

LIGHTNING

A SCREEN MAGNIFICATION SOFTWARE PACKAGE

USER MANUAL

© 2006

Contents

Contents	1
1. About Lightning	2
2. System Requirements.....	2
3. Installing and Running Lightning	2
4. Using the Mouse or Keyboard.....	3
5. The Lightning Dialog Box	4
6. Changing the Level of Magnification	4
7. Smoothing Text	5
8. Colour Inversion	5
9. Changing the Shape and Size of Letters	6
10. Centring the Cursor	6
11. Lightning Special Features	6
11. Configuring Cursor Style	8
12. Using Magnification with Speech Output	8
13. Exiting Lightning	8
14. Microsoft Program Accessibility	9

1. About Lightning

Lightning is a magnification software package for the modern PC. Whatever appears on the computer screen can be magnified up to 16 times and it works well with most Windows applications and video clips can also be magnified. It is easy to install and just as easy to use.

If you require a screenreader as well as screen magnification you need Thunder, our free (for personal home use) speech output screenreader, or another of our software packages.

2. System Requirements

Lightning requires a modern PC or laptop that runs Microsoft Windows XP. You cannot run Lightning with Windows 98 or ME.

3. Installing and Running Lightning

Lightning does not appear to clash with other disability access software.

Installing from Download

You can download lightning from www.screenreader.net or another local agent. To do this:

- 1. Activate the download link**
- 2. Click OK at the security screen**
- 3. Save the installation file onto your hard disk**
- 4. Once downloaded, run the file and follow the on screen instructions.**

Installing from CD

Lightning can also be loaded from a CD. To install:

- 1. Place the Lightning CD in the CD drive**
- 2. Click on the Start Button**
- 3. Click on Run**
- 4. Type "D:" (where D is the CD-ROM drive letter) and press Enter.**
- 5. Double click on the Lightning.exe file to start the installation process.**
- 6. On completion, close the CD-ROM drive window, remove the CD-ROM and put it in a safe place.**

Running Lightning

Lightning will magnify automatically when you first start your PC. If you do not want this select Start→All Programs→Startup, right click on "Lightning Magnifier" and select Delete.

To run Lightning, either double click the icon on the desktop or click on Start and select All Programs → Sensory → Lightning Magnifier. A dialog box will appear in the top left corner of the screen offering various options.

4. Using the Mouse or Keyboard

4.1 Mouse

Throughout this manual, we refer to clicking the mouse. When the mouse pointer is on a word or object, clicking the left mouse button once will highlight and double-clicking the left button will activate it.

4.2 Keyboard

Lightning is mainly designed for mouse use but it is possible to quickly increase or decrease your current level of magnification by holding down SHIFT, CTRL and ALT keys with your left hand and pressing + or - (plus or minus) with your right hand.

5. The Lightning Dialog Box

The Lightning dialog box is used to execute the following functions:

- **Changing the Level of Magnification (Section 6)**
- **Smoothing Text (Section 7)**
- **Colour Inversion (Section 8)**
- **Changing the Shape and Size of Letters (Section 9)**
- **Centring the Cursor (Section 10)**
- **Configuring the area of magnification (Section 11)**
- **Configuring cursor style (Section 12)**

The dialog box initially appears in the left-hand top corner of the screen. When you open an application such as Microsoft Word or Internet Explorer, Lightning will still be running even though the dialog box is hidden. If you want to get back to the dialog box to make changes, click on Lightning at the bottom of the screen in the taskbar or hold down the ALT key and keep pressing the TAB key until the Lightning dialog box appears again.

6. Changing the Level of Magnification

Towards the bottom of the dialog box there are two boxes with numbers in.

To change the level of magnification until you find the size that suits you best, click on the scroll bar pointers. If the X=Y box is checked, the two numbers will always be the same. Please read Section 7 on how to make the numbers differ if this is required. Lightning will remember your choice whenever you turn your computer on and you can change size at any time to meet the needs of your current task.

