

ReadSpeaker® for Blackboard Learn Ultra

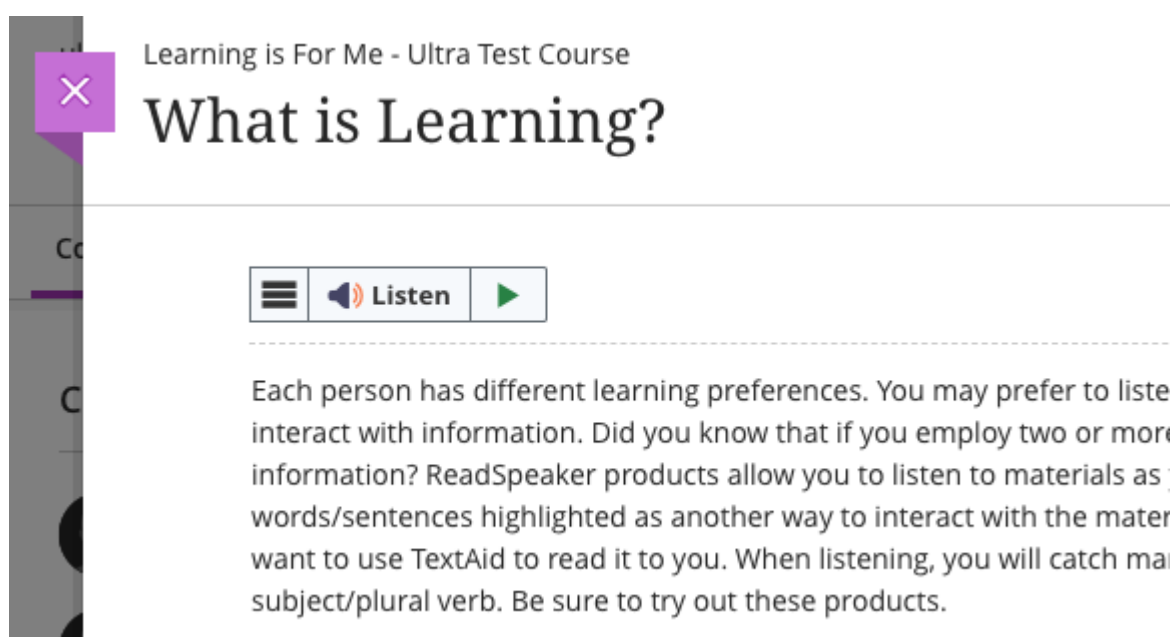
This product specification includes all information relevant to the implementation of ReadSpeaker for Blackboard Learn Ultra (“ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra”) in a Blackboard Learn Ultra environment.

ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra is an LTI integration that speech enables the HTML content in the customer’s Blackboard Learn Ultra environment to enable logged-in users to listen to the text. Any user can hear their HTML course content spoken aloud or download it as an MP3 using only their internet browser. Users can also highlight and play back a subset of the content. ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra has many extra features, including highlighting the text paragraph being read, reading and translation tools, as well as document reading.

All paragraphs in the [product specification for ReadSpeaker webReader 3.8](#) (“webReader”) apply to ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra, unless a paragraph with the same title is included in this document, in which case the paragraph in this document applies. So, in sense you can consider this document to be an addendum to the product specification for webReader, where you should read “website” as “LMS”, “customer” as “customer or LMS administrator”, and “web page” as “content page within the LMS”. Generally, “user” will be a student in the LMS.

Product Description

ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra functions as described in the section “Product Description” of the product specification for webReader. The Listen button is displayed at the top of the page in Ultra course documents, assignments, and quizzes.



The customer can purchase licenses for one or multiple languages (and for one or multiple voices per language). The customer sets the default language and voice, which applies for all courses.

Adding the ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra functionality includes enabling it as an LTI tool and a REST API integration. The installation process is described in *ReadSpeaker for Blackboard Learn Ultra - Installation Guide*.

