D2L Brightspace – Daylight Experience

ReadSpeaker and docReader
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Introduction
ReadSpeaker provides text-to-speech solutions in D2L Brightspace® – Daylight Experience. It provides faculty and students with alternative methods of consuming text-based content, such as through listening to it directly or downloading it as sound files without the need to download and install additional software. Any user can hear their HTML course content spoken aloud or download it as an MP3 using only their Internet browser. Users can also highlight and play back a subset of the content. Users can also view and listen to documents using the ReadSpeaker docReader.

Learning Objectives
- Accessing ReadSpeaker and docReader in D2L Brightspace® – Daylight Experience
- Listening to HTML files in ReadSpeaker
- Adjusting ReadSpeaker and docReader Settings
- Listening to files in docReader

System Requirements
The D2L Brightspace ReadSpeaker browser requirements match those of D2L (see below).
- IE9+
- Firefox (latest version)
- Chrome (latest version)
- Safari 5.1 +
- Android Browser (latest version)
- iOS Safari (latest version)
- Microsoft Surface IE 10

Supported docReader Document Formats
- ePub (.epub)
- Microsoft Excel (.xls, .xlsx)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (.pps, .ppt, .pptx)
- Microsoft Word (.doc, .docx)
- OpenOffice/OpenDocument Presentation (.odp)
- OpenOffice/OpenDocument Spreadsheet (.ods)
- OpenOffice/OpenDocument Text (.odt)
- Portable Document Format (.pdf)
- Rich Text Format (.rtf)
How to Listen to an HTML File

Students may be able to listen to an HTML file in the event that the instructor has enabled Readspeaker in the D2L Brightspace course. The following explains how to listen to an HTML file in a Readspeaker enabled course:

1. From the course homepage, click Content on the Navbar.

   ![Figure 1 - Content](image1)

2. Click a Web Page file.

   ![Figure 2 - Select an HTML file](image2)

3. Click the Listen button.

   ![Figure 3 - Listen button](image3)

How to Listen to a Selection of Text

The following explains how to listen to a selection of text in a Readspeaker enabled course:

1. **Highlight** the area of text that you would like to listen to (See Figure 4).
2. Click the Play button that appears (See Figure 4).

   ![Figure 4 - Highlighted text and Listen button](image4)
ReadSpeaker Tools
The ReadSpeaker tools become available once you click *Play* on the ReadSpeaker *Listen* button.

![Figure 5 - ReadSpeaker Tools](image)

1. **Open/Close Toolbar** – Opens/closes the toolbar containing additional options (See Figure 5).
2. **Play button** – Starts the audio playback (See Figure 5).
3. **Stop button** – Stops the audio playback (See Figure 5).
4. **Seek bar** – Slide the tab to move to a specific place in the text (See Figure 5).
5. **Volume** – Adjust the volume (See Figure 5).
6. **Download as MP3** – Download the audio file as an mp3 file (See Figure 5).
7. **Close** – Close the player tools to only show the play button (See Figure 5).

ReadSpeaker Settings Panel
Users have the ability to adjust highlighting, reading, and general settings via the *ReadSpeaker tools* (b), found by clicking the **Open/Close Toolbar** button (a) (See Figure 6).

![Figure 6 - ReadSpeaker Settings Panel](image)

Reading Settings
This allows you to choose the speed at which the text is read.

![Figure 7 - Reading settings](image)
**Highlighting Settings**

Highlight settings allow you to do the following:

1. Enable/disable text highlighting (See Figure 8).
2. Choose the highlight color for sentences (See Figure 8).
3. Choose the highlight color for words (See Figure 8).

![Figure 8 - Highlighting settings](image)

**Text Settings**

Text Settings allow you to do the following:

1. Adjust the font size (See Figure 9).
2. Adjust the font type (See Figure 9).
3. Adjust the font color (See Figure 9).

![Figure 9 - Text Settings](image)
General Settings

General settings allow you to do the following:

1. Enable/disable automatic scrolling. When switched on, the page will automatically scroll to follow the highlighted text (See Figure 10).
2. Control whether or not a pop-up button is displayed when text is selected (See Figure 10).

