Getting Started With Your BT Speak

Introduction

Congratulations on your purchase of the BT Speak from [Blazie Technologies, LLC.](#) The BT Speak is a pocket computer designed for the visually impaired. It provides a standard 8-dot Braille keyboard for input and synthetic speech for output. The BT Speak offers a collection of applications including an editor, scientific calculator, appointment calendar, a media player containing over 47,000 Internet radio stations, dictionary, a weather app and more. It also includes a full desktop mode with access to powerful mainstream applications such as Chromium, Firefox, Thunderbird and the LibreOffice suite. The device has a USB C port, a micro SD card slot and an HDMI port. Bluetooth and Wi-Fi are also included.

The BT Speak has a rechargeable battery that lasts for approximately ten hours. However, the amount of battery time will vary depending on how you use the device.

What's in the Box?

Your package should contain the following items:

- Your BT Speak device
- USB C wall charger (C to C cable not included)
- USB Type-C to 3.5mm (1/8Inch) headphone adapter

Physical Description

The BT Speak is an extremely compact device. Its length and width are comparable to newer smartphones such as the iPhone 14 and 15, and its depth is roughly the equivalent of two phones stacked on top of one another. For proper orientation, place the unit on a flat surface and ensure the side with the ports is facing away from you. The bottom row of three buttons on the face of the unit should be closest to you. With proper placement out of the way, let us now explore the BT Speak in more detail.

Physical Description

The Back Edge

Along the back edge of the device are three ports. From left to right the first port is a mini-HDMI connector. This is used to connect the BT Speak to a TV or a computer monitor.

Moving to the right the next port is a standard USB C port which allows you to connect the device to a power supply, USB headphones, external storage and other compatible accessories. The next port is a micro-SD card slot.

The Keyboard

The top surface of the BT Speak is mostly taken up with the 8-dot Braille keyboard. On the top row of keys, from left to right you will find Dot 3, Dot 2, Dot 1, Dot 4, Dot 5, and Dot 6. Below these keys are Dot 7, the spacebar, and Dot 8. You might notice that the space bar is slightly larger than the dot 7 and dot 8 keys. Dot 7 is used as the backspace key and dot 8 is used for the enter key.

The remaining space on the top of the device contains a pair of small stereo speakers along with a microphone.

The Power Button

The power button is located near the front of the right side and is recessed between two bumps. Note that even though the bumps might feel like buttons, they are not. Rather, they guard against accidental presses of the power button. You'll want to move your finger between those two bumps in order to press and activate the power button.

Powering On

If the BT Speak is powered off, briefly pressing and releasing the power button will cause it to activate and start the boot process.

You can release the power button as soon as you feel a short vibration. You should feel this vibration almost immediately as you press the power button. If you don't feel or hear anything this likely means that the battery needs to be charged.

After you feel the initial quick vibration, there will be approximately 20 seconds of silence, followed by around ten additional short vibration pulses. Following these pulses, you should hear the BT Speak say, "BT Speak Ready" followed by the name of the file you were working with when you last shut down the device. When powering on the BT Speak for the first time, you will be in a short file called "Welcome Screen."

Putting the Device to Sleep

If your BT Speak is powered on, you can put it into sleep mode by briefly pressing the power button. You'll feel a short vibration and your BT Speak will say "sleeping." This puts the device in a low power mode, very similar to locking a cell phone. Briefly press the power button again to wake up the device. You'll feel a short vibration and your BT Speak will say "awake."

Powering Off

If you continue to press the power button for three seconds you'll feel a longer vibration and the BT Speak will shut down. The device will say "shutting down."

Using Chord Commands

Many BT Speak commands use what are called "chords." A chord is a command where you press a letter or another group of keys along with the space bar.

For example, when you want to press an O-Chord to open the Options menu you would press the letter O (dots 1-3-5) along with the space bar.

Some chords make use of the dot 7 or dot 8 keys. For example, Z-7-Chord means that you would press the letter Z (dots 1-3-5-6) combined with dot 7 and the Space bar.

Adjusting Speech

The Speech Settings Menu

You can easily adjust the volume, speed and pitch of the voice. To do this press S-chord to open the Speech Settings menu. Your BT Speak will say "Speech Settings." From this menu press the following keys to adjust the voice.

Softer: dot 1

Louder: dot 4

Slower: dot 2

Faster: dot 5

Pitch Lower: dot 3

Pitch Higher: dot 6

In addition, you can toggle the state of key echo or word echo.

E: toggles key echo on or off.

W: Toggles word echo on or off.

