

tobii dynamox

Communicator 5

An AAC software package for efficient communication



Power to be You

The Tobii Dynavox Communicator 5 software package is designed with one clear goal – helping individuals with communication disabilities communicate more efficiently. It converts text and symbols into clear speech, and offers tools for computer access, long distance communication, environmental control and more.



While being specifically designed for the Tobii Dynavox I-Series+, Communicator 5 works on Microsoft® Windows computers running Windows 7 or newer, such as the Microsoft Surface.

More efficient communication for all

Communicator 5 comes with language content designed to match various AAC needs, from emerging communication to literate adults. The content can be further customized for specific individuals through easy-to-use editing tools.

The modern user interface, improved workflows and smart functions enable the user to communicate quicker than before. The setup guide, quick menu, and improved editing are only some of the functions that make it easier for caregivers, SLPs, Special Education teachers, family members or anyone else that help the user throughout the day, to keep the user's pagesets up to date.

While being specifically designed for the Tobii Dynavox I-Series+, Communicator works on Microsoft® Windows computers running Windows 7 or newer, including Windows 10.

Up and running in minutes

With the built-in setup guide, getting started communicating is simple. Select one of the predefined user levels, a voice and a desired input method, then Communicator creates a home page for the user, pre-populated with industry best practice techniques, clinical, robust, and research-based content as well as relevant page sets.

Communicator 5 also allows for high levels of personalization and growth, both in terms of content and appearance. Add, remove or edit existing page sets to perfectly match the user's skills and desires. You can also change the background color of the homepage to better suit your personality. And, whenever your situation or preferences change, modifying your settings is easy.

More than face-to-face communication

Having access to e-mail and messaging enhances the independence and quality of life for many AAC users. Use Communicator to engage in private and personal conversations, sometimes even without the assistance of a caregiver.

Environmental control

With Communicator 5, you can program and control IR-enabled devices in your environment, such as your TV, DVD player and toys. You can also adjust bed positions, open doors, turn lights on or off and more.

Long distance communication and social media

Communicate long distance by using ready-made pages and functions for online chat, e-mail and telephone text messages (SMS). You can even make a phone call using one of Communicator 5's synthetic voices¹. Want to keep friends and family in the loop? Update your social media status with the built-in Facebook² page set!

Access to your Windows computer

Communicator 5 can give you access to the functionality over Windows applications that are not part of Communicator itself. This is done via the Communicator Windows keyboard and Tobii Dynavox Gaze Interaction Software.

Windows keyboard

Communicator's on-screen keyboards are designed to work side by side with Gaze Selection and Mouse Emulation, providing unparalleled Windows access.

Texts that you write using the on-screen keyboard, and even keystroke-combinations, can be sent to an open Windows application. This means that you can use the same keyboard layout in Communicator as well as in Windows applications, like Microsoft Word and Excel.

Gaze Interaction Software - Mouse emulation and Gaze Selection

With a supported eye tracker like the one in the Tobii Dynavox I-Series+, mouse emulation replaces the traditional mouse cursor with the user's gaze. Tobii Dynavox Gaze Selection software makes it possible to control your desktop, or any other application. Gaze Selection gives you relaxed computer access and the ability to hit small targets for full computer access.

Mouse emulation for switch users

Switch-scan solutions can be set up in a variety of ways using one or two switches. As a switch user, the mouse emulation features enable you to hit any clickable element and to control the standard Windows environment.

Understandable communication for symbol users

For those unable to read or write, Communicator 5 lets you use symbols or pictures to communicate. With the built-in grammar functions, symbol users can conjugate verbs and adjectives, thereby aiding language learning.

Included are pages from the Sono Suite and over 15,000 communication SymbolStix symbols that enable people of all ages to communicate more easily.

Communicator 5 is also delivered with a library of PCS symbols containing PCS Classic, PCS High Contrast, and PCS Thin Line. Additionally you can import your own photos and pictures from the computer or use the built in camera to take snapshots.

“It is almost as quick as having a full conversation.”

Steve Burns, ALS.



