



NV Access

Empowering lives through
non-visual access to technology

Our story

Michael Curran and James Teh met as children on a music camp for the blind, where they realised they shared a strong interest in computers. Several years later they decided to join forces to help improve the accessibility of computers for blind and vision impaired people.

For blind people to use a computer, they need a screen reader which reads the text on the screen in a synthetic voice or with a braille display. But in many cases screen reading software costs more than the computer itself. In the past this has left computers inaccessible to millions of blind people around the world. This is a critical problem, because without computers, access to education and employment is severely limited, not to mention everyday functions such as online banking, shopping and news.

In April 2006 Michael began to develop a free screen reader called NVDA (NonVisual Desktop Access) for use with computers running on Windows. He invited James, who had recently completed his IT degree, to develop the software with him.

Together these two fully blind men founded the not-for-profit organisation NV Access to support the development of the NVDA screen reader. Before too long they were able to work full-time on the project thanks to a series of corporate grants and individual donations.

NVDA has been translated by volunteers into more than 55 languages, and been used by people in more than 175 countries. It has also won multiple awards.

NVDA is open source software, which means the code is accessible to anyone. This enables translators and developers around the world to continually contribute to its expansion and improvement.




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NVDA

AFFORDABLE

100% free to use globally, so you never have to worry about how you're going to afford screen reading software again!

SIMPLE

Quick, simple, no-fuss installation, so you can start using the screen reader faster!

FAST

Fast, light-weight and small footprint ensures superior stability, reliability and less crashes, so you're more productive!

INTUITIVE

An easy, intuitive and comfortable experience to use, so you'll have a stress-free, enjoyable time using your compute

FUNCTIONAL

Just as powerful and functional as the paid screen reader alternatives, so you'll never have to sacrifice on quality.

PORTABLE

Portable on a USB stick, making your life so much easier! Great for easily using computers other than your own, on the go!

INTERNATIONAL

Available in multiple languages. Great if you speak a minority language where the options are limited or expensive.

OPEN SOURCE

Our open source community develops add-ons and also contributes directly to NVDA itself. This makes NVDA a truly user-driven project.

PEACE OF MIND

Gives you peace of mind that you can always stay up-to-date with technology and never have to worry about affording costly updates.

ETHICAL

Feel good that you're standing behind the most ethical screen reader available, developed by the blind for the blind.




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Features

NVDA allows blind and vision impaired people to access and interact with the Windows operating system and many third party applications.

Major highlights include:

Support for popular applications including web browsers such as Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome, email clients, internet chat software, music players, and office programs such as Microsoft Word and Excel

Built-in speech synthesizer supporting over 55 languages, plus support for many other 3rd party voices

Reporting of textual formatting where available such as font name and size, style and spelling errors

Automatic announcement of text under the mouse and optional audible indication of the mouse position

Support for many refreshable braille displays, including input of Braille via braille displays that have a braille keyboard

Ability to run entirely from a USB flash drive or other portable media without the need for installation

Easy to use talking installer

Translated into more than 50 languages

Support for modern Windows Operating Systems including both 32 and 64 bit variants

Ability to run on Windows logon and other secure screens

Announcing controls and text while interacting with gestures on touch screens

Optional Telephone Support and comprehensive Training Material available at very low cost

Enthusiastic and helpful user community

System Requirements

Operating Systems: all 32-bit and 64-bit editions of Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows 10, Windows 11, and all Server Operating Systems starting from Windows Server 2008 R2.

For Windows 7, NVDA requires Service Pack 1 or higher.

For Windows Server 2008 R2, NVDA requires Service Pack 1 or higher.

Memory: 256 mb or more of RAM

Processor speed: 1.0 ghz or above

About 90 MB of storage space.




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