

## Brief Review of What the ICTs in Our Study Do Handout at AQETA 2010, Montreal

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**Antidote:** Antidote is software which is intended to improve the user's quality of writing. It features twelve dictionaries, as well as eleven linguistic guides, which work as a whole to help correct the user's text in real-time. Antidote is accessible directly from the user's word processor (e.g. Microsoft Word) with a single click. **Current version: Antidote HD v.3**

**Balabolka:** Balabolka is text-to-speech software. It can read text files (DOC, RTF, ODT, PDF, FB2, HTML) using any voice synthesis that is available on the user's computer. The software also features screen enlarging options, highlighting options, as well as a spell checker. **Current version: Balabolka 1.30.0.443**

**Cmap:** Cmap is organizational software that enables the user to connect ideas (e.g. diagrams). It also allows the users to share the maps they create by posting them on CmapServers. These files are then available for retrieval and modification by any other Cmap user. **Current version: Cmap 5.03**

**C-Pen 20:** The C-Pen 20 is a portable scanner which is the size of a highlighter. It allows the user to instantly transfer data from paper to the computer via USB. With the C-Pen Dictionary, the user can instantly translate unknown words in any of the 168 languages supported by the C-Pen. **Current version: C-Pen 20 v.1.32**

**Dragon Naturally Speaking (Standard):** Dragon Naturally Speaking is dictation software that allows the user to communicate with the computer. The user talks, and the software writes the words in a word processor (e.g. Microsoft Word 2000/XP/2003/2007). It is also possible to use Dragon with some other types of software (e.g. WordPerfect, Outlook Express, Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox) using voice commands instead of a keyboard. **Current version: Dragon Naturally Speaking 10**

**Inspiration:** Inspiration is organizational software that allows the user to connect ideas. It is possible to do so with concept maps, but also with outlines. Inspiration also features a tool that helps the user present previously entered information in a complete presentation format. **Current version: Inspiration 9.0**

**Kurzweil 3000:** Kurzweil 3000 scans documents, uses optical character recognition (OCR) and then reads texts using voice synthesis. The software also allows the user to modify scanned documents and offers editing options to make the text better using a spell checker. **Current version: Kurzweil 3000 v.11**

**Médialexie:** Medialexie is multipurpose software. It features a word processor and Cordial (a spell checker used to make dictation better). It also reads texts using voice synthesis and has built-in dictation software. Along with these options, Medialexie also features many dictionaries to help the user edit text. These tools are all accessible via toolbars. **Current version: Médialexie v.2**

**OmniPage:** OmniPage is scanning software that uses optical character recognition (OCR) to convert the user's scanned documents to editable files. OmniPage can also take images from a digital camera and convert them to an editable text file. The software supports Asian languages and enables the user to send files to an ebook reader such as the Kindle Reader. **Current version: OmniPage 17**

**OpenBook:** OpenBook is scanning software that uses optical character recognition (OCR) to convert documents to editable digital format. OpenBook also features two text-to-speech engines: RealSpeak Solo which has more "human sounding" voices, and Eloquence which uses more efficient voice synthesis but it is less "human like." **Current version: OpenBook 8.0**

**ReadPlease:** ReadPlease can read text with multiple options. It allows the user to modify the font color and the background color. ReadPlease also enables the user to highlight the words as they

are read. Apart from these features, ReadPlease offers regular text-to-speech options like adjusting the voice speed, language choice, voice choice and so forth. **Current version: ReadPlease 2003**

**Smartpen:** The Smartpen has many features to help make notetaking more efficient. It features a microphone which records anything the user is taking notes on (e.g. lecture, conversation, meeting). The user can then have the Smartpen play back parts of the recording by pointing to the corresponding handwritten excerpt. To be able to do so, the user must use special paper. A camera integrated into the Smartpen tracks the position of the writing on the paper. With that information it can retrieve the corresponding audio recording. **Less expensive version: Smartpen 2GB Pulse (Titanium)**

**SparkSpace:** SparkSpace is an organizational tool that enables the user to connect ideas by using diagrams or plain text. It offers the “typical” organizational tools featured in this type of software. SparkSpace also enables the user to comment on his or her ideas. The comments are then used to make a detailed, printable plan. **Current version: 4.0**

**TextHelp (Read&Write):** TextHelp is software with many options. It can read text files using voice synthesis. It also features a spell checker to help correct what the user writes. TextHelp uses optical character recognition (OCR) technology to transform images to editable text, and features a pronunciation helper, as well as several linguistic tools. With TextHelp, the user can save texts as audio files (e.g. MP3). **Current version: TextHelp Read&Write v.9**

**Visual Understanding Environment (VUE):** VUE is organizational, concept mapping software. As such, it offers many basic tools to enhance organization (ex. diagrams, file import) as well as features that distinguish it from more “traditional” concept mapping software such as dynamic maps, the possibility of merging maps, and analysis tools. VUE also features research tools to make information retrieval easier. **Current version: VUE 3.0**

**WordQ:** WordQ is word prediction software which works within the user's word processor (e.g. Microsoft Word, WordPad, NotePad, Outlook). When the user starts typing a word, the software produces a list of correctly spelled words allowing the use to choose. The software can also read these words (or the complete sentence) for the user. It also gives the user an example of the context in which the word can be used. WordQ saves the user's word preferences and then refines the lists of words to better fit the user's needs. **Current version: WordQ 2.7**

**Wynn:** Wynn is scanning and screen reading software. It includes optical character recognition (OCR) to render images into editable text. The built-in speech synthesis enables the software to read text. Wynn also features options such as highlighting spoken words and toolbars to make the options more accessible. The software is available in two different versions: Wynn Wizard and Wynn Reader. Wynn Wizard features all of the options mentioned above, whereas Wynn Reader does not include OCR technology or scanning options. **Current version: Wynn 5.10.101**

**For more information:** <http://adaptech.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/index.php>

**This handout is available at:** <http://www.adaptech.org/AQETA2010HandoutEnglish.doc>