



Intro to Screen Readers

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Agenda

- What is a screen reader and who uses them?
- How do they enable users to access digital content?
- What are the most popular screen readers on desktop and mobile?
- Demo highlighting the good and bad
- Let's book a trip.
- What about iOS?
- How can you begin testing today?

Screen Readers and Who Uses Them

- Presents on-screen information in alternative formats such as audio and braille.
- Used by:
 - People who are blind
 - Low-Vision
 - People with cognitive challenges/learning disabilities
 - English as a second language learners
 - Anyone using digital assistants such as SIRI, Alexa, Google Home...

How do they enable access to digital content?

- Reads on-screen text aloud
- Allows the user to navigate the information on-screen using specific commands
- Enables users to perform mouse functions without using a physical mouse

Popular Screen Readers for Windows

- JAWS for Windows:
<http://www.freedomscientific.com/>
- NVDA: <https://www.nvaccess.org/>
- Narrator: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/22798/windows-10-narrator-get-started>

Popular Screen Readers for iOS

- VoiceOver:

<https://www.apple.com/accessibility/iphone/vision/>

Popular Screen Readers for Android

- TalkBack:

<https://support.google.com/accessibility/android/answer/6283677?hl=en>

An abstract graphic in the top half of the image features three white circles of equal size. They are connected by thin white lines: a horizontal line connects the first two circles, and a diagonal line connects the second and third circles. Additionally, there are several long, thin, curved white lines that sweep across the upper portion of the frame, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Demo of Good and Bad

An abstract graphic featuring several thin, white, curved lines that sweep across the upper portion of the frame. Three white circles are positioned along these lines: one on the left, one in the center, and one on the right. The background is a solid, dark gray.

Let's Book a Trip.



What about iOS?

How can you begin testing today?

- Perform familiar tasks using just your keyboard.
- Perform familiar tasks using platform-embedded screen reader.
- Download the free open source NVDA screen reader.
- Consider Deque University intro courses.

Resources

- Deque University: <http://www.dequeuniversity.com>
- JAWS for Windows: <http://www.freedomscientific.com>
- NVDA: <https://www.nvaccess.org/>
- Narrator: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/22798/windows-10-narrator-get-started>
- VoiceOver: <https://www.apple.com/accessibility/iphone/vision/>
- TalkBack: <https://support.google.com/accessibility/android/answer/6283677?hl=en>

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