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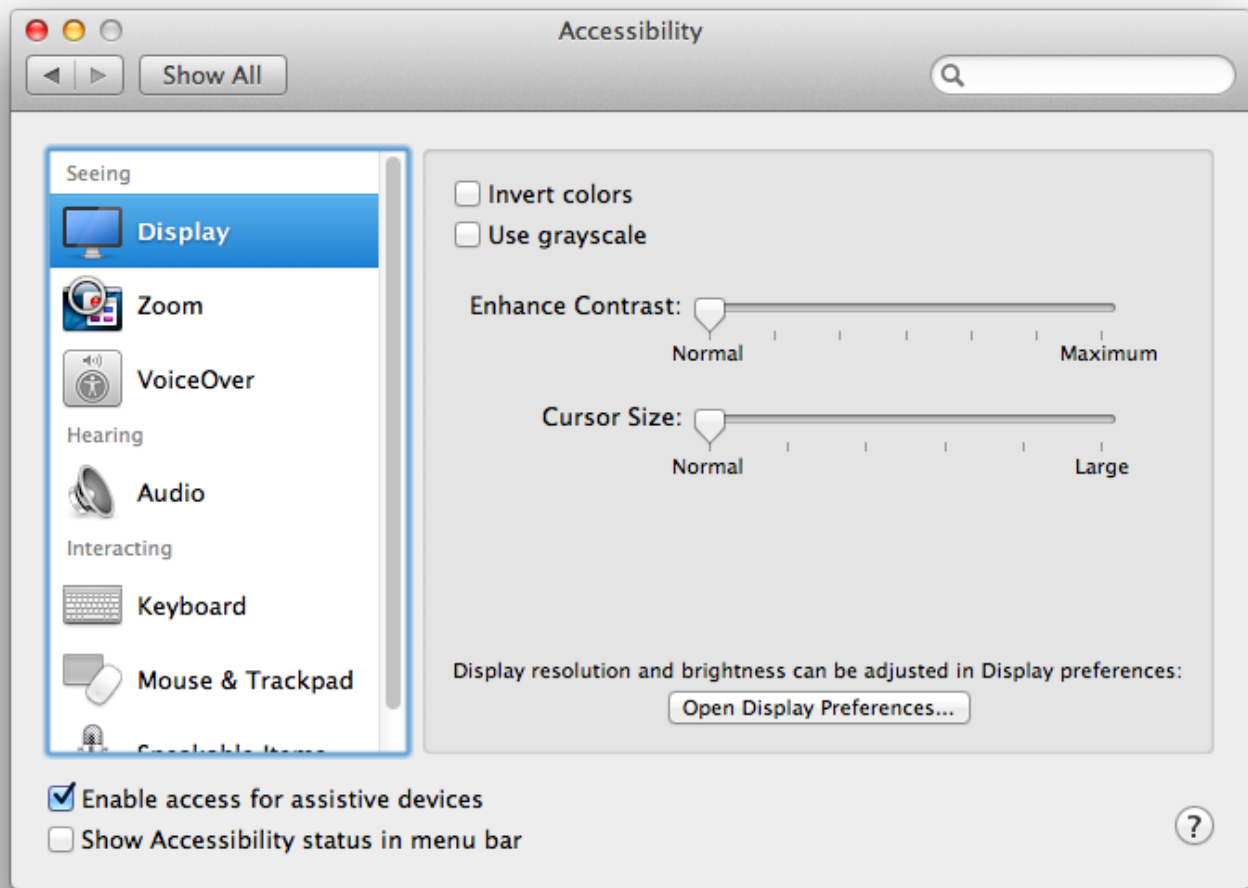
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# How to Enable Access for Assistive Devices in OS X Mavericks

By [Jim Tanous](#) on June 25, 2013 at 1:10 AM • [@mggjim](#)

