

CAPtions

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The Effect of the May Windows 10 Update on Assistive Technology

The original 2015 rollout of Windows 10 included multiple ways for users with disabilities to better access the Windows environment through effective assistive technology. These tools were built to assist those with visual, dexterity, and hearing limitations to adeptly use Windows services. Some of these technologies include resizing text and icons, changing color and brightness, customizing mouse cursor sensitivity, and a screen-reading application.

As Microsoft continues to roll out new updates for its Windows 10 software, this article explores a couple of the most recently updated accessibility features that allows users with limitations better access to the computer environment. Embedded accessibility features, such as the ones found in Windows 10, are a good example of universal design; making tools and platforms accessible to those with disabilities without the need for add-on technology. A commitment to universal design helps make information and workplaces more inclusive.

Please note that administrators on some networks may limit an individual user's ability to use some or all



of these features. If you're unable to implement any of these changes, please check with your helpdesk.

New Features

1. Zoom Function

Windows 10 now allows users to zoom in and out by holding the Ctrl key and scrolling with the scroll wheel function of the mouse or trackpad. Text in any word document or web page scales appropriately and magnified text is smoothed which diminishes pixelation, no matter how much the user zooms in. This feature adds a new level of usability for those who have difficulty viewing text on their screens.

2. Increased Automatic Troubleshooting

When issues arise with Windows 10 programming it can often be difficult to pinpoint the problem. Previously one had to know the type of problem that was occurring in order to find and address the specific issue. Under the new update, Windows has



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greatly expanded the number of troubleshooting options, and these can be found at Settings > Update & Security > Troubleshoot. Once there, individuals can browse a list of recommended troubleshooters that Windows has recommended as related to the identified issue.

3. Microphone Status Icon

Windows also now has a microphone status icon. This icon appears in the notification bar when an application is using the built-in microphone. This also allows for easy viewing of which applications are using the microphone by clicking the bar to open the Settings > Privacy > Microphone screen. This assists those who choose to use speech-to-text and other functions in their Windows applications to access their microphone options.

4. Brightness Adjustment

Screen brightness can now be adjusted using a slider. This makes it easier to reach the exact brightness for a wide range of visual needs. By right-clicking a quick action tile and selecting "Edit Quick Actions" Windows will allow users to edit

their tiles directly from the sidebar without opening the Settings app. Those with light sensitivity or visual impairments could benefit from this change.

5. Touch Keyboard Targets

The touch keyboard now tracks frequent mistypes and will adjust accordingly. This could be useful for those with dexterity issues who have previously found the touch keyboard difficult to use.

6. Sign-In Options

The facial recognition, fingerprint, security pin, security key, password, and picture password log-in options are now all located in a single list under Settings > Accounts > Sign-in Options. This could make it easier for those with different sign-in requirements to access their options.

7. Customizable Cursor and Pointer

Windows now allows users to change the color and size of their cursor. This can be accessed through Settings > Ease of Access > Mouse. Adjusting the size and color of the cursor could make it more usable for those with vision limitations.

Sit-to-Stand Policy

CAP continues to receive a high number of inquiries regarding the provision of sit-to-stand equipment. Please recall that while CAP can still perform needs assessments to help individuals identify the most appropriate sit-to-stand device for themselves, CAP can no longer procure any sit-to-stand workstation or related accessories. For the formal language of this policy change, please visit [the news page on our website](#).

As of October 1, 2018, due to the complex budget environment in which the program operates, CAP will no longer provide sit-to-stand workstations and associated sit-to-stand accessories. This includes monitor arms and platform extensions for sit-to-stand workstations.

Any new requests received by CAP for sit-to-stand workstations and associated sit-to-stand accessories will be declined as outside



CAP's scope of services. Though sit-to-stand desks will no longer be available through CAP, needs assessments can still be conducted to help customers and their agencies identify an appropriate sit-to-stand station for the workplace. If your needs assessment determines that a sit-to-stand desk could be beneficial to you, the individual or team in charge of your agency's reasonable accommodations process should be contacted and will assist you with your accommodation.

Workforce Recruitment Program Awards

The 2019 Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP) season is off to a great start. Various federal agencies hired 251 students this summer to work in internships throughout the country. CAP has provided accommodations for many WRP students.

The Department of Defense's (DoD) Diversity Management Operations Center (DMOC) hosted the 2019 WRP Program Awards Ceremony and Networking Event on July 18, 2019.

The event was held to thank our managers, supervisors, coordinators and students for their participation in the WRP. The speakers were Mr. Brian Davis, Director, Defense Personnel and Family Support Center (DPFSC), Ms. Jennifer Sheehy, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), Mr. Sam Drummond, Associate Director, Diversity Management Operations Center (DMOC), and the keynote speaker was Mr. Christopher Cocarro, Senior Program Analyst, DoD's Office of Inspector General (OIG).

The WRP presented seven outstanding WRP employee awards to Timberlain Woodruff, U.S. Navy; Debra Coleman, U.S. Army; Nicholas Abbott, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA); Jonathan Burnette, U.S. Navy; Christopher Damon-Cronmiller, U.S. Navy; Adriana De Hoyos, U.S. Navy; Michael Collier, U.S. Air Force; and Danielle Hendershott, U.S. Air Force for their excellent work. The Outstanding WRP Recruiter Awards went to Mary Bogart, U.S. Air Force and Eric Spanbauer, DLA. The Outstanding WRP Coordinators went to Timothy Fahey, Defense Health Agency (DHA), Victoria Phoenix, U.S. Navy, Michelle Franklin, DLA, and Rafael Reyes-



WRP Award winners (FLTR) DLA Director Army Lt. Gen. Darrell Williams; Brian Davis, director, Defense Personnel and Family Support Center; Gilberto Vargas, EEO specialist, DLA Disposition Services (accepting for WRP Coordinator of the Year Michelle Franklin); DLA EEO and Diversity Director Janice Samuel; and DLA Senior Enlisted Leader Navy Command Master Chief Shaun Brahmsteadt (Photo Source: www.dla.mil)

Serra, U.S. Army. The two Outstanding WRP Components were the Department of Navy and DLA for their strong commitment to the program.

The Defense Human Resource Activity's (DHRA) Defense Personnel and Family Support Center (DPFSC) hired three Workforce Recruitment Program interns to work for the Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program (CAP) and Transition to Veterans Program Office (TVPO).

The Department of Labor (DOL) and the Department of Defense (DoD) would like to make next year's WRP season another successful season for all participating federal agencies. We need your support to continue the WRP's success.

The information in the WRP Database remains valid for one year so that managers and supervisors can review potential candidates with disabilities for temporary and permanent positions. For more information, please visit www.wrp.gov. If you have any comments or questions, please contact CAP's WRP liaison, Jeffrey Dallos, jeffrey.a.dallos.civ@mail.mil.