Literate users will benefit from the built-in dictionary, frequency-based word prediction, and the quick access to commonly used expressions and phrases. With the “dwell-free” keyboard, literate eye gaze users could potentially speed up communication.



The "Quick Menu" gives caregivers access to the most commonly used settings and functions in Communicator 5. On the bottom right you can see the new "dwell-free" keyboard in action.

Convenient communication through text

Communicator 5 comes with high quality voices from Acapela. When you click on the message window or speech button, a clear voice, specific to your language, age, and gender, speaks.³ Based on your preferences, you can even speak-as-you-type.

Speed and accuracy for literate users

Onscreen-keyboards now have one consistent layout regardless of which page set you are in. Choose from several keyboard layouts or make your own.

Feedback sounds and separate dwell times

The on-screen-keyboards incorporate auditory feedback and the possibility to customize the dwell time for keyboard allowing you to type faster, or slower, should you want to.

Functions that help literate users

Literate users will benefit from the built-in dictionary, frequency-based word prediction, as well as access to the Windows desktop and applications. With "My Phrases" you quickly access commonly used expressions and phrases.

Potential for increased typing speeds

With the "dwell-free typing"⁴ keyboard, literate users who use gaze interaction do not have to click on individual letters in order to type them. Instead, you simply let your gaze sweep over the letters that form the words you want to write, potentially speeding up communication.

Predict Phrases Based on Abbreviations

Communicator 5 can now present predicted phrases when you input the first letter of each word in a phrase. For example, if you have the phrase, "It was nice talking to you." in your phrase list, it will appear on your suggested phrases buttons if you type "iw...".

Supports all input methods

Communicator can be used with gaze interaction, switches, touch and all widely used alternative pointing devices. If your personal needs change over the day, it is easy to switch between input methods, for example, using touch input in the morning and gaze interaction in the afternoon.

Ideal for single and multiple users

Communicator 5 has support for an unlimited number of user profiles on the same device, which makes it ideal for schools, assessment centers and care facilities where several users might share the same system.

Change settings over the course of the day

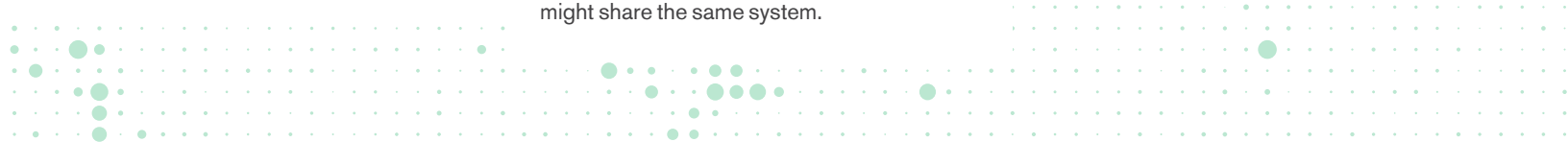
Communicator 5 is also ideal for single users who might want to have different settings depending on the time of day – perhaps you want one setting in the morning when you're more alert, and a different one in the afternoon when you are becoming tired.

Import and export settings

Communicator 5 features fast import or export of user settings and data. This makes it a great tool for moving user profiles between computers and dedicated speech generating devices.

Find and download page sets

Communicator 5 is compatible with Communicator 4 files, so you can reuse content that might already exist. Tap into the free community of myTobiiDynavox.com and see what page sets and resources other parents, special education teachers and SLPs have already created.



Key features of Communicator 5

Tobii Dynavox Communicator 5 is packed with new and improved features to make communication more efficient.



Quicker typing speeds for eye gaze users

Dwell-free typing lets individuals who use eye gaze communicate much more efficiently than ever before.

Other functions in Communicator 5 that enhance the rate of communication are:

- Word prediction by SwiftKey®
- Speech history where you can access previously written texts
- Preloaded commonly used phrases that help speed up casual conversations. The quick phrases can also be edited to fit your personal style and use of language
- Improved, customizable, keyboards



Improved on-screen keyboards

The on-screen keyboards in Communicator 5 now have one consistent layout regardless of which page set you are using. There are several keyboard layouts to choose from, and you can even make your own.

Using one keyboard that you are comfortable with will help you type more efficiently.

