

Making The Computer Easier to Access for Students with Disabilities

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MAC OSX

Sticky Keys

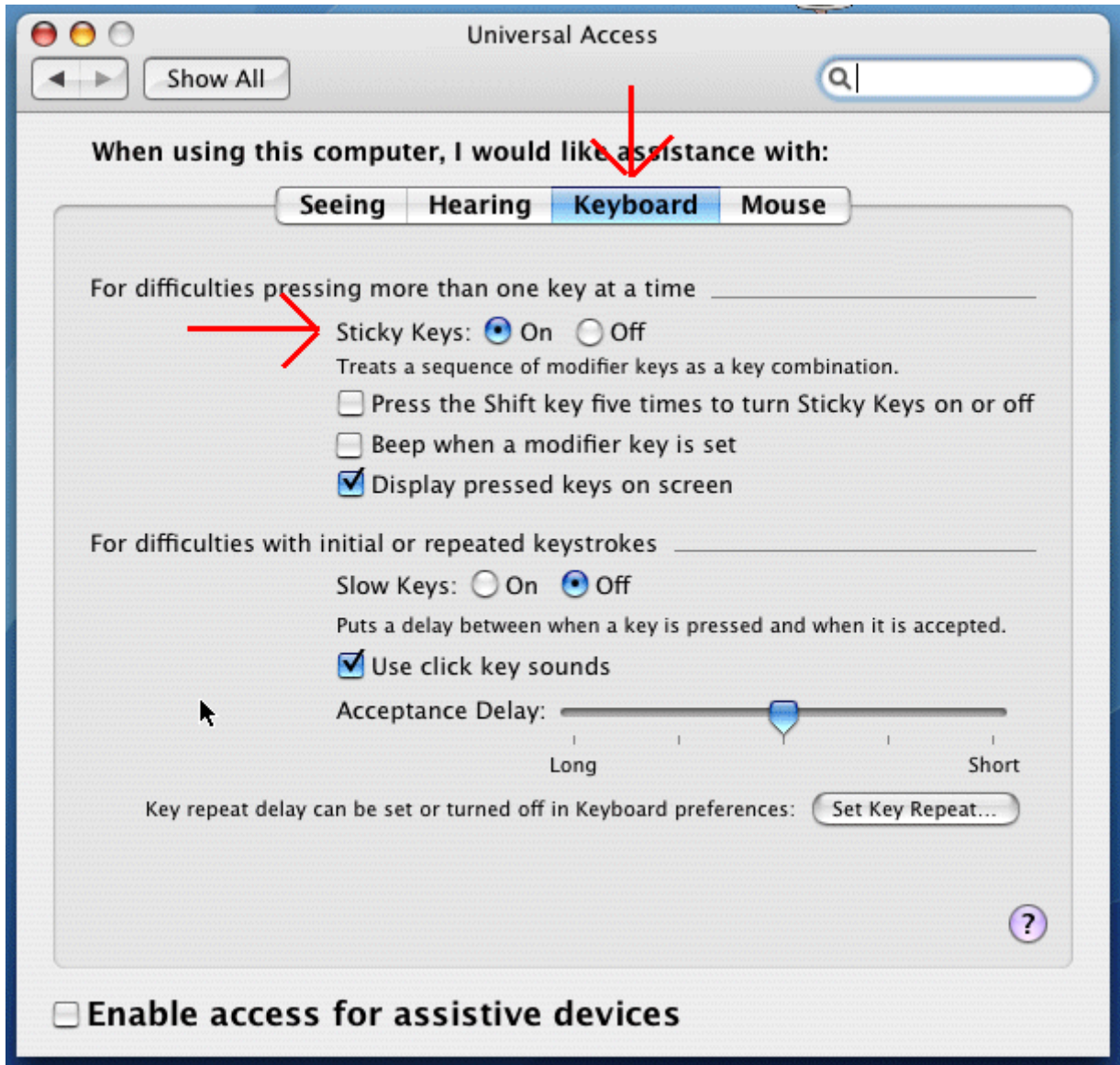
Some students may be unable to press two keys at the same time (such as Shift+letter for capitals, or Control +letter for shortcuts such as copy/paste). The accessibility option Sticky Keys allows the user to press the keys in succession instead of at the same time. This means even one-handed typists can be effective when using the keyboard.



To turn on, go to System Preferences , and select Universal Access.



