Mariner Software

What makes Narrator unique as a text-to-speech program?

Jim Henson - 2024-04-20 - Narrator

What makes Narrator unique as a text-to-speech program?

Several functionalities within Narrator enable it to extend text-to-speech functionalities already present in Mac OS, accessible. It may seem confusing, then, which specific functionalities make Narrator unique as a solution for creating audio presentations. This article will outline those functionalities.

Multiple Characters

Narrator allows for the configuration and assignment of multiple characters to a text. Characters can be assigned to begin speaking at any point in the text with character flags.

Controls for Presentation Configuration

- **Character Controls** - specify how each character should sound by changing any of the following voice settings:

  - Rate
  - Pitch
  - Inflection
  - Volume

- **Casting Assistant** - Cast Characters automatically based on cues entered into the text.
- **Chapters** - Manage text segments within a presentation.
- **Substitution Dictionary** - Configure Narrator to read substitute text for for terms you define. For example, you can instruct Narrator to read "Captain Hook" where "Capt. Hook" appears in your text.

Playback Controls

- Playback control button, to pause and restart playback within Narrator:

  - Start/ Stop
  - Pause/ Resume
  - Advance Position

- Narrator can be configured to begin playback at the text insertion point.

Export Options

- Settings in Narrator make it possible to set iTunes tags for exported presentations before they are exported to iTunes. Tags that can be configured include:
  - Playlist
  - Genre
  - Artist

- Export to file - In addition to exporting directly to iTunes, Narrator can export to .AAC file.

For a full introduction to Narrator's functionalities, see [this Knowledge Base article](#).