



## **IDLA learners benefit from having choices on how they want information to be delivered with ReadSpeaker**

Idaho Digital Learning was established as Idaho's State Virtual School by the Idaho State Legislature in 2002. The program was developed for Idaho students, and is recognized as a leader across the nation in online virtual education. Idaho is a geographically large, rural state and therefore IDLA was created to provide access, equity, and flexibility for students in the state of Idaho.

IDLA offers over 180 semester courses to students in grades 7-12. In 2011-2012, IDLA served nearly 18,000 enrollments and is on track to exceed 20,000 this year. In addition to delivering fully online courses, IDLA currently works with about 40% of Idaho's districts to provide services to support the implementation of blended learning models. Mike Caldwell, Director of Program Development, shares some thoughts about online text to speech and ReadSpeaker.

### **About Idaho Digital Learning**

- **Number of Employees:** 252
- **Industry:** Secondary Education
- **Year Founded:** 2002
- **Website:** [Visit Website](#)

Idaho Digital Learning Alliance was created by the Idaho State Legislature (Title 33, Chapter 55 Idaho Code, 2002) and Idaho educators, developed for Idaho students, and is recognized as a leader across the nation in online virtual education. Idaho Digital Learning Alliance was created to provide access, equity, and flexibility for students in the state of Idaho according to its statutory authority, and Idaho Digital Learning Alliance enables the state to meet its constitutional requirement to provide a uniform and thorough educational system.

# Exclusive Interview with Mike Caldwell from IDLA

ReadSpeaker (RS): How was the idea born to include TTS in your e-learning content, and in what specific type of content?

Mike Caldwell (MC): We always strive to provide as much differentiation as possible within our course. Having text to speech capabilities is just a good practice and once we heard about ReadSpeaker, it just made sense to add the feature to our courses.

RS: What were the target users you were thinking of in adding text to speech?

MC: Obviously anyone with reading challenges can benefit from this type of technology, but we think all learners can benefit from having choices on how they want information to be delivered to them. We are especially excited for our ELL population and our IEP students that will benefit greatly from this software.

RS: How much effort was involved to add ReadSpeaker to your learning management system?

MC: Implementing ReadSpeaker was quite easy. We wish all software implementations were that easy.

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ReadSpeaker is a global voice specialist providing dozens of languages and lifelike voices. Using its own industry-leading technology, the company delivers some of the most natural-sounding synthesized voices on the market. ReadSpeaker uses next-generation Deep Neural Network (DNN) technology to structurally improve voice quality at all levels. ReadSpeaker is a subsidiary of the Memory Disk Division (MD) of the HOYA Corporation, with offices in 15 countries, and over 10,000 customers in 65 countries, providing a complete text-to-speech (TTS) offering, both as Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) and as licensed solutions. A fully integrated TTS provider, ReadSpeaker encompasses all of HOYA's state-of-the-art technologies (NeoSpeech, Voiceware, VoiceText and rSpeak), providing a wide variety of applications for varying channels and devices in multiple industries. ReadSpeaker gives a voice to businesses and organizations for online, embedded, server or desktop needs, apps, speech production, custom voices and more. With more than 20 years' experience, the ReadSpeaker team of experts is leading the way in text to speech. ReadSpeaker is "Pioneering Voice Technology".

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