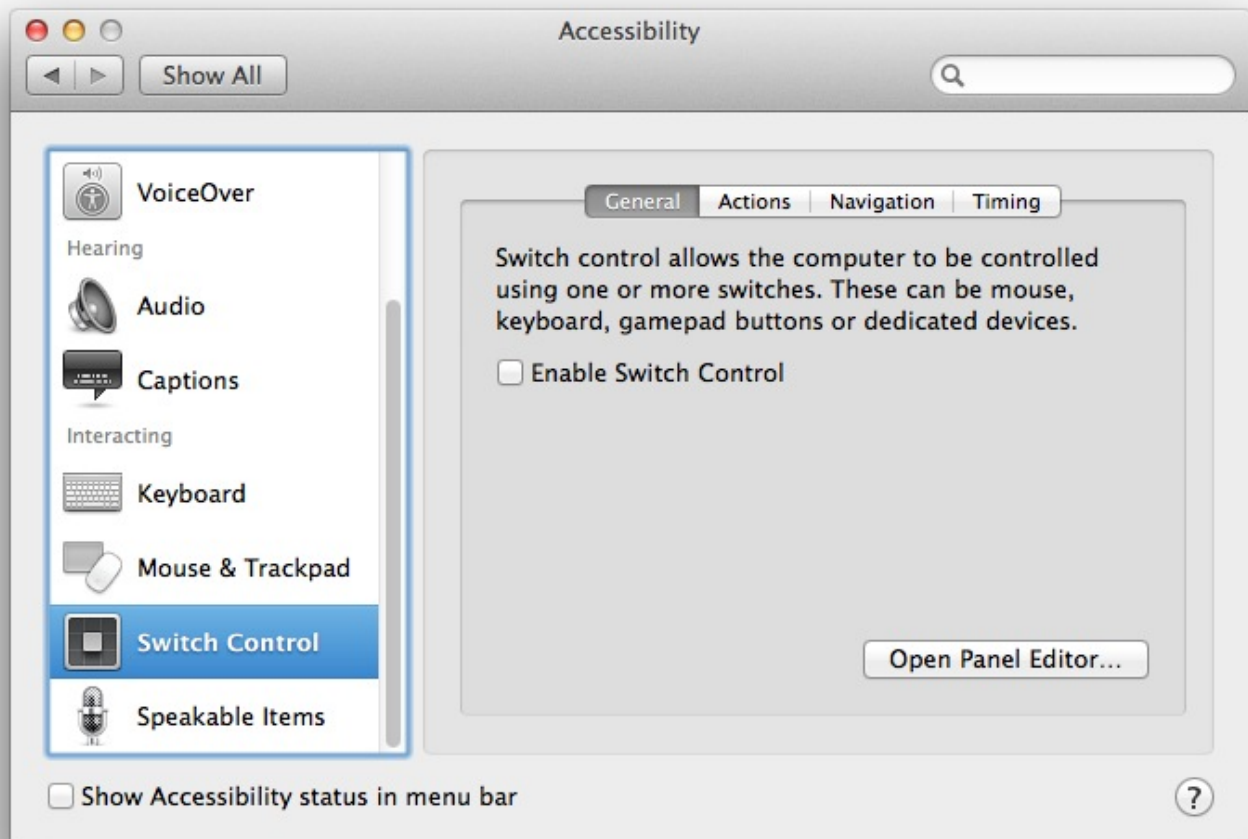
After upgrading to the OS X 10.9 Mavericks Developer Preview, we proceeded to install one of our favorite everyday OS X apps: [SizeUp](#). This neat little app, which we've used for years, allows you to quickly snap and position windows on your screen using keyboard shortcuts. SizeUp uses OS X's GUI scripting control features to work its magic, and it requires you to "enable access for assistive devices" in System Preferences each time you install it on a new computer.

