

How to Save any screen, to review the screen image now or later

<i>Device Type</i>	<i>Keyboard keys OR button combo</i>	<i>Screen image file is stored in folder</i>
Windows	Win+PRTSCR	Pictures/Screenshots
Macintosh	Shift+Command+3	Desktop
Android	Power+Volume Up	Internal storage/ DCIM/Screenshots
iOS	Home+Volume Down or Power+Volume Down	Photos

Windows Narrator and text-to-speech

A presentation by
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for PATACS+OPCUG
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AGENDA

- What is Windows Narrator?
- Why might Narrator be useful to you?
- Narrator voice quality is good – you will hear samples
- Text-to-speech using other operating systems
- Voicemail greetings created using Narrator
- Create your own text-to-speech recordings
- Zero-cost Tones and a Windows application you can download

What is Windows Narrator?

Windows Narrator is a Text-to-speech feature

- **Text-to-speech** means: you type text and the computer reads it aloud.
- Windows Narrator was introduced in February 2000 and has become easy to understand in English.
- Male and female voices are available.
- Narrator is an option for reading Windows Operating System text and can be used in **Microsoft Word** to read text.

Windows Narrator is a Text-to-speech feature

- While I was writing my March 2025 **Custom Text Tones for your Smartphone** presentation, I realized my own years of experience as an announcer and broadcaster made me comfortable recording my own voice.
- I know not everyone has a similar background and may not feel comfortable recording their voice.
- I created a simple Visual Basic script (VBscript) that you can download and use for recording Narrator text-to-speech.

Why might Narrator be useful?

The Sightless and Sight-impaired

- Microsoft clearly had this market in mind when Narrator was created.
- The American Federation for the Blind provides a lot of info about using Narrator on their web site.
- www.afb.org

A substitute voice

- If you are not happy using a microphone, or not happy with your voice or your enunciation, then Narrator is a useful alternative.
- With my VBscript, you can make Windows Narrator recordings for voicemail greetings and for ringtones and text tones.
- You can even create a complete meeting presentation with Narrator narration for each slide. So you can share your knowledge without speaking in front of an audience.

Narrator Audio Samples

Nicknames and full names

- Narrator speed range is 10 to -10
- These were recorded with speed value -3

*Click to hear in your web browser
text-to-speech nicknames and full
names*

A voicemail greeting sample

- TEXT: Hi there. My number is not disconnected. The three tones convince robocallers not to call me again. You can leave a message after the beep. Thanks!
- Also recorded at speed setting -3.

*Click to hear in your Web browser
a voicemail greeting example.*

Narrator Speed comparison

- This sample was recorded at -10, the slowest speed

Click to hear in your Web browser text-to-speech at the lowest speed

- This sample was recorded at +10, the highest speed

Click to hear in your Web browser text-to-speech at the highest speed

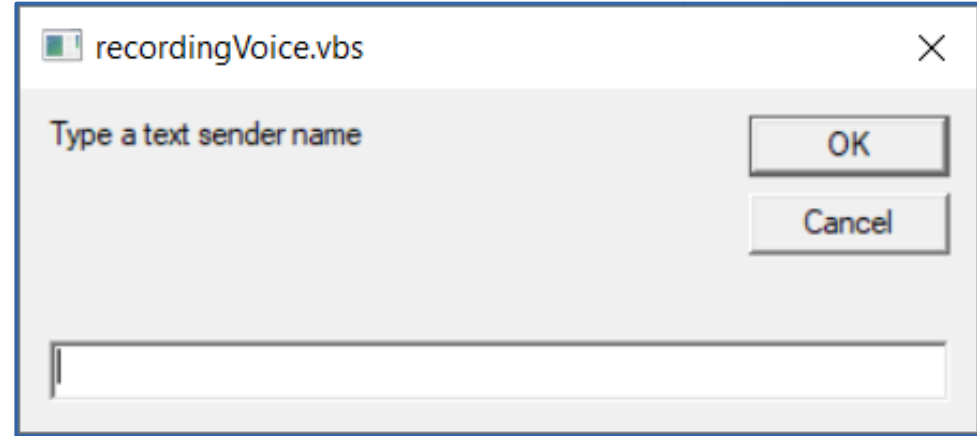
Text-to-Speech for other operating systems

- Google tells me Macintosh computers have a text to speech feature named **Personal Voice**. That is also available on iPhones using iOS 18.
- Any Windows, Mac or Linux computer with the **Python 3 programming language** installed can then install and use the **Piper text-to-speech application**.
- My 2020 Toyota Prius Prime LE gives me the option for the car to speak aloud each incoming text message to me, using its own text-to-speech voice.

