How to turn On or Off Screen Reader ORCA on Linux Desktop enabled by mistype or a kid smash on the keyboard

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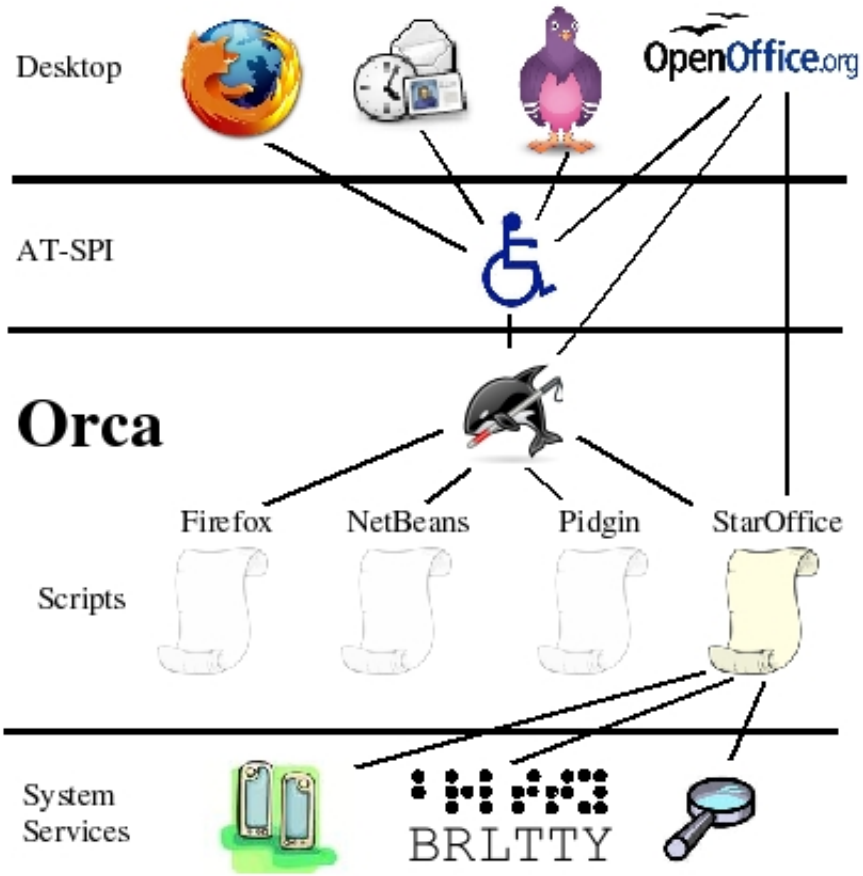

For those who type quite fast and use Microsoft Windows, its quite common to start the annoying **NARRATOR (Windows Speaking Program)** by accidently due to mistyping pressing together **Windows key + Control + Enter.**
This enables **Narrator** to read stuff on the screen here and there and to turn it off you just have to either Lock the Windows Computer and press again **Windows key + Control + Enter to TURN OFF NARRATOR.**

Linux does not have a Narrator but have also embedded Eye impairment **Assistive Technology** called **ORCA.**

Orca works with applications and toolkits that support the Assistive Technology Service Provider Interface (AT-SPI), which is the primary assistive technology infrastructure for Linux and Solaris. Applications and toolkits supporting the AT-SPI include the GNOME Gtk+ toolkit, the Java platform's Swing toolkit, LibreOffice, Gecko, and WebKitGtk. AT-SPI support for the KDE Qt toolkit is being pursued.

ORCA is nowadays installed and integrated into many if not most Linux distributions out there. **Enabling ORCA** is not such a common thing on **Linux,**so today I got quite puzzled once I came back to the computer, leaving the 3.7 months kid near the Keyboard and finding out that I've enabled aloud screen reader that is reading what is every **Window / Menu / Program** or object I select with the mouse on my ***Linux MATE Desktop*** home **GUI environment** running on top of ***Debian Linux***.

After a quick look up in Google on what exactly is the Linux program that is reading my screen I came across **ORCA**, which seem to be visible also as running in my process list:

```
hipo@jeremiah:~/Downloads$ ps -ef|grep -i orca
hipo     1068376    7960 17 18:48 tty2     00:00:01 orca
```

After a quick check online I found out that,

To start (Turn On) Orca Screen Reader using the keyboard:

Windows logo button (Super Key) key + Alt + S

Of course, it is possible to shut off the annoying reader by simply killing it with:

```
# kill -9 orca
```

Ubuntu users, could start Orca using a mouse and keyboard:

Open the **Activities** overview and start typing **Accessibility**.

Click **Accessibility** *to open the panel.*

Select the**z** to open it.

Switch the **Screen Reader** switch to on.

Problem solved now **Screen Reader on Linux** is disabled, maybe it is time to disable Orca key press ability to prevent the kid from enabling it again since I don't need it actively thanksfully. with

```
xmodmap -e 'keycode ='
```

or simply removing the orca package with apt:

```
# apt remove orca
```