![Figure 10 - General settings]

How to Turn on ReadSpeaker docReader

ReadSpeaker docReader allows users to listen to the text of an online document, for example, in PDF or Word format, while reading it. docReader uses text to speech to transform the text into sound. By having the text read aloud to you, you can understand the text more easily.

1. From the Course Home page, click Content on the Navbar.

![Figure 11 - Content]

2. Click a document.

![Figure 12 - Select a document]
3. Click the **Open with docReader** button.

4. The document will open in the **docReader** window. Click the **Listen** button to listen to the text for the document.
The docReader Toolbar

The following provides an overview of the docReader toolbar:

1. **Show/Hide Sidebar** - Toggles the visibility of the thumbnail/outline sidebar (See Figure 15).
2. **Page Navigator** - Jump directly to another page in the document (See Figure 15).
3. **Listen** – Starts audio playback of the file (See Figure 15).
4. **Pause** – Pauses audio playback of the file (See Figure 15).
5. **Stop** – Stops audio playback of the file (See Figure 15).
6. **Layout Mode** – Toggles your view to Layout mode, which preserves the original page design (See Figure 15).
7. **Text Mode** – Toggles your view to Text Mode. In text mode, you can control the appearance of the text, such as typeface, text size and background/foreground colors (See Figure 15).
8. **Page Mask** – Allows you to mask out portions of the document (See Figure 15).
9. **Reading Ruler** – Enables the ruler tool (See Figure 15).
10. **Settings** - Opens/closes settings panel (See Figure 15).
11. **Save the page as an MP3** - Saves the audio file as an MP3 file to your computer. The audio file always contains the entire page (See Figure 15).
12. **Save Document** - Save the original document to your computer (See Figure 15).
13. **Help** – Takes you to the docReader help page (See Figure 15).

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Higher education (also called post-secondary education, third level or tertiary education) is an optional final stage of formal learning that occurs after completion of secondary education. Often delivered at universities, academies, colleges, seminaries, conservatories, and institutes of technology, higher education is also available through certain college-level institutions, including vocational schools, trade schools, and other career colleges that award academic degrees or professional certifications. Tertiary education at non-degree level is sometimes referred to as further education or continuing education as distinct from higher education. The right of access to higher education is mentioned in a number of international human rights instruments. The UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966 declares, in Article 13.
docReader Settings Panel

In the settings panel, you can change how the text from the document is displayed and read.

![Figure 16 - docReader Settings](image)

1. **Speed** - You can select between different reading speeds (See Figure 16).
2. **Language for menus** - Select language for docReader’s menus and toolbar (See Figure 16).
3. **Select reading area by** - Select which method docReader should use when reading parts of pages (See Figure 16).
4. **Sentence highlighting** - docReader offers synchronized highlighting of the text currently being read. You can select the type of sentence highlighting you want docReader to use. You can choose between different colors or underline. You can also tell docReader to not highlight sentences at all (See Figure 16).
5. **Word highlighting** - docReader offers synchronized highlighting of the text currently being read. You can select the type of word highlighting you want docReader to use. As for sentence highlighting, you can choose between background colors, underline, or no word highlighting at all. Some languages do not support word highlighting. If this is the case, this setting will not be displayed (See Figure 16).
6. **Text appearance** - Choose color combinations for the text/background (See Figure 16).
7. **Text size** - You can increase or decrease the size of the text in the document (See Figure 16).
8. **Typeface** - You can change the typeface of the text in the document (See Figure 16).
9. **Preview** - The changes you make to highlighting-related and text-related settings will be reflected automatically in the preview frame (See Figure 16).

**Note**: The settings above marked with an asterisk (*) are only applicable for text mode.
Additional Help
For additional help or installation issues, please contact the KSU Service Desk:

KSU Service Desk for Students
- Phone: 470-578-3555
- Email: studenthelpdesk@kennesaw.edu
- Website: http://uits.kennesaw.edu