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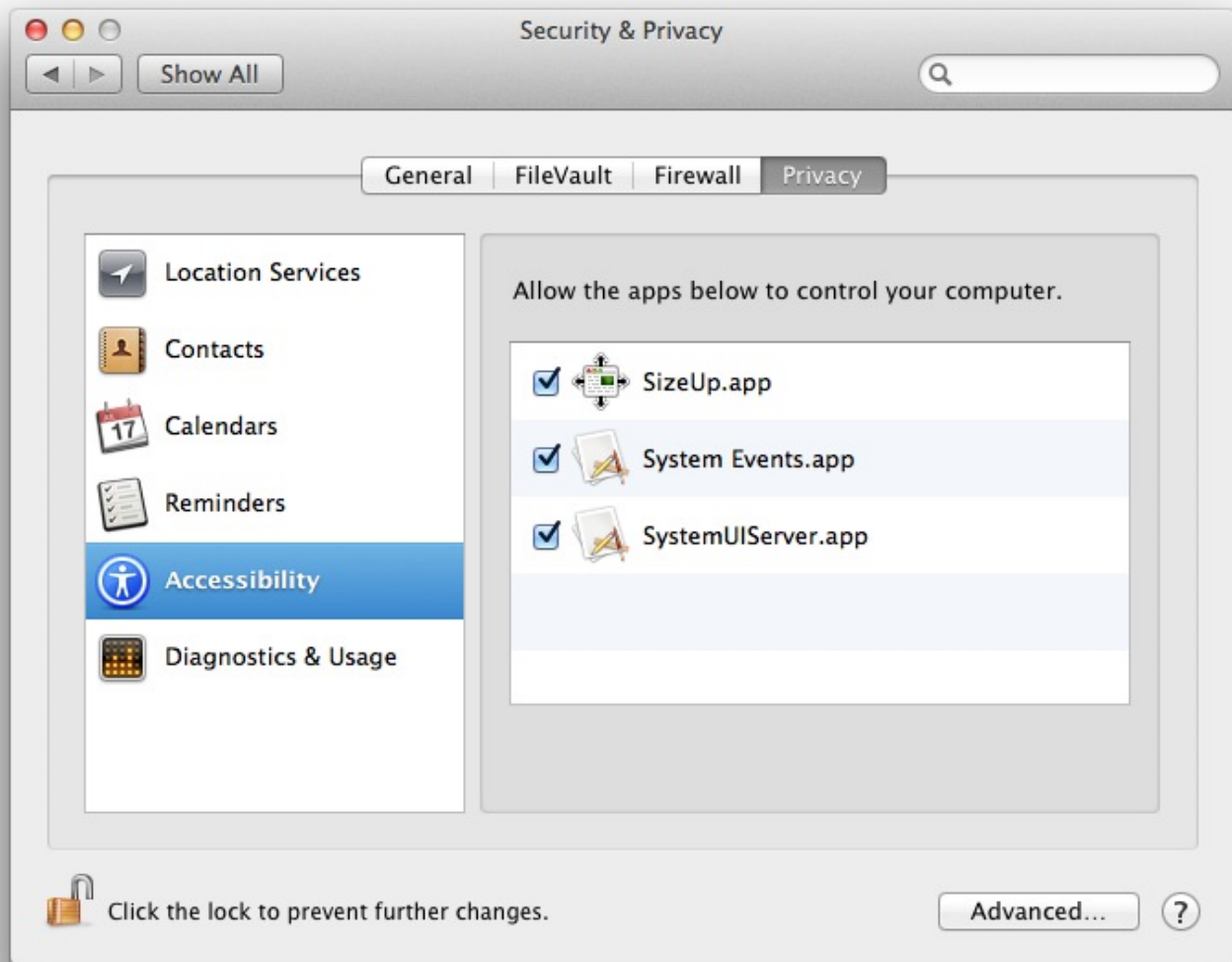
OS X Mountain Lion's method to enable assistive devices.

After installing it on Mavericks, SizeUp gave us the familiar message about enabling assistive devices. *No problem*, we thought, as we opened System Preferences and headed over to the Accessibility Pane, where the option has lived for years. Unfortunately, the old check box for assistive devices was gone and none of the new options seemed applicable. Without the ability to grant SizeUp access to OS X's underlying control functions, the app was useless!



The function is missing from the Accessibility preferences in Mavericks.