Click on the Keyboard tab: You will see the options for Sticky Keys:



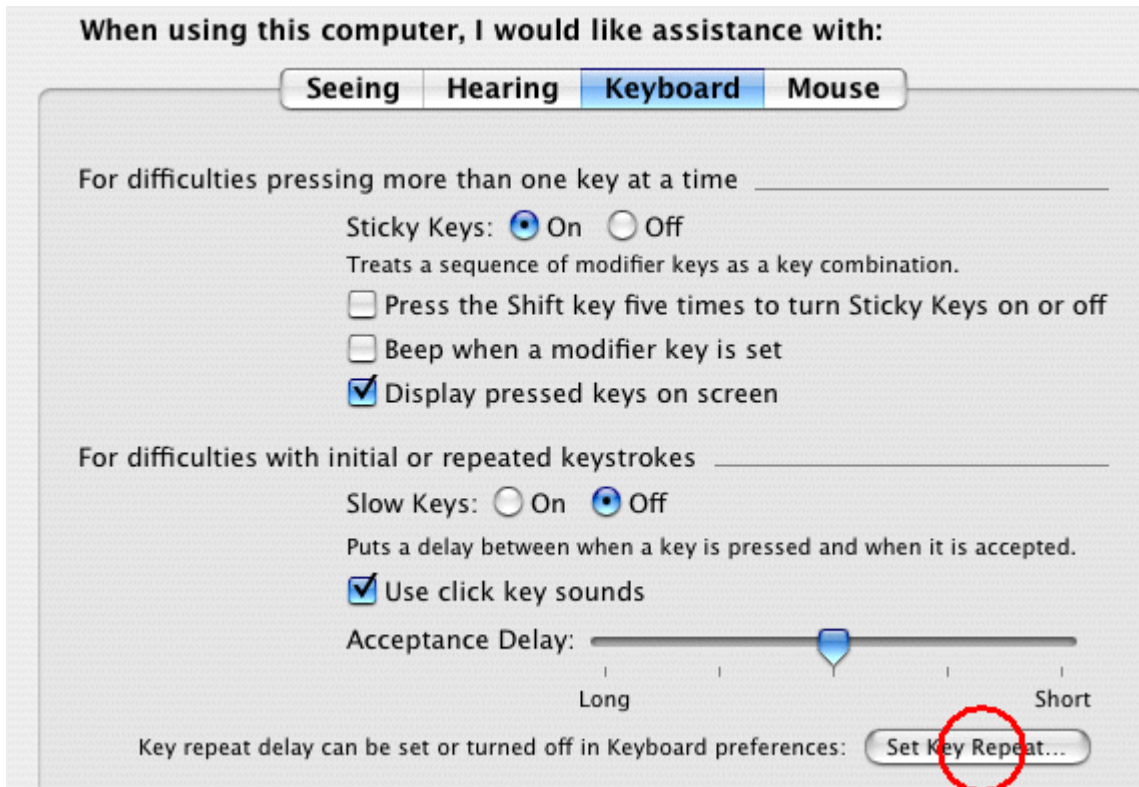
I usually clear the box *Beep when a modifier key is set...* otherwise the computer beeps every time you press Control Shift, Alt etc.

Filter Keys:

