

Comparing Technology Tools for Reading and Writing PACER Simon Technology Center 2007

The PACER Simon Technology Center has compared the four scan and read software programs to help consumers and families choose which program best suits their needs. This information is current as of March 2007, but is subject to change. It is not intended to endorse one product over the other. A reminder to always evaluate a program on the features required for the intended user.

FEATURE	KEY TO ACCESS	WYNN WIZARD	READ&WRITE GOLD	KURZWEIL 3000
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General Information				
Vendor	Premier Assistive Technology www.readingmadeez.com	Freedom Scientific www.freedomscientific.com/LSG	TextHelp www.texthelp.com	Cambium Learning www.kurzweiledu.com
Price	\$349.95	\$995 (1-4 computers)	\$645 (single user)	\$1495 (single professional color)
Version	Version 6.0	Version 5.1	Version 8.1	Version 10.3
Minimum Windows System Requirements	Windows 2000 or XP 600 MHz Processor 128 MB RAM USB port Sound Card with Speakers	Windows 2000 or XP Pentium 400 MHz Processor 256 MB RAM 1 GB available HD space Sound Card, Video Card, and Speakers	Windows 2000, XP, or VISTA Pentium III 800 MHz Processor 512 MB RAM 600 MB available HD space Sound Card, Speakers, and Microphone	Windows 98, ME, 2000, XP, VISTA 700 MHz Processor 256MB RAM 600 MB available HD space Sound Card with Speakers
Minimum Mac System Requirements	N/A	N/A	N/A for mobile version OS 10.2.8 or above 800 MHz 256MB of RAM * Features vary	G3, G4, or G5 processor OS 9.2.2, 10.2.4, 10.4 64MB RAM (OS 9) 128MB RAM (OS X) 100MB available HD space
Technical Support	815-927-7390 FAQ Online	800-444-4443 wynn@freedomscientific.com Tip Sheets, Support Database, FAQ Online	888-248-4947 support@texthelp.com Guided Tours, Reference Documents, and FAQ Online	800-894-5374 or kurzweil3000support@kurzweiledu.com FAQ Online
Upgrade Options	Free updates	\$95 each for 1-4 units	Free upgrades within 90 days Automatic live updates	Free upgrades for 3 months
Demo Availability	Download software online	Order online 800-444-4443	888-248-0652	Order online
Interface	One Toolbar – Ten programs	Four color-coded tool bars Exact View and Text View	Floating toolbar	Toolbar sets
Customizable Toolbars	No	Yes	Yes	Yes, with Toggle Toolbar option
Scanning OCR	Yes	ABBYY FineReader Engine 7.0 Scans into Wynn document files High speed scanning support	ABBYY FineReader Engine 8.0 Scans into Word, HTML, PDF Digital camera support High speed scanning support	FineReader, ScanSoft Fast, ScanSoft Accurate
READING TOOLS				
Voices	Cepstral Voices	RealSpeak Solo Voices ETI-Eloquence Synthesizer Microsoft SAPI 4 and 5	RealSpeak Solo Voices Microsoft SAPI 4 and 5	Voiceware NeoSpeech Voices ETI-Eloquence Voices

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Voice Customization	Rate, pitch	Rate, pitch, volume, inflection, word pause	Pitch, speed, volume, word pause	Rate plus: read double clicked words, pause at bookmarks, etc
Text-to-Speech	Reads by word, sentence, paragraph, or selected, as typed	Read by character, word, and sentence, continuous or line, sentence, or paragraph	Reads by word, sentence, paragraph, selected text, as typed	Read continuous, self paced, letter-by-letter, word-by-word, phrase, line, sentence, paragraph, heading, highlight
Masking	No	In read mode of text view only	No	In read mode of text view only
Dictionary	Audible definitions	Phonetic in Basic and Standard Audible definitions and sentences	Basic, Advanced, and Web Audible definitions and sentences	Standard and Child Audible definitions and sentences Learning Language Support Picture Dictionary Option
Syllable Recognition	No	Audible Support	Pronunciation Tutor Visual and Audible Support	Visual and Audible Support
Translator Tool	No	No	Yes – English to Spanish	Yes – Multiple Languages
Visual Accommodations	Text size Zoom up to 400%	Text size, Line space, Word space, Margins, Background color, Text color	Standard changes on word processor	Text size, Line space, Word space, Background color, Text color, Magnification, Zoom
WRITING TOOLS				
Spell check	Complete document Audible	As typed or completed document Audible	Phonetic checker As typed or complete document Audible	Phonetic checker As typed or complete document Audible
Homophone Support	No	Audible definitions and sentences	All or Basic Database Audible definitions and sentences	Elementary, Middle, HS Levels Audible spellings and definitions
Thesaurus	Yes in Talking Dictionary	Yes and Synonyms in Dictionary	Word Wizard	Synonyms
Word Prediction	Phonetic word support Add and delete Digester, topic dictionaries	Phonetic word support Topic dictionaries	Phonetic word support Context specific files Context accuracy symbols	Vocabulary lists to add, delete and edit Phonetic word support
Speech Input	No	No	Yes	No
Concept Mapping	No	No	Fact Mapper offers 1-click export to Microsoft Word	No
Outlines	No	New Document	Fact Mapper	Yes
STUDY TOOLS				
Voice Notes	No	Exact and Text View	No	Image or Text Document
Text Notes	No	Exact and Text View	No	Image Document
Highlighting and Extracting	E Text Reader and Talking Word Processor	Exact and Text View	Word documents or Internet Explorer only	Image or Text Document

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Bookmarks	E Text Reader	Text View Only	No	Yes
Bibliography	No	No	Fact Folder offers 1-click export to Microsoft Word	No
Test Taking	No	No	No	Fill-in-the blank, Multiple Choice, True/False, Short Answer, Essay
OTHER TOOLS				
Calculator	Yes	No	Standard and Scientific	Yes
Zone Editing	No	Dynamic Zoning	No	Underlying text and zone editor
Web Access	Word Prediction Support	Audible Highlighting, Extracting, Masking, reads online forms	Fact Finder Audible Highlighting and Masking Word Prediction Support	Audible Highlighting
E-Resources	No	No	Yes	Yes
File Conversion	MP3, WAV	MP3, WAV	Speech Maker MP3, WAV, WMA	MP3, WAV
File Format Support	.DOC, TXT, HTML, RTF, PDF	RTF, TXT, .DOC, PDF, HTML, Daisy	.DOC, PDF, HTML, Image Files, Daisy	RTF, TXT, PDF, .DOC, Image Files, Daisy
Accessibility	Works with other screen readers, Keyboard shortcuts	Screen reading capabilities, Keyboard shortcuts	Screen reading capabilities, Screen shot reader, Hot Keys	IntelliKeys, Keyboard shortcuts
Teacher/Parental Controls	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Multiple Users	No	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
Multiple Languages	English, Brazilian Portuguese, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Spanish, Swedish. Also recognizes third party speech engines.	English and Spanish included German, French, Italian, Dutch, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Mexican Spanish, Belgian Dutch and Brazilian Portuguese are available	American English, British English, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Brazilian Portuguese, Russian and Spanish can be downloaded	English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Finnish. Also recognizes third party speech engines.
Virtual Printers	No	Freedom Import Printer	No	KESI Virtual Printer
Portable Devices	Yes	No	Yes	No

Please contact the Simon Technology Center at 952-838-9000 or stc@pacer.org with any program questions or requests to duplicate or distribute this document.