Microsoft Accessibility Features

At Microsoft, our Mission is to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more. With more than 1 billion people in the world with disabilities, there is no limit to what people can achieve when technology reflects the diversity of all those who use it. Here is a list of our accessibility features available on Windows 10 and Office 365. Read on to find out how people at home, school, and work are empowered to achieve more with the built-in accessibility features in Microsoft technologies. If you have product feedback on any of the following features, please visit the Accessibility UserVoice.

In addition to the new features we've highlighted below, we've also categorized our accessibility features by disability type. Here's a list of where you can find more information on them:

Microsoft Accessibility Mobility Features

Microsoft Accessibility Hearing Features

Microsoft Accessibility Mental Health Features

Microsoft Accessibility Cognitive Features

Microsoft Accessibility Vision Features

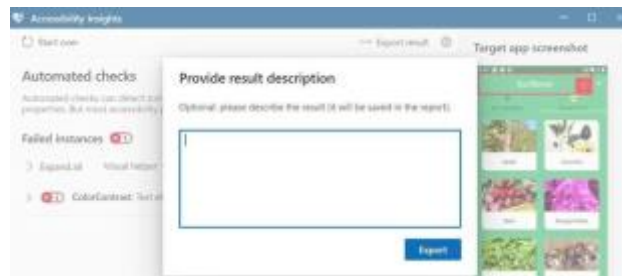Microsoft Accessibility Speech Features

What's New - Spring 2020

Accessibility Insights Report for Android
Version: 2020.422.21

Users can now download a detailed HTML report with the results of their automated checks in Accessibility Insights for Android. The report has the same look and feel as the Automated checks UI

and enables both sharing and recording results. Additionally, it has an option to add a description to include in the report.

Learn more by visiting: Accessibility Insights for Android Release
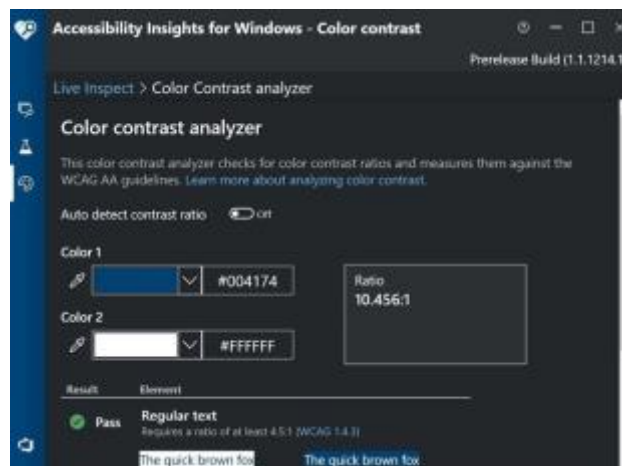

Accessibility Insights for Windows Dark Mode

Version: 1.1.1248.01

Accessibility Insights for Windows now has a dark mode for the main screens of the tool. This was a feature requested and upvoted by our users to improve the experience for users with light sensitivity. Dark mode also gets automatically applied when users turn on Dark mode in the Windows Settings.

Learn more by visiting: Accessibility Insights Dark Mode

Dynamic 365 eCommerce Tools – Content Accessibility Scanner
Build: 20200108.1

New to the Microsoft Dynamics 365 product family is Microsoft Dynamics 365 eCommerce. eCommerce is a complete solution for enterprise customers to stand up external facing commerce web sites. Tooling for eCommerce comes with dozens of customizable pluggable modules, enabling rapid site creation and modification. Modules are managed and assembled using a robust development tool, complete with a seamless experience for scanning each site for potential accessibility concerns using automated checks.

