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Assistive Software

The assistive software that I found on my computer was for people who have visual impairments or disabilities. This software was found in my “Control Panel” specifically, in the “Ease of Access Center.” The purpose of this software is so that the computer can be used without a display. There are options so that the user can hear the text, on the screen, being read aloud. What happens is a narrator reads aloud any text on the screen so that the user can have access to the same information without having to physically read the text. Additionally, which I think is pretty awesome, there is a feature that the user can select that gives a description of what is happening in videos that are being played. This allows the visually impaired or disabled access to videos just like everyone else only they receive a description of the video. Another cool feature that can be activated is that the user can turn off unnecessary animations that are on the screen.

This tool can definitely be used in my room for those students who have “read to” as part of their IEP. If I am having my students read a short story I can find that same short story online so that this assistive software can act as the “human reader” and my students will be getting the support and accommodations that they legally require. Additionally, with students currently in our school with visual disabilities and/or impairments, having this option and resource available just in case they are in my class in the next couple of years is amazing to have. I was unaware that all computers come with these different assistive programs already installed on them. I think that it a wonderful idea. Not only will I utilize this particular piece of software but there are others under the same category that would also be beneficial to my students.