

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – SEPTEMBER 26, 2012

Contact: Rick Ellis
rick@nextup.com

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



2668 Lewisville-Clemmons Road
Clemmons, NC 27012

***TextAloud* Enables Blind Georgia Student to Share and Listen to Writings**

Text to Speech software helps Henry County's Jake McMahon maximize his listening experiences while also helping him to share his writings with others

CLEMMONS, NC – As a highly accomplished student in Henry County, Georgia, **Jake McMahon** attends The Helen Keller Center for the Deaf and Blind, using Text to Speech software ***TextAloud*** in order to tutor other students on assistive technology while also streamlining the reading for his own research and studies.

Blindness hasn't kept Jake from a busy work and study schedule, and he discovered *TextAloud* while researching the best assistive technology software options that would help him to listen to his reading in more natural voices than those offered by most screen readers. As the simple-to-use PC software that reads almost any computer text out loud in pleasant, human-sounding computer speech, *TextAloud* can read e-mails, websites, articles, PDFs, documents and more. The software is priced from \$29.95, and reads text directly from the PC, or exports it to spoken audio files for listening on the iPod[®], Kindle Fire[®], iPhone[®], tablet, MP3 player, or most other popular portable devices.

“Text to speech is a big interest of mine,” comments Jake, “and making a change in the world for blind and visually impaired people, as well as for those who are deaf or deaf and blind is my goal.” For these reasons, and more, he found *TextAloud* useful right away, as it enabled him to listen to his materials while at his computer, and also when “on a plane, in a car, or simply sitting on the swing at the Helen Keller National Center,” he adds.

Jake also enjoyed *TextAloud*'s user interface, which he found easy to navigate even without sight, quickly learning and remembering “every combo box, slider, and more,” he says. “Effective

navigation is one of the most important elements to a blind person.” Jake was able to master the *TextAloud* user interface so quickly that he began to utilize the program when tutoring other blind students at the Helen Keller Institute, and they too found the interface just as easy to remember.

Meanwhile, the software’s sophisticated yet simple voice tags and voice changes were Jake’s next reason to embrace *TextAloud*, as the program functions with dozens of optional Premium Voices, male and female, and in a wide variety of accents and languages – a writer’s dream when it comes to listening to fiction. “I love writing stories and plays, and having different voices play different parts,” adds Jake, and he quickly became adept at mixing voices for a more exciting and entertaining listening experience. “I would write the story, then use *TextAloud* to make sure it sounded exactly the way I wanted it,” he explains. “And best of all, I could convert those stories to MP3 and have my family listen to them too!”

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. *TextAloud* has become so popular as a supportive assistive technology in its own right with the learning and visually disabled, among others, that it recently achieved a da Vinci award[®] nomination in 2011.

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 many highly expensive 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.

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

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 that users like blind student, writer and tutor Jake McMahon can listen to anywhere.