

Written by Michelle Hinn

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Scenario Jose, a blind gamer who is an avid player of first person shooters, uses sound cues in the games not only to play the game but also to beat everyone in the neighborhood. He uses a screen-reader -- software that "reads aloud" the text on-screen[md]to read through the game forums on the web for tips, new mods, and so on (some gamers with cognitive disabilities that make reading quickly a nearly impossible task also make use of screen-readers). Unfortunately, it doesn't work with his console system so he can't have it read the game text.

He's often annoyed that he can't access the game manuals from the company's website. Sometimes companies will put them online in PDF form, but manuals are so graphics-heavy that his screen-reader fails. He wonders why they just don't put up a text-only HTML document, or even just a plain text file so he can listen to them. Half the time he wants to know more about a game directly from the game manual before he considers buying the game so he has a better idea if he'll be able to play it. Most of the time the manual is inside the game's DVD box, which he has to break the seal on and then he has a hard, if not impossible, time returning the game. If developers had accessible versions of their manuals available online, it'd probably save him, the game store, and even the company a lot of grief.

## How to Solve It

Outside of the game itself, documentation needs to be more accessible. The use of screen-readers or even Braille-output devices (an assistive technology solution that produces Braille on a special hardware device so that gamers can read rather than listen to the documentation) by some visually impaired gamers requires some sort of "meeting place" between developers and gamers.

Accessible documentation is especially needed when it comes to "manual heavy" games such as role-playing games and strategy games. A player that cannot use paper manuals needs to be able to refer to the game documentation in easily useable formats. So in addition to paper manuals, documentation supplied as HTML or plain-text allows for a great deal of flexibility.