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TextScout

Turn Your Phone Into a Mobile Reading Assistant!

TextScout turns your camera phone into a mobile reading assistant. All you need to do is to take a picture of the text - TextScout will read it to you in a pleasing voice.

The integrated alignment assistant helps you to align your mobile phone with the text. With TextScout, you will be able to read texts anywhere, anytime, and independently - at home and on the road.

TextScout can be easily customised to your individual needs. Our online service myScout provides you with a set of tools for your processed texts. For example, you can have the resulting text sent to you via e-mail - It couldn't be easier!

Here's how TextScout works:

1. Align

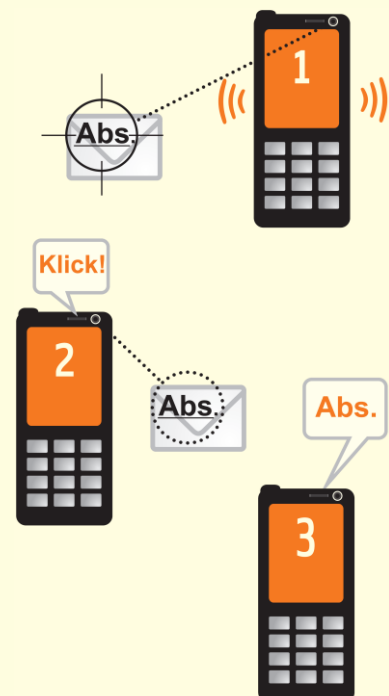
Using the integrated alignment assistant, you choose the best position for your mobile phone towards the text.

2. Shoot

TextScout automatically takes a picture as soon as you have reached the best position.

3. Read

TextScout quickly processes the data and starts reading the text to you in a clearly understandable voice.



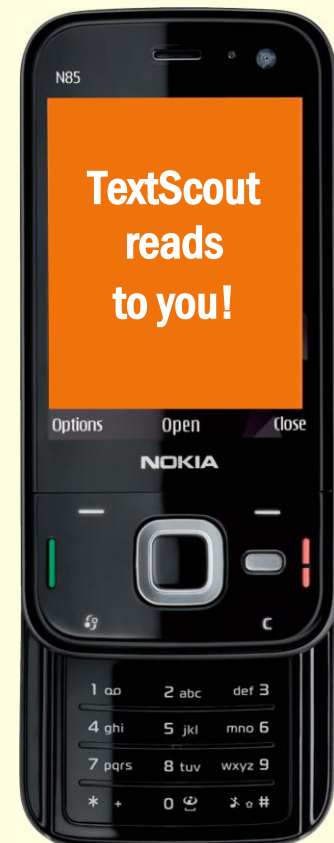
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TextScout reads to you!

No matter if it's a letter, price tag, shopping receipt, road sign or restaurant menu - just take a picture of it, and TextScout will tell you what it says.

Wherever you are, at any time of the day. With TextScout, you will be able to determine if the mail on the doorstep is addressed to you. If new handouts are added to a meeting on short notice, you can still join the discussion. Use your mobile phone as a scanner - your scout recognizes all kinds of printed documents, including:

- letters
- invoices
- books
- menus
- magazines
- business cards
- receipts
- flyers



TextScout can do even more!

You may customise TextScout to your personal needs. With myScout, the online user's area, you may have your recognition results sent directly to your email account, to name only one example. TextScout's many additional features make your mobile reading assistant a perfect complement for every day:

Alignment Assistant and Image Stabilisation

A sharp picture is the basis for any successful text recognition. TextScout helps you with that. Its alignment assistant tells you when your mobile phone is in a good position towards the text. Image stabilisation prevents you from taking blurry images on which texts cannot be recognised.

Clear & Distinct Voice Output

TextScout uses pleasant and natural-sounding voices. You can adjust the speaker's type, pace and pitch to your individual preferences.

Source Recognition

TextScout is optimised for the recognition of printed text and supports a number of modes for different sources, e.g. newspapers with small fonts or consumer product packaging. We continuously add new features and improvements to TextScout. Thanks to the product's client-server architecture, you can enjoy each new release immediately without having to buy an update or install new software.

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Template Quality Feedback

As soon as you have taken a picture, TextScout informs you in detail about the picture quality. You get immediate feedback about page orientation, whether text has been cropped, or if the text was too small to be recognised. And if you happen to photograph a book upside down and don't know which page to turn, TextScout will tell you.

Browsing Recognised Texts

You can easily navigate within processed texts and set bookmarks in order to retrieve important sections. Browse a text per paragraph, meaning, word or letter, quickly and comfortably. Each text is structured with a Table of Contents (TOC) - access interesting paragraphs with a single key stroke.

High-Contrast Visuals

If you can use the display of your mobile phone, use the viewfinder picture to align the camera with the source text. You can adjust the font size, display orientation and colour contrast for a user-friendly reading experience. TextScout automatically selects the currently narrated text in the display, so you'll always know where you are.

Transfer Results to Your PC

TextScout saves your texts as a Word document or a plain text file. Have the texts sent to your computer via e-mail, or transfer them via a data cable. A built-in browser helps you to find needed information on your mobile phone.

