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Professor and Research Scientist Finds Perfect Solution to Academic Workload with *TextAloud*

TextAloud from NextUp.com helps to turn a mountain of reading into easy listening for one busy university professional

CLEMMONS, NC – As a university professor and research scientist in Austin, Texas, **Lecia Barker** navigates the busy life of an academic while always on the lookout for those special programs or technologies that will simplify her massive workload day to day. While searching for new resources to assist her with her reading, she discovered that Text to Speech technology would enable her to simplify her reading, research and lectures, and listen to them on the go. After sampling a variety of other Text to Speech products with little success, Lecia chose *TextAloud*, from **NextUp.com** (<http://www.NextUp.com>) as her Text to Speech program of choice, and has continued to use the product for years since.

Priced from \$29.95, *TextAloud* is the popular software program that combines Text to Speech with realistic-sounding voices and an uncluttered, easy to use interface. *TextAloud* allows PC users to experience their reading by ear as an alternative to visual reading, simply by turning their text files into natural, human-sounding speech. From websites, articles and e-mails, to eBooks, documents, and PDFs, *TextAloud* exports almost any written text into spoken audio. Best of all, it exports the text into the most popular sound file formats that can be listened to anywhere, via MP3 player, iPhone[®], car stereo, computer, and more.

“I’m an extraordinarily busy person with multiple projects going on at any given time,” Lecia comments. “Sometimes I need to review a research article on which I’m about to give a talk, or to review a lecture I’m preparing – or sometimes I just find an article I want to listen to. So I feed them into *TextAloud* and listen while I run or exercise. Or sometimes I’ll listen just as I’m doing other things, like housework.”

As she quickly began to depend on the program, Lecia found that *TextAloud*'s best feature is its easy and seamless ability to speak copied text almost instantly, and it is a feature she still turns to on a constant basis. "When I copy something from a file, *TextAloud* automatically asks me what I want to do with the copied text," she adds. "The 'Append' feature is really handy, as well, because sometimes you can only copy one page at a time or you have multiple articles you want to listen to."

Lecia does most of her listening to *TextAloud* sound files on her iPod®. She also uses the program's Premium Voices to enhance her experience. "Using Premium Voices is important for me, because I am hard of hearing – I wear hearing aids, though it's not severe," adds Lecia, "and it's easier not to zone out while listening."

For Lecia, *TextAloud* is ultimately not just a time-saver, but a tool that has transformed the way she works and lives. "*TextAloud* is invaluable when I need to be reading, yet on the move at the same time," she adds. In the end, the program assists her in almost any reading scenario, from intensive listening, to reviewing or refreshing material, or in simply letting her know when to sit down and take a few moments to really absorb the material. "I've tried other TTS packages," she comments, "but *TextAloud* is the best."

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 synchronizing with iPod®, iPhone®, or other iTunes® compatible portable audio players. Best of all, unlike prohibitively priced gadgets or eReaders, *TextAloud* doesn't require special hardware of any kind. The program is available for fast, safe and secure preview and purchase via <http://www.NextUp.com>.

NextUp.com also offers *TextAloud* with optional Premium Voices from **Nuance®**, **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.

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Photos and Captions, *TextAloud*



Unlike prohibitively priced gadgets or eReaders, TextAloud doesn't require special hardware of any kind in order to read almost any computer text aloud—and without the expensive gadgets, technologies, or assistive devices.