



HABINTEG
Disability Equality Centre

Adaptive information technology for disabled employees.

This fact sheet details some assistive technology for a PC that may be useful for disabled employees who need some adjustment to the standard PC set-up.

Two sources of specialist advice on adaptive IT:

AbilityNet, PO Box 94, Warwick, Warwickshire CV34 5WS

Telephone: 0800 269545 or 01926 312847

Fax: 01926 407425

email: enquiries@abilitynet.org.uk

website: www.abilitynet.org.uk

- The above, is the National Helpline Centre, who can advise on your local AbilityNet Centre. They offer a comprehensive range of services for disabled people and advisors, providing advice and training on accessible and enabling information technology. Comprehensive website including fact sheets and skills sheets.

RNIB, Customer Services, PO Box 173, Peterborough PE2 6WS

Telephone: 0845 702 3153

Textphone: 0845 585691

Fax: 01733 371555

email: CServices@rnib.org.uk

website: www.rnib.org.uk

- The Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB) can provide information and advice on information technology for use by people who are blind or partially sighted. Comprehensive website including fact sheets on technology used in the workplace.



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ITAC components to assist PC users with dyslexia:

BigKeys

See details in 'visual impairment' section. The version with coloured keys and an ABC key layout may be useful for someone with dyslexia.

Inspiration

Is 'visual mapping software that organises, plans and presents ideas. This powerful visual learning tool inspires users to develop their ideas, while planning and structuring workflow. Interactive diagrams, charts and reports help organise and prioritise concepts and information. The latest version includes an in-built text-to-speech function'.

Kurzweil 3000

See details in 'visual impairment' section.

ITAC components to assist PC users with visual impairment:

Aladdin Genie Pro CCTV

A PC-compatible and screen sharing video magnifier (CCTV). 'This is a full colour desktop model that incorporates a higher resolution camera and allows four different display modes. It has a professional, low glare reading table. Magnification ranges between x5.5 and x50'.

BigKeys - LX Black Keys QWERTY

'A keyboard with keys that are four times larger and characters ten times larger than on a standard keyboard. Function keys have been removed but can be achieved through keystrokes. Available in QWERTY or ABC layout, with upper or lower case lettering, and with black text on white keys or coloured keys with black text. NB: If using with text



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magnification software, make sure the keyboard shortcuts can be achieved with this keyboard design’.

DECtalk Express

A high quality speech synthesizer, supported by a range of screen readers including JAWS for Windows. The on-screen information is read aloud to the user, either via loudspeaker or headphones.

High Contrast VI Kid Glove - QWERTY black text on white background

‘A large print flexible keyboard glove, developed to fit any keyboard. Available with black text on a white background; white text on black background; and black text on a yellow background. Also available with lower case lettering. The glove can be removed and replaced easily and also protects the keyboard from accidental drink spills’.

Keypoint Enlarged Character Keyboard - white characters on black keys

High contrast, four times larger, white letters laser-etched and printed on the black keytops of a standard full-sized PS2 keyboard.

JAWS for Windows

A screen reader makes on-screen information accessible through speech output (via loudspeaker or headphones) or Braille displays. JAWS for Windows supports a range of hardware synthesizers including DECtalk.

Kurzweil 1000

A ‘scanning, reading and writing software program for use by people who are blind or visually impaired. It works on a PC in conjunction with a flatbed scanner and synthetic speech. Scanned text is converted into speech’.



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Kurzweil 3000

A 'multi-sensory tool for reading support, with visual and auditory feedback.' It 'offers a combined scanning and reading application that lets you convert printed text into audio feedback simply and easily'. It 'is capable of reproducing text on screen, with pictures, as it appears on paper and also helps reading by highlighting both the line and word as it is read'.

Large Character Keyboard Stickers - white text on black background

Self-adhesive stickers, which can be stuck onto the keys of a computer keyboard, to give a large and bold character. Stickers are available in different colour combinations to suit different visual impairments – white text on black background; black text on yellow background; or black text on white background. NB: Some suppliers also provide stickers with Braille characters.