Large Choice of Phone Models

Tastes and preferences differ, therefore you should be able to use the type of phone you're most familiar with. TextScout supports many current Nokia builds with high-resolution cameras, and is continuously developed to support further models. To see a list of supported phones, refer to our website: <http://www.textscout.eu/en/reading-phone/compatible-phones>

Screen Reader & Braille Terminal Compatible

TextScout is 100% compatible to the popular screen readers Mobile Speak and Talks. A special reading mode enables you to have the processed text read to you by your installed screen reader. TextScout can also output text to a braille terminal.

Attractive Licensing Model

With TextScout, you won't get any nasty surprises. Your license can be easily transferred when you change your phone. The price includes all updates of existing features.



Questions & Answers

You surely must have a lot of questions concerning TextScout. We have been trying to answer the most common questions concerning TextScout in the following list. If your question is not listed, feel free contact us (see address below).

Usage Questions

Which sources will I be able to read with TextScout?

TextScout reads many kinds of printed documents, e.g.:

- letters
- invoices
- books
- menus
- magazines
- business cards
- receipts
- flyers

Of course, there are cases in which TextScout will reach its limits. The software is not optimised to decipher handwriting, and pictures of texts on TV or computer screens may sometimes not get processed properly. The same goes for bottles or packages of consumer products - many of them contain graphical elements which may interfere with the actual product text.

I am blind. How can I align TextScout with the text I want to read?

TextScout has an integrated alignment assistant that helps you with this task. Prior to shooting the photo, audio signals provide you with feedback about the alignment of your camera. Once the picture has been taken, you will receive further information, e.g. if the text is upside down, or whether the camera was tilted in relation to the source.

How well does TextScout recognise text characters?

TextScout's character recognition capabilities depend on the source. With printed documents, the performance is comparable to that of a flatbed scanner. If parts of the text cannot be recognised, the built-in spell check will improve the result. The character recognition for packages and labels may vary depending on their graphical composition.

Which mobile phones are supported?

Tastes and preferences differ, therefore you should be able to use the type of phone you're most familiar with. TextScout supports many current Nokia builds with high-resolution cameras, and is continuously developed to support further models. You can find a list of supported phones at www.textscout.eu.

How do I transfer processed texts to my computer?

After registering a free user account at our online service myScout, you can save the resulting texts online and have them sent to you via e-mail. If you don't want to use myScout, you can save the texts on your phone and transfer them to your PC via your data cable.

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How much do updates cost, and how can I install them?

TextScout is updated automatically, which makes installation and maintenance a breeze. That way, you are always up-to-date with the newest features and profit from the continuous development of your scout. All minor updates, i.e. updates of already existing features, are free of charge.

I have bought a new phone. Can I transfer TextScout to it?

Of course you can! Transferring your license to a new phone is easy and for free.

What does myScout have to offer?

Our online service myScout gives you access to all your processed texts as well as system messages. You can comfortably do global searches among your texts, download older results and manage your user preferences. If you want to use myScout, you need to register a user account with your serial number and passcode. Once you have done that, you can activate saving your results online.

Do I need a screen reader like Mobile Speak or Talks to be able to use TextScout?

TextScout uses its own voice output, so you do not necessarily need any external screen reader. However, if you want to use other features of your mobile phone, like sending text messages, you should consider installing a screen reader. TextScout is fully compatible with Mobile Speak and Talks, and offers an optional reading mode for using your screen reader's voice or a braille terminal.

Which TextScout accessories are available?

Each shipment contains polarising lens filters for improved picture quality when using a flash. Further accessories like tripods are planned.

Network Questions

How long does it take before the photographed text gets read out to me?

Data transfer and character recognition may take between 10-60 seconds, depending on your network coverage and the quality of the picture.

Do I need a data tariff for TextScout?

Yes, you need a data tariff in order to be able to use TextScout. However, the data volume is rather small, so you can probably choose one of your provider's more inexpensive tariffs.

How much data is transferred?

Average usage of TextScout produces approx. 30-50 MB of transferred data per month. Many operators offer data tariffs as an extension of their voice-only services. If you use TextScout only occasionally, you might want to choose a pre-paid alternative for saving costs; heavy users should consider a flat rate data tariff.



Can other users read my results, or see the pictures I have taken?

No, no one can see the pictures you have taken via TextScout, or read the processed texts. All data is encrypted and transferred securely, using the newest security technologies. Your data is not saved on our servers. If you want to save your results online for future use, you have to activate this feature separately for your myScout account.

My apartment has only limited network coverage - can I still use TextScout?

Yes, you can. TextScout can use your wireless LAN for data transfer. That way, the character recognition will work even faster, and you won't have any data transfer costs.

Commercial Questions

Where can I buy TextScout?

Please refer to the TextScout website www.TextScout.eu for a list of resellers in your country.

Contact – Talk to us!

Come into the world of TextScout and experience barrierless mobile text access!
It will be our pleasure to answer your questions or to give you a live demonstration of TextScout.

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