Features

Most webReader features work in ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra exactly as described in the product specification for webReader. However, in ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra, features cannot be enabled/disabled by the LMS administrator. They can be enabled/disabled by the ReadSpeaker support team for the specific LMS account upon request.

webReader in Certain Content Types

ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra will be displayed on pages with the following page types:

- Ultra course documents
- Ultra assignments
- Ultra quizzes

Support for additional content types is added continually, so the above list may be missing page types for which support has been added after the writing of this document.

Synchronized Highlighting

Paragraphs are highlighted as they are read.

Colors for Highlighting

The default color for paragraph highlighting is light green and for the highlighted text is black.

The customer can choose other default colors. The user can personalize these colors provided the Settings option is enabled in the menu. Eight colors are available as background color for highlighting paragraphs. Underlining can be chosen as an alternative. 6 colors are available for the highlighted text.

Customer-Defined Reading Area

This is not a feature of ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra.

Multiple Languages - Different Languages for Different Pages

This paragraph in the product specification for webReader does not apply to ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra. The following paragraph replaces it.

Multiple Languages - Default Language and User-selected Voices

Available if the customer has purchased a license for more than one language. The System Administrator sets the default language and voice for all courses when configuring the LTI integration. The languages and voices purchased by the customer are displayed in the Reading Voice menu in webReader, and the user selects which voice should be used to read the content.

Reading Multiple Languages - Automatic Language Switch

This feature is not available in ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra, i.e. ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra cannot switch from one language to another automatically within a page.

MathML Support

This feature is on by default in ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra.

Document Reading

The product specification for webReader has a section “docReader Add-On” under “Options”. But ReadSpeaker docReader (“docReader”) is included in ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra. So customers who purchase ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra can integrate docReader into their Blackboard Learn Ultra LMS at no extra cost, allowing users to listen to the documents on course pages in the LMS. Please refer to the [product specification for docReader](#) for further details.

Technical Specifications

Simple Implementation

Adding the ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra functionality includes enabling it as an LTI tool and a REST API integration. The installation process is described in *ReadSpeaker for Blackboard Learn Ultra - Installation Guide*.

Graphical Design

This technical specification does not apply for ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra.

Configuration Settings

ReadSpeaker can modify a number of settings for the customer that turn off or change some of the features. Some examples of these modifiable settings can be found in the product specification for webReader.

JavaScript Support

ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra will only work if the browser used supports JavaScript and has JavaScript enabled for the ReadSpeaker scripts.

docReader integration

The customer can choose to integrate docReader in the LMS or not. docReader in ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra works differently from docReader on websites. Rather than a docReader icon next to every online document, there will be a docReader icon in the banner section of Blackboard Learn Ultra. Clicking it will open a panel listing all documents on the current course page. Clicking on a document in the panel will open the document in docReader.

Product Components

SaaS Application

The core of ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra is the webReader SaaS (Software As A Service) application, hosted by ReadSpeaker. After successful installation of the ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra integration by the System Administrator, this SaaS is accessible to all users in all courses.

JavaScript and HTML Code

The product is delivered as an Ultra Extension Framework plug-in, and is installed as an LTI tool in the Blackboard administration panel. It requires the REST API integration to be configured as well. The UEF plug-in will automatically insert the HTML code and JavaScripts necessary to make ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra work.

Implementation Instructions

Clear implementation instructions and other documentation such as FAQ are included and available to the customer through the ReadSpeaker customer portal.

Customer Portal

The Customer receives login instructions for the ReadSpeaker customer portal. Here, the customer can access account information, statistical information about the use of ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra, implementation instructions, FAQs, and instructions for contacting support in case of questions or problems.

Options

Multiple Languages or Voices

This is not an option for ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra in the same way that it is for webReader for websites. The system administrator determines which of the purchased voices should be the default one for all Blackboard Learn Ultra pages. Other voices can only be used for the Reading Voice feature, i.e. the user can manually select a voice.

Custom Listen Button, Player, and Menu

This is not an option for ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra.

Requirements and Limitations

Document Reading

Document reading is only available for documents on course pages in Blackboard Learn Ultra.

Disclaimer

In addition to the content of the disclaimer in the product specification for webReader, ReadSpeaker cannot guarantee that ReadSpeaker for Bb Ultra will continue to work as specified in this document if Blackboard implements changes to the Blackboard Learn Ultra LMS.