

Handy Freebies and Demonstration Software

Assistive Technology software is effective only when it is appropriate to the user's specific needs. It is often difficult to determine whether something will work unless the potential user has the benefit of a trial run using it. Fortunately many programmes provide free or demonstration versions of their software.

The following provides access to free and demonstration software under the categories:

On Screen Keyboards, Word Prediction/Completion, Abbreviation Expansion, Dwell, Screen Readers, and Screen Magnifiers.

Each website listed below provides pictures, screen shots, and descriptions of the software.

On-Screen Keyboards

FREE Click-N-Type is an on-screen virtual keyboard designed for anyone with a disability that prevents him or her from typing on a physical computer keyboard. As long as the person can control a mouse, trackball or other pointing device, he or she can send keystrokes to virtually any **Windows** application or **DOS** application that can run within a window. **Click-N-Type** is a 32 bit application that requires **Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000/XP** or later.

Go to www.lakefolks.org/cnt/ for more information and the download.

DEMO SOFTWARE On-Screen allows the user to enter text into any application using a mouse or other pointing device. It provides Word-Completion. It learns as you use it, adding to its built-in word bank. SizeApp/Auto-Arrange lets you size the application you are typing 'into', so that the OnScreen and app. windows do not cover each other. It has both **Mac OS9** and **Windows** versions.

You can download a **14 day** demonstration from rjcooper.com/onscreen/index.html.

DEMO SOFTWARE KeyStrokes is a fully-functional virtual on-screen keyboard that allows you

www.assistive-technology.ca

to type with a mouse, trackball, head pointer or other mouse emulator to type characters into any standard Macintosh application. **KeyStrokes** provides multilingual word prediction. It operates with **Mac OS X**.

You can download a **14 day** demonstration from rjcooper.com/onscreen/index.html.

DEMO SOFTWARE WiViK is intended for individuals of all ages who are unable to use a physical keyboard. Any pointing device or one through six discrete switches may be used as input. There are many alternative pointing devices and switches available in the assistive technology field that work with **WiViK**. Other features include point and click/dwell selection of on-screen keyboard (virtual keyboard) keys with any pointing device, expanding quadrant selection, configurable switch-based scanning (automatic, inverse/step and directed scanning with 1-6 switches); a USB switch connection box is available separately, word prediction, abbreviation expansion, speech output. This is a **Windows** application.

A **30-day** demonstration version of **WiViK 3** on-screen keyboard software is now available for download upon request from www.wivik.com/Downloads/downloads.html.

Prediction and/or Word Completion

DEMO SOFTWARE WordQ software is a writing tool used along with standard **Windows** word processing software to provide spelling, English grammar (and French grammar), and reading assistance. It uses advanced word prediction to suggest words for you to use and provides spoken (text-to-speech) feedback. WordQ also acts a text reader to help you proof-read your work or to read existing or scanned text.

A **30-day** demonstration version of **WordQ** writing aid software is now available for download upon request from www.wordq.com/Downloads/downloads.html

What ATSS thinks: We use WordQ on a regular basis and it is our predictor of choice.

DEMO SOFTWARE SoothSayer

A **30-day** demonstration version is available for download from www.ahf-net.com/downlods.htm.

DEMO SOFTWARE **Aurora** software provides advanced word prediction and abbreviation expansion to help save keystrokes and speed up typing.

The **Aurora Suite 2005** demonstration offers a choice of a standard 20-minute time-limited demo, or a month-long all-day demo (requires internet access.) The demo has the following limitations:

the standard demo only runs for 20 minutes at a time, the all-day demo runs for 24 hours or until you quit, the demo displays a dialog box at start-up to tell you it is a demo, the demo does not save Talk window phrases or changes to the Prediction Dictionary and you must reboot Windows to run the demo software again.

You can download the demonstration from www.aurora-systems.com/pages/demodown.html.

DEMO SOFTWARE **Gus! Word Prediction** places an "always on top" window on the computer screen. You can stretch or shrink the window to any size you want, and the font size adjusts automatically. As you input each character, **Gus! Word Prediction** revises the displayed "word list". When you see the desired word, simply click the word or press the corresponding function key (F1 - F9) and **Gus! Word Prediction** will complete the word. Predicts current and next word based on the users frequency of use. Also includes abbreviation expansion ("gm" = "good morning") It is intended for **Windows 95/98/XP/2000**.

You can download demonstration software at www.gusinc.com/down.html

The website does not indicate the extent or duration of the demonstration software.

Screen Readers

FREE **ReadPlease 2003** reads text via Windows clipboard from any program (copy/paste) in a choice of three voices: Mike, Mary, Sam. It provides an adjustable voice speed (rate) and a Low vision colour option for **Windows**.

It can be downloaded from www.readplease.com/english/downloads/

DEMO SOFTWARE There are many screen reading programmes made specifically for people who are blind or have low vision that provide demonstration software. www.utoronto.ca/atrc/reference/tech/scread.html provides a list of these programmes many of which provide demonstration software.

Screen Magnifiers

www.magnifiers.org/links/Download_Software/Screen_Magnifiers/.

provides a wide range of magnifiers some of which are freeware or shareware. This site also provide links to several commercial programmes that offer demonstration software.

What ATSS thinks: We have never had much success with traditional screen magnification. For our low vision clients who require magnification we generally use the features available to us in the Display section of the Window's Control Panel.

Abbreviation Expansion

FREE TypeIt4Me for the **Mac** allows the user to define a number of abbreviations and the full text entries that they represent. When the user enters the abbreviation the text is expanded to the full entry that the user defined. For example ATSS could expand into Assistive Technology and Seating Service.

Go to www.typeit4me.com for more information and the software download.

FREE RoboType 3 enables the user to define abbreviations for the words, phrases, and paragraphs that he or she frequently types and this utility replaces the abbreviations with the expanded text. **RoboType 3** runs under **Windows 95, 98, Me, NT 4.0, 2000, and XP**.

Download it from www.pcmag.com/article2/0,4149,427373,00.asp

DEMO SOFTWARE GhostTyperXML 3.0 provides autotext available in **Windows** applications. Texts such as "Kind regards", complete letters or other texts which are often used can be saved once in **GhostTyperXML** and inserted in the relevant program when needed.

Download it from www.download3000.com/download_7421.html

FREE and DEMO ShortKeys is a utility that allows you to set up replacement text or paragraphs for any given number of user defined keystrokes. **ShortKeys** monitors the keyboard activity on a global

nature and anytime a user defined keystroke combination is typed in, it will be replaced with the replacement text. **ShortKeys** runs on **Windows XP, ME, 2000, 98, NT 4, and 95 platforms.**

ShortKeys Lite (which enables only 15 abbreviations) can be downloaded for free from www.shortkeys.com/lite.htm. The full-featured version, **ShortKeys 2**, can be downloaded from the same site. The demo works for 30 days only.

Dwell Software

FREE Dwell clicker is ideal for people who can operate the mouse pointer, but not the buttons. This software allows you to perform left-click, right-click and double clicks, and even drag things around the screen. It operates in the **Windows** platform.

Download **Dwell clicker** from www.sensorysoftware.com/software/dwellclick/

FREE Point-N-Click Virtual Mouse is a stand-alone on-screen virtual mouse designed for anyone with a disability that makes it difficult or impossible to click a physical computer mouse. As long as they can move a mouse, trackball or other pointing device, they can send mouse clicks to virtually any **Windows** application or **DOS** application that can run within a window and even many that are full screen.

It can be downloaded from www.polital.com/pnc/