

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

ZoomText 8.1 is a powerful computer access solution designed for the visually-impaired. Consisting of two adaptive technologies – screen magnification and screen reading – ZoomText allows you to see and hear everything on the computer screen, providing complete access to applications, documents, email and the Internet.

ZoomText 8.1 is available in two product versions:

Magnifier – a standalone screen magnifier.

Magnifier/ScreenReader – an integrated magnifier and screen reader.

Both versions of ZoomText 8.1 are designed for users of all ages and skill levels. With a precise mix of power and simplicity, ZoomText provides total independence at home, school and in the workplace.

ZoomText Magnifier

ZoomText *Magnifier* is an advanced screen magnification program that enlarges and enhances everything on the computer screen.

ZoomText 8.1 Magnifier features include:

- **Flexible Magnification** Full range of magnification levels up to 16x. Levels include: 1x to 8x in steps of 1, 10x to 16x in steps of 2, and fractional powers of 1.25x, 1.5x and 1.75x.
- **Powerful Zoom Windows** 8 different zoom windows allow you to configure the magnified view according to your needs.
- **All-Color Smoothing** This new technology automatically smoothes all text, regardless of its color, for clear viewing at all magnification levels.
- **Enhanced Screen Colors** Innovative color controls improve screen clarity and reduce eyestrain. Special effects include color dyes, two-color modes and replacement of problem colors.
- **Visible Pointers & Cursors** Size and color enhancements make it easy to see the mouse pointer. Special locators make it easy to find and follow the mouse pointer and text cursor.

- **Smooth Navigation** Navigating your applications and scrolling the view is always smooth and comfortable. Constrained mouse movement allows you to examine rows and columns, and keeps you within the active window.
- **Desktop Finder and Web Finder** Desktop Finder helps you find and launch programs and documents on your desktop, system tray and quick launch bar. Web Finder helps you find links and controls in any webpage.

ZoomText Magnifier/ScreenReader

ZoomText Magnifier/ScreenReader is a fully integrated magnification and screen reading program that enlarges, enhances and reads aloud everything on the computer screen.

ZoomText 8.1 Magnifier/ScreenReader includes all the features of ZoomText Magnifier, plus:

- **Complete Screen Reading** ZoomText automatically speaks all program controls, including menus, dialogs, status bars, lists and messages. Three verbosity levels give you complete control over the amount of information spoken.
- **Automatic Document Reading** New 'AppReader' automatically reads documents, web pages and email, within the parent application. Classic 'DocReader' reads documents in a special environment where text is reformatted for easier viewing.
- **Full Internet Accessibility** ZoomText 8.1 reads any web page, in the proper reading order. You can read automatically or manually navigate by word, line, sentence and paragraph.
- **Text Navigation** Navigation keys make it easy to read while creating and editing documents. With simple commands you can read by character, word, line, sentence and paragraph, even while selecting text.

- **Typing Echo** Each key or word that you type is automatically spoken. You can choose to have all keys spoken or only selected groups of keys.
- **Mouse Echo** Mouse echo automatically reads text that you point to. Single words or complete lines of text are spoken instantly or after hovering briefly.
- **SpeakIt Tool**
The SpeakIt tool allows you to read selected areas of the screen by clicking or dragging the mouse.
- **Special Application Support** Built in support for popular applications – including Word, Excel, Outlook, Acrobat and Java – allows you to read and navigate your documents with 100% accuracy.
- **Three Built-in Synthesizers** ZoomText 8.1 includes three built-in speech synthesizers, each providing a variety of male and female voices.

System Requirements

The following hardware and software is required to run ZoomText 8.1:

- Celeron, Pentium II or higher, AMD K6 or higher
- One of the following operating systems:
 - Windows XP
 - Windows ME (Millennium Edition)
 - Windows 2000
 - Windows NT 4.0 (SP6)
 - Windows 98
- Minimum 128 MB RAM (256 MB recommended)
- 25 MB free hard disk space
- Sound card (for Magnifier/ScreenReader version only)

About the User's Guide

The ZoomText 8.1 User's Guide provides complete instructions for installing and using ZoomText Magnifier and ZoomText Magnifier/ScreenReader. Features that are unique to ZoomText Magnifier/ScreenReader are grouped together in Chapter 4 - "Screen Reading Features", or noted as a screen reader feature only.

This user's guide assumes you have a working knowledge of Microsoft Windows and its conventions, including how to use the mouse and standard menu commands. For help with these techniques, please refer to your Microsoft Windows® documentation.

Before using this manual, we recommend you install ZoomText 8.1.

Installing and Uninstalling ZoomText

ZoomText 8.1 is easy to install on your system. The ZoomText CD includes a talking Setup program with large-print dialog boxes that guide you through the installation.

Installing in Windows XP, 2000 and NT 4.0

When you run Setup in Windows XP, Windows 2000 or Windows NT 4.0, the setup program will install system-level components. In order to install these components you must have administrator privileges. If you do not have these privileges, contact your system administrator before proceeding with the installation.

► **To install ZoomText**

1. Disable virus-protection software and close all other programs.
2. Insert the ZoomText CD into the CD-ROM drive.

The ZoomText Setup program will start automatically. Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the installation.

3. If prompted, restart your computer.

► **If Setup does not start automatically**

1. Click on the Windows **Start** button and select **R**un...
2. Browse to your CD-ROM drive.
3. Select the Setup program and click **O**pen.
4. Click **OK** in the Run dialog box.

► **To uninstall ZoomText**

1. Make sure ZoomText is not running.
2. In the Windows **Start** menu, choose **P**rograms ► **Z**oomText 8.1 ► **U**ninstall ZoomText 8.1.
3. Follow the on-screen instructions.