

ReadIt Wand Tips and Tricks for Accurate and Fast OCR

The ReadIt Wand is a feature rich optical character recognition solution designed to provide blind and low vision computer users with quick and easy access to print materials including textbooks, novels, magazines and mail. In addition, the ReadIt Wand includes a wide variety of other useful features that can help you be more productive at home, school and at work.

Learning Objectives

- Identify how to install and setup the ReadIt Wand software and hardware
- Learn how to position your documents
- Understand the basics of capturing and reading print materials
- Learn how to use multiple capture mode to read novels and textbooks
- Discover how to export captured documents in a variety of file formats
- Learn how to import image based PDF file and other digital content
- Identify the 6 different visualizations offered by the ReadIt Wand
- Learn how a touch screen can be used to control the ReadIt Wand

Review Questions

1. Before connecting the ReadIt Wand camera to your computer, you will first need to install and activate the ReadIt Wand **APPLICATION** as well as at least one **VOICE PACK**. You can install and activate the ReadIt Wand on up to **THREE** computers.
2. Getting the ReadIt Wand camera ready for use just takes a few seconds and can be completed in three easy steps.
 - a. Grasp the very bottom of the white aluminum **ALIGNMENT ARM** and pull it out towards you until it stops.
 - b. Now grasp the top of the **ALIGNMENT ARM** and rotate it 90 degrees clockwise until it rests on the desk or table surface.
 - c. Next, grasp the bottom of the camera head between your thumb and index finger and lift it upwards until it stops.

3. The ReadIt Wand camera connects to your computer via a **USB** cable. If using the ReadIt Wand camera with a desktop computer, you might need to connect the included **USB EXTENSION CABLE** to make the cable long enough to reach your computer's USB port.
4. The ReadIt Wand camera can capture an area slightly larger than a Letter size document (8.5 inches by 11 inches). Documents must be positioned in a **LANDSCAPE** orientation with the long edge of the document going left to right. To align your document, simply place it up against the built in **ALIGNMENT ARM** so that one of the corners of the document is in line with the right edge of the **ALIGNMENT ARM**.
5. Once you have correctly positioned your document under the ReadIt Wand camera, press **ENTER** to take a picture of the page. You will hear the sound of a camera shutter when the image is captured. Next, you will hear the system report "recognizing" and then the text will be spoken automatically in a human sounding voice when the text recognition is complete.
6. To start or stop the reading of your document, press **SPACEBAR**. You can also use the mouse to start and stop reading. Double click on a word to start reading from that position and single click anywhere in the document to stop reading.
7. You can capture up to 20 pages per minute using ReadIt Wand's **MULTIPLE CAPTURE** mode. To initiate **MULTIPLE CAPTURE** mode press **SHIFT-ENTER**. The ReadIt Wand has motion detection sensors and won't take a picture of the next page until you are ready. To exit **MULTIPLE CAPTURE** mode, press **ESC**.
8. To export the current document, open the **FILE** menu, and choose **EXPORT** or press **CONTROL-T**. In the Export dialog, choose your preferred output file type using the supplied File Type combo box. Supported file formats include: **PDF**, **RTF**, **TXT**, **DOC**, **DOCX** and **MP3**.
9. To import an image based PDF, open the **FILE** menu, and choose **IMPORT** or press **CONTROL-SHIFT-O**. Select the PDF file you wish to import using the Import dialog and activate the OK button to continue.

10. **DOCUMENT MODE** allows you to read your captured documents and re-format them to your preferred visualization. Once you've captured a document using "Enter", you will automatically be taken to **DOCUMENT MODE**. If you wish to change to **DOCUMENT MODE** directly from Camera Mode, simply press **TAB**.
11. The ReadIt Wand offers 6 different **VISUALIZATIONS** or enhanced ways to view your document that can make documents much faster and easier to read.
12. The six **VISUALIZATIONS** are: **IMAGE**, **OVERLAY**, **COLUMN**, **HORIZONTAL**, **VERTICAL** and **WORD**.
13. You can cycle between the 6 **VISUALIZATIONS** by pressing **V** or selected directly using 1 through 6 keys on the number row.
14. The ReadIt Wand is compatible with touch screen displays. You can issue intuitive touch gestures to:
 - a. **START READING** – double tap a word
 - b. **STOP READING** – single tap anywhere in document
 - c. **INCREASE MAGNIFICATION** - place thumb and finger on screen to start the pinch gesture and then move your fingers apart.
 - d. **DECREASE MAGNIFICATION** - place thumb and finger on screen to start pinch gesture and then move fingers together
 - e. **SCROLLING/PANNING DOCUMENT** – drag finger in any direction