E with dot 7: key echo off

E with dot 8: key echo on

W with dot 7: word echo off

W with dot 8: word echo on

A series of ascending tones indicates that key echo or word echo is enabled. Descending tones indicate that it has been disabled. Warning: in the current update these tones are quite loud. We are aware of this and are working on a fix.

Press Z-chord to exit the Speech Settings menu.

Changing the Speech Engine

The BT Speak has three speech engines: DEC-Talk from Human Voice, LLC, eSpeak as well as RH Voice. Here are the steps for switching from one speech engine to another.

1. Press O-chord for the Options menu.
2. Press S for the System menu.
3. Press S for the System Administration menu.
4. Press S for the Settings menu.
5. Press S for the Speech Settings menu.
6. Press T for TTS Engine.
7. From this menu, you can press dot 1-chord or dot 4-chord to move to either DEC-Talk, eSpeak or RH Voice. When you get to the choice that you want, press enter (dot 8).

Note: In addition to TTS engine, you will also find options to adjust the voice and language for each of these speech engines. Feel free to explore these menus and experiment with these settings to find the voice that's right for you.

Getting Help

The BT Speak provides context-sensitive help. From anywhere press H-chord to open a help file. The file which opens contains a list of commands based on where you were when you pressed H-chord. As an example, if you're working in the editor, pressing H-chord gives you specific help about using the editor. If you'd like to browse a list of all of the available help files press O-chord followed by the letter H. You will be presented with a menu of topics.

You can navigate through the list of help topics by pressing dot 4-chord to move to the next title and dot 1-chord to move to the previous title. When you locate the help topic you want to read, press dot 8. Press Z-chord to close the help file and return to where you were when you opened it.

The Options Menu

Press O-chord to open the Options menu. Think of this as the gateway for opening all of the applications and other services available on your device. Press

dot 4-chord to move down to the next choice in the menu. Press dot 1-chord to move to the previous choice.

You can also press the space key to move forward through the menu instead of pressing dot 4-chord. Pressing the dot 7 key moves back to the previous menu option. Dots 1-2-3-chord moves to the first menu item and dots 4-5-6-chord moves to the last menu item. Pressing dot 8 activates the selected choice.

Some items, such as "System", will open a submenu of additional choices if you press enter while pointing to them. This is called a submenu. All of the options in the menu system have a shortcut key to open them. Press dots 3-6 chord to hear the shortcut key for the option you're pointing to. For example, if you're pointing to "Time" pressing 3-6 chord will announce the letter T. If you're pointing to "date" pressing dots 3-6 chord announces the letter D. This means that you can press O-chord followed by the letter T to hear the time or D to hear the date.

Escaping Out of a Menu

Pressing Z-chord is the Escape key. If you are in a submenu pressing this chord will take you one level back to the previous menu.

If you press Z-chord along with dot 7 this is known as the Deep Escape. This key doesn't just move one level back to the previous menu. The Deep Escape closes the entire menu system, regardless of what menu you're currently in. You will be returned to the document you were working in when you first entered the menu.

Connecting to Wi-Fi

One of the first things you'll want to do is to connect your BT Speak to your Wi-Fi network. This is important for several reasons, not the least of which is to install the latest software update.

To connect to your Wi-Fi network do the following:

1. Press O-chord to enter the Options menu.
2. Press dot 4-chord (dot 4 with the space bar) until you move to the Wi-Fi menu and press dot 8 which is the enter key. You can also press the letter W. This is a shortcut to enter the Wi-Fi menu.
3. Press the letter A. This is a shortcut to add a network. Your BT Speak will say "discovering visible Wi-Fi Networks." The device may issue a few short vibrations while it searches for available networks.
4. You will now be in a list of available networks that you can connect to. Your BT Speak will announce the first network in the list. You can press dot 4-chord to move forward through the list of networks. Dot 1-chord navigates backward through the list. Pressing dots 1-4-chord speaks the current item (network name) that you're pointing to. When you find the network that you want to join, press dot 8 by itself. Remember, we use dot 8 as the enter key.
5. Once you select the network that you wish to join, the BT Speak says "password" and you will feel short vibration pulses while it waits for you to enter your password. Type your password followed by the enter key (dot 8.) While entering your password you will not hear the characters as you type them. Instead, you will hear "asterisk" for every character that you enter. This is standard practice and is done to ensure security so that others who may be nearby won't know what you're typing.
6. If you've entered your password correctly your device will confirm this by telling you that you are now connected to your network.

A Note About Entering Passwords

Passwords must be entered using Computer Braille symbols and not contracted Braille. Uppercase letters are prefixed by pressing U-chord. Press U-chord once to capitalize the next letter only. Press U-chord twice to "lock" the keyboard in upper case mode. This is helpful if your password contains a series of capital letters. Pressing U-chord a third time unlocks uppercase mode. Alternatively, You can press and hold dot 7 while you type each character in order to capitalize it.

