

EXSM 3929 Assignment 1: Screen Reader Research

Student: mdshaha1, Hossain, Md Shahadat

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Description

The purpose of this assignment is to gain practice using a desktop screen reader. We will install a screen reader and test it on a few of your favourite websites or web applications. The focus of this exercise is on using the screen reader as an experience. We will use the screen reader to test a website or web application later in the course.

The three most popular screen readers for desktop computers are: NVDA, VoiceOver, and Jaws. VoiceOver is preinstalled on MacOS and Narrator is built into Windows. Visit the following website links and choose a desktop screen reader that is compatible with your system.

- [NVDA \(Windows\) — free](#)
- [JAWS \(Windows\) — paid, free trial](#)
- [Vox \(Chrome browser\) — free](#)
- [VoiceOver \(MacOS\) — pre installed](#)
- [Narrator \(Windows\) — pre installed](#)

Note: This assignment focuses on the screen reader and not the operating system, search engine, website, or other.

Instructions

Make a **copy** of this document, **edit**, **export** as a **PDF** and **submit** on **eClass**. Please keep this cover page.

DESCRIPTION	VALUE	MARK
Document is submitted with proper ccid , name , and date	2	
Document is complete with talking points relevant to the course	8	

Assignment 1

Part 1 — Expectations

1. Which screen reader did you choose, and why?

Answer:

VoiceOver is considered one of the best screen readers for visually impaired users on Apple devices. There are several reasons why it is preferred by many users:

- 1. Built-in:** VoiceOver comes pre-installed on all Apple devices, making it easily accessible without the need for additional downloads or installations.
- 2. Customizable:** VoiceOver can be customized to meet the specific needs of the user, including the ability to adjust the voice, rate of speech, and verbosity.
- 3. Navigation:** VoiceOver has an intuitive navigation system that allows users to easily move around their device, access apps, and perform tasks.
- 4. Language support:** VoiceOver supports multiple languages, making it accessible to a wide range of users around the world.

Overall, VoiceOver is a reliable, customizable, and easy-to-use screen reader that is integrated with Apple technologies, making it a popular choice for many visually impaired users.

2. As a new user, what are three questions you have about screen readers?

Answer:

- a. What are the different types of screen readers available, and how do they differ from each other?
- b. How do I customize the settings of my screen reader to better suit my needs?
- c. What are some best practices for designing and developing content that is accessible and easy to navigate using a screen reader?

3. As a new user, what is one expectation (at least) you have about how the screen reader should work?

Answer:

The screen reader should read aloud the content on the screen clearly and precisely, including all pertinent details and formatting, without missing anything or skipping around. This is one expectation I might have as a new user.

Part 2 — Specific Instructions

1. Complete the following steps.
 - Install a compatible screen reader.
 - Activate the screen reading software (turn on)
 - Turn the screen reader off
 - Turn the screen reader on (keep on)
 - Investigate the settings and options.
 - Navigate to a favourite search engine.
 - Search for your favourite website or application
 - Access your chosen website from the search engine.
 - Use the screen reader with the website or web application.
 - Turn the screen reader off
 - Note your greatest frustration or source of enjoyment with the screen reader.
 - Find the screen reader's official documentation.
 - Research your previous issue in the documentation
 - Turn the screen reader on
 - Continue on the web page or application where you paused.
 - Turn the screen reader off

Part 3 — Reflection

Section A

1. How easy was it to get started?

- 1 (not easy) • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 (very easy)

2. How easy was it to turn on/off the screen reader?

• 1
(not
easy)

• 2

• 3

• 4

• 5 (very
easy)

3. Did you find the screen reader allowed for customization?

• 1
(no)

• 2

• 3

• 4

• 5 (yes)

4. Was the documentation simple and helpful?

• 1
(no)

• 2

• 3

• 4

• 5 (yes)

5. Overall, did the screen reader meet your expectations?

• 1
(no)

• 2

• 3

• 4

• 5 (yes)

Section B

1. In the previous steps there is a mention of “greatest frustration or source of enjoyment.” Describe your experience with the screen reader and specifically mention this issue. (Use at least three sentences)

Answer:

As I navigate the web using VoiceOver, I am delighted to find that I can easily jump between headings on the page and quickly scan for the information that I need. Again, there is also one thing to appreciate how the screen reader announces the type of element I am on, such as an image or link, and reads the alt text associated with images.

2. If you were to recommend using a screen reader to someone what advice or warnings might you offer in advance? (Use at least three sentences)

Answer:

If I were to recommend using a screen reader to someone, here is the advice and warnings I might offer in advance:

1. Familiarity with keyboard: A screen reader is operated primarily through the keyboard, so it's important to have a good understanding of keyboard navigation.
2. Documentation and tutorials: Screen readers usually come with user guides and online tutorials. Encourage the person to read through the documentation and practice with the tutorials.
3. Limitations: Screen readers have limitations and may not work with all applications or websites. Encourage the person to report any issues they encounter to the developer or support team.

3. From your experience so far could you use this screen reader every day and still be as effective in your online activities? Why or why not? (Use at least three sentences)

Answer:

People who are visually impaired can use screen readers like VoiceOver daily and they can be very helpful in enabling internet activities. Users can master using a screen reader to navigate and interact with web content with regular practice and program familiarity.

Section C

1. Choose a second screen reader. Which did you choose and why?

Answer:

One reason someone might choose ChromeVox as a screen reader is its integration with Google Chrome, which is a widely used web browser. Additionally, it is free to use and provides many features that can help users with visual impairments browse the web more efficiently.

2. Repeat the process for the second screen reader.

- Done

3. Comment on which screen reader you personally prefer and why (use at least three sentences).

Answer:

From my opinion I will choose VoiceOver screen reader and here are some reasons why I choose this:

1. Native to Apple devices: VoiceOver is built into Apple's operating systems (iOS, iPadOS, macOS), so there's no need to download or install any additional software. This can make it more convenient for users who are already using Apple devices.
2. Comprehensive features: VoiceOver offers a wide range of customization options, such as changing the speaking rate and adjusting the volume of different types of speech. It also has a built-in braille display driver, which can be useful for users who are deafblind.
3. Intuitive interface: VoiceOver's interface is designed to be user-friendly, with keyboard shortcuts and gestures that make it easy to navigate and control the screen reader.
4. Accessibility support: Apple has a strong commitment to accessibility, and VoiceOver is regularly updated to improve its compatibility with different apps and websites.

-----**Thank You.**