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# OpenOffice Accessibility Project

## Project Goal

Making OpenOffice accessible means to make it usable by people regardless of their disabilities.

There are various Accessibility aspects: Keyboard navigation, scheming, AT support and much more.

Details can be found here: <https://ui.openoffice.org/accessibility/whitepaper.html>.

## Making OpenOffice accessible

There are three strategies to make OpenOffice accessible:

- **Keyboard navigation**

Allow the user to control OpenOffice completely with the keyboard so that the use of a mouse is not necessary.

OpenOffice is already controllable in large parts via the keyboard. As open task remain for instance switching into and between dialogs and activating and deactivating OLE objects.

- **Visual and keyboard enhancements**

Keyboard enhancements comprise the support of keyboard like input devices that differ from standard keyboards. This support is covered by the operating systems that OpenOffice runs on.

Visual enhancements like enlarged and clearer fonts are already possible with the existing OpenOffice.

- **Assistive technology**

Assistive technology comprise such different devices like screen readers and braille terminals. There are several APIs that serve as common abstraction of the various AT input and output devices. We are aiming at the Java Accessibility API as the only truly operating system independent member of that group while at the same time keeping an eye on the Gnome Accessibility API. Both are very similar in the way they represent an application and the kind of information they provide for the individual parts of the (G)UI.

Our approach of supporting AT with the UNO Accessibility API is documented [here](#) in detail.

A list of AT known to work with OpenOffice is maintained on <https://wiki.openoffice.org/wiki/Accessibility>.

## Participation

To participate in the work of making OpenOffice accessible, ask questions, or make comments you can use the **dev@openoffice.apache.org** mailing list.

## Links

- Local links:
  - [Accessibility White Paper](#)
  - [List of Disabilities and Assistive Technology](#)
  - [The UNO Accessibility API \(UAA\)](#)
  - [How OpenOffice supports Assistive Technology through the UAA](#)
  - [Test tool: the Accessibility Work Bench](#)
- APIs:
  - UNO Accessibility API: <https://ui.openoffice.org/accessibility/unoapi.html>
- Java Accessibility: <https://docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/technotes/guides/access/>
- GNOME Accessibility Developers Guide: <https://developer.gnome.org/accessibility-devel-guide/stable/index.html.en>
- Laws regarding accessibility:
  - List of laws and policies in different countries: <https://www.w3.org/WAI/Policy/>
- Home page of section 508: <https://www.justice.gov/crt/section-508-home-page-1>
- Section 508 software analysis: <https://www.justice.gov/crt/httpgcsedgovconinfoclibrarysoftwarehtm>
- Guidelines for writing accessible documents:
  - Guidelines from the W3 Consortium: <https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>
- Accessibility related pages from IBM: <https://www-03.ibm.com/able/>
- Tips for creating an accessible website: <https://www.whoishostingthis.com/resources/website-accessibility/>
- A service for HTML page authors that can check existing pages: <http://wave.webaim.org/>

## Related Project

- [OpenOffice User Experience Project](#)