Upgrading Your Device

Blazie Technologies regularly provides updates for your BT Speak. These updates improve existing features as well as adding new features and capabilities to your device.

First, before upgrading ensure your battery capacity is over 50%. We also recommend charging your device during the upgrade process.

To upgrade your device, perform the following steps.

1. Press O-chord for the Options menu
2. Press S for the System menu
3. Press S for the System Administration menu.
4. Press U for "Upgrade the System." You'll be asked if you're sure you want to do this.
5. Press the letter Y for yes
6. Press dot 8 for enter.

The upgrade will begin. Your unit will issue a short vibration about once every second and you'll also hear status messages during this process, such as "installing audio drivers." During this process you don't need to do anything; just sit back and let your BT Speak install what it needs for the update.

After the upgrade has completed your unit will reboot. This means that it will power down and then restart. Wait until you hear the BT Speak Ready message followed by the name of the currently open file and you'll be ready to continue using your device.

Introduction to the Editor

The editor allows you to create, open and edit documents. It accepts plain text, HTML and Braille files.

Creating a File

To create a file:

1. Press O-chord to open the Options menu.
2. Navigate with dot 4-chord until you get to "File Browser" and press dot 8 (for enter.) As a shortcut you can also press the letter F and you will immediately be in the file browser.
3. Press the letter C which tells your BT Speak that you want to create a new file. The BT Speak announces "enter file name"
4. Type the title of the file that you wish to create. File names must be written using Computer Braille. If you add a .brl extension you will be able to write using contracted Braille. An example might be journal.brl.

5. Press enter (dot 8.) The file browser will close and you will be in the new file that you created.

Navigating in a File

The following commands allow you to navigate in a file.

Move to previous line: dot 1-chord

Move to next line: dot 4-chord

Speak the current line: dots 1-4 chord

Move to previous word: dot 2-chord

Move to next word: dot 5-chord

Speak the current word: dots 2-5 chord

Move to previous character: dot 3-chord

Move to next character: dot 6-chord

Speak the current character: dots 3-6-chord

Conclusion

We hope that this guide has helped you to get up and running with your BT Speak. If you need assistance or have an idea for a feature please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

You can contact us by phone at (772) 214-1616.

Our support email address is support@blazie.net.

We also have a public support group where you can ask questions about your BT Speak as well as interact with other users. This list is monitored by staff members of Blazie Technologies. To join the list, send an email to btspeak+subscribe@groups.io

We hope you enjoy your BT Speak and that it provides you with years of excellent service.

Command Quick Reference

Commands Summary

General

7-8: Interrupt speech.

Z-Chord: exit the current menu level.

Z-7-Chord: Exit directly to the editor.

1-5-6-Chord (wh): Say where you are, i.e. the name of the current menu or command.

D-8-Chord: Say the current date.

T-8-Chord: Say the current time.

3-4-8-Chord (st): Say the current battery status.

R-Chord: Enter Review mode.

S-Chord: Enter the Speech Settings menu.

 2-3-5-6-Chord: Say the master volume level.

 2-3-5-6-7-Chord: Lower the master volume level by 5%.

 2-3-5-6-8-Chord: Raise the master volume level by 5%.

 2-3-5-6-7-8-Chord: Reset the audio output device to the internal speakers and the master volume level to 90%.

Editor commands:

D-Chord enters the Delete menu.

N-Chord enters the Navigation menu.

O-Chord enters the Options menu.

P-Chord enters the Paste menu.

The editor has two types of commands: control letters and meta characters.

To enter a Control character (usually a letter - case is ignored), either add both dots 7 and 8 to it or prefix it with X-Chord.

For example, to enter Control-P type either dots 1-2-3-4-7-8 or type X-Chord followed by p.

To enter a Meta character (case is significant), add dot 8 to it.

For example, to enter Meta-p type dots 1-2-3-4-8.

Editor Help

Both the File Management menu (O-Chord M) and the File Browser (O-Chord F) provide these file editing functions:

O: open an existing file (prompts for name)

C: create a new file (prompts for name)

S: save the current file without leaving it

L: leave the current file after saving any changes

Q: quit the current file without saving any changes

Another way to open an existing file is to press Enter when on it in the File Browser.

The editor has three menus (each of which has its own help file):

D-Chord: the Delete menu

N-Chord: the Navigation menu

P-Chord: the Paste menu

An editor command is assigned to either a Control character or to a Meta character.

These chords provide easier and more intuitive ways to perform useful editing functions.