Learn more by visiting: How to Verify Page Content Accessibility

Use Speech, an Azure Cognitive Service, to improve accessibility for your apps

Accessibility features such as 'dictate' and 'read aloud' are built-in across a number of Microsoft products including Windows, Edge and Office to ensure everyone can create, communicate and collaborate on any device. With Speech, an Azure Cognitive Service, you can easily add dictation and 'read aloud' capabilities to your apps. Here's a few quick examples of some Speech to Text and Text to Speech features.

- Speech to Text helps you swiftly convert audio into text from a variety of sources. With state-of-the-art speech recognition, you can enable dictation in 43 languages. As of May 2020, speech transcription accuracy significantly improved by 30.16% word error rate reduction for existing locales.

- Text to Speech helps you convert text to lifelike speech. Powered by neural networks, neural text-to-speech provides natural-sounding voices. As of May 2020, Neural Text to Speech is extending to support 16 locales with 21 voices, with pronunciation error rate reduced by 50% for 13 locales. You can also refine your audio output by controlling speech parameters such as pronunciation, pitch, rate, pauses, and intonation with Speech Synthesis Markup Language (SSML) or with the audio content creation tool.

Closed Caption Editing for Flipgrid Online

Closed Captions are now automatically transcribed and Closed-Captioned by Azure. As an educator you also now can edit those captions. In addition, students can add custom text to their videos. This is available for people with an educator account at admin.flipgrid.com.

Learn more by visiting: Educators: Edit Closed Captions

Flipgrid AR Closed Captions on Android & iOS

Flipgrid AR is an augmented reality experience available on Android and iOS by scanning a unique QR code with the Flipgrid mobile app. Flipgrid AR will now include closed captions on the video!

Immersive Reader for Office Lens in Android
Version: 16.0.12827.20100

The Immersive Reader has been added to Office Lens for Android. Android users can now have their text read aloud, choose from a variety of color themes, highlight syllables and parts of speech, use a picture dictionary and translate to over 67 languages. As a result, those users can modify features such as text spacing, have a darker theme, and much more.

Learn more by visiting: Immersive Reader in Office Lens for Android

Improved Immersive Reader in Office Lens for iOS

Version 2.37.2

The Immersive Reader has also been improved in Office Lens for iOS. As a result, new changes have been made to text settings and voice options in the iOS interface. Users can now highlight syllables and parts of speech, use a picture dictionary and translate to over 67 languages. Additional customizations have been added, and overall content is easier to digest.

Learn more by visiting: Improved Immersive Reader in Office Lens for iOS

Large Content Viewer in Office for iOS

Version: iOS 13 and later (Build 2.36.20040600)

Large Content Viewer is available in iOS 13 and can be used by customers to increase the size of text and UI elements. Overall, this is a great new feature that can ensure readability for all customers. It's available in the iOS versions of Word, PowerPoint, and Excel.
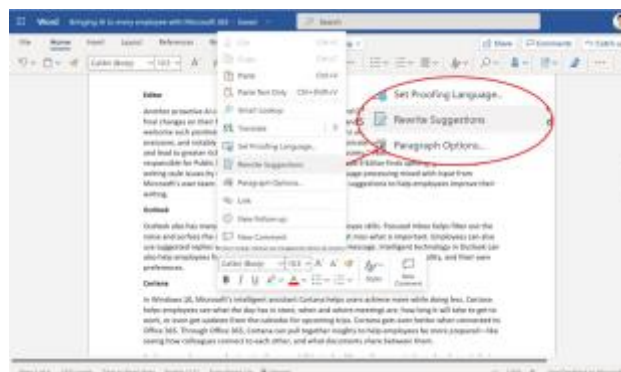
Learn more by visiting: Large Content Viewer

Rewrite Suggestions in Word Online

With Word Online, you can right-click on a sentence and select **Rewrite Suggestions**. This provides different types of suggestions on your sentences. As a result it improves your sentence fluency which does the following:

- Fixes multiple spelling errors

- Fixes grammar errors

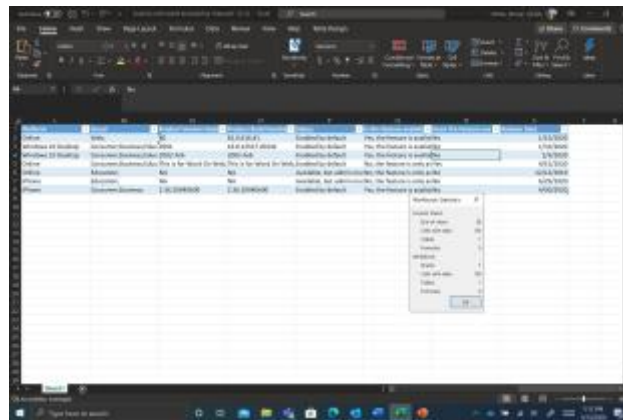- Does word replacements to make your sentences sound better

Learn more by visiting: Rewrite suggestions in Word Online

Workbook Statistics

Version: 2002

In Excel select **Review** > **Workbook Statistics**. Workbook Statistics will give you information on both your current worksheet and your entire workbook. Statistics that are counted include cells, formulas, charts, and tables.

Centered Text Cursor in Magnifier

Version: 2004 (Build 19041)

With Magnifier in the new Windows 10 May 2020 Update you now have the option of centering your text cursor by default. Sometimes the cursor can be difficult to find, and because it could be anywhere on the screen it would increase both eye fatigue and muscle strain. Now because it's centered, it's much easier for users to find the text cursor.

Learn more by visiting: [How the centered text cursor works with Magnifier](#)
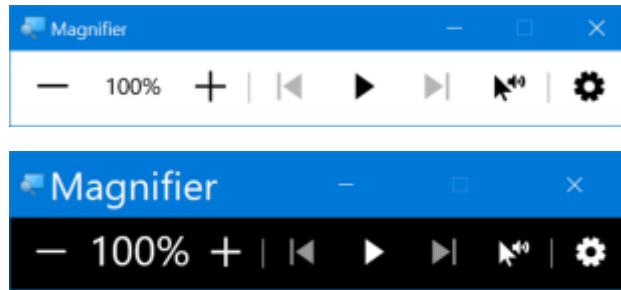

Magnifier Dark Theme and increased text size

Version: 2004 (Build 19041)

Another feature that's been added to Magnifier is support for Windows Dark Theme in addition to bigger text. This is a great for people that are visually sensitive to lighter backgrounds, and with the larger text addition you can also view in greater detail.

Also Below are some screenshots of Magnifier before and after Dark Theme is applied:

Learn more by visiting: [New Windows Accessibility features](#)
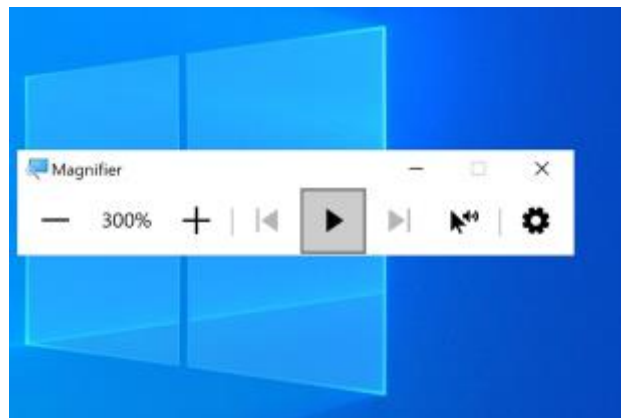
Magnifier Reader

Version: 2004 (Build 19041)

Magnifier now has a new reader that you can use to read text, e-mails, webpages, and many other applications. You can use the reader interface to navigate to both previous and next sentences, and you can also use a "Read from here" feature to have the reader read from anyplace the mouse pointer selects. In the Reader settings you can also adjust the Speed and Voice being used.

