

Capti Narrator – Receives FCC Chairman’s Award, Adds Instapaper Support, and now Reads Digital Content in 26 Languages with over 150 Voices

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Press Contact: Sha Li: info@captivoice.com Phone: 1-888-533-7884

Stony Brook, New York – June 17, 2014 – Charmtech Labs LLC today released Capti Narrator v1.6 for iPhone adding over 100 new high-quality synthetic voices speaking in 26 languages. Capti can be used to listen to news, blogs, and documents from the Browser, Dropbox, Google Drive, Clipboard, and now also *Instapaper*. Despite being the most comprehensive productivity app for listening to digital content, Capti Narrator remains free.

Capti Narrator has been revealed in January 2014 at the Consumer Electronics Show and has been available on the App Store to English-speaking customers around the world. Today’s release makes Capti multilingual and enables customers to listen to their content in 26 languages. To the initial 25 English voices, Capti added 35 free and nearly 100 premium (\$1.99-\$4.99) synthetic voices speaking in multiple languages and accents. This release makes Capti the most comprehensive productivity tool for listening to digital content worldwide. “Capti is excellent for anyone who wants to listen to content instead of reading it from the screen,” said Dr. Yevgen Borodin, President and CEO of Charmtech Labs LLC. “We are literally developing Capti for ourselves; for instance, the top three places where I use Capti the most are in the gym, in the car, and in the kitchen.”

The ability to read in 26 languages will also help language learners improve their comprehension skills by listening to their own reading materials. Capti automatically detects the language of the added content and narrates it with a voice in the corresponding language, making the listening experience seamless. “I can understand 6 languages, so, needless to say, I could not wait for Capti to become multilingual. Capti has already received a lot of traction internationally, in part, thanks to English learners. But now, Capti will empower anyone to learn a new language simply by listening to foreign texts and study materials,” said Dr. Borodin.

Capti also added Instapaper as a “source”, allowing anyone with a premium Instapaper account to import content to Capti. Those without a premium account can add Instapaper content via Capti Browser from instapaper.com. “Read-later lists quickly turn into bins filled with content that you didn’t have time to read when you added it to the list and, likely, won’t have time to read later.” Said Glenn Dausch, Usability Expert at Charmtech Labs LLC, “With Capti, I can listen to the backlog of my Instapaper content during the commute.”

In addition, Capti Narrator is also a valuable tool for people with vision impairments, dyslexia, and other print disabilities. In recognition of its commitment to universal accessibility, Charmtech Labs LLC was distinguished with the FCC Chairman’s Award for Advancing Accessibility in the category of Mobile Web Browsers. “I’m glad that these awards can help spark the development of new and creative technologies that furthers the important goal of making communications accessible for all Americans,” said Chairman Wheeler. The award was presented at the M-Enabling Summit in Washington, D.C. last week. “We are truly honored to receive such a prominent award from the FCC,” said Dr. Borodin, “This award only strengthens our commitment to making information universally accessible to all.” Two months prior, Capti also received the Delegates’ Award in the Web Accessibility Challenge at the International 2014 Web for All Conference in Seoul, Korea.

About Charmtech Labs LLC:

Charmtech Labs LLC was founded by a group of computer science professors and Ph.D. students who wanted to go beyond academic research and make a difference in the real world. Armed with years of cutting-edge research and software-development experience, they set out to remove barriers between people and information. Initially inspired by helping people with vision impairments to overcome information accessibility problems, they are now bringing their screen-reading technology to the mainstream market. Their flagship product, Capti Narrator, revolutionizes the way people consume digital content. For more information see www.captivoice.com.

Capti has been developed, in part, with support from the Department of Education, using the NIDRR grant number H133S110023. However, the contents do not represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

Use Cases

Usable literally by anyone, Capti exemplifies the vision of universal accessibility: “usable to the maximum extent possible by everyone regardless of their age, ability, or circumstance.”

- People without disabilities can use Capti to multitask and listen to content on a walk, while cooking, eating, watching kids, during the commute, in the gym, on the plane, or while relaxing.
- Students can use Capti to keep up with their reading materials while commuting or exercising, thus reducing the strain on their eyes and their overall physical health.
- Language learners can improve their reading and comprehension skills by listening to the content that is interesting to them, choosing the voices and the speech rate they follow.
- Older adults can enjoy simplified access to the Web and use a convenient playlist interface for consuming content in audio-visual form, without straining their eyes.
- People with cognitive disabilities, e.g., dyslexia and autism can both look at the screen at and listen to content at the same time (coming soon), which enhances comprehension.
- People with low vision benefit from the ability to listen to content instead of struggling to see with magnification, which they can use conveniently as well.
- Blind people can enhance their productivity finding information quicker in webpages and listening to content without constantly interacting with screen readers.
- While deaf people cannot benefit from audio narration, they can use Capti for visual reading, and use Capti Playlist for organizing their content that they want to read later.

Features

Connected

Get content from the Browser, Clipboard, Dropbox, Google Drive, and more

Organized

Use the Playlist to organize your content, save it for later or listen to it right away

Focused

Listen only to the main content in webpages, skipping ads, menus, and other clutter

Visual

View the content directly in your Playlist, and read along with Capti if you want

Intelligent

Capti will reassemble the articles that are spread across multiple webpages

Accessible

Capti works seamlessly with VoiceOver screen-reader

Liberating

Listen to e-books, documents, and web pages, instead of reading from the screen

Ubiquitous

Listen on iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch; sync your Playlist and continue from the same spot

Mobile

Listen on the road, on the plane, in the gym, on a walk, even when you are offline

Personalized

Choose from over 150 beautiful voices speaking in 26 languages, and set your preferred speech rate

Versatile

Listen to content in PDF, EPUB, HTML, TXT, DOC, PPT, RTF, ODT, and other formats

Social

Share content with your friends on Facebook, Twitter, via Email or SMS

About the CEO

Dr. Yevgen Borodin is the President and CEO of Charmtech Labs LLC, a company he co-founded to remove barriers between people and information. Initially inspired by helping people with vision impairments to overcome information accessibility problems, he is now bringing screen-reading technology to the mainstream market. Charmtech's flagship product, Capti Narrator, enables convenient hands-free consumption of digital content via audio (www.captivoice.com).

Dr. Borodin is well known for his research on making computers more accessible to people. He is the recipient of almost \$4M dollars in U.S. federal research grants to support his research. He has co-authored over 40 publications on various aspects of web accessibility, and received several best paper and other awards. Dr. Borodin has been recently recognized for his innovation and entrepreneurial accomplishments by the LaunchPad's Launch Your Stars Award.

Dr. Borodin is very active in the human-computer interaction and assistive technology communities. He has given numerous talks at international conferences and was recently an invited speaker at the FCC. He served on organizing and program committees for various research conferences and journals, and he is currently on the steering committee of the International Web for All Conference. A member of the ACM, IEEE, and SigmaXi, he also serves as a Research Assistant Professor in the Computer Science Department at Stony Brook University, where he is supervising research of several Ph.D. and M.S. students.

Dr. Borodin has earned his A.S. and BTech degrees from Alfred State College of Technology and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Computer Science from Stony Brook University. He defended his Ph.D. dissertation "Bridging the Web Accessibility Divide" at Stony Brook University, receiving the President's Award for Distinguished Doctoral Students (2010). He was also the 1st place winner of the 2007 ACM International Graduate Student Research Competition.