

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT



Struggling readers to benefit from new tools in WYNN 4

Freedom Scientific, Learning Systems Group, the creator of innovative software for individuals with learning disabilities and reading challenges, has released WYNN 4, the dynamic literacy tool that transforms printed text into understandable information for readers of all ages and abilities. WYNN 4 includes a number of new options and enhancements not found in previous editions of the product.

“Since 1998, we have been dedicated to providing products that are flexible enough to work with all kinds of learners. The NCLB mandate has drawn attention to the need to incorporate all learners in the teaching model and made the need for our products even more apparent,” said Roberta G. Brosnahan, Vice President and General Manager of Freedom Scientific, LSG.

She continued, “We believe that you use your strengths to strengthen your weakness. Our guiding design philosophy is to provide a variety of features designed around solid educational strategies. These features must be highly intuitive and must allow users to customize the product to their exact needs. Since the initial introduction of WYNN, Freedom Scientific has incorporated universal design for all learning (UDL) in our products. Whether a student is

dyslexic, ADHD, an English Language Learner (ELL), a struggling reader, a third grader or a 30 year old, WYNN levels the playing field for all users.”

The success that WYNN users have experienced is, in large part, due to the bi-modal approach to reading that WYNN offers as text is highlighted on the screen as it is spoken aloud. The new features and upgrades in WYNN 4 are the result of months of research and user input.

WYNN’s user interface has been carefully designed to provide power, flexibility, and a short learning curve. The color-coded toolbars have intuitive, large buttons that are labeled with both pictures and words. To further enhance learning and comprehension, WYNN 4 now allows users to add, change and view Text Notes and Voice Notes in the Exact View and Text View toolbars. These new features provide even more methods to increase individual engagement in the learning process. In addition, Exact View has been improved to provide a brighter and crisper view of the page.

In response to user requests, WYNN 4 now includes AT&T Natural Voices for high quality and more human-sounding voices. English and Spanish languages are standard and other languages are available.

Another new feature is homophones, words that sound the same but have different meaning and spellings. WYNN 4 is able to verify correct usage in the document. The homophones work within the custom definitions available from Wordsmyth, the leading electronic and print reference company.

Other updates include:

- a new spell check function that indicates misspellings as the user types
- more definitions and updated word prediction
- the latest version of FineReader optical character recognition
- upgraded editing capabilities to convert documents into an MP3 or WAV files for later use
- new Dynamic Zoning toolbar that allows users to change the reading order of a document
- the ability to view PDFs in color

Freedom Scientific has multiple unit pricing tiers. A complimentary demo disk of WYNN 4.0 and pricing information is available.

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