



Adjusting Windows for the visually impaired.

There are many simple adjustments that can be made to your computer to help the visually impaired, including changing text size, mouse pointer size, and changing the colour scheme. These instructions are for Windows XP, but the procedure will be very similar for earlier versions of Windows.

Changing screen resolution.

Minimise or close all open windows. With the mouse pointer on any unused part of the desktop (ie where there are no icons), *right click* and then *left click Properties*. Click on the *Settings* tab and then move the *Screen Resolution* slider to the left to reduce the screen resolution and thus make everything look bigger. Click *Apply* and close the window.

If you don't want to change the screen resolution, but just want to make the text in the title bar and underneath icons bigger, do the following:

Making text bigger on the desktop.

Minimise or close all open windows. With the mouse pointer on any unused part of the desk top, *right click* and then *left click Properties*. Click on the *Appearance* tab and then change the font size by clicking on the *Font Size* drop-down box and making your selection. Click *Apply* and close the window.

The above method will make all the windows text bigger, to make windows more individually customized, the following are a few examples of how to customize individual items.

To make the text bigger on the title bar of each window, go to the *Appearance* tab as before and then click on *Advanced*. Select *Active Title bar* from the *Item* drop-down box, then make change the font or size using the other drop-down boxes. Click on *OK* and then *Apply*.

The same method as above can be used to change the colour of the desktop (if you are not using a wallpaper), and also the size of the icons. Select *Desktop* or *Icon* from the *Item* drop-down box and select the size you require.

Changing the mouse pointer size.

Click *Start* – *Control Panel*, then *double click* on the *Mouse* icon.

If when you open *Control Panel* you are presented with the 'Pick a category' screen, then click on *Switch to Classic View* (on the left near the top), then *double click* on the *Mouse* icon.

Click on the *Pointers* tab and then select which *Scheme* you require from the drop-down box at the top (for example – *Windows black extra large*).

A bigger choice of pointers can be downloaded free of charge from the Ace Centre. Their website is www.ace-centre.org.uk.

Click on *Software*, then *Large Pointers 1.0*. There is a download button and also a link to instructions called 'Installing the Pointers'.

Changing the text size in Internet Explorer.

The latest version of Internet Explorer is IE7. Most people will be using version 5 or 6. To find out which you are running, click on *Help* then *About Internet Explorer*. A box will come up which tells you which version you are running.

IE 5 or 6

Click on *View – Text Size* and then select the text size required. Click on *Tools – Internet Options*. On the *General* tab, click on *Accessibility* (bottom right hand corner) and then put a tick in the box labelled *Ignore font sizes specified on Web pages*. Click *OK* and then *Apply*, close the box.

IE 7

Click *Page – Text size* and then select the text size required. Click on *Tools – Internet Options*. On the *General* tab, click on *Accessibility* (bottom right hand corner) and then put a tick in the box labelled *Ignore font sizes specified on Web pages*. Click *OK* and then *Apply*, close the box.