

Breakfast Bytes 4/21/2007

Visually impaired accessibility tools for the computer

TOPIC:

Interview Petro Giannakopoulos to learn about how people who use accessibility tools use their computers and what software they use. What are his picks for what software to use for which functions.

Opinion's expressed on the show and this document are Petro's and his experiences only with Jaws 8 screen reader.

Show Notes

Job Access With Speech

JAWS 8

Freedom Scientific

1-800-444-4443

<http://www.freedomscientific.com>

Jaws is a screen reader. \$795 first time purchase with \$120/yr for updates and maintenance.

Magic is also an app from Freedom Scientific that is useful for people with low vision.

Email

Yahoo Email

<http://mail.yahoo.com>

Replay AV 8

Internet Radio Recorder

Applian Technologies

<http://www.applian.com>

Replay AV full Suite ~\$100

Record multiple streams of audio simultaneously and silent in the background, and on a scheduled timer like VCR functionality

Replay software is very accessible.

Skype

Internet Telephony

Skype 3.0+

<http://www.skype.com>

Especially handy for affordable international calling

Media Player

Windows Media Player 11

Microsoft

<http://www.microsoft.com>

Software reviews by blind PC users

Access Watch

<http://www.accesswatch.info>

Portal of what software is accessible and what is not. Other useful information also.

Juice Receiver 2.2

Podcatcher for podcasts

<http://juice.sourceforge.net>

Newsletter

Blind Access World

Blind Cool Tech

<http://www.blindcooltech.com>

Very handy website that talks about all kinds of technology blind computer users use and what works well.

Security Used

Norton AV 2006

<http://www.synantec.com>

Note: Norton AV 2007 appears to be inaccessible according to Freedom Scientific tech support.

Hardware Firewall:

Linksys WRT54G Router

Web interface of firewall is very accessible.

Anti-Spyware:

Windows Defender from Microsoft

Free and good

Windows Critical Updates

Microsoft Updates

<http://update.microsoft.com/microsoftupdate>

SlingBox

SlingMedia

Access your TV anywhere.

<http://www.slingmedia.com>

Slingbox gets connected to CATV or satellite signal input and then is connected to your network switch. Software on your remote laptop is able to pull live feed video and audio from the box. You are able to change the channel remotely as well with the software. Requires high-speed connection on the destination side.

Nero 6

Make CDs and DVDs.

<http://www.nero.com>

Note: Nero 7 seems to be less accessible according to PC-Audio mailing list for the blind.

Nero 7 is probably less accessible due to the heavy use of flash.

BookPort

American Printing House for the Blind. The best portable MP3 player for the blind.

I use this device everyday to listen to the recordings I make with Replay AV 8 and the podcasts Juice Receiver downloads for me.

<http://www.aph.org>

BookPort verbally tells you the folder structure and names of files as you navigate through the menus.

MP3 info file on the BookPort (by Petro)

<http://www.applian.com/Podcasts/15-replay-803-bookport.mp3>

Operating System

Windows XP Home SP2

Radio Stations Database

Created and owned by Bill Sparks who is also blind.

<http://www.billsparks.org>

Belarc

Get the complete details for your computer whether it's the hardware or software on it. Get your product keys too.

<http://www.belarc.com>

All In Play

Poker for the visually impaired/blind. Sighted users can play also.

<http://www.allinplay.com>

You play with chips and not with your real money here. No spyware here. Very clean.

Descriptive video service

DVS is the visually-impaired accessibility companion where close captioning is the hearing-impaired accessibility function.

DVS is expensive to do, so most TV programs do not have it. Some movies do. Turner Classic Movies seems to have a lot of movies that are DVS-enabled.

DVS can be picked up on the secondary audio program channel. You must enable it on your television.

NFB Net

National Federation of the Blind mailing list

<http://www.nfbnet.org>

ABC Radio interactive

<http://interactive.acbradio.org>

Accessible World

<http://www.accessibleworld.org>

Blind Access Journal

<http://www.blindaccessjournal.com>

Blind Programming

<http://www.blindprogramming.com>

Blind Computing Resources

<http://www.blind-computing.com>

Blind Geek Zone

<http://www.blind-geek-zone.net>

Another pertinent mailing list

<http://www.freelists.org/cgi-bin/search?search=blind>

The Desert Skies

An excellent resource

<http://thedesertskies.com/>

Index for ACB Radio Main Menu Live Show

Jeff Bishop and Darrell Chandro

<http://www.acbradio.org/archives/RadioReading/mainmenulive/>

Main Menu on demand from ACB Radio

http://www.acbradio.org/pweb/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=19&MMN_position=30:29