You can also use keyboard shortcuts to control the Magnifier Reader. Here's a short list of a few that you can use:

- **Ctrl** + **Alt** + **Enter** to **Play/Pause** the Reader

- **Ctrl** + **Alt** + **H** to read the **Previous sentence**

- **Ctrl** + **Alt** + **K** to read the **Next sentence**

- **Ctrl** + **Alt** + **Left Mouse Click** to **Read from here**

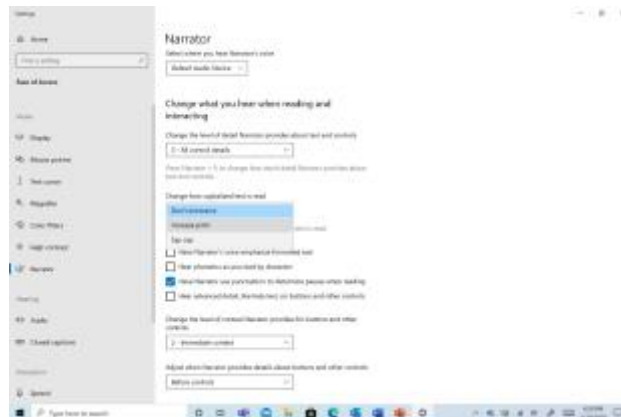**Learn more by visiting:** How to use the Magnifier Reader

Improved Capitalization Support in Narrator

Version: 2004 (Build 19041)

Also added in the May 2020 update is improved capitalization support in Narrator. As Narrator reads capitalized text you now have the option to select if it goes up in pitch as it reads the text. Additionally, you can have Narrator say "Cap" whenever it reads capitalized text. You can modify this feature by going to **Narrator Settings**, or by pressing the *Narrator Key* (**Caps Lock or Insert**) + *4.*

Learn more by visiting: [What's new in Narrator](#)

New Narrator Sound Scheme

Version: 2004 (Build 19041)

The new Narrator sound scheme helps you be more productive by reducing verbosity for common actions. Here's a quick list of some new sound scheme elements that have been added to Narrator in the Windows 10 May 2020 Update:

- **Scan On/Off**

- **Link**

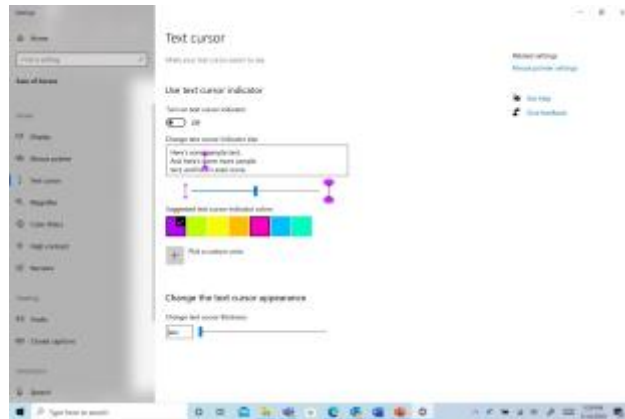- **Spelling Error**

- **Zoom**

- **Element**

Learn more by visiting: *[Narrator Sounds](#)*

Text Cursor Indicator

Version: 2004 (Build 19041)

Text Cursor is a new option available in Ease of Access. After pressing the **Windows Logo Key** + **U** to open **Ease of Access**, you can select it under the **Vision** group. This is a way to make the text cursor easier to both see and find in multiple environments.

Learn more by visiting: [How to make your text cursor easier to see](#)

Additional Features

Here's a quick list of some additional features that are being released in Spring 2020:

Features for Vision:

[There are now more options available when navigating Google Chrome with Narrator.](#)

[Outlook responsiveness has also improved in Narrator.](#)

[Summary on Demand is available in Narrator by pressing Narrator + S.](#)

[No more ambiguous links online or in email while using Narrator.](#)

[Narrator Recognizes and ignores layout tables in email.](#)

[Narrator now automatically reads both webpages and e-mails.](#)

What's New-Winter 2020

Accessibility Improvements for Azure Pass

Azure Pass has made quite a few improvements that have helped customers who are blind, low vision, or want simpler navigation. For screen reader users the navigation experience has improved, and color contrast on Azure Pass has improved as well. In addition, customers can now also use simplified UI to navigate Azure Pass by just using their keyboard.

