

OpenOffice - Disabilities and Assistive Technology

Here is a list of the different kinds of disabilities and what we can do to assist people that have such disabilities:

- **Low Vision**
 - Support larger fonts and graphics (icons) or a screen magnifier.
 - Use clearer fonts, i.e. provide the ability to replace for instance a handwriting font by Helvetica.
 - Enlarge contrast between foreground and background.
 - Remove or avoid distracting background patterns/images.
- **Color Blindness**

Do not use color as the only way to express information.
- **Blindness**

To assist blind people in accessing OpenOffice.org we have to provide alternatives to the graphical user interface. These can be

 - Speech output uses speech synthesis to give a textual representation of everything visible on the screen.
 - Braille display
- **Hard of Hearing / Deafness**
 - Closed captioning for providing textual representation of spoken information.
 - Visible representation of audio signals.
- **Mobility Impairments**

Caused by diseases like Parkinson's disease or multiple sclerosis or physical injuries resulting loss of limbs there is a wide variety of mobility impairments. People can be assisted by:

 - Alternative pointing devices like foot operated mice or eye trackers.
 - On screen keyboard that is operated with the mouse or alternative pointing device.
 - Speech recognition.
 - Sticky keys provide functionality similar to shift locking for keys like control and alternate. This enables the user to operate the keyboard with a single finger.
- **Cognitive Impairments or Learning Disabilities**

Make the (G)UI clear and easy to understand. Provide help files and documentation (training?).
- **Seizure Disorders**

Make flashing, rotating, or moving displays adjustable or provide a switch to disable them.

See these lists of the different [types of disabilities](#) and [assistive technology](#) from the Gnome Accessibility Project for more details.