

Assistive Technology Product/Service Information Form

Candidate's Name: Sam Dowd

Company Name and Product Name(s): WYNN Literacy Software

Product/service information web site: <http://www.freedomscientific.com/lsg/products/wynn.asp>

Product/service address and toll free number (if available): 1-800-444-4443

Product/service format(s) (hardware, software, stand-alone product, etc.): Software

Product Information Resources: Highlight (or italicize) the resources in the list below you used (at the product/service web site and other resources) to learn about the product/service. (If you're not sure how to highlight on your computer, email your instructor for quick instructions.) Use as many different resources as possible to develop as complete an understanding of the product as possible.

- *Print descriptions, brochures, product specification sheets*
- Webinar(s)
- Downloaded trial copy and used it
- Participated in a face-to-face demo of the product
- *Video tutorial/demo*
- Audio tutorial/demo
- Talked/emailed/communicated with a product representative
- Talked/emailed/communicated with a product user
- Other: *Customer demo videos on YouTube*

Product/Service Description

Use each question below to guide your description of the product. Provide as much information as possible. You are contributing to a collection of AT resource information that you and your peers prepare.

1. "Big picture" description of the product/service (2-3 sentences):
 - a. WYNN Literacy Software is a text reading product that also highlights the words as they are read. The WYNN Wizard includes the ability to scan text using a scanner and then it will recognize the text and read it back to the student. The WYNN Reader software is just the basic read-aloud and highlight function without the scanning and text recognition capabilities.
2. Detailed description of the product/service, its purpose, features, what it can do, areas it addresses, limitations, etc. Provide as much in-depth detail as possible here. Be detailed. Feel free to include a picture, if that will help us understand the product. *Do not* just copy/paste product information from the product web site/materials. Read/study and synthesize. You may use an occasional quotation, if necessary.

- a. The WYNN Literacy Software is very powerful text-to-speech reader. It prides itself on a “bimodal” approach. It incorporates highlighting of the text being read so that the student can follow along. The product assists students with a vision



impairment by reading the text on a page to them. It also helps students with ADD or ADHD by highlighting the text that is being read so that the student can focus on that one area instead of letting their mind wander. In addition, several other features address other areas like the ability to create

notecards and other writing templates in order to enhance comprehension. The software can also be paired with a PEARL Camera so that the student can place a book under the camera and have it instantly read back to him/her. One feature of the software is that it will maintain the look and feel of the text. Instead of converting the text to just a single block of words, it will maintain the paragraph structure, the columns on a page, and even images so that the student is able to see exactly what is being read in the same format as if they were to be reading it on paper. Another feature is the ability for teachers to lockout certain tools like the dictionary, thesaurus, and spell-checking. This way, if the student is taking a test, he/she doesn't have unauthorized access to these tools.



3. What prerequisite skills does a person need in order to use the product/service?
 - a. A person using this product would need basic computer skills in order to use WYNN. It does seem that great effort was put in to make the user interface intuitive, but some of the advance features may require some more advanced knowledge of the software.
4. If the product is used in conjunction with a computer, are Windows and Mac versions available? Are versions for smart phones and other mobile devices available (e.g. Blackberry, iPhone, Android, iPad, other tablets, etc.)? If versions are available for different devices, are they essentially the same?
 - a. WYNN is only available for windows and does not have a mobile version.
5. What qualifications or eligibility criteria, if any, does an individual need to meet in order to obtain the product/service (e.g. disability, age/grade level)? What documentation is required if there are eligibility criteria?
 - a. Anyone can use the software.
6. What does the product/service cost? Include information about different options' costs, if available.
 - a. WYNN can be used either on an individual PC or as a network installation. WYNN wizard is \$995 per license (for 1 to 4 licenses) for the standard

installation. WYNN Reader (the version without the ability to scan) is \$375. For a network installation, WYNN Wizard is \$1,095 and WYNN Reader is \$475 (for 1 to 4 floating licenses). The company offers “substantial discounts” on higher quantities by calling their customer support line.

7. Other important information:

- a. WYNN has a version that can be installed and used over a network. This is great for schools because they can install it in one place and have it accessible to all computers on the network. It is more expensive, but allows it to be used more flexibly.

Reflection: Your thoughts, comments and lingering questions about this product/service:

I think this is a great piece of software. I especially like the bimodal approach of being able to see what is being read as it is being read. I think the software is overpriced for what it does. While it certainly does what it claims to do very well, there are ways to get text read to you for free. The highlighting is a more difficult feature to replicate but it would be hard to justify the additional cost. A question that this brings up is how effective the bimodal approach is over just standard reading of the text. I guess some kind of data on the effect of the highlighting would be great to see. That might help justify the cost. If it wasn't so expensive it would be a great piece of software because it is so versatile and does include some small features like the note-taking and flashcards that I could see being helpful. Also, the network installation option is beneficial because that means that the software doesn't have to be locked down to any one computer and can be used anywhere.