

Webinar: WW webinar

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>> Tori Holder-Hughes: It's 1:58. We'll get started in a few minutes.

>> Martha Rust: Good afternoon, everyone. This is Martha Rust with Tools for Life.

>> Tori Holder-Hughes: You sound great, Martha. Thanks.

>> Tori Holder-Hughes: It is 2 o'clock on the dot. Martha and Naomi if you are ready I can start recording and get started.

>> Martha Rust: Yes, we are ready to go.

>> Martha Rust: Good afternoon, everyone. We want to thank you for joining us for Wired Wednesday: AT bits and bytes with Tools for Life and WATAP. We started this last year at the start of the pandemic. We wanted to keep it going on to 2021 as a lot of us are still -- everyone probably is still staying away from everyone. We here at Tools for Life are still working virtually. So we partnered with our sister program in Washington Assistive Technology Act Program. Today you are in for a treat. We have Naomi with WATAP that will be presenting today on Supernova and Zoom Text. Doing a demonstration of

those so you can see how those types of software work. If you would like more information or a one on one of what you see here or other ideas that you may want to see, you can give us a call. The Tools for Life number is... [Reading from PowerPoint]. I am going to pass this over to you, Naomi. Thank you so much.

>> Naomi Namekata: Thank you, everyone for joining us this morning. As we mentioned, I'll be demonstrating Zoom Text and then Supernova on a different computer. I'm going to go ahead and share my desk top here.

All right. Hopefully you see a Word document up here. I'm bringing up the Zoom Text control user interface.

Right now I have all of the settings for Zoom Text disabled. This is a copy of Zoom Text magnifier reader home. There are other versions of Zoom Text, Zoom Text magnifier which only has the visual enhancements. There's also Zoom Text fusion which is the magnifier in combination with the full screen reader. So the Zoom Text reader is mainly for those who need support of a reader for reading long text or emails or information on the internet.

So, on the tabs across the top of the Zoom Text control panel, we have Zoom Text which allows you to access a bunch of settings. You can create different configurations, save your preferences, manage your license, obtain support from freedom scientific. Then we have the magnifier tab. So on the

left of the tab is the zoom. It says zoom level 1. As I click up here, I can increase the zoom. There are also ways to change the magnification level with your mouse. I can hold down the caps lock key and roll my mouse wheel and that increases and decreases the magnification. It goes all the way up to 32X I believe. So it does quite a bit of magnification. Once you get up to 10, 12X or so you really might consider adding a screen reader in because at this point you're only seeing a tiny portion of the screen and sufficient access to the computer is impacted.

Another way to control the zoom is through the keyboard. I can hold down caps lock and use my arrow keys to zoom in and out this way. So depending on if the user is able to accurately access the mouse or prefers key strokes there's a lot of different ways to interact with the software.

So next step is the zoom window. We can control how the zoom is displayed here. So right now I have a full screen turned on. You can see when I click this window icon there's one monitor and off to the right side there's full, overlay, lens, line or docked. The full screen magnifier is certainly the most used in traditional of magnification, but we can also do a lens where the magnification is only provided around the pointer. To someone who might have pretty good acuity is able to generally navigate the screen without magnification but needs the magnification right where they need

to read the text or see the icon clearly this may be an option.

Another single monitor magnification window would be something like the docked.

Where you have the top half of the screen magnified and the bottom half at normal standard viewing level without magnification turned on. You can change where the dock is. So if you prefer having the dock at the -- the magnification at the bottom of the screen or the left or the right there are options to change.

I don't have the -- my computer set up with multiple monitors, but this Zoom Text program does support multiple monitors. One thing you could do is have one monitor at zero magnification and the other monitor with whatever magnification you prefer. So that gives you more real estate to navigate your computer.

If you are in an office environment where dual monitors are necessary, you can have both monitors with two separate magnification levels and two separate applications which is nice.

I'm going to go back to the full magnification level here.

The next future up is color. Zoom Text does a good job of offering a variety of color schemes for -- to meet individual's needs. So inverse brightness flips the color. So instead of a white background with black text we have the

opposite. People with light sensitivity prefer this color scheme. You can see that a lot of the colors here are blue. So it's kind of a more cool reversed color scheme. There's also an invert colors. The colors displayed here tend to be more on the red/orange spectrum. If you prefer something more warmer color tone to it. We have a lot of other options. Yellow on black. Blue dye. Black and white and the reverse.

