Using Text to Speech on MacBooks

This next section is taken from Mac Help

# Text to Speech preferences

Use Text to Speech preferences to have your Mac speak the text in dialogs and alert messages and notify you when an app needs you to perform an action.

To open Text to Speech preferences, choose Apple menu > System Preferences, click Dictation & Speech, then click Text to Speech.

Open the Text to Speech pane for me

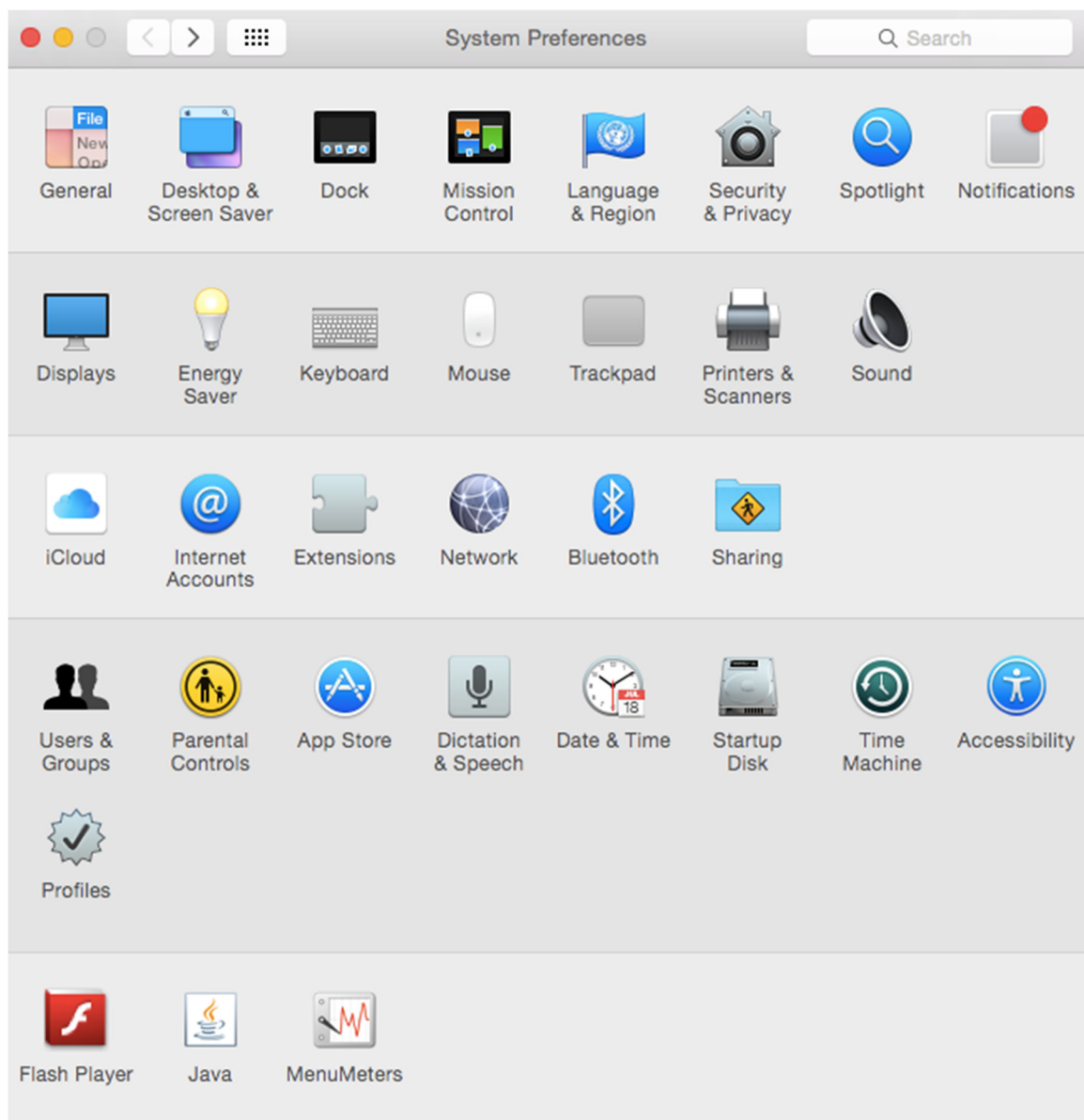| | |
|---|---|
| System Voice | Choose a voice to speak text and alerts. |
| | For more information, see Change your computer's voice. |
| Speaking Rate | Set the speed at which text is spoken. Click the Play button to hear sample spoken text. |
| Announce when alerts are displayed | Have your Mac announce when alerts are shown. Click Set Alert Options to specify the voice used for alerts; the phrase (such as the app name or "Attention!") to speak before the alerts; and how long your Mac waits before it speaks the alert. |
| | For more information, see Hear your Mac speak alert messages. |
| Speak selected text when the key is pressed | Select to have text in the current window spoken when you press the specified key. |
| | To customize, click Change Key, then press the key combination you want |

to use. (For example, press the Option and Tab keys together to change to Option+Tab.)

