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Contact: Rick Ellis  
[rdellis@nextup.com](mailto:rdellis@nextup.com)

Angela Mitchell  
[admitchell@nextup.com](mailto:admitchell@nextup.com) or (904) 982-8043



2668 Lewisville-Clemmons Road  
Clemmons, NC 27012

## **Entrepreneur Chooses *TextAloud* Software to Battle Dyslexia, Day by Day**

*Silicon Valley-area professional discovers productivity in Text to Speech, and begins to use the TextAloud program to assist others battling dyslexia*

CLEMMONS, NC – Like many constantly battling dyslexia, Sunnyvale's **Marc Bordeaux** is always on the lookout for a tool or technology that will improve his life, work, and productivity. An entrepreneur and busy professional in the heart of Silicon Valley, it's no wonder that Bordeaux discovered the solution he sought in technology, with the ***TextAloud*** Text to Speech program from **NextUp Technologies** (<http://www.NextUp.com>).

*TextAloud* is an easy, budget-conscious PC software program that enables its users to listen to their reading anywhere they go, whether by iPhone, iPod, laptop, or Compact Disc. The program exports almost any computer text, from e-mails, websites, documents, and even PDFs, into natural and very human-sounding speech, and unlike prohibitively priced gadgets or eReaders, *TextAloud* doesn't require special hardware of any kind. Bordeaux calls his use of *TextAloud* his way of "beating dyslexia artificially."

Bordeaux had begun to experiment with Text to Speech as a potential solution a few years back, working with a few different programs in conjunction with Windows 95, and then he eventually settled on *TextAloud*. "It was simply the most user-friendly option for dyslexics," he comments, explaining, "You have to remember that most dyslexics are not going to want extremely detailed instructions or methods for making the system work. *TextAloud* was immediately easy to use and work with, while still giving me the options I needed. Compared to the other programs, *TextAloud* was a walk in the park, addressing key issues, and combining simplicity with something that users can still utilize constantly for many things."

*TextAloud* proved especially useful to Bordeaux in improving his reading speed and comprehension, always a struggle for dyslexics. "Using *TextAloud*, the dyslexic can read along with the software because of the way it highlights each word spoken," he comments. "In addition to giving sentences real structure so they're understood, reading in conjunction with *TextAloud* also enables the dyslexic to focus on each word as it really appears." Bordeaux soon began working with the software with other dyslexics, as well. "Most of the dyslexics I've worked with via *TextAloud* have, like me, improved their reading skills from about 15 to 20 words a minute (and with little comprehension), to reading and over 200 words a minute with excellent comprehension," he adds.

In describing his experiences, Bordeaux also highlights how vulnerable dyslexics often feel when it comes to written information. "Dyslexics can have extremely high IQs, yet because of their disability they're too often not taken seriously, or, worse, are seen as targets for scams. Regrettably, there are a lot of people in this world who see dyslexics this way," he comments. "But with *TextAloud*, there is no reason to ever be targeted again. Utilizing an OCR scanner software in conjunction with my Text to Speech, I have now come to the point where I sign nothing without running it through *TextAloud* first so I can read, comprehend, and know exactly what I'm signing and what I'm doing." He has also acquired a multitude of scanners to allow him to scan extensive amounts of text easily, "and this means that, wherever text is concerned, there's virtually nothing that I can't scan and read," he adds.

Bordeaux uses *TextAloud* on his laptop, as well as on his Acer Netbook, in conjunction with a variety of mobile devices once he exports his text to MP3. He emphasizes the program's combination of simplicity and sophistication as the key to its success for dyslexics. Using the simplest of *TextAloud*'s tools for copying, pasting, and listening to text, along with such easy elements as 'pause' or 'resume,' Bordeaux found that the program delivers text in a way dyslexics can follow, retain, and use in practice to improve their skills even further.

Ultimately, he emphatically recommends the program to others battling dyslexia and other

reading disabilities. "Quite simply if you can get text into your computer, whether by scanning or over the Internet, you can get the meaning you need out of it with *TextAloud*," he comments. "*TextAloud* takes the dyslexic from the Dark Ages and into a world where they can read without impatience."

### **About *TextAloud***

A highly useful PC program 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* can even be listened to on TV, using TiVo's® Home Media Option, and 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>.

In addition to **Nuance**®, NextUp.com also offers *TextAloud* with optional Premium Voices from **AT&T Natural Voices**™, **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, Basque, Catalan, Cantonese Chinese, Mandarin Chinese, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Belgian Dutch, Faroese, Finnish, French, Canadian French, German, Greek, Hindi, Icelandic, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Brazilian Portuguese, European Portuguese, Russian, Castilian (European) Spanish, Latin American Spanish, Mexican Spanish, Swedish, Taiwanese, 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 enables people who have lost their voices to use the latest in high-quality computer voices to communicate aloud with others.

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

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**Media Contact:**

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