3-4-5-6-Chord (number sign): toggle the showing of line numbers (editor command is Meta N)

8-Chord: type a "newline" character (editor command is Control M)

7-Chord: delete the character to the left of the cursor (editor command is Control H)

2-5-6-Chord (low d): delete the character that the cursor is on (editor command is Control D)

1-4-Chord: say the current line (editor command is Control Y)

2-5-Chord: say the current word (editor command is Control V)

3-6-Chord: say the current character (editor command is Control J)

1-Chord: go to the previous line (editor command is Arrow-Up)

4-Chord: go to the next line (editor command is Arrow-Down)

2-Chord: go to the previous word (editor command is Control B)

5-Chord: go to the next word (editor command is Control F)

3-Chord: go to the previous character (editor command is Arrow-Left)

6-Chord: go to the next character (editor command is Arrow-Right)

1-3-Chord: go to the first character of the current line (editor command is Control A)

4-6-Chord: go to the last character of the current line (editor command is Control E)

1-2-3-Chord: go to the first line of the file (editor command is Meta Backslash)

4-5-6-Chord: go to the last line of the file (editor command is Meta Slash)

2-3-Chord: go to the beginning of the previous (or current) block of text (editor command is Meta 7)

5-6-Chord: go to the beginning of the next block of text (editor command is Meta 8)

G-Chord: Place/remove an anchor (editor command is Meta X)

1-2-7-Chord: go to the previous anchor (editor command is Control P)

4-5-8-Chord: go to the next anchor (editor command is Control N)

1-3-7-Chord: go to the beginning of the current (or previous) paragraph (editor command is Meta Left Parenthesis)

4-6-8-Chord: go to the end of the current (or next) paragraph (editor command is Meta Right Parenthesis)

2-3-7-Chord: switch to the previous open file (editor command is Meta Less Than)

5-6-8-Chord: switch to the next open file (editor command is Meta Greater Than)

F-Chord (prompts for text): find forward (editor command is Control W)

F-7-8-Chord (prompts for text): find backward (editor command is Control Q)

F-7-Chord: find previous (editor command is Meta Q)

F-8-Chord: find next (editor command is Meta W)

M-Chord: set/remove the mark (editor command is Meta A)

1-2-6-Chord: copy to the clipboard (editor command is Meta 6)

3-4-6-Chord: paste from the clipboard (editor command is Control U)

Cutting and copying to, and pasting from, the clipboard can also be performed via the Delete menu (D-chord).

These operations use the "from to" (rather than the "from through") paradigm, i.e. they're exclusive rather than inclusive.

This means that the first character is included but that the last character isn't.

If the cursor is before the mark then the marked character isn't included.

If the cursor is after the mark then the character under the cursor isn't included.

Clipboard commands have also been defined for those who are accustomed to using the traditional Control- X, C, and V conventions.

These are formed by adding 8-Chord to the letter. So:

M-8-Chord: set the mark

X-8-Chord: cut to the clipboard

C-8-Chord: copy to the clipboard

V-8-Chord: paste from the clipboard

The full list of the editor's commands is:

Enter: insert a newline at the cursor's position

Tab: insert a tab at the cursor's position

Arrow Left: go back one character

Arrow Right: go forward one character

Arrow Up: go up one line

Arrow Down: go down one line

Page Up: go up one screenful

Page Down: go down one screenful

Home: go to the beginning of the current line

End: go to the end of the current line

Insert: paste another file into the current (or a new) file

Delete: delete the character that the cursor is on

Backspace: delete the character to the left of the cursor

Control A: go to the beginning of the current line

Control B: go back one word

Control C: show the cursor's position

Control D: delete the character under the cursor

Control E: go to the end of the current line

Control F: go forward one word

Control G: display help (Control X to exit)

Control H: delete the character to the left of the cursor

Control I: insert a tab at the cursor's position

Control J: say the current character

Control K: cut the current line (or marked region)

Control L: refresh (redraw) the screen

Control M: insert a newline at the cursor's position

Control N: go to the next anchor (wraps from last to first)

Control O: save the current file (or marked region)

Control O twice: quit the current file without saving changes

Control P: go to the previous anchor (wraps from first to last)

Control Q: search backward for a string (or regular expression)

Control R: paste another file into the current (or a new) file

Control S: save the current file without leaving it

Control T: insert the output of an editor function or an external command into the current (or a new) file

Control U: paste the clipboard at the cursor's position

Control V: say the current word

Control W: search forward for a string (or regular expression)

Control X: close the current file (or exit the editor)

Control Y: say the current line

Control Z: zap (discard) the current line (or marked region)