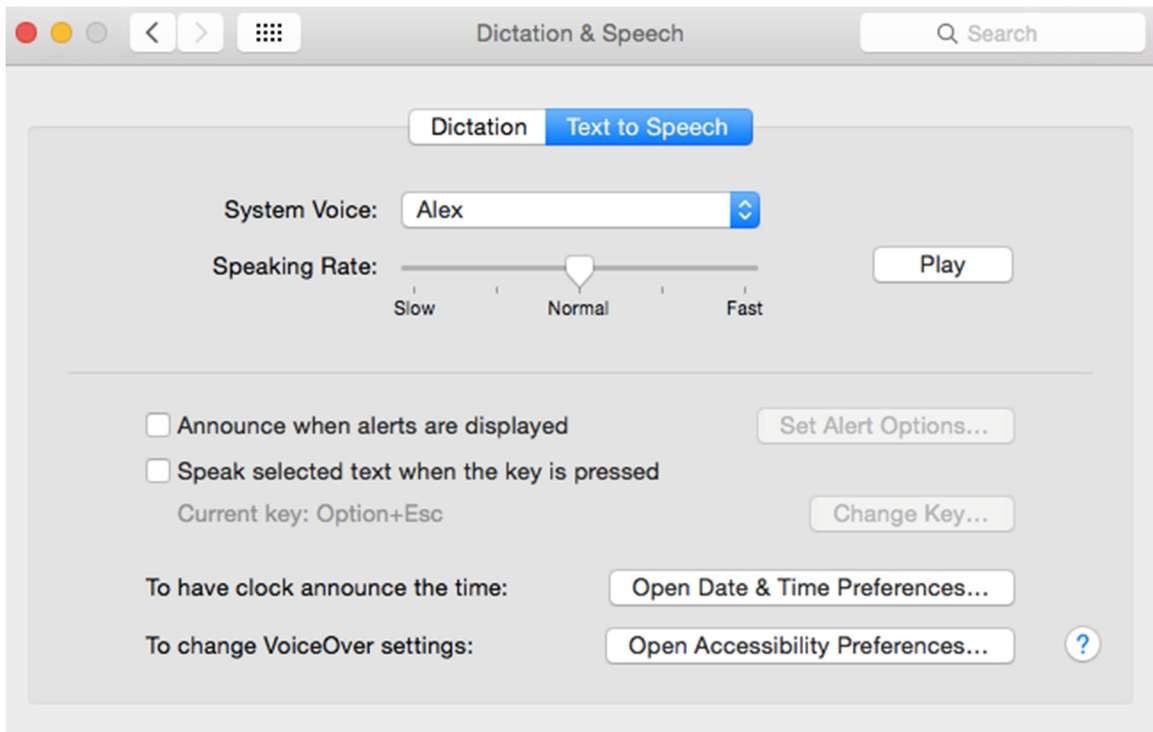For more information, see Hear your Mac speak text.

**SEE ALSO**

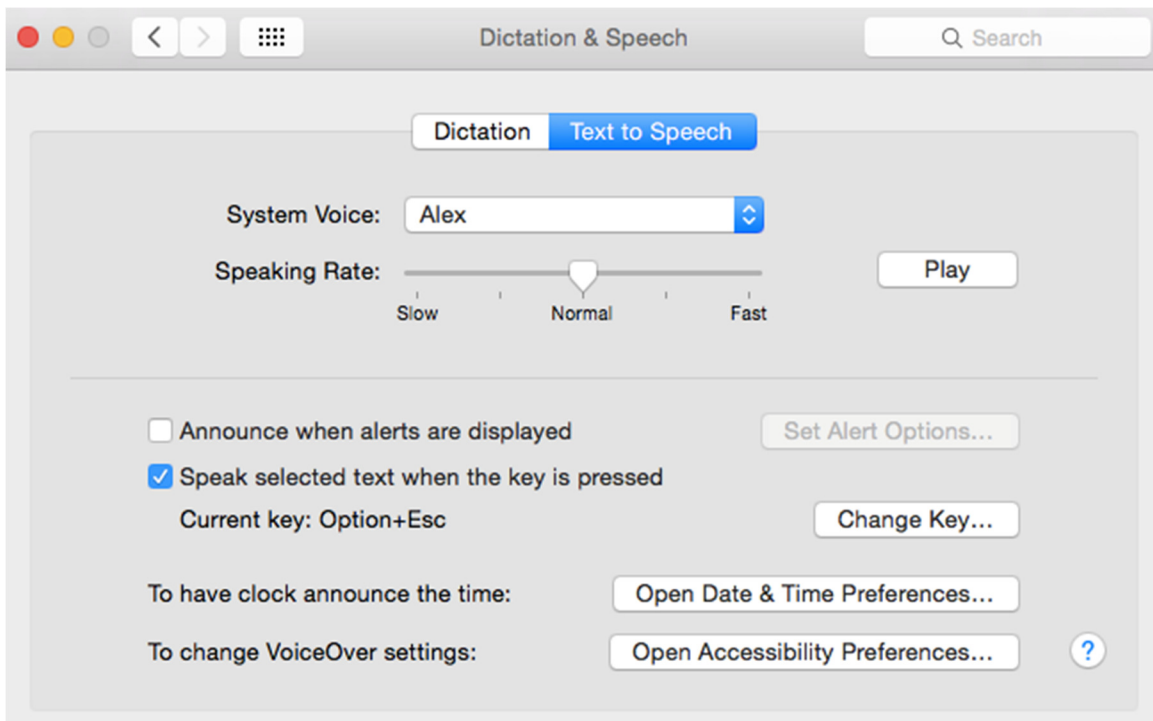VoiceOver overview

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To set the Text to Speech preferences and turn on Text to Speech on the Mac click the link Open the Text to Speech pane for me  Or go to Apple->System Preferences

Click on Dictation & Speech

To turn on the feature check the Speak selected text when key is pressed.

You can change the voice(System Voice) by changing the name in the dropdown that says Alex above.  You can change the speed of the reader by increasing or decreasing the Speaking Rate below the System Voice.

The default keys to press to have the  text spoken are the Option-Esc keys.  You can change that by clicking on Change Key and selecting a key combination.

To begin using the Text to Speech, highlight the text you would like spoken and press the Option+Esc (or the key combo you created) and the reading of text will begin.  If you need to stop the reading, press the same keys.