Thankfully, after a bit of searching, we found that Apple had simply moved the option... to the Security Preference Pane. You'll find it in **System Preferences > Security & Privacy > Privacy > Accessibility**. Unlike previous versions of OS X, which used a universal checkbox in an "all or nothing" approach, the new functionality in Mavericks allows users to individually choose which apps can gain control of the system to perform their various scripted functions.



In our case, we had to attempt to run SizeUp first, have it fail because control wasn't enabled, and then we found that it appeared in the new Accessibility list in System Preferences. We clicked the padlock icon at the lower left corner of the window to authenticate as an administrative user, checked the box next to SizeUp, and then found that our favorite app was back up and running again.

This change not only applies to window management apps like SizeUp, but also to many other automation utilities and predefined AppleScripts. The change is definitely a positive one due to the new ability to grant control only to specific apps, but it's yet another example of how longtime OS X users will need to take some [time to acclimate](#) to the new

features in Apple's latest operating system.

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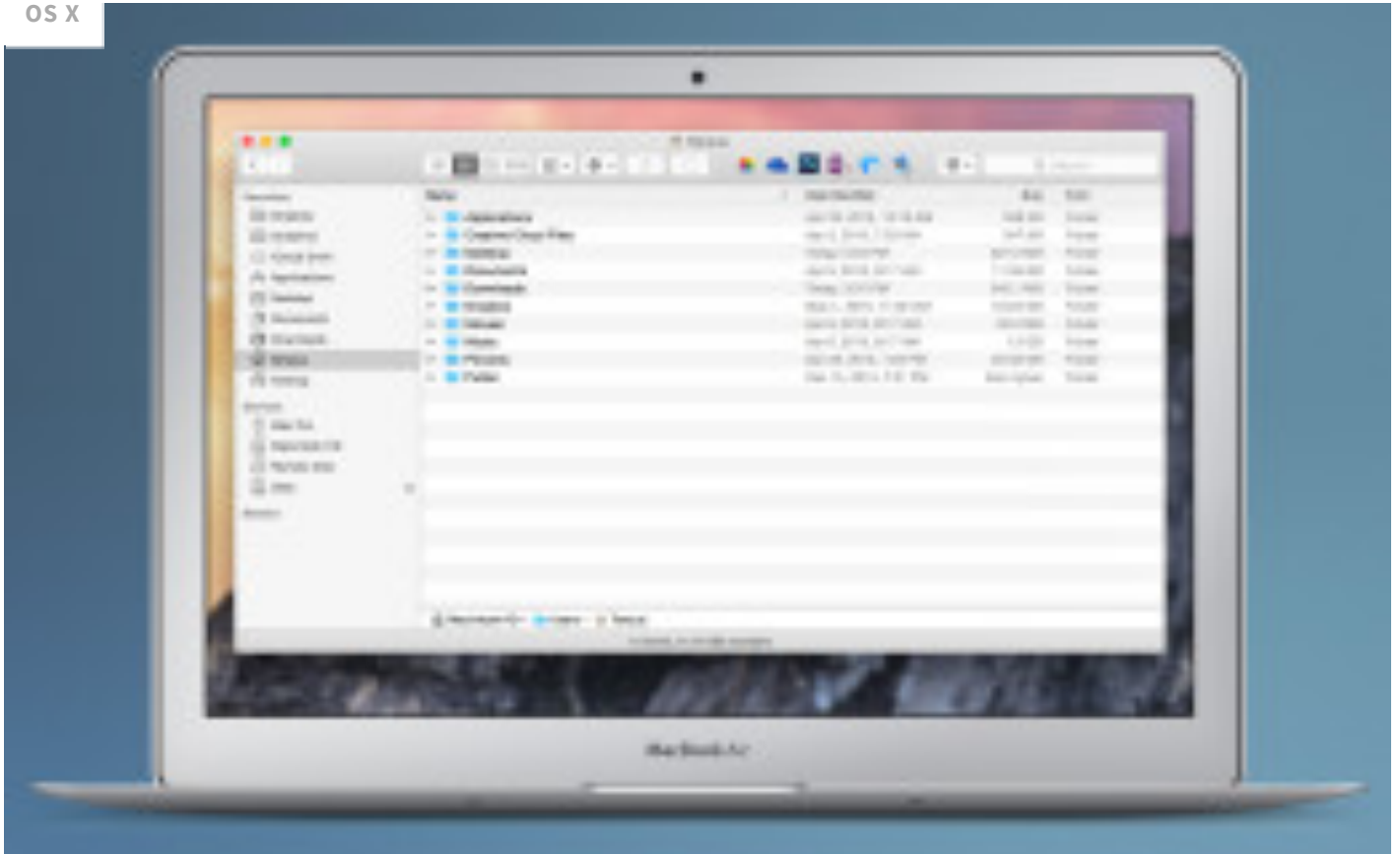
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**James Vreeken** · 2 years ago