Zoom Text allows you to customize your colors. So here I can click on custom and change the brightness and contrast. I can choose a certain effect. So someone who might prefer more of an unusual color scheme like dark green and color -- you know, something specific to their needs, they can go in and customize their colors.

Then with the pointer we have a lot of schemes that Zoom Text has created for us. Yellow with full cross hairs is nice for individuals who lose the pointer if you have reduce visual fields. The red cross hairs help individuals find where their pointer is at.

We also have a red with circle. There's another target around the pointer to make it easier to see or find. A giant green one here. With all these pointer settings you can customize them. Something that could be helpful -- maybe you don't want that full cross hair locator feature turned on all the time but you can set it so you can access it when you press the modifier key for example. So when I hit control, these

cross hairs appear. So if I have lost my pointer, I can hit control and find it.

>> Martha Rust: Naomi, we have a question from Cristen. It was advertised that the demos are AT that is little or no cost, which is this?

I'm not sure I'm fully understanding the question. I know with our assistive technology program when we do one on one demonstrations to individuals that's no cost. Some software may have free downloads that you can try. I don't know if that's what you mean with your question. If it's not, I apologize but I would be happy to give you more information if that didn't answer it correctly. Does Zoom Text, Naomi, have a demo that people can download and try? I can't remember.

>> Naomi Namekata: Yes, it does. You can download it and try it for 30-minute increments. The demo doesn't expire. It just means you can run it for 30 minutes and then you have to restart your computer.

>> Martha Rust: I hope that answered your question, Kristin. Thanks, Naomi. Sorry to interrupt you.

>> Naomi Namekata: Feel free to interrupt me as questions come up. We have the pointer cross hairs. I was going to mention that the crosshairs can be helpful for reading support for individuals, especially if they have stigmas where they have difficulty staying focused on a specific line of text.

So cursor enhancements are also helpful when you are in a text document. So I'm going to turn this on. Then I'll move into my Word document. Now we see that there's these blue arrows that are on top and bottom pointing to the cursor. So if you have a lot of text and have difficulty finding that blinking cursor, you can add the cursor enhancements.

Again, there are --

>> Martha Rust: I want to interrupt one more time. Kristin answered: Yes, thank you. Was looking to see if these two demos were for products that are free or of cost. The Zoom Text does offer a trial of 30-minute trials at a time. I know people use it that way. If they're reading something for a little bit of a time.

>> Naomi Namekata: Yeah, I think windows has a built-in magnifier which is okay. They have added some pointer enhancements to fill gaps. So, I think for someone who has pretty good functional vision and just needs a little bit of a boost of magnification maybe up to 4X or so, you could use the windows magnifier which is built-in to the windows software. Once you get beyond that, Zoom Text really offers better support and Supernova for individuals who need higher level of magnification with some kind of effective reading tools.

Zoom Text I believe you can purchase it as a subscription where you pay an annual fee of -- I don't know. I think it's somewhere around \$100. Or you can purchase the

program out right. I will say they do release up grades almost annually which with a maintenance program, you know, it stills costs at least \$100 for upgrades. So you might be better off with a subscription if you know you're going to use it for a while and require an upgrade.

Back to the cursor schemes. We have blue wedge which I showed you, green circle, red frame, and a thinner magenta frame. We can go into settings and customize those to whatever color you prefer. As soon as I click the focus, you see the red square appear. Now I say go into the Zoom Text menu you see the red square I my pointer is highlighted, where the pointer focuses. As I move down, the focus square follows me.

You know, sometimes the color contrast for the highlights in the menu is not great. Right now it's a peach tone on top of white that doesn't provide a lot of focus so having the red rectangle can be helpful.

