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Hear2Read

Hear2Read Text To Speech (TTS) software opens the doors of digital empowerment to people with blindness, low vision or dyslexia, who wish to read text written in Indian languages.

The Hear2Read team has developed an open source framework, portable across Android, UNIX and Windows systems, for building TTS software for Indic languages. To date this framework has been used to release TTS Apps for Gujarati, Kannada, Marathi, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu in Android Play Store. These complement Hindi and Bengali TTS provided by Google.

Hear2Read Apps use the Android OS Framework for third party TTS engines and run as a service in the background allowing users to read e-books, websites, emails, Word documents, text or HTML files, SMS texts, Facebook postings and WhatsApp messages, using the Android Talkback accessibility feature. This greatly helps increase independence and mobility for visually impaired people. For example, users can read by listening as the Android device speaks restaurant menus or train and bus schedules posted on websites.

Hear2Read Apps have universal appeal beyond the blind population, for example, for people who have not learned to read or who are learning a new language.

Work is in progress to make it available for Windows PC users. This will allow the blind population to use workplace software, including Microsoft Office.

The UNIX version of the Hear2Read TTS software can be deployed by Indic language websites to speak text on web pages.

All Hear2Read Apps are free and do not display ads or ask for in-app purchases.

The software can run without Internet access on inexpensive Android devices.