Thanks! this helped me as I was trying to reinstall sizeup in mavericks

^ | ▾ · Reply · Share ›

**David Trotz** · 2 years ago

Thank you!!!

^ | ▾ · Reply · Share ›





**Jeff Hearne** · 2 years ago

Thanks!! This solved a Steam issue I was having.

16 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**grenadeh** → Jeff Hearne · a year ago

I tried the same, no dice.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**gettingbored** · 2 years ago

Strange, when I run an AppleScript that I cleared in the Privacy Accessibility section, it will run the first time just fine, but running it again brings up the same original dialog where it says the app isn't allowed to control my computer.

I go to add it, and it's already there. Anybody got any ideas on why that's happening?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**TekRevue** Mod → gettingbored · 2 years ago

I haven't seen that with any of the AppleScripts we've tested, but you might chalk it up to the "beta" status of the OS. Is there anything special about your script?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**gettingbored** → TekRevue · 2 years ago

No not particularly. I have a feeling it might have happened since I would build the script, and then Export it rather than just save it as an app, and override the pre-existing app. So maybe it was getting confused about which version to allow permissions.

Either way, I simply adapted the AppleScript to run via the Terminal as a .command file, using the `osascript` command.

This way I can just allow the Terminal access to Assistive Devices and not have to bother with registering each individual AppleScript I produce.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**TekRevue** Mod → gettingbored · 2 years ago

Nice workaround! I'm glad that it's at least working for you, although I'm curious as to the definitive cause of the initial issue. Perhaps you can try again with the final Mavericks build? I'd be eager to hear how it goes!

I'll also keep throwing scripts at it on our end and report back if I hit any issues.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**gettingbored** → TekRevue · 2 years ago

Yeah I usually run a bunch of different scripts so I just figured I should minimize the amount of apps that I would have to allow access. It's a tad tedious but I've gotten used to it.

When the Gold Master comes out hopefully it'll be a bit smoother.

Right now there are some apps in the list of allowable to control my computer with names like "D0DCEEC8-AFD5...-5BA275E3760A" and I'm thinking those are trashed versions of the script I was exporting. There are a couple of them.

Either way I'll try it when the final is released.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**tooloo** → gettingbored · 2 months ago

Dang, 2 years old and I have the same problem with the current version of OS X and Logitech's Gaming Software. Even though the app is checked as allowed, it asks to allow it every time I boot the computer.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Dane Deasy** · 2 years ago

Thanks!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Tall Pinetree** · 2 years ago

Thanks for this, folks. QuicKeys, SpellCatcher, SteerMouse, and Typelt4Me weren't working until you pointed out this new setting. Many thanks.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**bartmax** · 2 years ago

THANK YOU!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Ryan K. Parker** · 2 years ago

so what should we do if the app we want to allow access to is not listed?



3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**TekRevue** Mod → Ryan K. Parker · 2 years ago

If you've tried to run the app at least once, it should be in that menu if it requires access. Which app is it? We can try it on our end.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Ryan K. Parker** → TekRevue · 2 years ago

Smart Typer.

