspelling" feature for increased speed and ease of use
-Embossing to all major braille printers
-Duxbury Braille Font for viewing braille dots within other programs
-Ability to process files as large as the operating system allows
-Ability to have multiple files open simultaneously
-Unlimited technical support by telephone, e-mail, fax, etc.
-Internet user forum to communicate with other Duxbury users
-Backed by a 90-day satisfaction guarantee

Pricing: $595.00

Free demo download at:
http://www.duxburysystems.com/download.asp#demos

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-25 Mb available hard drive space; Microsoft Windows version 95, 98, NT, 2000, or XP

MegaDots v2.2
Braille translation software

Homepage:
http://www.duxburysystems.com/megadots.asp

Features:
MegaDots is a mature DOS braille translator with powerful features for the volume transcriber and producer. Its straightforward, style-based system and automated features let you create great braille with only a few keystrokes. Yet it is sophisticated enough to please the fussiest braille producers -- you can control each step MegaDots follows to format, translate and produce braille documents.

The File Importer is smarter than ever: it identifies what kind of document you're importing (i.e., a letter, poetry, etc.) and automatically applies the appropriate styles to the imported document. This important and intuitive step minimizes the time and effort it used to take to make great braille.

-MegaDots knows that optical scanners make visual mistakes and has a system for changing nonsense back into the right words
-Over 20,000 words to the dictionary. Spell Checker now recognizes over 110,000 words
-Create beautiful large print up to five times as tall and wide as standard fonts
-MegaDots supports printer's scalable fonts for the most attractive possible large print
With new large print page indicators, you'll be able to follow page numbers from the original text.
-MegaDots now supports all modern inkprint printers, including postscript printers.
-Choose from ten different kinds of inkprint braille.
-Make inkprint braille and text on the same page in three different formats: side by side, word by word, and line by line.

Pricing: $595.00

Free demo download at:
http://www.duxburysystems.com/megacd.asp

Minimum Hardware Requirements:
-Windows-compatible; requires DOS 6 or higher.
- 486 processor or better
-8 megabytes of RAM
-20 megabytes free hard drive space
-MegaDots is compatible with all modern inkprint printers, and supports postscript and other built-in scalable fonts. MegaDots does not support "Windows-only" printers

Braille embosser

Printers for Braille