

## Enabling Technologies

### Speech Recognition for Low Vision Users Using NaturallySpeaking with Jaws for Windows

Some individuals have physical limitations that prevent them from using a keyboard and mouse effectively. Depending on the computer tasks they need to accomplish, it may be possible to use NaturallySpeaking with a screen reader such as Jaws for Windows or Window Eyes to accomplish those tasks with minimal or no use of the keyboard or monitor.

### The Good News

We have implemented systems where individuals with low or no vision have been able to operate their computers by voice. The combination of the two technologies can be very effective for certain computer operations.

We use Dragon NaturallySpeaking with Jaws for Windows for this situation as we have found that Jaws and NaturallySpeaking can be configured to work together effectively.

### Not a “Magic Bullet”

While this solution can be a “life saver” for individuals who need it, this is a very limited solution and not really effective for individuals who can use the keyboard or have good enough vision to use a monitor. This solution is more technically complicated than using Speech Recognition (SR) or a screen reader alone.

Consequently it requires:

- More training for the user.
- More initial support to insure that the two technologies “play nicely” together and to create any custom commands necessary to allow the user to accomplish their normal work tasks.
- A provider experienced at creating macros in both technologies as appropriate, and having those macros “talk” to each other.

### Still Interested?

If you are aware of someone who might benefit from using both speech recognition and a screen reader at the same time, please let us know. We can assist in determining if this is an appropriate solution and what would be required for a successful implementation.

### Contact Information

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