- One universal Communicator keyboard across all page sets makes it easier for the user
- Set separate dwell times for the keyboards than for other parts of Communicator 5, so you can adjust the typing speed to your preferences
- Optional auditory feedback for key presses, which is particularly helpful for people with visual difficulties
- There are several keyboard layouts to choose from (qwertz, abc, scan, pointer)
- Three button sizes available
- Possibility to create a personalized keyboard



Improved Edit Button tool for quick changes

The improved "Edit Button tool" allows you to easily make simple changes to texts, images and links. In the full-fledged edit mode, caregivers have access to all the advanced tools for creating and modifying entire page sets.



Instant access to most commonly used functions via the Quick Menu

Communicator 5 is equipped with the "Quick Menu". This menu gives the caregiver access to the most commonly used settings, operations and functions in Communicator 5, such as:

- Edit page sets
- Edit a button's text, image, sound and links
- Caregiver settings such as input method, keyboard and language settings as well as system settings
- Easy access to the homepage

There are different ways to access the Quick Menu, but if you are using a Tobii Dynavox I-Series+ device, just pull up the quick menu by pressing one of the dedicated function buttons on the side of the device. This way, you will always find the home screen – and never be lost.



Contemporary look

Completely redesigned, Communicator 5 now has a contemporary flat design that makes it easier to navigate and use.

- Buttons and menus are found in the same location in the different views and page sets, for easier learning and efficiency
- Personalize the look and feel of the user interface by changing color schemes, grid, button sizes and more



Help to get started

Getting started with Communicator has never been easier, thanks to the setup guide. When you add a new user, you are taken through a setup process that creates the basic content for one of three predefined levels – emerging, symbol or text user.

Once the initial setup is done, Communicator will create a homepage that appears upon start up with content that is relevant to the user level chosen⁵

You can now begin using Communicator 5, or customize the system further.



Free contents online

Tobii Dynavox Communicator is now connected to the myTobiiDynavox.com community. Here, you can find, share and download page sets created by others, access user manuals, video tutorials, other resources that help you use Communicator 5 to the fullest, and much more!



Free form button shapes

When you create visual scenes, you often want to make buttons with custom shapes in order to make them more intuitive and simpler to use. Simply use the polygon tool to draw the desired shape around the symbol or image that you want to turn into a button.



Support for Microsoft® Windows 10

Communicator 5 is fully compatible with Windows 10, which is optimized for touch input. In addition, caregivers no longer need a peripheral keyboard and mouse to use the software, not even for the more advanced settings. This makes it very easy to keep the user's language up-to-date. If you are at the zoo and need to add a symbol for a zebra, you can easily do so by tapping on the screen of the device.⁶

Having a system that is optimized for touch with bigger buttons makes it easier for the user to press those buttons with their fingers. Bigger buttons are also easier to accurately hit for those who use gaze interaction as their input method.

Communicator 5 is backwards compatible with Communicator 4, so content that has been made and used with that version can easily be imported.



Quick system status via Status Bar

With the Status Bar, you instantly get basic information about the system status, like Wi-Fi connection, battery level, volume level and track status for Tobii Dynavox devices that use gaze interaction. The track status indicates whether the user needs repositioning or if a recalibration is desirable.



Improved e-mail setup and use

Configuring your e-mail has been significantly improved. Through only a few settings you will be able to setup your e-mail account in minutes.

With the brand new search functionality and improved handling of attachments and contacts, using e-mail has become much easier.



Built-in applications

Built in applications and page sets

- E-mail
- Facebook²
- Text Messages⁷
- Telephony⁷
- Music player
- Calendar
- Picture viewer
- Calculator
- Skype™ page set⁸
- IR remote control
- Camera⁹

For more information

Please visit www.tobiidynavox.com/communicator5 to find out more about Tobii Dynavox Communicator 5 and how it can help you communicate more effectively and efficiently. You can also download a free 30 day trial by logging in to www.mytobiidynavox.com

Choosing between Emerging, Symbol and Text Communication

Choose the level you believe to be most appropriate for the user, then mix and match as you wish between all page sets¹⁰. Regardless of the level you chose initially, elements from the various levels can very easily be used together, by adding or removing individual page sets to be accessible from the user's home page.