Control Right Bracket: try to complete the current word

Meta A: set the mark at the cursor's position

Meta B: invoke the linter

Meta C: enable/disable always show cursor position

Meta D: count the number of words, lines, and characters

Meta E: redo the last undone operation

Meta F: invoke the formatter

Meta G: go to the specified line and column (prompts for line,column numbers)

Meta H: enable/disable smart home key

Meta I: enable/disable auto indent

Meta J: justify the entire file

Meta K: enable/disable cut from cursor

Meta L: enable/disable hard wrapping of over-long lines

Meta M: enable/disable mouse support

Meta N: enable/disable show line numbers

Meta O: enable/disable convert typed tabs to spaces

Meta P: enable/disable show whitespace

Meta Q: search backward for the next occurrence

Meta R: replace a string (or regular expression)

Meta S: enable/disable soft wrapping of over-long lines

Meta T: cut from the cursor's position to the end of the file

Meta U: undo the last operation

Meta V: insert the next keystroke verbatim

Meta W: search forward for next occurrence

Meta X: place/remove an anchor at the current line

Meta Y: enable/disable color syntax highlighting

Meta Z: invoke the spell checker

Meta 1: delete backward to the start of the current word

Meta 2: delete forward to the start of the next word

Meta 3: comment/uncomment the current line (or marked lines)

Meta 6: copy the current line (or marked region)

Meta 7: go to the beginning of the current (or previous) block of text

Meta 8: go to the beginning of the next block of text

Meta Left Parenthesis: go to the beginning of the current (or previous) paragraph

Meta Right Parenthesis: go to the end of the current (or next) paragraph

Meta Equal: scroll the line with the cursor to the middle of the screen

Meta Plus: scroll down one line

Meta Minus: scroll up one line

Meta Less Than: switch to the previous open file

Meta Greater Than: switch to the next open file

Meta Left Brace: unindent the current line (or marked lines)

Meta Right Brace: indent the current line (or marked lines)

Meta Right Bracket: go forward/backward to the matching bracket

Meta Backslash: go to the first line of the file

Meta Slash: go to the last line of the file

Meta Colon: start/stop recording a macro

Meta Semicolon: run the last recorded macro

Control B: go back one word

Control F: go forward one word

Control J: say the current character

Control N: go to the next anchor

Control P: go to the previous anchor

Control V: say the current word

Control Y: say the current line

Control Z: zap (discard) the current line (or marked region)

Meta X: place/remove an anchor at the current line

Meta Z: invoke the spell checker

Using the Delete Menu
D-Chord enters the Delete menu - Z-Chord exits it.

The following key combinations can be used to navigate the menu:

select the first item: 1-2-3-Chord

select the last item: 4-5-6-Chord

select the previous item (wraps from first to last): 1-Chord or Backspace

select the next item (wraps from last to first): 4-Chord or Space

activate the selected item: Enter (Dot 8)

copy the selected item to the User menu: Control C

Each item in the menu has a single-character shortcut.

When you select a menu item, the cursor is initially placed on it such that 3-6-Chord will tell you what its shortcut is.

Typing the shortcut for an item will both select and activate it.

If the shortcut isn't unique then the next item with it will be selected but, rather than also activating that item, you'll hear a beep.

The Delete menu provides the following shortcuts:

b: delete backward to the start of the current word

c: delete the current character

k: copy the current line (or the marked region)

l: cut the current line (or the marked region)

m: set or remove the mark

r: redo the last undone operation

u: undo the last operation

w: delete forward to the start of the next word

z: cut to the end of the file

Using the Paste Menu
P-Chord enters the Paste menu - Z-Chord exits it.

The following key combinations can be used to navigate the menu:

select the first item: 1-2-3-Chord

select the last item: 4-5-6-Chord

select the previous item (wraps from first to last): 1-Chord or Backspace

select the next item (wraps from last to first): 4-Chord or Space

activate the selected item: Enter (Dot 8)

copy the selected item to the User menu: Control C

Each item in the menu has a single-character shortcut.

When you select a menu item, the cursor is initially placed on it such that 3-6-Chord will tell you what its shortcut is.

Typing the shortcut for an item will both select and activate it.

If the shortcut isn't unique then the next item with it will be selected but, rather than also activating that item, you'll hear a beep.

The Paste menu provides the following shortcuts:

c: paste the last calculator result

d: paste the current date

e: paste the content of the editor's clipboard

g: paste the last Gregorian date result

s: paste the last stopwatch reading

t: paste the current time

Using the Navigation Menu

N-Chord enters the Navigation menu - Z-Chord exits it.

The following key combinations can be used to navigate the menu:

select the first item: 1-2-3-Chord

select the last item: 4-5-6-Chord

select the previous item (wraps from first to last): 1-Chord or Backspace

select the next item (wraps from last to first): 4-Chord or Space

activate the selected item: Enter (Dot 8)

copy the selected item to the User menu: Control C

Each item in the menu has a single-character shortcut.