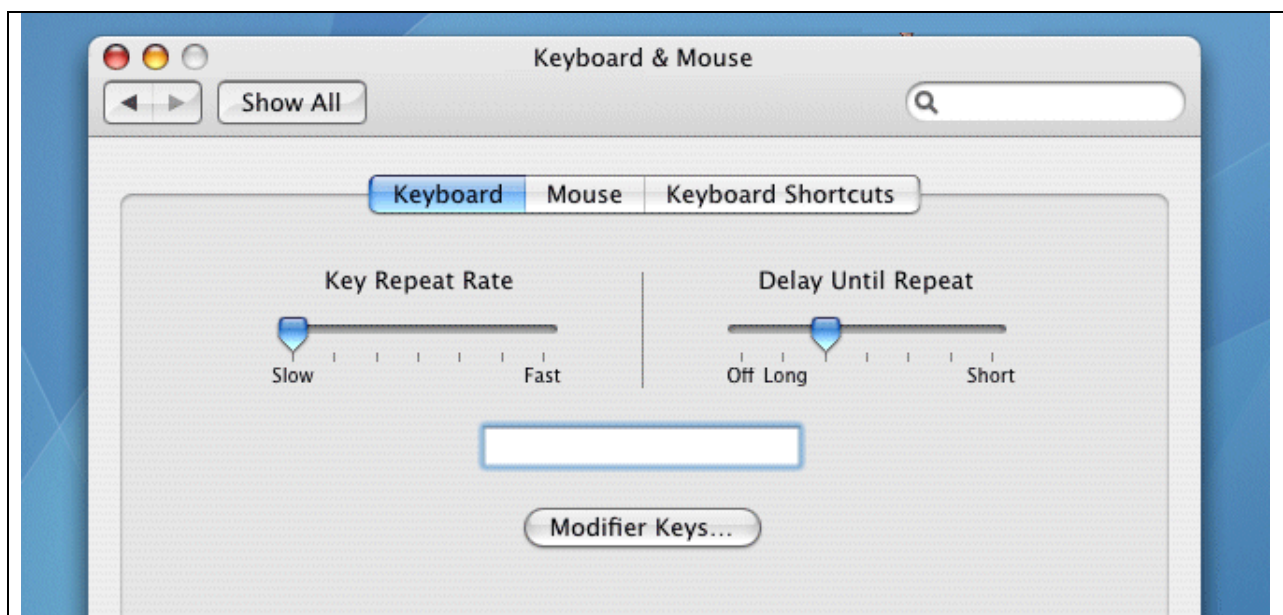
For some students, who have coordination difficulties, tapping the keys on the keyboard can cause problems because they hold the key down for too long, causing repeated letters to appear on the screen. This can be turned off so that the student can be successful even when they are 'heavy handed'



To turn on, go to System Preferences, and select Universal Access. Click on the Keyboard Tab. You should see this screen:



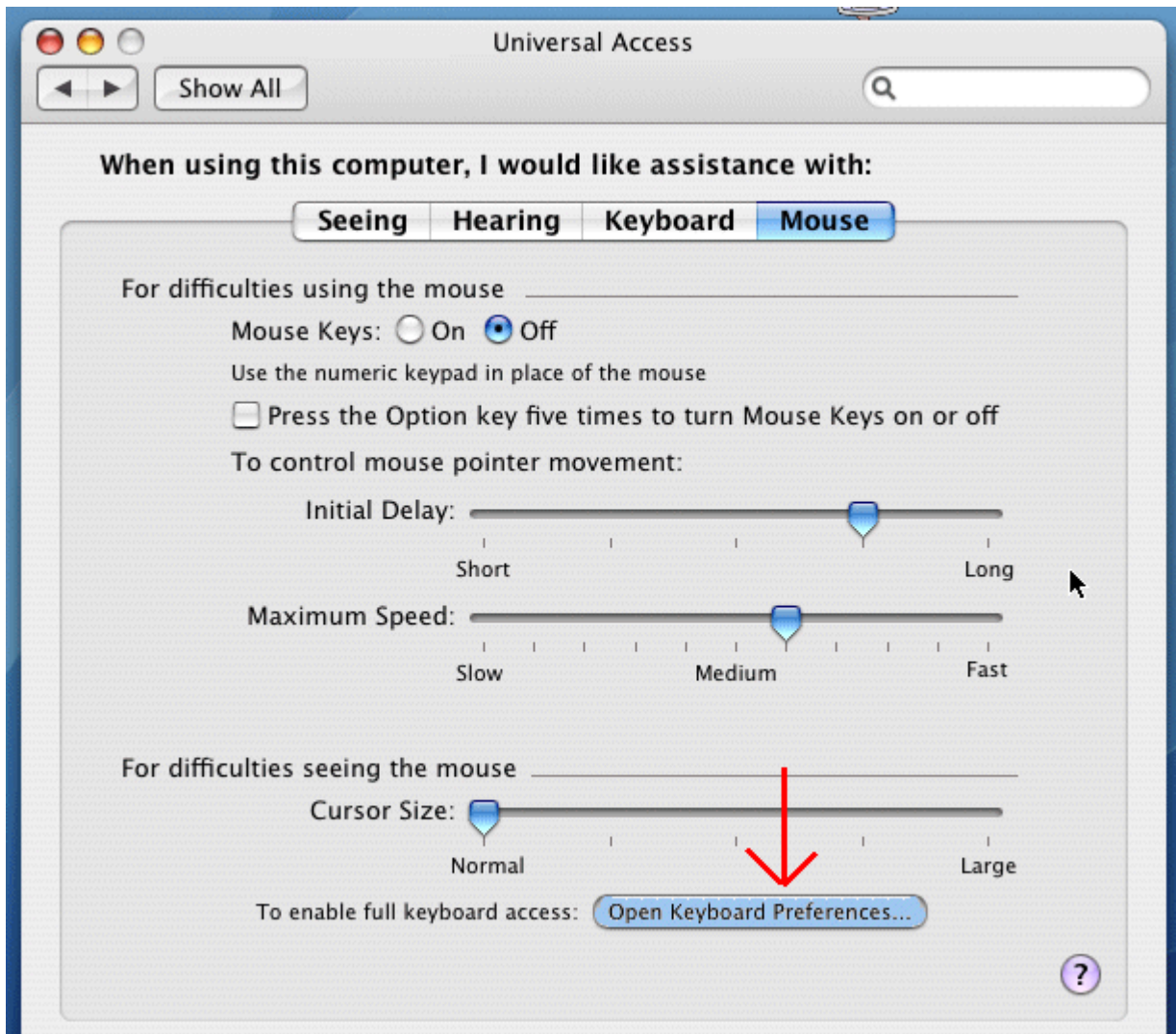
Click on Set Key Repeat

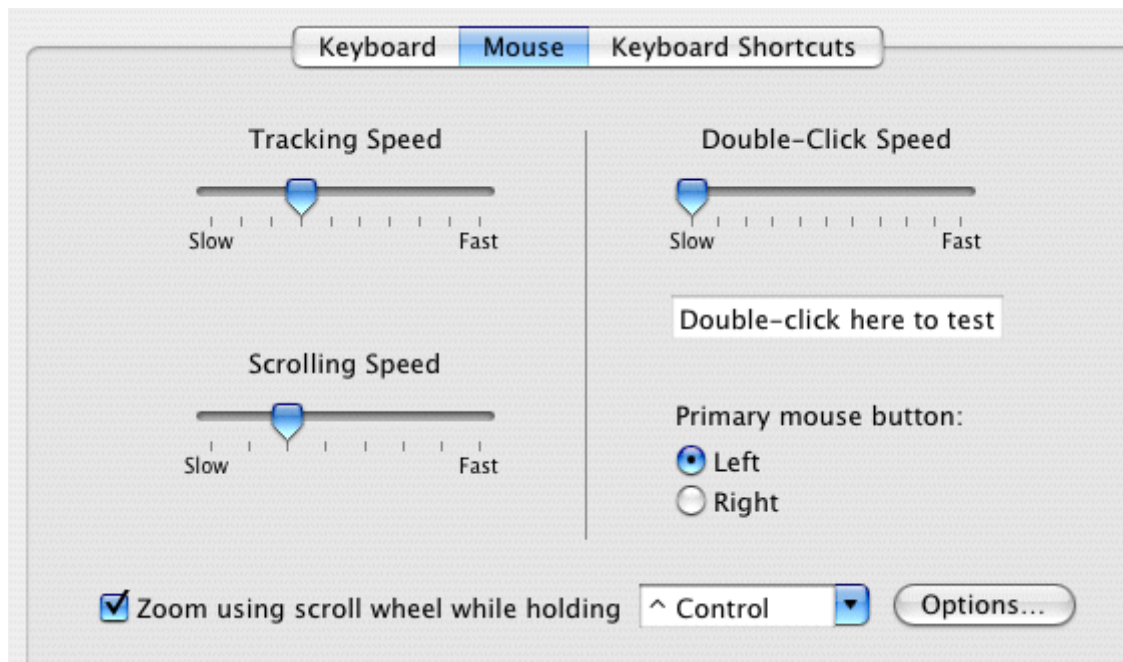


Although you cannot stop the key repeating as you can in Windows, you can slow it down by changing the Key Repeat Rate, and the Delay until Repeat

Double-Click

The ability to double-click to open an item or activate a program can be difficult for people with fine-motor coordination difficulties, However it is possible to set this so that the two clicks can be spaced apart, As before, Click on System Preference, Universal Access, This time select the mouse tab, and click Open Keyboard Preferences:





You can make changes to the mouse tracking speed and to the Double-Click speed, Try it out until you get the speed you want. Now you can click twice slowly to select items