

# building futures



## Editorial

by Jo Ford

As we roll into the second quarter of 2005 the TASC team continue to find interesting resources and tips that we enjoy sharing with our readers.

Our speech pathologists have been surfing the web and have found some great tips on a supplier's website. It is always exciting to find out more information on how we can use the assistive technology to its full potential. They have included one for you to try out on your DV4 Communication Device.

Paula has continued to investigate software to support learning and literacy. This month she has provided a useful table that summarises the features of Read and Write. This will provide a guide to use when investigating software might best meet your needs.

Finally don't miss out on NovitaTech Snowy Hydro Telecommunications Road Show which will be held in Sydney in May....read on for more details.

This should be plenty to keep you busy until next month!

Happy reading,

Jo



## Tips for the DV4 Communication Device

by

Katherine Young

Samatha Puffett



The Spectronics website has begun posting regular Tips and Instructions Sheets that gives great ideas to try on the new DV4 Communication Device. Check out their website for yourself!

<http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/product.asp?product=16271>

Here are some examples from the website to get you started.

**Tip #1:** Track device use and keep data on progress.

**Usage counts** allow an evaluator/therapist to determine which buttons have been used during a period of time. This information can provide insight in the areas of access, vocabulary usage and gives ideas of items that may need to be taught further. When the Show usage counts check box is enabled, the usage count will be displayed on each button.

To access Usage Counts:

1. Select the pull-down menu button
2. Select Setup
3. Select Setup Menu
4. Select Interface Features
5. Select Usage Counts
6. Select the Record Usage Counts check box to enable this feature



**Tip #2:** To reduce visual distractions on the communication pages, it is recommended that that you do not show usage count during typical device use.

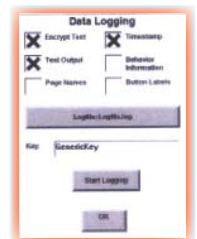


**Tip #3:** Use the Print feature to print pages with the Usage Counts displayed to document improvement.

**Data Logging** can be used to keep a record of how often the device is used and which pages or buttons are being frequently selected and the time in which it takes to compose a message. Data logging can provide information that is helpful in tailoring the device to the needs of an individual. This information is saved on your device as a text file and can be viewed or analysed in conjunction with an analysis program.

To access Data Logging:

1. Select the pull-down menu button
2. Select Setup
3. Select Setup Menu
4. Select System Setting
5. Select Data Logging
6. Specify the type of information that should be logged by selecting any of the check boxes in the menu



**Caution:** There has been some controversy over data logging in reference to user privacy because it essentially records everything an individual says.



## SOFTWARE REVIEW

by Paula-Jane Robinson

# What is the Read and Write Program?

Manufacturer: textHELP Systems Ltd.



The Read and Write - Version program is basically a customisable floating toolbar, which “floats” on top of any Windows application, providing language, learning and literacy support. Read & Write provides vocabulary support eg it talks as you type, checks spelling, corrects mistakes, predicts, magnifies

and more. It will operate within any Windows application eg word processing, spreadsheets, databases, desktop publishing, email or the Internet.



<http://www.texthelp.com/rw7.asp?q1=products&q2=rw7>

### Main Features

<b>Speech Feedback</b>	Text can be read back to you by each word, sentence, paragraph, selected text, or spoken as it is typed. There is a range of adjustable voices available. Words can be highlighted as they are spoken for audiovisual reinforcement. Screen reading of onscreen text, menus and icons is also available. An extra toolbar can read PDF files. Decoding tools such as a dictionary, synonyms, syllabification and spelling of words.
<b>Phonetic Spell Checker</b>	The phonetic spell checker is colour coded to assist in the identification of errors. All spelling suggestions, and dictionary definitions can be spoken.
<b>Homophone support</b>	Homophones are “like sounding words”, eg where and wear. Read & Write provides colour coding of the similar words, and lists possible alternatives with audible definitions and sample sentences (in MS Word).
<b>Dictionary</b>	180,000 words are provided with alternative suggestions. Each word has a description and sample sentence, all of which can be spoken.
<b>Word Wizard</b>	For when a user is “lost for words”, it takes them from the word they know to the word they want, eg like a thesaurus.
<b>Word Prediction</b>	As the user types the first letter of the word, suggestions are made in the prediction list (phonetic suggestions are also available).
<b>Clipboard History</b>	The Clipboard History feature allows you to store any item you have viewed in your clipboard for use at a later time.
<b>Web Highlighting</b>	The Web Highlighting feature allows you to experience dual colour highlighting with audible feedback in HTML documents.
<b>Scanning</b>	An inbuilt scanning tool (ABBYY FineReader 7.01) is now available. Once scanned, text may be read aloud and users may edit the document. (Please check the textHELP site for recommended scanners).
<b>Speech Input</b>	Convert speech to text: The Speech Input option allows you to set up your computer to recognise your voice. You will need to participate in a training voice recognition program.