When you select a menu item, the cursor is initially placed on it such that 3-6-Chord will tell you what its shortcut is.

Typing the shortcut for an item will both select and activate it.

If the shortcut isn't unique then the next item with it will be selected but, rather than also activating that item, you'll hear a beep.

The Navigation menu provides the following shortcuts:

Less Than (dots 1-2-6): switch to the previous file

(editor command is Meta Less Than)

(BT Speak command is 2-3-7-Chord)

Greater Than (dots 3-4-5): switch to the next file

(editor command is Meta Greater Than)

(BT Speak command is 5-6-8-Chord)

Left Parenthesis (dots 1-2-3-5-6): go to the beginning of the current (or previous) paragraph

(editor command is Meta Left Parenthesis)

(BT Speak command is 1-3-7-Chord)

Right Parenthesis (dots 2-3-4-5-6): go to the end of the current (or next) paragraph

(editor command is Meta Right Parenthesis)

(BT Speak command is 4-6-8-Chord)

Left Brace (dots 2-4-6): go to the start of the current (or previous) block

(editor command is Meta 7)

(BT Speak command is 1-2-7-Chord)

Right Brace (dots 1-2-4-5-6): go to the start of the next block

(editor command is Meta 8)

(BT Speak command is 4-5-8-Chord)

Right Bracket (dots 1-2-4-5-6-7): go to the matching bracket

(editor command is Meta Right Bracket)

Equals (dots 1-2-3-4-5-6): place/remove an anchor

(editor command is Meta X)

Minus (dots 3-6): go to the previous anchor

(editor command is Control P)

(BT Speak command is 1-2-3-7-Chord)

Plus (dots 3-4-6): go to the next anchor

(editor command is Control N)

(BT Speak command is 4-5-6-8-Chord)

Using the Calendar

Calendar Menu Help

This adgenda-style calendar lets you assign events, appointments, and activities to dates in your calendar. The command to exit is q.

The following menu options are available:

Today's Events- Displays a list of events, ordered by time of day. Events with no time is assignment will appear first.

Browse Weekly Events- Displays a list of events for today's date and the following six days. The options 'previous week' and 'next week' are displayed at the top and bottom of the list, respectively. Selecting 'previous week' shows a list of events occurring on the six previous days, including the earliest date on the currently displayed list. Select next week to view events occurring over the next six days, including the last day of the currently displayed list.

Search Date- Prompts for a date to search. Refer to the date formats listed below for accepted date entry formats.

Search Event- Prompts user to search for an event by keyword. Displays a list of chronologically ordered events matching the search keyword

Add an entry- Prompts user for a new event to add to the calendar. The entry should adhere to the following format: Date, Time, Event name/description. See Date formats and Time formats below for a list of date and time entry formats supported. A message will display indicating if a date is not recognized. If the time is improperly entered, it may cause its data to appear with the event name/description.

Selecting an event from a list will display the following options to act on the event:

Edit date- shows the current date assignment and prompts user for a new date assignment. Enter key saves the new date if it is entered in the correct format (see date formats below)

Edit time- shows the current time assignment for an event (if a time is assigned) and prompts user for a new time to assign to the event. Enter key saves the new time (see time formats below)

Edit event- shows the current event name/description and prompts user for a new event name assignment. Enter saves the new entry description.

Delete event- permanently removes the selected event from your calendar. User is prompted to confirm whether or not to delete the entry as the change is permanent.

Supported entry formats:

Date formats (example January 01, 2024): 01-01 (defaults to the current year when year is not specified), 1-1, 01-01-24, 1/1, 1/1/24, 1/01/24, Jan 01, Jan 1, Jan 1, 2024, January 01, January 1, 2024

Time formats: 1pm, 1:30pm, 1 am, 1:30am

Options Found in The Calendar Menu

Calendar Menu Help

The calendar lets you record events, appointments, and activities to dates. Exit with Z-chord.x

The following menu options are available:

Today- Displays a list of events, ordered by time of day. Events with no time is assignment will appear first.

Week- Displays a list of events for today's date and the following six days. The options 'previous' and 'next' are displayed at the top of list (dots 1, 2, 3, space) and bottom of the list (dots 4, 5, 6, space), respectively. Selecting 'previous week' shows a list of events occurring on the six previous days, including the earliest date on the currently displayed list. Select next week to view events occurring over the next six days, including the last day of the currently displayed list.

Month- Displays a list of events in the month of today's date. Select 'previous' (top of list) or 'next' (bottom of list) to view entries in a different month.