The last option in the magnifier tab is the navigation. This is really about how the magnification and the speech can follow you as you're moving either with your pointer or your keyboard cursor. So if I go into tracking here, it's really important when using magnification for your focus to be in view. So the most frustrating thing is if you're tabbing through a menu and you're zoomed in and all of a sudden your tab focus goes out of view but where the zoom focus is somewhere else. So you can't see where you're interacting with



the computer. So these are the different items you can track on. So mouse pointer. As I move my mouse across the screen I want it to track with me. Same with text cursor. I want to make sure that zoom or that magnification follows where the focus is. Alignments. So you can change where the zoom -- how the zoom follows you. Generally the preference is to have the zoom follow you within the edge margins so that only when I move my pointer to the bottom edge of where the magnification is the screen [indistinct speech]. You can also set it so your pointer is always centered in the window, but this tends to cause a lot more movement as you can see which I know I struggle with. It makes me feel a little bit nauseous, and I think most people prefer having the edge margins. That's the same with the text cursor you can have it centered or within the edge margin and the controls that you might be activating like your buttons and boxes and so on.

The pointer constraint is in the positioning is helpful. As soon as you move your pointer if it's off the screen it will zoom to where your pointer is at. You can have pointer constraints set up F. I move left and right, and I want to say moving on this horizontal plain, I can hold down the shift key. Now I'm moving my pointer left and right but now I'm trying to move it up and down and it won't let me do that. You can do the same for the vertical plain as well. Also the control key. If I want to say within this active window -- they

and I dual monitors up -- I can hold the control key and it will keep me within a same application window.

So the reader tab. I'm going to turn the voice on, but I will disable it again as I'm talking because it's difficult to talk over the speech. [Synthesized speech].

So hopefully you can hear that voice well. Under the voice enabled icon I can hit the arrow key and choose the voice I want.

[Synthesized speech].

So in here I can choose between the synthesizers that Zoom Text comes with. This is a neo speech synthesizer Paul. I have several options here. [Synthesized speech].

So depending on if I prefer male or female voice. Individuals who have hearing loss often tend to prefer a deeper tone or lower tone because they have lost hearing in the upper-ranges. So having the ability to switch between synthesizers is important.

[Synthesized speech].

-- are less human sounding or natural sounding. So if there are other synthesizers that an individual prefers, you can purchase them separately and activate them in Zoom Text.

Now I can control the rate of speech.

I'm not hearing the speech. Let's see. Okay.

Moving along here. I might have to restart Zoom Text in order to get the speech to come back on. So under keyboard, this is really your typing echo. As you're typing in a document, user may want no echo. If you're really fast typer, it's hard for the speech to keep up with you. So you can actually turn off the echo or if you want feedback as you're typing you can have the key echo where it repeats every character you press, word echo reads the word after you hit the space bar or a combination of both.

Let me see. I'm going to go into this Word document and type and see if I can have the speech come back.

No speech.

I'm going to quickly restart Zoom Text here.

There's always the challenge of [indistinct speech].

[Synthesized speech].

>> Naomi Namekata: There we go. Yay.

[Synthesized speech].

>> Naomi Namekata: Let me turn this off. Now that we have the speech back on --

[Synthesized speech].

So the [indistinct speech] [synthesized speech].

So you see I have the word echo turned on here.

Another tool I want to show you here is the app

reader. This is a great tool for reading in any kind of document whether it's a Word document, PDF as long as it's accessible or on the internet. The nice thing about using it in a Word document --

[Synthesized speech].

-- is if I have it read, I can use it as an editing or proof-reading tool.

[Synthesized speech reading].

The speech is turned up -- the rate is a little bit high so you can adjust it. Say I wanted to change something in this document here, as soon as I hear the spot where the changes or the edits need to be made, I can pause the speech. If I escape out of it puts my cursor right there so I can make changes.

[Synthesized speech].

There's also the mouse [indistinct speech].

[Synthesized speech].

If I want the speech to read me whatever is under [indistinct speech].

[Synthesized speech].

You see as I move the pointer on the tabs it is reading the text.

[Synthesized speech].

I have set it to hover, so you have to pause at the text, otherwise if you have the incnet echo it reads

everything as you move around which is [indistinct speech].

[Synthesized speech].

The final element on here other than verbosity where you change what reads in the speech speed. You can add words if it's mispronouncing words or names that you come across often. There's the reading zones. So in certain productivity software data base you may have a timed call. You can create a zone where with a key stroke you can have that information brought into focus so you can see it visually or had it read to you or both.

