BrowseAloud
Overview

BrowseAloud version 1.4

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# BrowseAloud Overview

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About BrowseAloud

BrowseAloud adds high quality speech and reading support tools to online content to extend the reach of websites for the 20% of the population that requires reading support. This includes those with:

- Dyslexia
- Literacy Difficulties
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Mild Visual Impairments

Website visitors browsing the web from their Smartphone, Tablet, PC or Mac can utilise BrowseAloud and benefit from the reading support that suits their individual needs and preferences, whether they are ‘At Home, In the Office or On the Go’.

Key Benefits to Website Owners

- Reach a Wider Audience
- Reduce Costs
- Help Compliance with Legal Obligations
- Reduce Barriers on the Web
- Improve Access to Information on your Website for 20% of the Population
- Demonstrate Commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility

Key User Benefits

- Zero Implementation and Zero Download
- Compatibility with all Major Browsers and Devices
- High Quality Voices and International Languages
- Secure Web Page and PDF Reading
- Automatic Updates
- Free to the End User

What it Reads

- All Accessible Content
- ALT Tags Behind Pictures
- Accessible Flash and JavaScript
- Online PDF Documents
- Secure HTTPS Web Pages
- Online Form Fields
- Intranets and Extranets
- Social Media Pages (such as Twitter)
- Search Results Pages (such as Google)
About BrowseAloud

BrowseAloud reads website content out loud in a high quality, human-sounding voice.

Each word is highlighted as it is read aloud and the sentence is highlighted in a contrasting colour. This allows users to easily identify what text is being read aloud and navigate within and between web pages. BrowseAloud is free to website visitors, there’s no download and it is really easy to get.

The Legal Ombudsman is independent and impartial. Our service is free. When we receive complaints, we will look at the facts in each case and weigh-up both sides of the story. Watch our video here to find out more about the complaints we can resolve. Last year we resolved around 7,500 complaints about lawyers in England and Wales. If you have a problem with your lawyer we may be able to help. Visit our ‘Making a complaint’ section to find out more.

We use our experience as an Ombudsman to help lawyers improve their complaint handling processes. This includes sharing thematic reports and guidance documents as well as case summaries and decisions data. See how you can help with our investigations and what you can do to resolve complaints better internally here.
BrowseAloud Toolbar Functionality

BrowseAloud delivers high quality speech to assist those with dyslexia, literacy difficulties, mild visual impairments and where English is a second language when browsing the web. BrowseAloud features and options are accessed from an easy to use, floating toolbar. They include:

- Play by ‘Hover Highlighting’
- Play by ‘Text Selection’
- Translator
- MP3 Maker
- Text Magnification
- Screen Mask
- Simplifier
- User Settings

Play by ‘Hover Highlighting’

To start speech, move your mouse pointer over the text (and click or tap the text if you are using a mobile or tablet device). BrowseAloud uses dual-colour highlighting which highlights the block of text in one colour and the spoken word in another to give a clear indication of what text is being read aloud and to aid navigation. The audio-visual reinforcement also improves word recognition and comprehension.

Play by ‘Text Selection’

As an alternative to Hover Highlighting, users can select specific text to hear it read aloud. Again, the text will be read out using synchronous dual-colour highlighting.
Translator

Translate web pages and PDF documents into 78 languages! Speak the translated text where there is a matching voice available; currently 35 of the supported languages. Web owners can choose to have the translator switched on/off or choose to have individual languages switched on/off as desired.
MP3 Maker

Convert text to an MP3 file with our MP3 Maker. The text can then be saved and listened to at a later time, at home or on the move. Web Owners can create MP3 files to be hosted and streamed directly from their website.

Text Magnification

BrowseAloud can magnify the text as it is read aloud. The magnified text is displayed with synchronous highlighting in a single line at the top of the screen as the text is being read aloud.
Screen Mask

Block distractions on your screen with our Screen Mask. A semi-opaque black mask extends across your screen leaving a letterbox reading window clear. This helps you to focus on the section of the web page you are most interested in.

Now available on touch screen devices! The Screen Mask will move up/down in response to clicking on the clearly defined large buttons on the right hand of the screen.
Simplifier

Remove clutter from your screen with our Simplifier. The feature presents the current web page in a more user-friendly layout that is free from the secondary information on the page. Once simplified, the text can be summarised\(^2\), translated and printed to further help users to digest the information on the page.

Users can customise this feature to suit their individual preferences, such as: increase/decrease font size, change the colours used to highlight text and set the level of summarisation.

\(^2\) Summarisation available in English language only and does not extend to PDF documents.
User Settings

Users can customise BrowseAloud to suit individual needs with options to alter the voice speed, highlighting colours and size of text during magnification. Users can also select which functions should be switched on/off by default, such as the hover highlighting, text magnification and the simplifier.

These individual settings can be stored by simply creating a user account with BrowseAloud, with a name and email address, and retrieved by logging in before each browsing session.
Continued Functionality

PDF Reading

Using our Online PDF Reader, BrowseAloud can intuitively identify and read almost any PDF document – even if the link does not end in “.PDF” - and those that are securely hosted.