Create your own Narrator text-to-speech recordings using a Windows Visual Basic script

Use my Visual Basic script

- The file name is **recordingVoice.vbs**
- 1. The script opens a dialog box including a text entry field and OK and Cancel buttons.
- 2. Click the **Cancel button** to stop the Visual Basic script.
- 3. In the text entry field, type what you want Narrator to say. Then click the **OK button**.
- Your text is spoken aloud by Narrator, and then spoken into a MP3 file. Then the dialog window reappears.

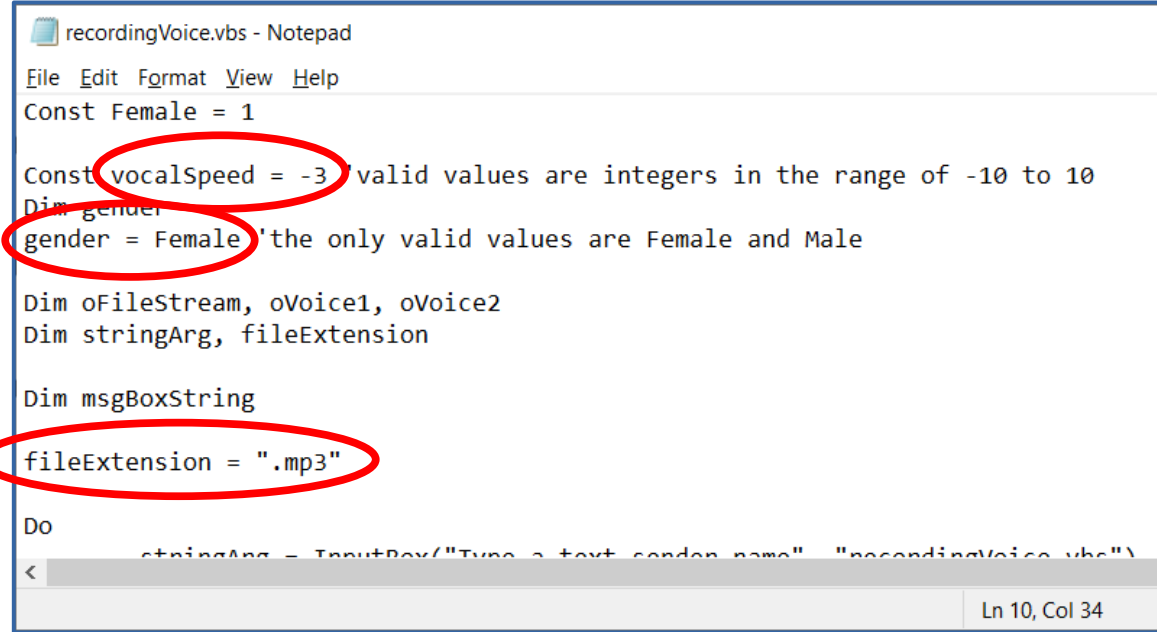


Use my Visual Basic Script

- The sound recording file name is the same text that you typed in the text entry field.
- This script was first intended for recording ringtones and text tones.
- The text entry field is limited to about 1,000 characters.
- You can create longer recordings, but the file names will be daunting.
- Each MP3 file is stored in the same folder in which you stored recordingVoice.vbs.

