



Please help support this charitable service by donating £3. Text [Ability](tel:84858) to 84858

Hearing – Visual Warnings

The computer often uses sound to alert you that a task is completed, an error has occurred or that an action is required. Programs that usually convey information only by sound can be instructed to also provide information visually. This can be useful for people who cannot hear, or find it difficult to hear, sounds.

Within Windows XP is a feature called SoundSentry which allows you to change the settings to generate visual warnings - such as a flashing border – whenever the system makes a sound.

This skillsheet is for Windows XP. Similar features are available in other versions of Windows. Please consult the Help facility in your version of Windows.

To Turn SoundSentry On

- Using the mouse, open the **Start** menu by clicking on the **start** button or press the **Windows logo key** (located between the **Ctrl** and **Alt** keys) – or **Ctrl + Esc**.
- Click on the **Control Panel** or press **C + Enter** on the keyboard.
- In the **Control Panel** make sure you are in **Classic View** – this means all the Control Panel icons are showing. If not, click on ‘**switch to classic view**’ in the left hand pane of the **Control Panel** or press **Tab + Enter**.
- Click on **Accessibility Options** or press the **right arrow** and then the **left arrow** on the keyboard + **Enter**.
- In the **Accessibility Options** dialog box you click the **Sound tab** or press **Ctrl + Tab** on the keyboard.



If for any reason your machine does not display this icon, **Windows Accessibility** has been optionally removed, or not installed. You will need to install it from your original Windows CD ROM. You can consult either the manual, or the Windows Help for details on how to reinstall these options onto your computer.

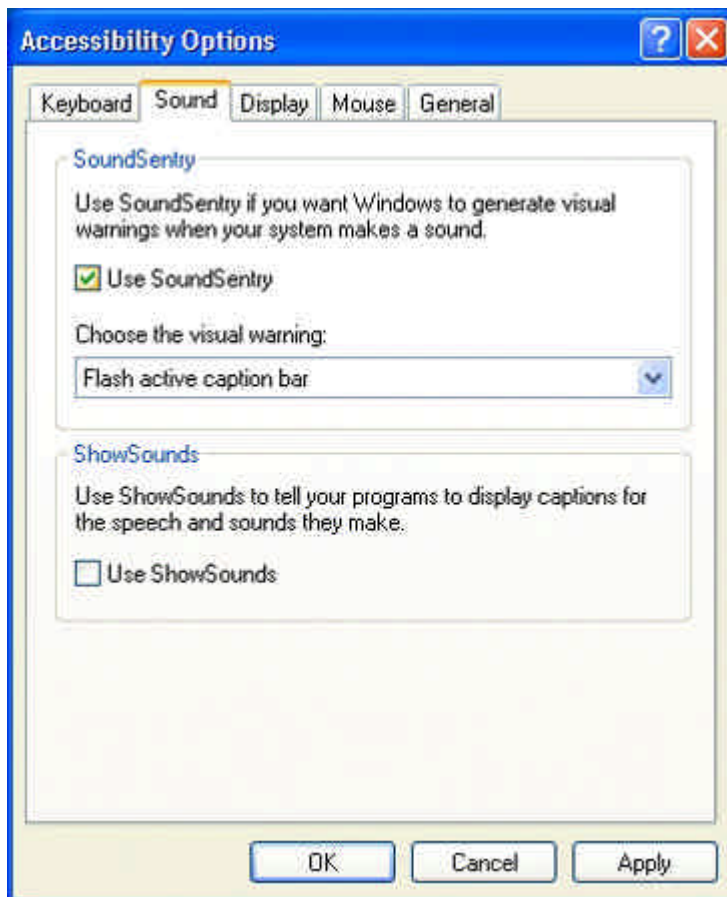


Fig 1.

- On the **Sound Tab** click **Use ShowSentry** or press **S** to tick the box, see Fig. 1 .
- **Note:** To turn off **SoundSentry** click the **Use SoundSentry** checkbox or clear the checkbox by pressing **S**.
- Under **Choose the Visual Warning** click the visual option you want from the list of options (such as flash active caption bar, flash active window or flash desktop) and click **OK** or press the **up or down arrow** on the keyboard and press **Enter**.
- To close the Control Panel click the **Close** button or press **Alt + F, C**.

Messages charged at standard rate. You will receive two confirmation messages charged at £1.50 each. AbilityNet will receive your donation net of charges applied by mobile network operators and a processing fee. If you have any questions regarding this service, please call 020 7549 2222.