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Windows Narrator

Many people who have a significant vision or literacy difficulty would benefit from having their computer speak back what they are typing and other text on the screen.

Windows Narrator is a limited speech output program (not a fully functional screen-reader required by someone with no useful vision) but can nevertheless provide useful speech feedback in many situations.

This skillsheet shows you how to open Windows Narrator and highlights its features.

This skillsheet is for Windows XP. Similar features are available in other versions of Windows. Please see our website at www.abilitynet.org.uk/myway or consult the Help facility in your version of Windows.

Note: Windows Narrator is a basic screen-reading program. It offers speech feedback in a variety of situations (i.e. all menus and dialog boxes, Windows Explorer and Notepad) but will not speak in some parts of most applications (i.e. a Word document or web page). It can be set to echo your keystrokes (this will work in all situations).

To Activate Windows Narrator:

- Using the mouse, Click the **Start menu** button or alternatively you can press the **Windows logo key** (located between the **Ctrl** and **Alt** keys) - or **Ctrl + Esc**.
- Click on **All Programs** or alternatively press **P** on the keyboard until **All Programs** is highlighted and then **Enter**.
- Click on **Accessories** or press **A** on the keyboard until **Accessories** is highlighted and then press **Enter**.
- Click on **Accessibility** or if you are using the keyboard, it will already be highlighted so just press **Enter**.
- Click on **Narrator** or press **N** and when **Narrator** is highlighted, press **Enter** on the keyboard.
- The **Microsoft Narrator** foreground window appears and the Narrator immediately starts talking and reads out the instructions on how to use this feature (see Fig. 1).

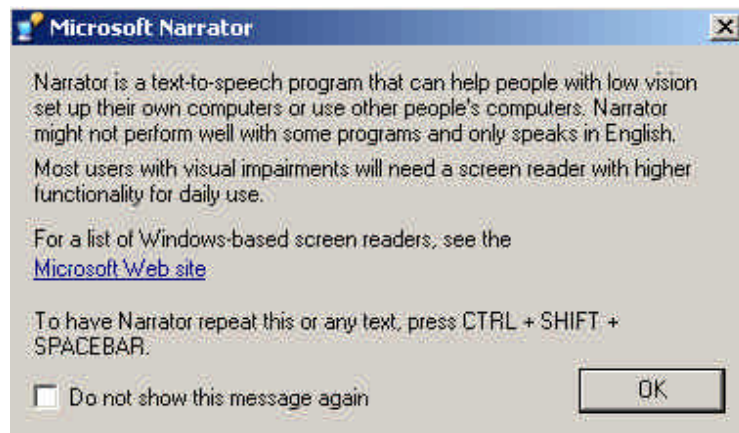


Fig. 1

- After clicking on the **OK** button, another window appears which has various options which you can select by clicking on the **checkbox** or **tabbing** to the checkbox and pressing the **spacebar**. You can also adjust the voice settings from here by clicking on **Voice** or pressing **V** on the keyboard (see Fig. 2).

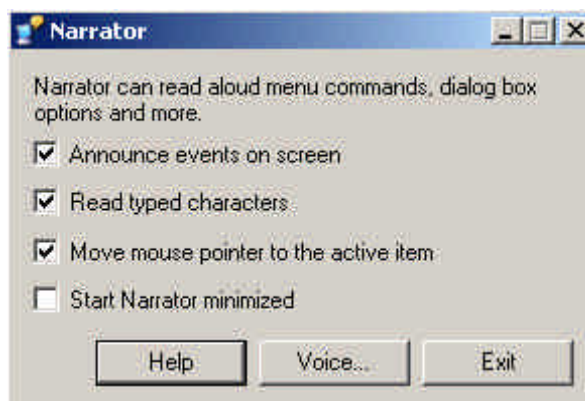


Fig. 2

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