# VoxAid AT Edition

**VoxAid AT Edition for**
**Assistive Technology (AT) software applications**

## Justification for Needs Assessors

VoxAid AT Edition is an ideal tool for students who qualify or may be eligible for **Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)** funding.

**Approved by Student Finance England**, VoxAid adds over four thousand bespoke Dragon Professional commands for AT Software, enabling students to easily navigate, perform application functions and increase their productivity by dictating application-specific voice commands. The VoxAid set of bespoke commands integrate with all Dragon Professional applications. The commands have been designed to cater for individuals with SpLDs or physical difficulties.

**Justification for Needs Assessors**

The following examples highlight how VoxAid addresses the learning challenges that DSA students may experience when studying.

# Short or Long-term memory

| Learning Challenge | Solutions offered by VoxAid software |
|---|---|
| This student struggles with concentration and memory retention. | VoxAid provides the user with the freedom to perform software functions by voice, using natural language commands. This will improve their confidence and time management skills |
| The student has low memory retention and struggles to remember the location of functions within application software. | VoxAid make it possible for the student to dictate the function they require the application to perform and have it carried out. Enabling efficient and confident use. |
| The student has long term memory loss and wants to use keyboard short cut key combinations to increase efficiency and workflow. | Using VoxAid is as effective as performing keyboard short cuts to improve workflow. Thereby enabling a student to be more productive and efficient when using AT software. |
| The student has difficulties with short term memory and processing information and finds it difficult to remember the commands required to perform application functions. | VoxAid reduces the frustration of searching menus for functions in application software. |

*The option of manually creating voice commands was discussed, however this would involve a significant amount of extra learning and would conflict with their existing study demands.*

# Mental health

| Learning Challenge | Resolution |
|---|---|
| The individual becomes overwhelmed with stress and anxiety when faced with a multitude of decisions and tasks that need to be carried out. | VoxAid reduces Cognitive load, the major cause of mental stress and anxiety by reducing the number of decisions required to perform a task, thus allowing the student to focus on higher priority tasks. |
| Student gets confused and anxious when having to multi-task applications. For example, watching online lectures and using note-taking applications at the same time. | By dictating VoxAid natural language voice commands to control and use software applications - pressure and anxiety is greatly reduced. |
| Student with anxiety and depression becomes frustrated when looking for functions in new software. | Using VoxAid reduces the frustration that the student can experience. They can vocalise what they want to do; dictate their intention and the task is done! The ease at which functions can be carried out will increase their confidence in using new software. |

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# Physical disabilities and musculoskeletal issues

| Learning Challenge | Resolution |
|---|---|
| The student suffers from Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and can only use the keyboard or mouse for a limited time. | VoxAid dramatically enhances the voice control and use of Assistive technology software applications. The student will not need to use the keyboard or mouse as much as before, therefore relieving pain issues and reducing possible fatigue. |
| The student has a physical disability and cannot sit in one position for prolonged periods of time. | VoxAid enables virtually total voice control over AT software applications. |
| The student finds it hard to work for extensive periods of time due to Repetitive strain injury (RSI). | The additional voice commands provided by VoxAid dramatically reduce the amount of mouse and keyboard action required to perform tasks. |
| Due to a physical difficulty the student relies on speech to text. | VoxAid increases the productivity and accessibility for the user by adding thousands of bespoke additional voice commands. This enables the student to use, navigate and automate popular mind-mapping, referencing, notetaking and Office software. |

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# Fatigue and chronic pain

| Learning Challenge | Resolution |
|---|---|
| Due to arthritis this student has difficulty typing and controlling their computer and as such struggles composing written work. | Including VoxAid will significantly increase the student's productivity rate by enabling them to perform navigation & advanced software functions by voice. |
| Due to fatigue and chronic pain the individual needs to rest for periods of time and this influences their workflow. | VoxAid dramatically increases the tasks that can be performed by voice. When the user is resting, they will still be able to carry out time saving tasks by voice and so help to avoid anxiety, low mood, and demotivation cycles. |
| The student suffers from back pain and cannot remain in one position for prolonged periods of time. | VoxAid enables the student to extend the amount of time dedicated to doing work by enhancing the capabilities of voice commands over their assistive technology software. |
| Due to fatigue and chronic pain the student often feels de-motivated to carry out their work. | VoxAid enables the user to use assistive technology software quickly and effectively to complete their work, especially when they are mentally motivated but are physically struggling. |

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# ADHD

| Learning Challenge | Resolution |
|---|---|
| This student struggles with concentration and memory retention. | VoxAid provides the user with the freedom to perform software functions by voice, using natural language commands. This will improve their confidence and time management skills |
| User struggles to use their note taking software effectively whilst taking part in online meetings and frequently struggles to maintain concentration. | VoxAid enables the individual to use their note taking software effectively by issuing application specific voice commands. This eliminates the extra pressure and thought processes required while trying to remain engaged in the meeting. |
| The user struggles with dictating the correct command phrase to perform tasks and as such becomes discouraged. | VoxAid takes into consideration that not everyone dictates in the same way. VoxAid commands have natural language variations which allows for flexibility when dictating voice commands. |
| The student gets anxious at the number of functions and options available in an application software and often gets confused as to which application performs which tasks. | VoxAid commands are application-specific, therefore dictating commands in alternative software applications will not produce unexpected results. |

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# Language & visual impairment

| Learning Challenge | Resolution |
|---|---|
| Due to visual impairment the individual cannot see the menu names and options clearly. This impacts on the rate at which they can produce work. | VoxAid enables the individual to simply dictate software function voice commands to carry out required tasks. Therefore, reducing the need to visually search application menus for functions, saving the user valuable time. |
| The user has recently acquired screen reading software but struggles with remembering how to execute the commands within the software. | VoxAid enables the user to take advantage of the voice commands created to uniquely work with the screen reading software and can now change settings and apply functions by voice. |
| A Student speaks English as a second language and would benefit from enhanced voice control. | VoxAid takes into consideration that not everyone dictates in the same way. The student can train Dragon to recognise how they dictate VoxAid commands.<br><br>VoxAid commands have natural language variations which allows for flexibility when dictating voice commands. |
| This student finds it difficult to read English and as such, finds it difficult to navigate software menus to find software functions. | Because of the enhanced hands-free control provided by VoxAid, a student will not have to read menu options to perform functions and can focus more on achieving their objectives. |

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# VoxAid AT Edition

**Dragon Professional add-in**

VoxAid dramatically increases the capabilities of Dragon Professional by adding thousands of tailor-made commands that empower the user to: use, navigate and automate popular Mind Mapping, Note taking, MS Office and other software, in far more ways than Dragon alone.

**SAVE TIME, increase PRODUCTIVITY, reduce FATIGUE & ANXIETY**
**using tailor-made voice commands for:**

If you have a query about any of the information contained in this document,
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