Search Date- Prompts for a date to search. Refer to the date formats listed below for accepted date entry formats.

Search Event- Prompts user to search for an event by keyword. Displays a list of chronologically ordered events matching the search keyword

Add an entry- Prompts user for a date, time, and event to add to the calendar. If a time is not entered, the event time defaults to 'all day'. See 'Date formats' and 'Time formats' below for a list of

date and time entry formats supported. A message will display indicating if a date is not recognized. If the time is improperly entered, it may cause its data to appear with the event name/description.

Gregorian Date Calculator- allows you to calculate the day of the week of a past or future date (see 'date calculator' section below)

Calendar options- toggle calendar preferences or save your calendar to a .txt (explained below)

Selecting an event from a list will display the following options to act on the event:

Edit date- shows the current date assignment and prompts user for a new date assignment. Enter key saves the new date if it is entered in the correct format (see date formats below)

Edit time- shows the current time assignment for an event (if a time is assigned) and prompts user for a new time to assign to the event. Enter key saves the new time (see time formats below). If no time is assigned, the event defaults to 'All day'

Edit event- shows the current event name/description and prompts user for a new event name assignment. Enter saves the new entry description.

Delete event- permanently removes the selected event from your calendar. User is prompted to confirm whether or not to delete the entry as the change is permanent.

Calendar options menu:

Braille input- Select 'on' to create and edit entries in contracted braille. Select 'off' for standard text entries.

Default date- Selecting 'on' pre-fills the date entry field with today's date when adding a new entry to your calendar

Save calendar as text- Select this option to save your calendar as a chronologically line-ordered list of events in plain text. The resulting file saves to your home directory named with the current date in the format YYMMDD-calendar.txt

Supported entry formats:

Date formats (example January 01, 2024): 01-01 (defaults to the current year when year is not specified), 1-1, 01-01-24, 1/1, 1/1/24, 1/01/24, Jan 01, Jan 1, Jan 1, 2024, January 01, January 1, 2024

Time formats: 1pm, 1:30pm, 1 am, 1:30am

Date Calculator

The date calculator allows you to calculate the day of the week of a past or future date in three ways:

1. By entering the number of days (starting from the current date). An optional plus sign (Dots 3-4-6) at the beginning means you want to look forward, while a minus (Dots 3-6) means you w>

2. By entering a specific date either in the form MMDDYY or MMDDYYYY, where MM represents the month, DD the day, and YY or YYYY the year.

3. By entering a number-sign (Dots 3-4-5-6) to hear the day number of the current year.

All numbers should be entered using Computer Braille (that is, dropped numbers with no number-sign).

When finished, press 8 to hear the date.

If the date calculator was not able to understand what you entered, it responds with "invalid input."

Some examples:

1. To find the date 30 days from now, enter 30 or +30.

2. To find the date 500 days ago, enter -500.

3. To learn which day of the week occurred on July 4, 1776, type 07041776.

4. To learn when January 1, 1995 occurred, enter either 010195 or 01011995.

5. To find the number of days since the current year began, enter the number-sign. January 1 is day 1, while December 31 is day 365.

Desktop Navigation

The chords used to navigate the BT Speak Desktop are listed below.

These keystrokes assume that the Mate session manager is being used.

The PC keyboard key combination for each binding is also listed (within parentheses) for those who are familiar with them.

The Super key, used in some of the bindings, might not be familiar to some - it's commonly also known by other names such as the Windows or Command key.

Switching between Desktop and Basic/Traditional mode:

1-2-3-4-5-6-7-Chord: switch to Basic/Traditional mode (Control + Alt + F1)

1-2-3-4-5-6-8-Chord: switch to Desktop mode (Control + Alt + F7)

Opening commonly-used windows:

O-Chord: open the Main (or Start) menu (Alt + F1)

R-Chord: open the Run prompt (Alt + F2)

T-Chord: open a new terminal (Control + Alt + T)

M-Chord: open the menu bar of the current application (F10)

M-7-Chord: open the context menu of the current application (Shift + F10)

M-8-Chord: open the context menu of the current window (Alt + Space)

Moving the screen cursor:

3-Chord: move left one character (Left-Arrow)

6-Chord: move right one character (Right-Arrow)

2-Chord: move left one word (Control + Left-Arrow)

5-Chord: move right one word (Control + Right-Arrow)

1-Chord: move up one line (Up-Arrow)

4-Chord: move down one line (Down-Arrow)

1-3-Chord: move to beginning of the current line (Home)

4-6-Chord: move to end of the current line (End)

1-2-3-Chord: move to the top of the document (Control + Home)

4-5-6-Chord: move to the end of the document (Control + End)

2-3-Chord: move up one screen (Page-Up)

