

help with accessibility

If you have a disability or impairment that makes it difficult to use the internet, here are some things that can help you.

1. make use of the accessibility tools in your operating system

Mac users – there are a range of accessibility tools built in to Mac OS X including Display Adjustment which can help you see the page more clearly. Visit <http://www.apple.com/accessibility/> for more details.

PC users – Windows XP and Vista have a set of accessibility tools that can be used to make many aspects of using the computer easier.

- In Windows XP – go to **Start... Programs... Accessories... Accessibility... Accessibility Wizard.**
- In Vista – go to **Start... Control Panel... Ease of Access Center.**

2. use an up-to-date browser

PC users - the latest editions of popular browsers such as Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox and Opera have useful visual tools that can change the way you view webpages. These tools may not be present in older versions – if you can't find them, you may need to upgrade your browser by following these links;

Internet Explorer

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/winfamily/ie/default.msp>

Mozilla Firefox

<http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/>

Opera

<http://www.opera.com/download/>

Here are some of the ways the browser can help you –

Internet Explorer

You can magnify pages by selecting **Page ... Zoom**

You can make text bigger or smaller by going to **Page... Text Size**

Mozilla Firefox

To make text bigger or smaller, select **View... Text Size**

To change the style of the page display, select **View... Page Style**

Opera

To magnify pages, select **View... Zoom**

To choose whether the page shows images, select **View... Images**

To change the page background and text to a high contrast black and white version, select **View...Style... High contrast (W/B)**

2. use a text-only browser

Lynx is a free text-only browser which can be downloaded from <http://lynx.browser.org/>

3. use a screen reader program

Jaws is one of several popular screen reader programs. It is not free, but a time-limited trial version can be downloaded from http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs_downloads/jaws.asp

4. change the colour scheme of the page

In Windows, you can alter the colour scheme of the computer – including the colours it uses for webpages. To do this –

Go to **Start... Settings... Control Panel**.

Click the **Display** icon and click the **Appearance** tab.

In the window that opens, you can change the **Colour Scheme** and **Font**.

Clicking the **Advanced** tab gives even more colours to try until you find one that is best for you.

(Note – the location of Control Panel may differ slightly depending which version of Windows you have).

5. further help

AbilityNet <http://www.abilitynet.org.uk/> is a UK charity that supports and advises on practical internet usage for people with disabilities or impairments.