

# Text-To-Speech Software

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These software programs can read the majority of digital text out loud. These programs are not created by Albright and are available to anyone with Internet access. (Some of these are “freeware” programs.) Users should wear headphones when accessing these programs in the library, in classrooms, and other areas where audible sounds can distract others from academic study.

## NVDA

NVDA (NonVisual Desktop Access) is a free “screen reader” which enables blind and vision impaired people to use computers. It reads the text on the screen in a computerized voice. You can control what is read to you by moving the cursor to the relevant area of text with a mouse or the arrows on your keyboard.

NVDA works with Microsoft Windows. You can [download](#) it to your PC, or to a USB stick, which you can use with any computer.

<http://www.nvaccess.org>

## Balabolka

Balabolka is a Text-To-Speech (TTS) program. All computer voices installed on your system are available to Balabolka. The program uses various versions of Microsoft Speech API (SAPI); it allows to alter a voice's parameters, including rate and pitch. You can download it to your PC. There is also a portable version which can be run from a USB drive.

- \* Balabolka is a Russian word, it can be translated as "chatterer".

<http://www.cross-plus-a.com/balabolka.htm>

## Natural Reader

NaturalReader is Text to Speech software with natural sounding voices. This easy to use software can convert any written text such as MS Word, Webpage, PDF files, and Emails into spoken words. You can download the free version of the program or use it online. (To use it online click on "Online TTS" at the top of to the website.)

*Please note that Albright has several computers with Natural Reader Gold. If you need assistance with Natural Reader Gold, please contact the IT Help Desk at 610-921-7676 or Disability Services at 610-929-6639.*

<http://www.naturalreaders.com>

## **VoiceOver**

VoiceOver doesn't just tell you what's happening, it helps you make things happen. It tells you what's on your screen, and walks you through actions like selecting a menu option or activating a button using your keyboard or trackpad. VoiceOver gives you complete control of your Mac, with no need to see the screen. And it's already built in.

<https://www.apple.com/accessibility/osx/voiceover/>

## **Microsoft Narrator**

Narrator is a screen reader that reads text on the screen aloud and describes events like error messages so you can use your PC without a display.

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/hear-text-read-aloud-narrator#1TC=windows-8>