Lunar

'A software magnification system that will magnify from 2 to 32 times at any screen resolution and colour depth. All features can be accessed through the magnification toolbar, selectable hot-keys or from the Lunar control panel. Does not allow for speech output'.

Supernova Version 5 for Win 2000

Combines screen reading software and screen magnification features. Designed for users who can access the on-screen information but require speech output as an additional aid. It supports a range of hardware and software synthesizers and comes supplied with a choice of two software synthesizers. It can also be used with Braille outputs.

Touch Typing Tutor

This software presents a series of lessons and allows for adjustment to the font sizes and colours. The screen presentation can be optimised for



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users with low vision and all visual information is accessible to blind users via synthetic speech output.

Window-Eyes

Window-Eyes Professional

A screen reader that includes a range of configuration options.

ZoomText Xtra

For Windows only, it is a 'screen magnification package that combines magnification software with a built-in document reader. The 'Level 2' version of this package adds speech output using any sound card or a speech synthesizer. Magnification ranges from 2 to 16 times, controllable via the keyboard or ZoomText control panel'.

Voice Recognition (VR) Systems on ITAC:

Voice Recognition (VR) or voice input systems can help to reduce or remove the need to use the computer keyboard and/or mouse. VR might also assist some IT users with dyslexia (with appropriate support from a product such as Keystone, which helps the user to accurately correct/edit the VR system) or some users with visual impairment (in conjunction with a product such as JawBone, which interfaces between Naturally Speaking and JAWS).

Naturally Speaking Professional

This Dragon software is particularly suitable for users who need to work hands-free. Mouse control can be via the use of 'Mousegrid' or by saying 'move mouse up', etc. Excellent set of natural language commands for office applications. Normal mode accepts dictation and commands, and there are specific modes for commands, numbers and spelling.



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RealSpeak, the text-to-speech engine provided, is said to be good and easy to understand.

ViaVoice Professional

AbilityNet suggest that 'making correction by voice is marginally more awkward in IBM ViaVoice than in Naturally Speaking. ViaVoice offers: control of desktop and applications by voice; hands-free correction and editing; text-to-speech; mouse control by voice; predictive correction; text and command macros; etc. The latest version has a feature called 'voice marks', which makes form completion easier by voice'.

Alternative computer keyboards on ITAC:

BigKeys

See details in 'visual impairment' section.

Chicony Electronics KBC 5350TP Keyboard

An ergonomic keyboard with split key-field design and a touchpad (mouse) built into the right hand side of wrist rest; PS/2 connection. Compatibility: IBM PC, Win 95, 98, NT and DOS.

Keypoint Enlarged Character Keyboard

See details in 'visual impairment' section.

Maltron Dual Handed Trackball Keyboard

Ergonomic split keyboard for two handed 'touch typing'; main keying areas are scooped and the keyboard design aims to eliminate finger and wrist twists and reduce muscle tension; a trackball (mouse) is positioned in the centre of the palm rest area and can be operated by either hand; available with QWERTY and/or Maltron's own ergonomic key layout; PS/2 connection or adapters.

Compatibility: all IBM PC compatibles.



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Maltron E-Type Dual Handed Keyboard

Ergonomic split keyboard for two handed 'touch typing'; main keying areas are scooped and the keyboard design aims to eliminate finger and wrist twists and reduce muscle tension; available with QWERTY and/or Maltron's own ergonomic key layout; PS/2 connection or adapters.
Compatibility: all IBM PC compatibles.

Maltron Single Handed Keyboard - Left handed or Right handed

A single handed 'touch typing', ergonomic keyboard for people with the use of one hand only; shaped and key layout such to take into account the limited number of keys that can be accessed quickly and comfortably; speeds of approx 85 words per minute can be achieved; PS/2 connection or adapters.
Compatibility: all IBM PC compatibles.

Microsoft Natural MultiMedia Keyboard

An ergonomic design with the main keying area split, angled and gently sloping to encourage a more natural position for hand, wrist and forearm; one-touch Hot Keys to go directly to favourite multimedia activities; PS/2 connection.
Compatibility: all IBM PC compatibles.

