Zoom Magnifier Accessibility Feature in macOS - Setup, Configuration, and Usage Guide

This guide provides step-by-step instructions for setting up, configuring, and using the Zoom Magnifier accessibility feature built into macOS. The Zoom feature allows users to magnify the entire screen, a portion of the screen, or just the area around the pointer, making content easier to see for users with low vision.

Enabling Zoom Magnifier

Step-by-Step Setup:

1. Select the Apple menu () or press option + command + space and select System Settings.
2. In the sidebar, select Accessibility.
3. Scroll down and select Zoom[1].

Configuring Zoom Options

- ◉ **Keyboard Shortcuts**
  - ★ Enable "Use keyboard shortcuts to zoom" to allow quick toggling and control.
  - ★ Default shortcuts:
    - ✳ Toggle Zoom: **Command + Option + Z**
    - ✳ Zoom In: **Command + Option + =**
    - ✳ Zoom Out: **Command + Option + -**
- ◉ **Trackpad and Mouse Gestures**
  - ★ Enable "Use scroll gesture with modifier keys to zoom."
    - ✳ Choose your modifier key: **Control, Option, or Command.**
    - ✳ Hold the selected key and scroll with your mouse or trackpad to zoom in/out.
- ◉ **Zoom Styles**
  - ★ Choose your preferred zoom style:
    - ✳ Full Screen: Magnifies the entire display.
    - ✳ Split Screen: Magnifies a custom area of the screen.
    - ✳ Picture-in-Picture: Magnifies only the area around the pointer.
  - ★ Select your style from the "Zoom style" dropdown menu[1].
- ◉ **Advanced Settings**
  - ★ Select Advanced to adjust:
    - ✳ Appearance of zoomed images.
    - ✳ Zoom percentage.
    - ✳ Movement options (how the screen image moves when zoomed).
    - ✳ Enable/disable smoothing for images and text.
- ◉ **Touch Bar Zoom (if available)**
  - ★ If your Mac has a Touch Bar, enable "Touch Bar zoom" to display a larger version of the Touch Bar on the screen.

Using Zoom Magnifier

- ◉ **Activating Zoom**
  - ★ Use the keyboard shortcut (**Command + Option + Z**) to toggle Zoom on or off.
  - ★ Use the scroll gesture with your chosen modifier key to zoom in/out.
- ◉ **Navigating While Zoomed**
  - ★ Move the mouse or use arrow keys to pan around the magnified area.
  - ★ In Picture-in-Picture mode, the magnified area follows your pointer.
- ◉ **Customizing Appearance**
  - ★ Adjust zoom level and style in the Accessibility > Zoom settings.
  - ★ Change the size and location of the zoom area for Split Screen and Picture-in-Picture modes.

Tips and Best Practices

- ◉ Use keyboard shortcuts for quick access and control.
- ◉ Experiment with different zoom styles to find what works best for your workflow.
- ◉ Adjust advanced settings for optimal image clarity and movement behavior.
- ◉ Use Accessibility Shortcuts (**Option + Command + F5)** to quickly access Zoom and other accessibility features.

Additional Resources

- ◉ **[Apple Support: Change Zoom settings for accessibility on Mac1](#)**