

Narrator

To provide audio assistance for the screen display

- ☞ Narrator is a text-to-speech utility for users who are blind or who have low vision.
- ☞ Narrator is designed to work with Notepad, WordPad, Control Panel programs, Microsoft Internet Explorer, the Windows desktop, and Windows Setup.
- ☞ Narrator may not work correctly in other programs.
- ☞ Narrator reads what is displayed on your screen: the contents of the active window, menu options, or the text that you have typed.
- ☞ You must have text-to-speech capabilities installed on the computer to use Narrator.

Click the options that you want in the **Narrator** dialog box:

- ☞ Click **Announce events on screen** to have new windows, menus, or shortcut menus read aloud when they are displayed.
- ☞ Click **Read typed characters** to have typed characters read aloud.
- ☞ Click **Move mouse pointer to the active item** to have the pointer follow the active item on the screen.
- ☞ Click the **Voice** button to adjust the speed, volume, or pitch of the voice.

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Control Panel Accessibility to Narrator

You can use the Accessibility Program in Control Panel to enable and configure features that assist users who have low vision.

To open the **Accessibility** dialog box:

1. Click **Start**, click **Control Panel**, and then click **Accessibility Options**.
2. In the **Accessibility Options** dialog box, click the **Display** tab to have access to options for visually-impaired users.
3. Click to select the **Use High Contrast** check box to change the screen display to use colors and fonts designed for easier reading.
4. Click the **Settings** button to select a high-contrast color scheme for your Windows XP system. The default high-contrast scheme is High Contrast Black (Large). Choose a scheme from the drop-down list in the High contrast appearance screen; picking a scheme with the word "large" or "extra large" in the scheme name is typically best.
5. Use the **Cursor Options** section of the dialog box to change the appearance of the cursor so that it is easier to see.
 - ☞ Adjust the **Blink Rate** to change the speed of the cursor's blinking action. Move the slider bar between **None** and **Fast** until you find the blink rate that makes it easy to spot the cursor on the screen.
 - ☞ Adjust the width of the cursor by moving the **Width** slider bar between **Narrow** and **Wide** until you find the width that is easy to see.

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