NVDA Add-ons

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Introduction

Many add-ons are available for customizing NonVisual Desktop Access (NVDA) to your liking. In many ways, add-ons are like Job Access with Speech (JAWS) scripts and can be used to enhance your experience in different applications. Most of the add-ons included in this handout can be found on the NVDA community add-ons website. However, other add-ons are available from third-party sites. Use the add-ons in this list at your own risk; NVDA is open-source software, and so are all add-ons associated with it.

You can customize the shortcut keys that are available in many of the add-ons by going into the NVDA input gestures screen. To find the NVDA input gestures screen, do the following:

1. Press Insert+N to go into the NVDA menu.

2. Arrow down until you get to the preferences submenu. You can then expand this submenu by either pressing enter or your right-arrow key.

3. Arrow down until you get to "Input Gestures."

4. Press Enter.

Note: The NVDA keystrokes can be for desktop layout mode or for laptop layout mode. It is important to note that, if you are changing a keystroke, make sure you are changing it for the keyboard mode that is being used (laptop mode or desktop mode).

Installing Add-ons

To install add-ons, do the following:

1. Press NVDA+N to bring up the NVDA menu. The NVDA key is either your numpad 0, or your caps lock key.

2. Press the down arrow key until you get to the "Tools" submenu. You can press either press the right arrow key to expand that menu, or the enter key.

3. Press the letter A until you hear "Manage Add-ons."

4. Press Enter.

When you first go into the add-ons manager, you are put into the list of add-ons you already have installed (if any). You can then tab through the rest of the interface to look at what options are available in this screen. The "get add-ons" button will take you directly to the NVDA add-on community website.

Recommended Add-ons

The add-ons recommended in the following list are only a few out of hundreds of available add-ons. For a full list of supported add-ons by the NVDA developers' community, visit the [NVDA add-ons community website](#) (addons.nvda-project.org/index.en.html).

Add-on Updater

This add-on is useful because it will help you update any add-ons that you install on your PC from the NVDA developers' community. You can either make it pop up a message letting you know that add-on updates are available, or you can customize it so that it sends you a notification to let you know add-on updates are available.

Bluetooth Audio

The Bluetooth Audio add-on improves sound quality when working with Bluetooth headphones or speakers. Without this add-on, you might lose bits and pieces of things that the NVDA screen reader is trying to tell you. Note: This add-on may cause your battery to drain a little faster than normal.

Eloquence and Vocalizer Add-on for NVDA

This add-on is the only paid add-on in the list. It brings the Eloquence voice, as well as the Vocalizer expressive voices that are available in JAWS to NVDA.

Golden Cursor

This add-on allows you to control the mouse movement with the keyboard. Like the mouse echo feature available in JAWS, this add-on can also automatically speak any text that the mouse moves to on the screen.

PC Braille Input for NVDA

This add-on allows you to use your laptop or desktop keyboard as a braille keyboard to type like you normally would in braille. You would use F, D, and S to type dots 1, 2, and 3, and you would use J, K, and L to type dots 4, 5, and 6. Dots 7 and 8 would be represented by the A and keys. Additional configuration options are available for this add-on.

Remote Support

This add-on allows you to establish a direct remote connection with another NVDA user. Use this add-on at your own risk. Be careful to not open any files containing personal data. This add-on is not on the NVDA add-on community website. You need to get this add-on from the NVDA Remote Access website (nvdaremote.com).

Sound Splitter

The sound splitter add-on allows you to isolate NVDA into a separate channel if you are wearing a headset. This is like the JAWS sound-splitting feature introduced in version 2022. It will put the NVDA screen reader into either your left or right headset speaker, and any other audio into the opposite speaker. This can be especially useful in apps such as Zoom.

Speech History Copy and Review

This add-on allows you to hear the last things that NVDA has spoken. With the press of a keystroke, you can also copy the last thing that you heard while cycling through your speech history.

Windows App Essentials

This add-on improves support for certain controls available in Windows 10 and windows 11. We strongly recommend this add-on for the best possible experience with Windows 10 or Windows 11.

Zoom Enhancements

This optional add-on helps enhance the experience of using Zoom and NVDA. If you are going to use the Zoom conferencing platform a lot, we strongly recommend installing this add-on.

Resources

Download NVDA (nvaccess.org)

NVDA Community Add-ons Website (addons.nvda-project.org/index.en.html)

NVDA Remote Access (nvdaremote.com)

[Eloquence and Vocalizer Embedded Add-On for NVDA](codefactoryglobal.com/app-store/voices-for-nvda) (codefactoryglobal.com/app-store/voices-for-nvda)