Numeric Keypad for left handed users

Allows a left handed person to place a numeric keypad on the left side of their keyboard, or to use in conjunction with a smaller 'space saver' keyboard; PS/2 connection.
Compatibility: all IBM PC compatibles.

QWERTY Keyboard

A small 'space saver' keyboard, taking up approximately half the space of a standard keyboard; 86 keys including numeric keys in a line or in a



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keypad layout embedded within the alpha key area. This small, light-weight keyboard might also be useful for: people working in a reduced working space, i.e. a wheelchair mounted working surface; for someone with upper limb disabilities; or someone of reduced stature/reach where equipment needs to be closer in to their body. PS/2 connection.

Compatibility: all IBM PC compatibles.

Alternative computer mice (pointing devices) on ITAC:

Cirque Cruise Cat TouchPad

Cirque Cruise Cat Internet TouchPad

One-touch commands; launch browser, open emails and pop up multimedia controls with just the touch of a finger on the 'hot buttons' on the touchpad itself; Touch-Gesture button to access files and shortcuts; surfing, scrolling, zooming, etc; ultra-thin, light-weight design; PS/2 or USB connection.

Compatibility: IBM PC, Win 95, 98, Me, 2000 and DOS.

Cirque Smart Cat TouchPad

GlidePoint technology; use either hand; programmable buttons; one-touch zooming and greater scrolling flexibility – vertically and horizontally; PS/2 and Serial connection.

Compatibility: IBM PC, Win 95, 98, NT and DOS.

Contour Mouse

Right and left handed models which are shaped to fit hand to give more support and reduce need to grip mouse casing; non-static mouse available in different sized models to accommodate the users hand length; three customisable buttons; PS2 connection.

Compatibility:



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Kensington Orbit Trackball Mouse (USB/PS2)

Described as having a hand-hugging design to encourage natural finger motion; static mouse with trackball positioned centre-front; two buttons; USB/PS2 connection.

Compatibility: IBM PC, Win 98, Me, 2000 and XP (plus NT with PS2).

Logitech Marble Mouse

Static mouse with trackball positioned centre-front; customisable buttons; left or right handed use; USB/PS2 connection.

Compatibility: IBM PC, Win 95, 98, Me, NT 4.0, 2000 and XP.

Logitech TrackMan Wheel Mouse

Right handed, ergonomic design; precise thumb controlled trackball; three customisable buttons; scroll wheel; static mouse; PS/2 or USB connection.

Compatibility: IBM PC, Win 95, 98, Me, NT4, 2000, XP.

Microsoft IntelliMouse

Ergonomic design; three customisable buttons; faster wheel scrolling; left or right handed use; PS/2 connection.

Compatibility: IBM PC, Win 95, 98, Me, NT4 (with Service Pack 5 or later), Win 2000, XP.

Microsoft TrackBall Mouse optical

Right handed, ergonomic design; precise thumb controlled trackball; five customisable buttons; faster wheel scrolling; static mouse; PS/2 and USB connection.

Compatibility: IBM PC, Win 95, 98, Me, NT4 (with Service Pack 5 or later), Win 2000, XP.

Microsoft Wheel Mouse



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A fairly standard design of mouse but with: three customisable buttons; faster wheel scrolling; left or right handed use; PS/2 connection.
Compatibility: IBM PC, Win 95, 98, Me, NT4 (with Service Pack 5 or later), Win 2000, XP.

QTRONIX Trackball

Central trackball with buttons around; built on a curve to support wrist and hand; detachable wrist/palm support; scrolling mouse program for scroll/zoom in Windows; PS/2 and Serial connection.
Compatibility: IBM PC, Win 95, 98, NT and DOS.

Whale Mouse

Use either hand; three buttons; non-static mouse but design makes you grip casing with palm of hand rather than thumb and little finger; adjustable to fit size of hand; PS/2 and USB connection.
Compatibility: IBM PC, Win 95, 98, Me, 2000, NT and DOS.

If you require this information in an alternative format, please contact Habinteg at hdec@habinteg.org.uk.



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