Adjust my Visual Basic script

- Line 6: set voice speed
- Line 8: set Male or Female
- Line 15: set audio file extension
- As far as I know, only .mp3 and .wav are valid.
- In Notepad, after making changes, pull down the File menu and choose **Save**.



```
recordingVoice.vbs - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
Const Female = 1

Const vocalSpeed = -3 'valid values are integers in the range of -10 to 10
Dim gender
gender = Female 'the only valid values are Female and Male

Dim oFileStream, oVoice1, oVoice2
Dim stringArg, fileExtension

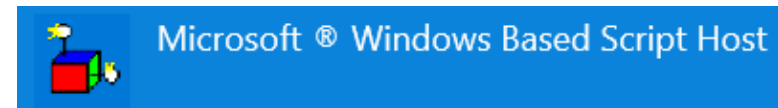
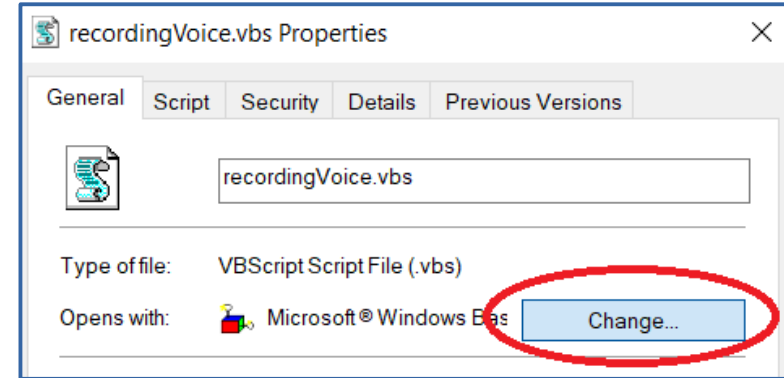
Dim msgBoxString

fileExtension = ".mp3"

Do
    stringArg = InputBox("Type a text gender name", "recordingVoice.vbs")
Ln 10, Col 34
```

After adjustment

- After editing the VBscript with Windows 11 Notepad, when I double-clicked the VBscript, the VBscript did not execute. Instead it opened again in Notepad.
- If that happens, then right-click and open **Properties** for the VBscript.
- In Properties, click the **Change button** (circled). A window opens listing applications.
- Select **Microsoft Windows Based Script Host** as the application for opening VBscript files. The window closes.
- Click OK at the bottom right of the Properties box.



Downloads

Download voicemail greetings made with Windows Narrator Voices

- Both voice greetings files, also known as Outgoing Message (OGM), include the three Special Information Tones (SIT) at the beginning to convince robocall systems not to call you again.
- **Female** voice audio file name:
Generic greeting with female voice and 3 tones.MP3
Download URL: tinyurl.com/y4hjmka7
- **Male** voice audio file name:
Generic greeting with male voice and 3 tones.MP3
Download URL: tinyurl.com/5fnydw2h

How to Install Voicemail Greetings

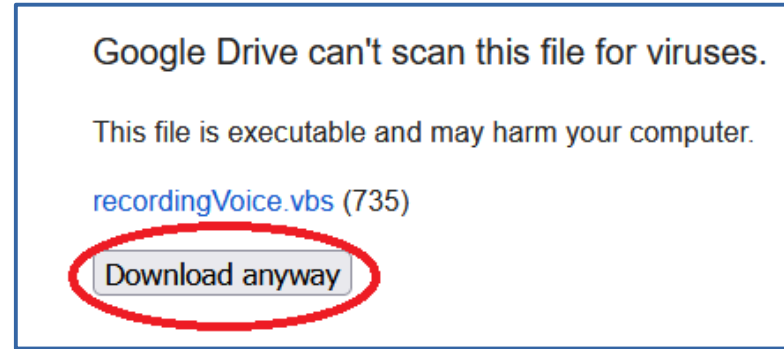
- See smartphone instructions in my October 2021 **Complete Robocall Defense** presentation for APCUG on YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/2c4d3sxy>
- These greetings can also be installed on land line answering systems.
- If your answering system is local, then read the answering system manual to figure out installation.
- If your answering system is a land line carrier, then see instructions on the carrier's web site.

Download a folder containing nickname tones

- The folder includes both MP3 and M4R files.
- All spoken by Narrator female voice
- The nicknames: **Grandpa, Granddad, Grandfather, Poppop, Grandma, Grandmother**
- The download is a ZIP file with no password required
- Inside the downloaded Nickname Tones.Zip file is a folder. The audio files are inside that folder.
- Download URL: <https://tinyurl.com/3a9muhfs>

Download recordingVoice.vbs

- When you use the URL, Google shows this message.
- Click the **Download Anyway** button (circled).
- The file appears in your Downloads folder.
- You can have your antivirus program scan the file.
- I suggest copying recordingVoice.vbs to your Desktop.
- Download URL: <https://tinyurl.com/w74prz68>



THE END