# **IOE-UCL Networked Free Open Source Assistive Software**

**Balabolka -** Text-To-Speech (TTS).

The on-screen text can be saved as an audio file. The program can read the clipboard content, view the text from a huge range of formats, customize font and background colour. Similar: Read&Write, ClaroRead, WordQ, Orato.

**Lingoes - Dictionary**

On-screen Dictionary and text translation software. It offers lookup dictionaries and full text translation. Similar: WordWeb Dictionary.

**Virtual Magnifying glass**

Free, open source, cross-platform screen magnification tool. Similar: SuperNova, ZoomText.

**Windows On screen keyboard**

On-Screen Keyboard displays a visual keyboard with all the standard keys. You can select keys using the mouse or another pointing device, or you can use a single key.

**NVDA**

NVDA (NonVisual Desktop Access) is a free “screen reader” which enables blind and vision impaired people to use computers. Similar: Jaws, WindowsEyes.

**ORATO**

Orato is a text-to-speech tool that can read out loud any text in English.

**Rapid Set**

Allows quick and easy changing of the background and font colours, without having to go through the Screen Properties dialogs. Similar inbuilt windows options.

**SSOverlay**

ssOverlay (the ss stands for Scotopic Sensitivity), places a coloured overlay onto the screen. The colour and transparency levels can be adjusted. Similar: ClaroView, T-bar.

**Sonar**

An expanded ring around the mouse pointer for users who have difficulty locating the pointer.

**T-bar**

T-Bar is a coloured bar which you can either drag around the screen or lock to your mouse.

**vu-bar**

An on-screen, slotted ruler. Similar: Claro ScreenRuler.

**Xmind**

XMind is a mind mapping and brainstorming software. Similar: MindJet, MindView, Inspiration.

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| **Diverse Abilities** | **Accessibility Features in Windows** |
| **Visual differences:**   * + Low vision   + Colorblindness   + Blindness | * + Magnifier   + Screen resolution   + High Contrast   + Narrator –Text to Speech   + Audio descriptions   + Keyboard shortcuts   + Pointer options. |
| **Language/Speech differences:**   * + Delayed speech or inability to speak   + Inability to comprehend words | * + Narrator |
| **Learning style differences:**   * + Dyslexia   + Attention deficit disorders   + Learning style differences   + Learning a new language   + Developmental delays | * + Eliminate distraction - make it easier to focus  and concentrate   + Speech Recognition   + Narrator |
| **Mobility and dexterity differences:**   * + Dexterity impairments – hand, wrist, and arm pain,  fine motor control   + Motor impairments (Cerebral palsy,  multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries) | * + Mouse settings – pointer size, speed, button configuration   + Keyboard settings – Mouse Keys, Sticky Keys, Filter Keys   + On-Screen Keyboard   + Keyboard shortcuts   + Speech Recognition |
| **Hearing differences:**   * + Hearing loss and hard-of-hearing   + Deafness | * + Volume   + Computer sounds   + Text and visual alternatives  for sounds – such as captions |