M365 Mobile UX Refresh

Version: 2.32 build or later from the AppStore

Microsoft 365 for mobile has been visually & structurally redesigned to make it stronger and set the stage for continued future innovation. Here are a few features of the new UX:

- Updated layout of Recommended cards and tabs

- Cleaner Recent and Shared file lists for faster glanceability

- Updated iconography and colors for better recognition and contrast

- Unobtrusive in-document commanding to help focus on the content.

For iPad, only file lists and menu icons will change for now. We would love feedback on the end-to-end experience. Please report anything that feels wrong on a visual, functional or interaction level.
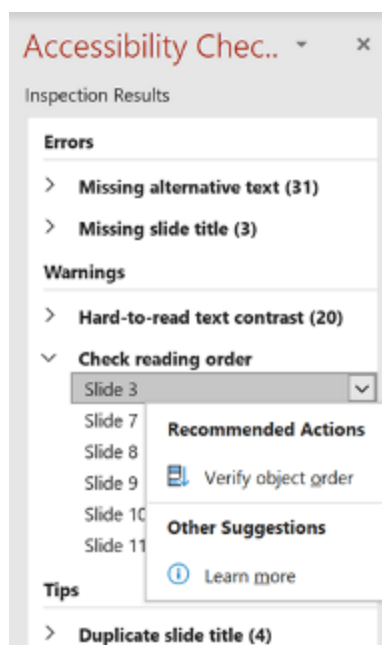
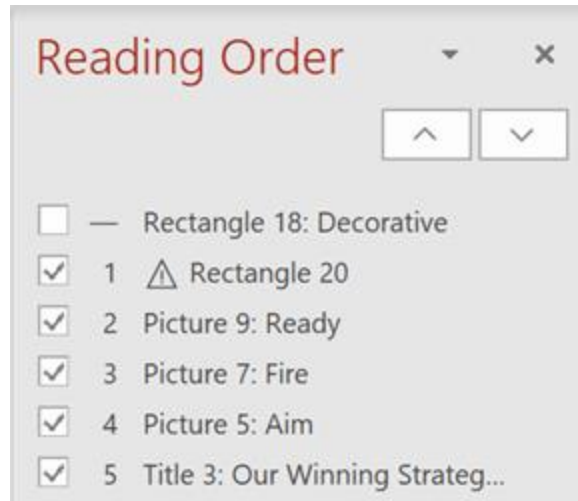**Learn more by visiting:** Cracking the Code to Mobile Productivity

Use Reading Order Pane to arrange elements on your PowerPoint slides for screen readers

Version: 1910 or later Putting objects in logical reading order when creating slides is crucial for screen-reader users to understand the slide. Reading Order Pane lets you see the elements on the slide in screen-reading order and re-arrange them as necessary for you to communicate your message effectively. To activate this feature, select **Review** > **Accessibility** > **Check reading order**. Then select an item in the list and move it up or down (you can also use **Ctrl** + **Click** to select multiple items).

Learn more by visiting: Make slides easier to read by using the Reading Order pane

Additional Features

Here's a quick list of some additional features that were released in Winter 2020:

Features for Cognitive:

Microsoft Teams - Pin video streams during a meeting

Features for Vision:

M365 Mobile UX Refresh

Use Reading Order Pane to arrange elements on your slides for screen readers

Mac Rotor – Links, Tables, Headings Navigation

Features for Creating Accessible Content

New tooltip in Outlook lets you know when a recipient prefers accessible email (Office Insiders).