SCREEN READER COMPARISON CHART

Screen readers are software programs that allow blind or visually impaired users to read the text that is displayed on the computer screen with a speech synthesizer or braille display.

The following is a comparison of the widely used screen readers, JAWS, NVDA, and Narrator. The majority of data and research were obtained from online sources created by and for blind or visual impaired individuals. Additional testing and findings were obtained through WebAIM's articles on how to evaluate accessibility.

FEATURE COMPARISONS

	JAWS	NVDA	Narrator
Price	$90/year-$900 one-time purchase	FREE (open source download)	FREE (comes with Windows OS bundle)
Best Browser Experience	Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, and Internet Explorer.	Chrome, Firefox, and Edge	Edge and Chrome
Operating System	Windows Only	Windows Only	Windows Only
Language & Speech Synthesizer	Supports 10 languages in two multi-lingual synthesizers	Supports over 50 languages as well as 3rd party synths	Supports over 50 languages & new natural voices for Narrator on Windows 11
Detects and Supports Braille Display	✔	✔	✔
Virtual Cursor/Scan Mode	✔	✔	✔ Available for Windows 11
Customizable Features	✔ Most customizable, but reviews say some confusion with too many options	✔	✔
Speech to Text	✔	✔	✔
Optical Character Recognition (OCR) feature for image files or inaccessible PDF documents	✔	✔	✖
Kiosk Friendly	✔ Most-popular offering & best used with Storm Assistive Technology Products	✔ No package offering, but has been used at Kiosks	✖ No information available
Easy-to-use (based on reviews)	✔ Quick & easy install, keystrokes are not immediately intuitive	✔ Quick & easy set up after install, uses standard keystrokes	✔ Already installed, uses standard keystrokes
Popularity Amongst Screen Reader Users	Most popular	Second to JAWS	Least popular out of the three, but is becoming more competitive since adding new features

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