So if you're a customer service agent and concerned about how long you spend on a call, you can create a zone around it and assign a key stroke so you can check back to see what that time looks like without having to actually move your focus to that area.

All right on the final tab we have a few different tools. I want to show you the camera tool. This is really made so that you can attach some sort of camera to your computer to either use it as a video magnifier to see -- to read papers, mail, that sort of thing. Or you can use it with a distance viewing camera so that you can see the board in a classroom. Right now I'm using the camera that's on my lap top.

[Synthesized speech].

So hopefully you can see here that the top half of the screen is the camera. You can see my hand with a mouse.

Then the bottom half of the screen is my active document or the Zoom Text camera interface. So I can change where the camera is. So you can imagine if you're in a meeting or if you're a student and you need to see the board you can have your camera trained on to the board to see what the instructor or the presenter is showing on the screen and then on the other half of your screen you can be taking notes.

On this camera control panel that pops up you can zoom in so that you can see I'm zooming in to my hand and the keyboard here.

I can also change the color. So if you prefer seeing [indistinct speech].

[Synthesized speech].

-- black and white or [indistinct speech].

[Synthesized speech].

It also allows you to change the clarity.

[Synthesized speech].

So, the voice assistant is something that's also new that's on this tools tab. It's similar to the Amazon Echo devices or the Google Assistant in that you can voice commands. The wake word for the Zoom Text voice assistant is zoomy. So you can change the magnification level, turn on the speech, so on and so forth.

I'll do a quick demo of that.

Zoomy, zoom in.

Zoomy, turn off zoom.

Currently -- this is a few feature. Currently there aren't many commands you can issue but I imagine that is being developed as we move forward. There is a back ground reader where you can capture text, and have it read to you as you're doing something else. That text that you copied you can also record it as audio and save it so that you can listen to it later.

I'm going to move on to Supernova. If there's any questions about Zoom Text specifically, please feel free to post those.

>> Martha Rust: Thanks, Naomi. No questions yet but I thought that was a good demo. I'm excited to see that voice control going on there. I didn't realize that was one of their new features. So that was cool to see.

>> Naomi Namekata: Yeah. It's interesting. Do you still see my screen?

>> Martha Rust: No.

>> Naomi Namekata: Okay.

>> Martha Rust: If you have any questions, go ahead, and put them in the chat box. Naomi is super woman today. She is switching between two different computers to display Supernova. Is that because Supernova and Zoom Text don't play well or just because it's the computer you have them on?

>> Naomi Namekata: A combination of both. They might not play super well together so I was concerned that we might experience a crash during a demo. So adding the complication of doing a remote demo I thought it might be too much for the poor graphics processor. So that's really why. I haven't tried them on the same computer recently, but in the past sometimes there were complications.

So let me go ahead and share my desk top here. We did discover as we were doing some test that some of the features of Supernova magnifier do not work well while you're using video conference. So unfortunately I won't be able to demo all of the features that I was hoping to, but I will describe them and high light the differences between the two soft wares. Hopefully you can see my screen here. I brought up the Supernova control panel which looks pretty similar to the Zoom Text one. 3 tabs across the top for visual, speech and media. Then there's drop down menus which are more like older windows office programs where you can change the specific functionality.

I will start with the visual tab. I clicked on the magnifier and I can change the magnification here. The minimum magnification is 1.2. As I hold down the control -- the caps lock key and roll my wheel on my mouse, I can zoom in and out here.

I don't know what the max level is, but this is



[indistinct speech]. That's all I can see on my screen.

Under the magnifier view we have several options. Full screen we can do a fixed window, magnifier glass, resizing glass which means you can change the size of the magnifier and we can split the magnification from left top to right and bottom. So let me choose one of those. Now you can see on the right side my screen is magnified up to 2.5X and the left side is not.

Supernova supports multiple monitors. Supernova magnifier with speech is sort of the counterpart to Zoom Text magnifier reader. Supernova has a magnifier only version and a version that comes with the magnifier and full speech like a screen reader. Supernova's parent company -- the company that makes it is called dolphin. They are more popular overseas. They're being developed in the UK. So a lot of UK and European users rely on Supernova.