7. Smoothing Text

Everything on the screen is made up of square pixels, so when you have large letters or magnified pictures, it may be inconvenient to view rough shapes and edges. The smoothing tool can improve this by smoothing black text.

In the top left corner of the Lightning dialog box, check the box to the left of the word "Smoothing" by clicking on it.

You can choose to have smoothing on or off at any time to get the best results

8. Colour Inversion

Some people prefer to look at light letters against a dark background rather than dark letters against a light background. To do this, check the box to the left of the word "Invert" by clicking on it and you will invert the colour scheme.

When you next click on the Invert box, the colours will revert to what they were originally.

Within the Microsoft Windows Operating System, it is possible to change colour schemes, font styles and sizes. Section 14 gives advice on how to get the most out of your Microsoft products.

9. Changing the Shape and Size of Letters

It is possible to change the shape and size of letters or pictures. Uncheck the X=Y box on the left hand side of the Lightning dialog box by clicking on it.

When the box is unchecked it will allow you to change the level of X and Y independently. If you only increase X, letters and pictures will grow in size horizontally but not vertically. If you only increase Y, letters and pictures will grow in size vertically but remain the same horizontally. Clicking on the X=Y button again will reset the size when you want the letters or pictures to return to their normal symmetrical shape.

10. Centring the Cursor

If you wish to centre the cursor in the magnified area, check the Centre Cursor check box on the Lightning dialog box by clicking on it.

11. Lightning Special Features

The special features button is situated in the top right corner of the dialog box and once clicked, it shows additional features which allow you to alter the magnification area.

11.1 Four Lens Adjustment Buttons

There are four buttons along the top of this extension which affect the size and shape of the lens which can be used in any magnification mode apart from full screen. You can experiment with these to suit your purpose. If, for example, you click on the left-hand button, you can extend the lens vertically and this could be useful when studying a particular column of figures.

11.2 Six Magnification Modes

Full Screen Magnification

This is the default and most widely used option. This magnifies the entire screen.

The Magnifying Lens

This is the top right hand button. When you click on it, the mouse pointer becomes a small, square magnifying lens. As you drive the mouse pointer round the screen, you see in detail a small area surrounding the pointer. The rest of the screen is not magnified.

The Strip Magnifier with normal sized pointer

When you click on this strip magnifier option, you create a horizontal magnifying strip which moves about the screen as you drive the mouse pointer. Some users have found that in strip magnifier mode it is useful to increase the height of letters slightly but not the width. To do this, un-tick the X=Y choice on the Lightning dialog box and set the Y size to be one size higher than the X size.

The Strip Magnifier without normal sized pointer

As above but it does not show the normal sized pointer. The mouse pointer appears only within the strip and is magnified, ideal for reading text line by line.

Vertical and horizontal split screens

There are occasions when it is useful to see half the screen at normal size and the other half at your chosen magnified size for detailed work. Clicking on one of the two options enables such split screen choices. Once selected, three more options appear to the right.

These allow you to magnify in either half of the screen (top/bottom or left/right) and auto-move the magnification.

11. Configuring Cursor Style

It is possible to change the colour of the mouse cursor if the default white is not suitable for you. To do this, click the button that has a white cursor on it. A number of colour options will appear, select the one most appropriate for you and click OK.

12. Using Magnification with Speech Output

Lightning is purely a magnification program and there is no speech output facility. If you find you would like to have speech as well as magnification then you need another of our software packages such as Thunder, available to download free (for personal use) from www.screenreader.net.

13. Exiting Lightning

To exit Lightning, click on the Close symbol (X) in the top right corner of the Lightning dialog box. Magnification will now cease.

14. Microsoft Program Accessibility

Microsoft provide accessibility information and tips on all of their products, so to get the most out of your PC, visit their website: www.microsoft.com/enable.

Good luck with Lightning, your new magnifier software.

Doc. Ref. 11th July 2006