



2668 Lewisville-Clemmons Road
Clemmons, NC 27012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – FEBRUARY 12, 2009

Contact: Rick Ellis
rdellis@nextup.com

Angela Mitchell
admitchell@nextup.com or (904) 982-8043

Long Journeys Feel Shorter for Auto Professional Thanks to *TextAloud* Text to Speech

*TextAloud Software Helps Busy Professional Catch Up on
Classic Literature on Commute*

CLEMMONS, NC – In his work for a major car dealership outside of Kansas City, **Gene Walker** drives the new car trades from the home dealership to other dealerships across the central U.S. Since his trips delivering the cars can be anywhere from three to ten hours per trip, for entertainment on the long commutes Walker turns to ***TextAloud*** software from **NextUp Technologies** (<http://www.Nextup.com>). With *TextAloud* Text to Speech (TTS), Walker exports a wide variety of both fiction and nonfiction books into speech files, for listening on the journey, via iPod.

An easy to use and affordable program for transforming text into speech, *TextAloud* is popular with a variety of users the world over. From commuters and educators, to visually disabled users seeking alternatives to screen readers, learning disabled users, as well as thousands of others seeking to listen to their reading for entertainment, *TextAloud* has proven a valuable tool for a multitude of uses – and all at a price starting at just \$29.95.

"Using *TextAloud*, I render to voice all of the books I should have read while in school," comments Walker. "Almost all the classic novels and histories are available as downloads on a myriad of Internet sites. This way, the hours on the Interstate fly by – and I learn something in the bargain." *TextAloud* allows him to make a productive use of those long commutes – time that would otherwise be wasted as idle time, as well as in his other endeavors.

Walker is a retired railroad electrician who previously spent 34 years working for the Santa Fe (later BNSF) Railway. In addition to his work for the dealership, he now spends his time restoring old sports cars and in vintage racing with his local club – and even there, *TextAloud* has proven useful. "When I'm working on a car in the garage or traveling to a race, the voices in my head are doing something worthwhile."

Walker discovered *TextAloud* while searching for something to render some of his books on Astronomy and Cosmology into a voice similar to the computer-simulated voice of Steven Hawking. He found this option with *TextAloud* – as well as a wide variety of non-robotic-sounding options that made spoken speech as natural to listen to as a live reading.

Walker has also suffered from glaucoma nearly all of his life, and recently underwent surgeries to remove cataracts. "During the recovery period from my eye surgeries, it was a real joy to be able to continue reading my books and e-mails using *TextAloud*, and without being dependent on wife or kids for help," he adds.

"The tool I like the most with *TextAloud* is the ability to change voices in the middle of a text," comments Walker. "For instance, P. G. Wodehouse wrote several stories from different points of view, so the ability to have different voices narrating helps to give me a clearer division of the story."

His other favorite feature is the ease and speed with which *TextAloud* can render text to speech. "This means I can spend an evening dividing books into chapters, setting up the program the way I want the narrations to sound, and have the finished product on my iPod, ready to go." He likes dividing the book text into chapters for easy reference, as well as for listening. "It's also easier to find where you left off," he adds.

In his listening, Walker uses a first-generation, 20 GB iPod, and even with many books and sound files has been unable to fill the entire thing thus far. "With *TextAloud*, the voices bring a life to forgotten texts that probably haven't existed since the author died," he adds. "*TextAloud* has made it possible to continue learning, which is truly the secret of not growing old, no matter how old you may be."

About *TextAloud*

Highly useful for students, scientists, writers, business people, students and people from all walks of life – *TextAloud* has been featured in *The New York Times*, *PC Magazine*, *Writer's Digest*, on CNN, and more. Hailed by critics and users alike, *TextAloud* is priced from \$29.95, and is compatible with systems using Windows® 98, NT, 2000, XP and Vista. *TextAloud* also works seamlessly with iTunes, for easy synching with iPod®, iPhone™, or other iTunes-compatible portable audio players. The program is available for fast, safe and secure purchase via <http://www.NextUp.com>.

NextUp.com also offers *TextAloud* with optional premium voices from **AT&T Natural Voices™**, **Nuance®**, **Acapela®** and **Cepstral®** for the most natural-sounding computer speech anywhere. Available languages include U.S. English, U.K. English, Indian Accent English, Scottish Accent English, Arabic, Cantonese Chinese, Mandarin Chinese, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Belgian Dutch, Faroese, Finnish, French, Canadian French, German, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Brazilian Portuguese, European Portuguese, Russian, Castilian (European) Spanish, Latin American Spanish, Mexican Spanish, Swedish, and Turkish.

About NextUp.com

NextUp.com, a division of NextUp Technologies, LLC, provides award-winning Text to Speech software for consumers, professionals, businesses, educators, and those with visual or vocal impairment, or learning disabilities.

In addition to *TextAloud*, NextUp.com markets other innovative Windows software designed to save time and deliver vital information. NextUp *Talker* is an easy and affordable program that allows people who have lost their voices to use the latest in high-quality computer voices to communicate with others.

Evaluation copies of *TextAloud* are available upon request. For more information on NextUp.com or *TextAloud*, or for other case studies involving users ranging from writers, editors, and teachers, to students, entrepreneurs, firefighters, doctors, lawyers, truck drivers, musicians, and more, please contact publicist Angela Mitchell at **(904) 982-8043** or via Admitchell@Nextup.com.

All companies and products referenced in this press release are the trademarks of their respective owners.

#

Media Contact:

Angela Mitchell
Paranoid PR (for NextUp.com)
(904) 982-8043
Admitchell@Nextup.com