Let me go back to the full screen magnifier. We have a color wheel. I can click on this tab to change the color scheme from standard to the reverse contrast here. Then I can go in and select specific color schemes. A lot of them are similar. You can also customize it as you can with Zoom Text. There are specific settings for color blindness here that I can turn on which is not available. With the highlighting this is a focus rectangle. You can see the red square frame appears. You

can have the square frame follow me.

With the mouse pointer -- right now I have a standard windows pointer Y. Can choose a large yellow one. Now I have a large yellow pointer. I can go down and customize the pointer as well.

Something that is different with Supernova which unfortunate we discovered that would not work is this line view reading function. If I'm in a Word document and I bring up the Line View, it isolates the text so there's only a single line of text across. I can set it to auto scroll at different speeds. So depending on how fast of a reader I am, I can have it just scroll which helps if you really need to focus in on a line of text. You can change the color schemes of that text and the side of the text. In the line view mode it does not read or use speech. It's purely a visual form of accessing that text. With the doc reader, actually brings the text into a separate window. There is a doc reader function -- they changed it in Zoom Text and now it's called text view. So all the text from that Word document has been brought into this window. Now I can increase the size. This is the smallest which looks to be about 24 point here.

Then I can hit play and it will read.

[Synthesized speech reading].

It has bimodal highlighting here. So the word being read is being highlighted and we can highlight either the

sentence if I go up here I can choose if I want to sentence or the line of text or the whole paragraph highlighted.

There's also a different mode. Instead of seeing all this text at once, I can also isolate it to a single line. Then [indistinct speech].

[Synthesized speech reading].

Then under settings I can change the speech rate and color combination, as well as the synthesizer itself.

I close this window. As I bring back the Supernova control panel, there's also a feature called connect and view here. This is similar to what Zoom Text has with the camera. Unfortunately this isn't working because you can't see my camera here. I think you're just seeing the Word document. However, with the camera view, you can do a split screen so that you're seeing half of whatever the view of the camera is, and half your screen and you can reposition it as well. It also has -- let me go into settings -- the ability to set up a white board. So if someone has a smart white board in their classroom you can connect the view to that device and so you're seeing the actual white board in your computer window in addition to whatever note taking app that you wanted up.

I do like that there's a help icon on this tab as well. So you can actually go into the help menu here if you needed clarification on some of the features. I'm going to go into speech. I'm checking the time. We're running out of time.

Essentially we have the same functionality. I can turn on speech. I can have it repeat my characters or words. I can change the text style which is the verbosity. I can say how it reads words or numbers. Whether it's capitals and punctuation. Under general announcements this is where I can have the text under the mouse read. I can click here and apply, and I guess I have to turn on the speech too.

Well, speech doesn't seem to be working any more for some reason, but finally there's an option for read from here where you can click into a document webpage and have it read the text from there. There are media functionalities too. The nice thing is there's a scan and read. There's built in OCR. You can take a picture of whatever camera you have attached and have it converted to electronic text and read to you. You can access books and news feed, radio station and podcasts here.

All right. It is 11:46. So that's all the time I have today. Any questions about Supernova?

>> Martha Rust: Thank you so much Naomi. That was a good demo of both Supernova and Zoom Text. I hope everyone got to see how it can help someone with low vision or no vision go about and read and do stuff and go to school and all of that. Again, if you want a more one on one demonstration, get in touch with us at Tools for Life or WATAP. If you wouldn't mind, Tori, putting up the slide or typing in the survey. Thank

you. If you would complete a short survey, we would love to see your feedback. Not seeing any questions. Thank you for joining us today. Thank you Naomi for going over both of those software abilities in depth.

>> Naomi Namekata: You're welcome. My pleasure.

>> Martha Rust: You stay warm over there in Washington state.

>> Naomi Namekata: Will try.

>> Martha Rust: Thank you, everyone.

>> Tori Holder-Hughes: Thank you again everyone and Heather for captioning today. This webinar was recorded, and we'll have it up on the Tools for Life webinar archive within a week or so. So you can find it there and share with your coworkers and teammates. If you have any questions