Secure Site Reading

BrowseAloud reads secure web pages. It does this whilst maintaining secure communication of confidential and personal information.

Pronunciation Control

BrowseAloud now empowers website owners to make pronunciation changes on their own website. This feature will be useful when pronouncing place names, people names and acronyms.

Voice Control

With BrowseAloud, website owners can set a default voice (and language) on individual pages of their site. This feature will be particularly useful for dual- and multi-lingual sites.

Extensive Language Support

BrowseAloud now supports 78 languages between the text-to-speech function and the translation tool. It speaks 35 of those languages out loud and there are 78 voices to choose from. Website owners and end users can avail of these languages at the click of a button. Website owners and end users can avail of these languages at the click of a button.

Recommended Browsers & Platforms

- Internet Explorer 8 and greater (IE9 or greater for PDF Reading and Simplifier)
- Firefox (latest release)
- Chrome (latest release)
- Mac: Safari (latest release)
- iOS: Safari (iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch, latest release)
- Android: Chrome (Android v3 and greater)

BrowseAloud may work on older versions of browsers. Support and updates are provided for the latest versions of Chrome, Firefox, Android (Chrome) and iOS/Mac (Safari).
Customer Testimonials

British Council
“BrowseAloud helps our website users with low literacy and reading skills, where English is not the first language, [those with] dyslexia and users who have mild visual impairments. Our audience (mainly from overseas, with English as the second language) will benefit hugely from this service.”

Chamali Samaranayaka, British Council

BT
“We have introduced BrowseAloud to help our online visitors to access content more easily and this service is incredibly easy to use. Another great advantage is that it is completely free to our website users. We are confident that the accessibility of our websites has been significantly enhanced and we are reaching a much wider audience than ever before.”

David Barrett, BT

Goldsmiths University of London
“Goldsmiths is committed to ensuring its students have the support they deserve, especially when accessing our online services. We're delighted to be working with BrowseAloud to help fulfil this commitment and hope it will help remove any obstacles for current and prospective students visiting our website.”

Spokesperson, Goldsmiths University of London
Student Loans Company
“We chose BrowseAloud for our websites as we wanted to be more responsive to customers’ needs – we appreciated that we needed to improve online access to information and guidance for those students and their families who have problems reading digital content and need additional support. By using BrowseAloud, we can now offer them that support and improved accessibility to our online content. The BrowseAloud capability will also support our delivery partners who help us share information and guidance to our target audiences.

“Identifying ways of improving digital accessibility for our customers is of the utmost importance to us and BrowseAloud is an ideal solution as it is simple to use, free to the customer, and also compatible with mobile devices.”

Jenifer Stirton, Student Loans Company

Healthwatch Halton
"We are pleased to have BrowseAloud available on our website for our local community. We are committed to making sure that Healthwatch Halton is welcoming and inclusive for anyone wishing to find out information about local health and social care. In driving this forward, BrowseAloud helps the local community access our site with ease and gives them the opportunity to share their experiences".

Dave Wilson, Healthwatch Halton

Ocean Housing Group
“Having evaluated a number of products in the marketplace, including many of the basic 'cut & paste' text readers, none came close to the easy, intuitive operation of BrowseAloud. This new facility is another step forward in our commitment to equality and diversity throughout all of Ocean’s services and compliments the multi-lingual translation options already available on our website”.

Dave Huxley, Ocean Housing Group
BrowseAloud Support

Comprehensive support is provided for both the customer and the end user via the BrowseAloud website, which includes a user guide and a library of frequently asked questions.

Email support is provided by emailing support@BrowseAloud.com and our dedicated support team responds to all questions or queries within one working day. Texthelp employs an ISO-certified issue logging and resolution system.

Telephone support is provided from Texthelp’s Head Office in Antrim, N. Ireland via a free phone number, 0800 328 7910.
About Texthelp

Texthelp is an assistive technology software company with the Head Office and R&D located in Antrim, Northern Ireland and an office in Woburn, Massachusetts. Texthelp designs a range of award-winning software solutions to help people with reading, writing, and literacy difficulties. The company’s mission is to ‘change lives’.

Texthelp Ltd is a globally recognised company with:

- 18 years knowledge and experience within the Assistive Technology arena
- ISO 9001:2008 Accreditation
- Microsoft Gold Certified Partnership
- Apple Business Partnership
- HP Business Partnership
- Adobe Solutions Network Developer Status
- Deloitte Technology Fast 50 Awards (for 15 consecutive years)
- Investors in People Accreditation
- Reseller network spanning the globe

The BrowseAloud division provides worldwide leadership in online reading support for websites with more than 7,000 websites now using BrowseAloud. The solution is designed to make websites more accessible to 20% of the UK population with a print disability and those who speak English as a second language. With no implementation required by the webmaster, and no fee for the end user, BrowseAloud has been adopted worldwide as the product of choice by Government, Corporate, Education and Third Sector websites.

For more information on Texthelp, visit the corporate website at www.texthelp.com.

For more information on BrowseAloud, visit www.browsealoud.com, Email: info@BrowseAloud.com or Tel: 028 9442 8105.