
What's New in JAWS 2021 Screen Reading Software

Picture Smart Improvements

Introduced in JAWS and Fusion 2019, Picture Smart allows you to choose a photo and submit it to be analyzed. A description of the image is then displayed in the Results Viewer. To use Picture Smart, press **INSERT+SPACEBAR**, followed by **P** to activate the Picture Smart layer. You can then press **A** to describe a photo acquired from the PEARL camera or a flatbed scanner, **F** to describe a selected image file in Windows Explorer, **C** to describe the current control, or **B** to describe an image on the Windows Clipboard.

JAWS and Fusion 2021 continues to expand this feature by offering several improvements including:

- **Describing images on web pages:** If focused on an image that is part of a web page, such as a photo on Facebook, pressing **INSERT+SPACEBAR**, **P** followed by **C** now describes the photo.
- **Submitting images to multiple services to help improve accuracy:** By default, images are submitted to Microsoft for analyzing. However, the Results Viewer now contains a More Results link which submits the image again to additional services for analyzing and displays an updated description. You can also add **SHIFT** to a Picture Smart command to use multiple services. For example, **INSERT+SPACEBAR**, **P** followed by **SHIFT+F**, **SHIFT+C**, or **SHIFT+B**.
- **Using Picture Smart in multiple languages:** If you are using JAWS or Fusion in a language other than English and you attempt to use Picture Smart, JAWS and Fusion will use machine translation to display descriptions in the particular language. You can also manually choose from 38 languages for displaying results, configurable using the new Picture Smart Language option in Settings Center.

Please note that these changes, especially the machine translation for other languages, is still experimental, so things may not always work as expected. Results will improve as we continue refining this functionality.

For more information on Picture Smart, press **INSERT+SPACEBAR**, **P** followed by **QUESTION MARK** or refer to the Picture Smart topic in the JAWS help.

OCR Text Directly into a Word Document

The Convenient OCR (Optical Character Recognition) feature has been enhanced to support sending recognized text directly to Word. Convenient OCR enables you to access images containing text that is part of the image and displays this information in the Results Viewer. This includes onscreen images such as the graphical setup screen for an application, an inaccessible PDF opened in Adobe Reader, a currently selected image file in Windows Explorer, or a document acquired by the PEARL camera or a flatbed scanner.

If Microsoft Office is installed on your system, you can now:

- Use the new command **INSERT+SPACEBAR**, **O** followed by **R** to perform OCR on a selected image file in File Explorer or the Desktop and place the recognized text directly into a Word

document. You can also press the **APPLICATIONS** key and choose Convenient OCR to Word with JAWS or Fusion from the context menu.

- Use the new Open in Word link that appears at the bottom of the Results Viewer once the OCR process is complete.

For more information about using Convenient OCR, press **INSERT+SPACEBAR, O** followed by **QUESTION MARK** or refer to the Convenient OCR topic in the JAWS help.

New Voice Assistant to Help with Various JAWS Commands and Features

The new Voice Assistant provides a way to interact with JAWS in Windows 10 using speech input. Supported languages include English, Dutch, German, Spanish, and French. Ask it to help you out with various JAWS features using natural speech. This means that the same action can be performed by more than one similar phrase instead of a single predefined voice command. For instance, to launch JAWS Settings Center, you could say "Settings Center" or "change settings." Unlike keyboard shortcuts, which can be hard to remember, natural voice commands are an easier way to interact with the JAWS software. Using voice input to control JAWS can also benefit users with certain conditions which prevent them from using a keyboard effectively.

The JAWS Voice Assistant uses your computer's internal microphone or you can talk to it using an external microphone or headset. To tell the Voice Assistant to begin listening for a specific command, there are three options:

- Press the key combination, **INSERT+ALT+SPACEBAR**.
- Speak a specific wake word which alerts the software to begin listening for a voice command, similar to using an Alexa or Google Home device. The wake word is "Sharky." Speak this word followed by a specific JAWS command, such as, "Sharky, list links."

Note: The wake word is not available if you are using a Bluetooth microphone. In this case, you must use the keystroke before speaking the voice command.

- From the JAWS main window, press **ALT+U** to open the Utilities menu, expand the Voice Assistant submenu, and then select Talk to JAWS.

