



September 15, 2008

TO: Local Educational Agency Digital Rights Managers

FROM: Indiana Center for Accessible Materials (ICAM)

SUBJECT: ICAM Offers Local Educational Agencies Free Text-To-Speech Software

The Indiana Center for Accessible Materials (ICAM) is pleased to announce that the Indiana Center for Exceptional Learners' PATINS Project has entered into an agreement with Don Johnston, Inc. to provide *Read:OutLoud Universal Access*, a digital text reader software program, to local educational agencies in Indiana. This statewide, unlimited license, agreement is available through the ICAM at no cost to Indiana local educational agencies.

Indiana's education administrators, general and special education teachers, and families will find the *Read:OutLoud Universal Access* software to be of particular importance to print disabled students who need access to a variety of digital alternate formats of standard print instructional material.

This statewide initiative is intended to assist local educational agencies as they strive to support the individual reading accommodations needed for students. The unlimited licensing of the product will enable your district the greatest amount of flexibility in providing reading related accommodations to your students at school and at home. The license includes Take-Home Rights allowing the software to be provided for home use.

Frequently Asked Questions

Please read the following FAQs for more information regarding how to obtain the *Read:OutLoud Universal Access* software for your district and for other valuable information about the software and available training opportunities.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. How does a school district obtain the ICAM provided *Read:OutLoud Universal Access Software*?

A. Read:OutLoud Universal Access will be available to Indiana's school districts through a superintendent designated ICAM Digital Rights Manager (DRM) who is registered with the Indiana Center for Exceptional Learners. One Digital Rights Manager (DRM) will be able to download the software package for their school district from the ICAM (using their ICAM secured password and log-in). **Navigate your browser to <http://www.icam.k12.in.us> . The login link is located on the Tools & Resources page under the Readers tab.**

Q. What are some of the unique features of *Read:OutLoud Universal Access software*?

A. Unique features of *Read:OutLoud Universal Access* are:

- Opens and reads documents or files in common formats including: PDF, NIMAS, DAISY, txt, rtf, html, xml, rich text, and Bookshare.org files;
- Converts NIMAS (National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard) file sets instantly to eliminate the need for scanning documents;
- Offers take-home rights for students to access learning materials at home;
- Taps into a variety of reading comprehension strategies to support learning across the curriculum;
- Provides access to general education curriculum materials for all struggling readers, including print disabled students with Individual Educational Plans; and
- Complies with federal education regulations that require students with an identified print disability have access to educational curriculum materials.

Q. Which students are best served by this text reader program?

A. This program is designed to meet the needs of struggling readers and students with a print disability who require an accessible format of standard print material.

Q. What type of reading supports does *Read:OutLoud Universal Access software* provide?

A. *Read:OutLoud Universal Access* allows the student struggling with decoding to listen to highlighted text and therefore provides access to the text content. The software includes a Franklin Dictionary to provide vocabulary supports for struggling readers and has embedded reading comprehension strategies recommended by the National Reading Panel and Reading NEXT.

A. *Read:OutLoud Universal Access* is also effective for students with physical disabilities who cannot hold or turn pages of a standard print book. Keyboard equivalents can be mapped into a student's access device (i.e. alternate keyboards) to allow them to move through the text effectively and with better control.

Q. Are upgrades included with this software?

A. Upgrades are included for the first year.

Q. Can *Read:OutLoud Universal Access* software be used by the student at home?

A. Yes, the PATINS Project/ICAM statewide license for *Read:OutLoud Universal Access* includes Take-Home Rights.

Q. What are the hardware specifications for running *Read:OutLoud Universal Access*?

A. *Read:OutLoud Universal Access* software will run on:

- Macintosh: OS: 10.2+; RAM: 512 MB; CPU: G4; Disk 200 MB; Sound Required
- Windows: OS: XP, 2000, VISTA; RAM: 512 MB; CPU: Pentium III or higher; Disk: 200MB, Sound Required
- Internet Explorer is the only web browser that will work with *Read:OutLoud Universal Access*. The next scheduled upgrade (which the user will receive free) will have addressed the limitations of the web browser and provided a web browser within *Read:OutLoud*

Q. What does the *Read:OutLoud Universal Access* FTP Download Package from the ICAM contain?

A. There are three subfolders within the FTP Download Package

- Installers: *Read:OutLoud.msi* (Windows Push), *Read:OutLoud app* (Mac); and ISO Image (for burning CDs)
- Teacher Materials: Getting Started, Help, How to Use Passwords, Quick Card, Product Features Learning Checklist, and How to Get Fiction and Non-Fiction outline Templates
- Technical Documentation: How to Convert NIMAS Files to Rich Text File Formats, Additional Installation Options (MSI Push Installer Document), Installation Guide, Read Me File

Q. What is the size of the download from the ICAM site?

A. The total size of the FTP Download is approximately 1GB:

- Installers Folder
- Windows – 141 MB
- Macintosh – 136 MB
- Mac/Win ISO Image-700 MB
- Teacher Materials-3.5 MB
- Technical Documentation folder-1MB

Q. What file formats can be utilized with *Read:OutLoud Universal Access*?

A. NIMAS, DAISY (DTB), PDF, RTF, TXT, HTML

Q. What if my district already has a site license of *Read:OutLoud*?

A. Chances are you may have the software on a limited number of computers and do not have Take-Home Rights for students. The PATINS/ICAM license can expand your usage of the software to ANY student, in ANY environment.

Q. Where can I get more information and training on this software?

A. Getting Start Tutorial is included with *Read:OutLoud Universal Access*. Don Johnston's website also holds extensive materials and information about this program, <http://www.donjohnston.com/readoutloud>. In addition, watch the PATINS Project Website <http://www.patinsproject.com> for training opportunities and materials on this software in the near future.

A. Contact your PATINS Regional Site Coordinator for assistance and on-site training opportunities. Visit the PATINS web site for Regional Site Coordinator contact information <http://www.patinsproject.com>