5-6-Chord: move down one screen (Page-Down)

Extending the current text selection (dot 7 added to the corresponding screen cursor movement keys):

3-7-Chord: select the previous character (Shift + Left-Arrow)

6-7-Chord: select the next character (Shift + Right-Arrow)

2-7-Chord: select the previous word (Shift + Control + Left-Arrow)

5-7-Chord: select the next word (Shift + Control + Right-Arrow)

1-7-Chord: select the previous line (Shift + Up-Arrow)

4-7-Chord: select the next line (Shift + Down-Arrow)

1-3-7-Chord: select to the beginning of the current line (Shift + Home)

4-6-7-Chord: select to the end of the current line (Shift + End)

1-2-3-7-Chord: select to the top of the document (Shift + Control + Home)

4-5-6-7-Chord: select to the end of the document (Shift + Control + End)

2-3-7-Chord: select the previous screen (Shift + Page-Up)

5-6-7-Chord: select the next screen (Shift + Page-Down)

Moving between controls, windows, and panels (Tab key bindings):

1-2-Chord: go to the previous control within the current window (Shift + Tab)

4-5-Chord: go to the next control within the current window (Tab)

1-2-7-Chord: go to the previous document within the current application (Shift + Control + Tab)

4-5-7-Chord: go to the next document within the current application (Control + Tab)

1-2-8-Chord: go to the top-level window of the previous application (Shift + Alt + Tab)

4-5-8-Chord: go to the top-level window of the next application (Alt + Tab)

1-2-7-8-Chord: go to the previous panel on the desktop (Shift + Control + Alt + Tab)

4-5-7-8-Chord: go to the next panel on the desktop (Control + Alt + Tab)

Closing windows:

Z-Chord: cancel an action or close a dialog (Escape)

Z-7-Chord: close the current application (Alt + F4)

Z-8-Chord: close the active child window of the current application (Control + W)

Desktop Review

Orca is the screen reader used by the BT Speak to review what's on its desktop.

These bindings assume that Orca's laptop layout is being used and that the Orca Modifier key is Caps Lock.

Please do NOT change these settings.

Reviewing by character:

3-6-Chord: speak the current character

Press twice: speaks the current character phonetically

Press three times: speaks the current character's hexadecimal Unicode value

long press: speaks the character's attributes (color, etc)

3-6-7-Chord: move the review cursor to the previous character

3-6-8-Chord: move the review cursor to the next character

long press: moves the review cursor to the last character of the current line

Reviewing by word:

2-5-Chord: speak the current word

Press twice: spells the current word

Press three times: spells the current word phonetically

2-5-7-Chord: move the review cursor to the previous word

long press: moves the review cursor to the word above the current word

2-5-8-Chord: move the review cursor to the next word

long press: moves the review cursor to the word below the current word

Reviewing by line:

1-4-Chord: speak the current line

Press twice: spells the current line

Press three times: spells the current line phonetically

long press: speaks the currently selected text or item(s)

1-4-7-Chord: move the review cursor to the previous line

Long press: moves the review cursor to the first line

1-4-8-Chord: move the review cursor to the next line

Long press: moves the review cursor to the last line

Where Am I:

1-5-6-7-Chord (wh): speak basic Where Am I information

Press twice: speaks detailed Where Am I information

1-5-6-8-Chord (wh): speak the title bar

Press twice: speaks the status bar

1-5-6-7-8-Chord (wh): describe the current item or widget

Continuous reading:

1-2-4-5-6-Chord (er): say below - speak the rest of the text

Press twice: reviews the current dialog or window

Finding text:

F-Chord: open Orca's find dialog - prompts for new search text

F-7-Chord: find the previous occurrence of the current search text

F-8-Chord: find the next occurrence of the current search text

Changing Orca settings:

O-7-Chord: open the general Orca preferences dialog

O-8-Chord: open the Orca preferences dialog for the focused application

Pointer (mouse) emulation:

P-Chord: route the pointer to the current item

P-7-Chord: perform a left mouse click on the current item

P-8-Chord: perform a right mouse click on the current item

P-7-8-Chord: move the focus into or away from the current mouse-over (web only)

Current time and date:

T-7-Chord: speak the current time

Press twice: speaks the current date

Toggling review settings (dots 7 and 8 added to easy-to-remember letters):

F-7-8-Chord: toggle flat review mode on/off

N-7-8-Chord: toggle the navigation mode between browse and focus

Press twice: enables sticky focus mode

Press three times: enables sticky browse mode

S-7-8-Chord: toggle structural navigation mode on/off

T-7-8-Chord: toggle the table reading mode between cell and row

V-7-8-Chord: toggle the verbosity between brief and full