When the Voice Assistant starts listening for a voice command, a short audio indicator plays, and a visual indicator is displayed. After hearing a voice command, a different audio indicator plays until the command is processed. After processing, the visual indicator is removed, a different, short, audio indicator plays, and the desired JAWS action is performed.

If the Voice Assistant does not hear anything, the message, "Sorry, I didn't hear anything" is spoken. If the Voice Assistant does not understand or if the voice command is not supported, the message, "Sorry, I didn't catch that" is spoken.

Note: Since all voice recognition processing is performed over the Internet using Microsoft Services in the cloud, there will be a slight delay depending on your connection. Be patient and experiment with different commands. This is a new technology being added to our software

products and will continue to change and evolve over time. We welcome your suggestions and feedback.

To turn off the Voice Assistant or change other options, such as whether or not JAWS listens for the wake word or to turn off the sounds, open the JAWS Utilities menu, expand the Voice Assistant submenu, and then select Settings.

You can also press **INSERT+ALT+SPACEBAR** twice quickly to immediately toggle the wake word on or off. When the wake word is off, you must always press **INSERT+ALT+SPACEBAR** first to tell JAWS to begin listening for a command.

To learn more and to view a full list of voice commands for specific actions, say "Sharky, help." You can also select Getting Started from the Voice Assistant menu.

Here are a few commands you can try to help you get started. Remember to say "Sharky" or press **INSERT+ALT+SPACEBAR** before speaking each command.

- Help
- Talk faster
- Talk slower
- Change settings
- Command search
- What time is it
- List links
- List headings
- List spelling errors
- Tell me a joke

Improved Microsoft Teams Support

- If you press **ENTER** on a document in the Files list which opens the inaccessible document viewer, you can now press **ESC** to return to the files list. You are also prompted to use the **SHIFT+F10** context menu and open the document in the desktop application, which is the suggested method.
- You can now press **ALT+1** through **5** to go directly to the first five tab pages.
- Pressing **ALT+LEFT ARROW** now automatically activates the back button from anywhere in Teams.
- You can now press **ALT+H** to hang up a call in progress.
- You can now press **ALT+T** to set focus to the Teams tree view, if visible. Note that it is usually only visible if **CTRL+3** has been pressed to show the teams and channels list. The screen should also be maximized to ensure this control is visible.
- Pressing **ALT+R** now raises or lowers your hand in a meeting.

Teams also allows you to show meetings and calls in separate windows with fewer controls. To do this, press **CTRL+COMMA** to open Preferences and select the check box labeled: "Turn on new meeting experience (New meetings and calls will open in separate windows. Requires restarting Teams.)" While

JAWS specific keystrokes for meetings and calls will not work in this split mode, Microsoft has their own set of keystrokes you can review by pressing **CTRL+PERIOD**.

New Keystroke for Setting Punctuation Level

You can now press **INSERT+SHIFT+2** on the number row (**CAPS LOCK+SHIFT+2** in the Laptop keyboard layout) to cycle through the four punctuation levels which controls how much punctuation JAWS and Fusion speak while reading. The available levels are None, Some, Most, and All. Similar to toggling Screen Echo (**INSERT+S**) or Typing Echo (**INSERT+2**), the punctuation level will revert back to the previous setting when JAWS or Fusion is restarted. To permanently set a punctuation level, use the JAWS Startup Wizard or Settings Center.

Note: Due to issues with some Dell keyboards when using the Laptop layout, you may need to use the **RIGHT SHIFT** key to perform this keystroke.

Announce Most Recent Windows Notification

You can now perform the new layered command **INSERT+SPACEBAR** followed by **N** to have JAWS repeat the last notification that was spoken. Notifications include an incoming Teams or Skype call, a recent Zoom message, a new email in Outlook, and more. If you use a Focus braille display, you can also press **RIGHT SHIFT+N (DOTS 1-3-4-5)**. To view and manage all your Windows notifications, use the Microsoft keystroke **WINDOWS Key+A**.