Thanks for looking into it.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**TekRevue** Mod → Ryan K. Parker · 2 years ago

Hi Ryan,

I downloaded it and gave it a try. Indeed, it doesn't automatically show up in the list, but there's a workaround. First, make sure you quit Smart Typer (the icon should be gone from your menu bar). Then open Finder, navigate to your Applications folder and find the Smart Typer app.

Then head to the Security and Privacy window described in the article. Click the padlock icon in the lower left of the window and enter your admin password. Once it's unlocked, drag the Smart Typer app from Finder into the apps list in the System Preferences window.

After we did this, the app worked in 10.9.

14 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Ryan K. Parker** → TekRevue · 2 years ago

Hey that worked great, much appreciate you taking the time to figure this out, big help!

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**hawkins** → TekRevue · 2 years ago

I've had this same issue. Tried your fix by dragging app to accessibility window. The green + sign appears but it won't stay. This is an Automator watch me do app. Can you help? Thanks....

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**naut1rw** · 2 years ago



[\[username\]](#) · 2 years ago

thanks....

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



[Funsky](#) · 2 years ago

For new locations of previous OSX version settings, I find searching the magnifier bar in System Preferences will help narrow down the potential locations.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



[Jan Stawarczyk](#) · 2 years ago

Thank you!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



[Adam Shields](#) · 2 years ago

Thanks

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



[adelaidejewel](#) · 2 years ago

Thanks so much!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



[Marty Powell](#) · 2 years ago

Thank You! This helped me out with CheatSheat!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



[Paco Mt.](#) · 2 years ago

Worked perfect for Moom in my case, thank you!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



[Ian Brodie](#) · 2 years ago

Very useful - thanks. typeit4me needs this.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



[mvilaregut](#) · 2 years ago

awesome

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



[Sean Patrick Murphy](#) · 2 years ago

Thanks!

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



[James M Wallace](#) · 2 years ago



Thank you for the tip! I installed Mavericks yesterday and this morning I fired up Steam to play L4D when the notice showed up. Spreading the word and providing a link back to this site.

Thanks again.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Polimon** · 2 years ago

Thank you, your article is timely for Mavericks upgrades like myself, who are wondering why we can't find/enable access for assistive devices.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Son Tran** · 2 years ago

Thanks!!

I solved my problem after I upgrade my Mac to OS X Mavericks.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**David Jones** · 2 years ago

Needed this for ShiftIt - Thank you very much.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Ruben Gomez** · 2 years ago

Gracias, me estaba volviendo loco buscándolo.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Benjamin Nguyen** · 2 years ago

Thanks so much. I can finally fix my Steam. :)

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**RobLeslie** · 2 years ago

You have explained this the best way possible. Excellent work, much appreciated.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**kejaed** · 2 years ago

Very helpful, thanks.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**mattiasheen** · 2 years ago

THANKS! Steam fixed :D

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Mike Zales** · 2 years ago



**Mike Lakes** · 2 years ago

`sudo sqlite3 /Library/Application\ Support/com.apple.TCC/TCC.db "INSERT or REPLACE INTO access values ('kTCCServiceAccessibility', 'com.apple.Terminal', 0, 1, 0, NULL);"`

Replace 'com.apple.Terminal' with the app bundleIdentifier of your choice and run as a Terminal command.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Santuxus** · 2 years ago

Thanks! Your tip saved me much time!

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Redwarp** · 2 years ago

Thanks, it helped a lot. Since the update, it wouldn't work no more. By the way, I'm using an alternative (completely free and open source) to SizeUp, that is called Spectacle. (<http://spectacleapp.com/>)

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**CorwinOlson** · 2 years ago

Thank you! Rightzoom now works for me.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**K.S.S.** · 2 years ago

Thanx)

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Elizabeth Lynberg** · 2 years ago

Thank you so very much! This save me so much time - I can't begin to tell you. I never leave comments like this - but you guys are the bomb!

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Oswaldo Oviedo** · 2 years ago

Thank you so much for the help. Have a nice day.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**@Daman** · 2 years ago

Sweet! Was having issues with ScreenHero

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

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