Emerging Communication

You might think of an emerging user as someone who is just starting with AAC and does not yet have the ability to efficiently use symbol or written language. The user is often in need of training on how to access an AAC device and has a limited or no understanding that symbols, pictures and words represent ideas. An emerging communicator does not have a reliable method of expressive communication through symbolic language.

The Emerging Communication level in Communicator 5 contains activities, visual scenes and simple communication page sets.

Symbol Communication

A symbol communicator has a basic understanding of symbols as a means of communicating and is starting to understand more abstract picture symbols. Some users are able to talk about certain topics and/or able to communicate in certain settings or activities. Other symbol communicators are able to use advanced symbol language vocabularies, which allow them to construct complex utterances combining core and fringe words.

The Symbol Communication level in Communicator 5 contains an extensive selection of pre-made grid-based symbol communication page sets. Some of them have added functionality such as telephony, e-mail and music player.

Text Communication

The text communication level is for individuals who are literate, and write their messages by means of an on-screen keyboard. The text communication level has features that allow the user to communicate efficiently through rate enhancement techniques such as word and phrase prediction.

In addition, the Text Communication level has a rich set of functionalities for long-distance communication such as e-mail and telephony.

System requirements

Tobii Dynavox Communicator 5 runs on communication devices and computers from other vendors than Tobii Dynavox, but it has been designed to specifically work with the Tobii Dynavox I-Series and I-Series+ devices.

Component	Requirement
Computer	2 gigahertz (GHz) or faster x86- or x64-bit processor (compatible with all I-Series devices)
Memory (RAM)	2.0 GB RAM
Hard Disk	3.0 GB available
Display	800 x 600 or higher resolution, 1020 x 786 is recommended
Operating system	Communicator 5 runs on 32-bit and 64-bit versions of Microsoft operating systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Windows 7 (32-bit or 64-bit)▪ Windows 8 (32-bit or 64-bit)▪ Windows 8.1 (32-bit or 64-bit)▪ Windows 10 (32-bit or 64-bit)
Browser	Mozilla Firefox 31 or newer is recommended
.NET version	4.5
Supported eye trackers	Tobii Dynavox PCEye Go, I-Series and I-Series+
Additional requirements and considerations	Connection to internet is necessary for license activation.

You can install Communicator 5 on a speech-generating device or computer already running Communicator 4, as long as the system requirements are met.

1. *You need a SIM card from a GSM phone service provider, purchased separately, and depending on your hardware configuration you may need extra accessories. Please visit the support pages on www.tobiidynavox.com for a list of compatible phones.
2. Please note that not all Facebook functionality is available from within Communicator 5. From Communicator 5 you can read and post to your Facebook newsfeed.
3. Children's voices are currently available in US English, UK English, German and American Spanish.
4. Compared to traditional dwell typing, typing speeds can be increased by 50-100 percent. Research shows that typing speeds of 20 words per minute can be achieved [Source: CHI, '09 Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems Pages 357-360] and some of our testers have even been able to reach typing speeds up to 30 words per minute.
5. Much of the content comes from the Tobii Dynavox Sono Suite, which used to be sold separately, but now comes bundled with Tobii Dynavox Communicator 5. The availability of Sono Suite products vary from language to language. For an overview of which products see this page www.tobiidynavox.com/communicator5.
6. In order to do this, the device you are running on must have a touch screen, something that the Tobii Dynavox I-Series and I-Series+ have. (I-Series is Win7)
7. Requires I-Series+ and a supported cell phone
8. You will need the Skype software installed on your device and you will dock the Skype software next to the Skype page set
9. Requires compatible camera or an I-Series+ device
10. The descriptions below are brief introductions, and meant as guiding principles. Clinical assessment and expertise is advised in order to configure the communication device to match an individual's needs. See Tobii Dynavox's web pages for more training and AAC implementation support.



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We believe that everyone has the right to live their life to the fullest. Wanting to help people do just that, we provide them with the tools to communicate, become independent and do what they once were able to do or never thought possible.

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