

Enhancements in ZoomText 2021.2012.48 (January 2021)

The following changes new since the initial release in November 2020.

Select a Microphone to Use with Voice Assistant

Microphone Input Device is a new Voice Assistant setting. It shows all available microphones on your computer (for example, an internal microphone and a connected headset) and lets you choose which microphone Voice Assistant uses when listening for commands. By designating a different microphone for this feature than what is being used for other applications such as Teams or Zoom, it allows you to mute those applications during meetings and still use the Voice Assistant with JAWS, ZoomText, or Fusion. You will find this option in the Voice Assistant menu by choosing the Settings Dialog.

Other Changes

- A customer in France recently reported an issue discovered when using ZoomText with Chrome and Edge Chromium on the web site: www.pagesjaunes.fr/. After further review, it was determined that it was a web browser problem. Freedom Scientific shared information with Microsoft and Google, and the problem was resolved as of Chrome build 87.
- Resolved an issue where the Vocalizer Expressive synthesizer was not available if both ZoomText 2021 and ZoomText 2020 were installed on the same computer.
- Resolved issues where mouse echo was not working in Outlook 365, Outlook 2016, and Excel 365.
- Resolved focus tracking and cursor enhancements problems when running ZoomText with Excel 2010.
- Resolved a reported issue from Europe related to ZoomText performance when used with the OpenScape SoftPhone application.
- Improved stability and performance based on feedback received using the FS Support Tool.

Download Links:

- ZoomText Download Link: [ZT2021.2012.48.400.exe](#)
- ZoomText Offline Installer: [ZT2021.2012.48.400-Offline.exe](#)

Enhancements in JAWS 2021.2012.48 and Fusion 2021.2012.8 (January 2021)

The following is a list of improvements made between the initial 2021 release and the January 2021 update.

New Layered Keystrokes for Adjusting JAWS and System Volume

Many users working with conferencing applications like Zoom and Teams have raised the issue of JAWS volume blocking their ability to hear a meeting or webinar while trying to navigate in other applications. To solve this issue, we have introduced a new feature that lets you easily adjust the volume of JAWS independently from the volume in other applications, such as Zoom, Teams, Skype, YouTube, or other apps that play audio.

JAWS and Fusion now offer a set of layered keystrokes for quickly adjusting volume. To access this layer, press **INSERT+SPACEBAR**, followed by **V**. Next, press **J** to control the volume of JAWS speech or **S** to control the main system volume. After pressing **J** or **S**, use the **ARROW** keys to raise or lower the volume in small increments, or **PAGE UP** or **PAGE DOWN** to raise or lower the volume in larger increments. Press **ESC** to exit the layer when finished. Volume changes remain in effect until you later adjust them using the same commands.

Note: When adjusting volume with the **ARROW** keys or **PAGE UP** and **PAGE DOWN**, the lowest level that can be set is 10 percent.

New Voice Assistant Option for Selecting the Microphone

You now have the option to choose which microphone the Voice Assistant uses when listening for commands. By designating a different microphone for this feature than what is being used for other applications such as Teams or Zoom, it allows you to mute those applications during meetings and still use the Voice Assistant with JAWS, ZoomText, or Fusion. You can find the **Microphone input device** combo box under the Voice Assistant group in Settings Center.

Support for Native Math Equations in Microsoft Word

JAWS and Fusion now supports reading math content in Word documents inserted through the Office ribbon without the need for additional extensions. While you can still use the MathType extension from Design Science to create math content, you now have the option to also use the built-in math creation functionality in Word. Whether math content was inserted in a document using the MathType extension or directly through the Insert tab of the ribbon, when you encounter a math equation or formula, JAWS reads the problem and then says "Math Content." You can then press **INSERT+SPACEBAR** followed by **EQUALS** to open the JAWS Math Viewer so you can study the equation in greater detail.

Once the Math Viewer is opened, you can navigate individual parts of an equation, such as variables, terms, coefficients, or exponents. As you navigate to the various components, pressing **DOWN ARROW** lets you drill down into and navigate within that level of the equation using **LEFT** and **RIGHT ARROW**. Pressing **UP ARROW** moves you back to the prior level. In addition, if you have a Braille display and JAWS is set to United States English or Unified English Braille Grade 1 or Grade 2, math equations or formulas are displayed in Nemeth Braille. Pressing **ESC** closes the Math Viewer and return to the document.

Other Changes

- To accommodate the new Volume layer keystrokes, the layered command to access the Braille and Text Viewer layer is now **INSERT+SPACEBAR, B**.
- When using the Convenient OCR feature to recognize the current control, screen, or window, you now have the option to use the Microsoft OCR engine as this may provide better OCR results for onscreen images than OmniPage, which is the default. For example, if you press **INSERT+SPACEBAR** followed by **W** to recognize the graphical window in an application and you find the results less than satisfactory, open Settings Center, select the **Use Microsoft OCR For Screen Recognitions** check box, and then try the OCR again.
- You can now have both the **Avoid speech cut off when using Bluetooth headphones or some sound cards** and **Lower audio volume of programs while JAWS speaks** options enabled at the same time in Settings Center. Previously, these two features could not be used together.
- When using the mouse to select text in Outlook messages, resolved a long standing issue where pressing **CTRL+C** was not copying the selected text to the Clipboard as expected. This only worked if text was selected using the keyboard.
- Resolved issues where JAWS and Fusion were not reading as expected when tabbing through links in Outlook messages.
- In response to customer feedback, improved the description of the **Speak Window Titles for Read-Only Messages Automatically** Quick Settings option.
- JAWS no longer says "no selection" while navigating through slides while editing a PowerPoint presentation.
- In Excel, you can now select a range of cells on the current worksheet similar to how you select a block of text using a PlaceMarker in Word. To do this in Excel, press **INSERT+WINDOWS+K** to set a cell marker on the cell where you want to begin the selection, move to another location on the same worksheet, and then press **INSERT+SPACEBAR** followed by **M** to select the cells between the mark and the current location.
- Resolved an issue where the Windows 10 Mail app would close unexpectedly when replying to a forwarded message and you navigate the message contents using JAWS.
- Addressed a reported issue where JAWS was not always correctly reading content inside of an HTML span tag in some situations.

- JAWS now continuously announces autocomplete information in the web browser address bar as you type.
- Addressed a reported issue where JAWS was not reading properly in the edit window of the TextPad application on certain systems with higher DPI display settings.
- Addressed an issue with Libre Office Writer where JAWS focus was not in the document when the application was first opened.
- Added an updated 64-bit braille display driver from Handy Tech and also added a new driver from Eurobraille for their Esys and Iris braille displays.
- Resolved an intermittent issue where JAWS would unexpectedly close when attempting to connect to a braille display over Bluetooth.
- Improved the user experience when using JAWS with the Visual Studio Code application. This includes turning off the Virtual PC Cursor by default, eliminating the announcement of ARIA regions, and removing the announcement of a long URL when the program is launched.

Download Links:

- JAWS Connected Link: [J2021.2012.48.400.exe](#)
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- JAWS Offline Installers:
 - [J2021.2012.48.400-Offline-x64.exe](#)
 - [J2021.2012.48.400-Offline-x86.exe](#)
- Fusion Connected Link: [F2021.2012.8.400.exe](#)
- Fusion Offline Installer: [F2021.2012.8.400-Offline.exe](#)

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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.