FS Support Tool for Gathering System Information

The FS Support Tool is a new utility that collects information about your computer and sends a report to our Technical Support and Software Development teams to help us troubleshoot any issues you may be experiencing while running JAWS, ZoomText, or Fusion. You will typically be asked to run this utility during a technical support session if it is determined that additional details about your system are needed. Some information that is collected includes:

- System information such as processor, RAM, operating system, architecture, and more
- Event logs
- Version of Adobe Reader (if installed)
- Versions of all installed web browsers
- Information on installed Microsoft Office applications
- Crash dumps
- Installation logs
- Currently running system processes
- User settings

The FS Support Tool can be started from the Help menu in JAWS, or the Support menu in ZoomText or Fusion and guides you through collecting and submitting a report.

Announce Accessible Notification Events

By default, JAWS now automatically announces Windows generated accessible event notifications in both speech and braille. These types of notifications are found in a variety of places including business bars in Microsoft Office. If you do not want to hear these announcements, open Settings Center and clear the Enable Accessible Notification Events check box.

Automatic Message Reading in Outlook 365

When you open a message from the Inbox in Outlook 365, JAWS and Fusion will now immediately begin reading the message contents without reading the title or header information. Currently, messages are not automatically read if you **ALT+TAB** to an open message, or you press **ENTER** on a message in the Inbox that is already open.

To further customize how messages are read, open Quick Settings (**INSERT+V**) while in Outlook, search for "message," and configure any of the resulting options. A few items you might want to change include:

- **Message Header Field with Message Announcement:** Turn this option on if you want JAWS and Fusion to announce the sender's email address and the subject of the message when a message opens or gains focus.
- **Messages Automatically Read:** Turn this option off if you do not want JAWS and Fusion to automatically read messages when they are opened.
- **Speak Window Titles For Read-only Messages Automatically:** Turn this option on if you want JAWS and Fusion to announce the title of the message window when a message opens or gains focus.

General Changes

- Fixed a long-standing issue in File Explorer where JAWS would often not announce the correct number of files in the current folder.
- JAWS now properly reads as expected in Skype when moving focus back to the app without the need to first press **ALT** and **ESC**.
- Added a new Settings Center and Quick Settings option called "Pan Text by Paragraph" which is off by default. When enabled, JAWS sends an entire paragraph to the braille display instead of only the current line as you navigate web pages and documents. This can help improve the flow of reading when panning through text as you are less likely to encounter large amounts of empty space on the display when you reach the end of a line. You should now only encounter blank space if you reach the end of a paragraph, and you would move to the start of the next paragraph when panning again.
- While in a Zoom meeting, you can now press **CTRL+SHIFT+T** to find out who is currently talking. Zoom recently added this option with **CTRL+2** but we were previously using it for a JAWS feature.
- The default graphics verbosity for JAWS is now to read only labeled graphics as it is no longer as important for JAWS to read graphics that are not labeled. If you encounter a situation where

you need to read unlabeled graphics, or you do not want to hear graphics at all, open Settings Center and search for Graphics Verbosity.

- When using certain keyboards or headsets with multimedia controls, you can now press the layered command **INSERT+SPACEBAR**, followed by the **GRAVE ACCENT** key to toggle volume notification announcements. These announcements are off by default.
- Removed the announcement of Tutor Messages in Microsoft Office Ribbons as they were very verbose when attempting to navigate.
- Increased the size of the Speech History Buffer to allow for 500 strings rather than just 50 when you press **INSERT+SPACE, H** to review the most recent strings sent to the synthesizer.
- Updated braille drivers provided by Papenmeire.

JAWS Downloads

JAWS Connected Link: [J2021.2011.16.400.exe](#)

JAWS Offline Installers:

[J2021.2011.16.400-Offline-x64.exe](#)

[J2021.2011.16.400-Offline-x86.exe](#)

Want to Learn More About Our Products and Services

You can call our toll free number 888-211-6933 or email us at info@nelowvision.com.

Our two(2) state-of-the-art technology showrooms are a wonderful resource, showcasing a variety of leading electronic low vision magnifiers and blindness products. You can schedule an appointment with one of our Vision Specialists who can help you find the right technology, training and care solution.

If you cannot come to us, our staff can even drive out and bring our Vision Store to you, for a no-obligation product demonstration. We offer a comprehensive line of products including electronic magnification low vision aids, blindness products, and leading low vision products for people with glaucoma, macular degeneration and other forms of vision loss.