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***TextAloud* Receives da Vinci Award Nomination!**

NextUp.com's leading Text to Speech software has been recognized by the da Vinci Awards for its achievements in assistive technologies

CLEMMONS, NC – As an easy way to listen to almost any computer text, **TextAloud**, the PC software from **NextUp.com**, has become a useful resource for those battling learning, reading and visual disabilities. For these powerful assistive technology uses, and more, *TextAloud* has now been honored with a nomination by the 2011 **da Vinci Awards**[®] in the “Communication/Educational Aids” award category.

TextAloud is the Text to Speech software that allows anyone to listen to their reading on the PC, or on the go. The software is priced from \$29.95, and will not only read almost any PC text aloud in natural-sounding computer speech (from e-mails, to websites, PDFs, documents, and more), but will also export that text to audio files that can be listened to via iPods, iPhones, assorted MP3 players, or a wide range of other portable devices.

"NextUp.com has received an overwhelming response from users living with disabilities and their loved ones, on how *TextAloud* has transformed their lives," comments NextUp.com President **Rick Ellis**. "We're truly honored at its nomination by the da Vinci[®] Awards."

TextAloud enables those with dyslexia, reading or learning disabilities to do their learning and reading by ear, where many are strongest, allowing them to bypass the visual element that may slow down reading comprehension. With word highlighting as the text is spoken, *TextAloud* also enables these users to “read along” visually, to strengthen reading and comprehension through visual reinforcement of the listening material. This option also enables dyslexics to proof by ear in order to catch mistakes (and most of all, homophones) that might go uncaught when using a traditional spell-check.

For a broad spectrum of visually disabled users, meanwhile, *TextAloud* offers an inexpensive alternative to screen readers, which can be highly expensive to purchase. *TextAloud* also offers

access to an array of inexpensive yet far more human-sounding and naturalistic Premium Voices, a definite plus, as screen readers are known for their often robotic voice qualities.

The da Vinci Awards will announce finalists in early December, with the awards ceremony itself to take place on September 22, 2011, at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.

About the 2011 da Vinci Awards®

In 2001, the Michigan Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society established the da Vinci Awards®, an annual gala event which has become a prestigious international forum of recognition for the most innovative developments and research in adaptive and assistive technology. It is the only awards program in the world to both celebrate people who triumph over disabilities and to honor those who have developed new technologies and innovations that enhance mobility and enable people to function at their fullest. For more information, visit www.davinciawards.org.

About TextAloud

With more personalization options than ever before, **TextAloud** is the highly useful PC program for students, scientists, writers, business users, students and people from all walks of life. *TextAloud* enables anyone to experience their reading by listening, and 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. System requirements include almost any version of Windows® (from 98 to Me, NT, 2000, XP or Vista), as well as a minimum of 64 MB of RAM, 10 MB of disk space, and a sound card. *TextAloud* even works seamlessly with iTunes®, for easy synchronizing with iPod®, iPhone®, or other iTunes®-compatible portable audio players, and unlike often prohibitively priced gadgets or eReaders, *TextAloud* doesn't require special hardware of any kind.

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

Follow the latest news at <http://www.Facebook.com/TextAloud>, discover helpful video tutorials at NextUp.com's YouTube Video Channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/NextUpcom>), or try the program today, via a fast, safe and secure preview and purchase at <http://www.NextUp.com>.

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*



TextAloud is the highly useful PC program that turns text into natural-sounding speech, for listening on the computer, or exported to sound files you can listen to anywhere.



da Vinci
AWARDS

2011 NOMINEE

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