

Comparing Text to Speech Programs PACER Simon Technology Center 2009

The PACER Simon Technology Center has compared the following text reading programs to help consumers and families choose which program best suits their needs. This information is current as of January 2009, but is subject to change. It is not intended to provide a complete listing of all such products nor all features available in each product. It does not endorse one product over the other.

Text Reading Software Programs Comparison Grid

PRODUCT	<i>Natural Reader</i>	<i>Text Aloud</i>	<i>Readplease 2003</i>	<i>Read:OutLoud</i>	<i>Victor Reader Soft</i>	<i>Ghostreader</i>
Website	naturalreaders.com	nextup.com	readplease.com	donjohnston.com	humanware.com	convenienceware.com
Price	Free-\$100 depending on version	\$30	Readplease 2003 is free, Plus version is \$50	\$299, Free with Bookshare membership	Free with Bookshare membership	\$40
PC/Mac	PC	PC	PC	MAC/PC	PC/MAC (not VISTA)	MAC
Speech Voices	AT&T, NeoSpeech	Microsoft Voices, can upgrade to RealSpeak, AT&T, Acapela	Microsoft Voices and AT&T with \$50 version	Elan Speech Voices	SAPI 5 Voices	Acapela
Reads Text in original application	Yes	Yes	Free version does not.	No	No	Yes
Readable Formats	Word, PDF, HTML, TXT, RTF	Word, PDF, HTML, TXT, RTF	Any text that can be copied and pasted into ReadPlease window	DAISY, RTF, PDF, HTML, XML, NIMAS	DAISY text and audio	RTF, TXT, Word, HTML, PDF
Reads Internet	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Converts text to audio files	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Free Trial Version	Yes	Yes	Yes	Free with Bookshare membership	Yes	Yes
Pronunciation Editor	Yes	Yes	In \$50 version	Yes	No	Yes