<b>Speech Maker</b>	Convert text to MP3, WMA or WAV files.	
<b>Fact Folder</b>	A study or research tool for organising thoughts and ideas.	
<b>Finder</b>	A web search tool that can collect a selected word from a document or application and do a quick web search to your nominated engine(s) and return the information to you.	
<b>Calculator</b>	An onscreen speaking calculator.	
<b>Pronunciation Tutor Daisy Reader</b>	The Pronunciation Tutor breaks words into syllables. Daisy Reading technology allows you to read their Daisy Books. (A Daisy book is an audiobook that uses the Daisy standard – it stands for Digital Accessible Information System. Daisy talking books have narration that is linked to some or all of the text from a printed book. The DAISY books are currently being created at the CNIB Library use human narration). ( <a href="http://www.cnib.ca/library/digital/digital_faq.htm#07">http://www.cnib.ca/library/digital/digital_faq.htm#07</a> ). Please see the DAISY site for more detail: <a href="http://www.daisy.org">www.daisy.org</a>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Teacher toolkit</b></li> <li>• <b>Logs</b></li> <li>• <b>Multi Profile Users</b></li> </ul>	The Teacher Toolkit allows teachers and trainers to set up Read & Write to suit individual needs. The toolkit can only be accessed by authorized persons. Logs: record-spelling mistakes by date and type. This gives the educator the information needed to monitor the progress of individual students. Multi Profile Function: allow many users to save and access their individual settings on one machine.	
<b>System Requirements</b>	WindowsPentium 350MHz ProcessorWindows 98, 2000, XP, ME or NT4Internet Explorer 6 or later (available on the Installation CD)Sound Card and SpeakersCD ROM drive256 MB RAM400 MB Free Disk Space	Mac 400MHz G3 processor 64MB of RAM (128MB preferred) MRJ 2.2 (provided) OS9 or above
<b>Further Information</b>	<a href="http://www.texthelp.com">http://www.texthelp.com</a>	
<b>Licensing</b>  <b>Demonstration version</b>  <b>Supplier details</b>	Single licence: allows the program to be installed on a single computer. In addition, it allows an unlimited number of users to log in and save their own settings and preferences and so it is useful for a computer that is shared by multiple students. Multi-User Licence Packs licensing arrangement for School Districts, or groups of schools or organisations. Upgrades available MAC: Single User Licence. Please call suppliers. (Please see Supplier details next page) for a demonstration CD (Windows and Mac).	
	Please call Spectronics (Please see supplier details below) for a demonstration CD (Windows only).	

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<b>Read and Write - Version 7.1 Gold Supplier Details</b>	<p><b>Technability</b> <a href="http://www.technability.com.au">www.technability.com.au</a> 189 Allambie Road Allambie Heights NSW 2100 <i>Postal Address:</i> PO Box 184 Brookvale NSW 2100 <i>Sales and Administration</i> Ph: 02 9975 8240</p> <p><b>Spectronics</b> <a href="http://www.spectronicsinoz.com">www.spectronicsinoz.com</a> PO Box 88 Rosedale Qld 4123 Ph: 07 3808 6833</p>	<p><b>New Horizons</b> <a href="http://www.nh.com.au">www.nh.com.au</a> 147 Faulkner Street Armidale NSW 2350 Ph: 02 6776 0200 or 1800 023 069 <i>Postal Address:</i> PO Box 658 Armidale NSW 2350</p> <p><b>Ability Technology</b> <a href="http://www.abilitycorp.com.au">www.abilitycorp.com.au</a> 29 Frenchs Forest Road Seaforth NSW 2092 Ph: 02 9907 9736 <i>Postal Address:</i> Private Box 44 145 Sydney Road Fairlight NSW 2094</p>
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## NovitaTech Telecommunication Road Show Workshops

NovitaTech are conducting one-day workshops around Australia in May as part of the "NovitaTech Snowy Hydro Telecommunications Road Show", a three week national program to promote how Australians with physical disabilities can gain access to a home or mobile telephone using existing technology.

The workshops will focus on:

- Research that NovitaTech has conducted in the area of telecommunications and
- Information and "hands-on" demonstrations of the solutions used during a Commonwealth funded trial in 2003.

The cost is only \$10.00 payable on the day and participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and trial the equipment.

Go to the NovitaTech website for more information, to download a program for the day or to register. See [http://www.novita.org.au/article\\_detail.asp?p=140&a=367](http://www.novita.org.au/article_detail.asp?p=140&a=367)



We welcome any feedback, good or bad, that you have on our service. Please feel free to contact us by phone on 02 9972 8183, email at [tasc@tscnsw.org.au](mailto:tasc@tscnsw.org.au) or in writing at the address below.

TechnoTalk is available free from [www.thespasticcentre.com.au/technotalk](http://www.thespasticcentre.com.au/technotalk) or by subscription for \$27.50 (GST \$2.50 incl)



building futures...

For people with cerebral palsy and their families.

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