

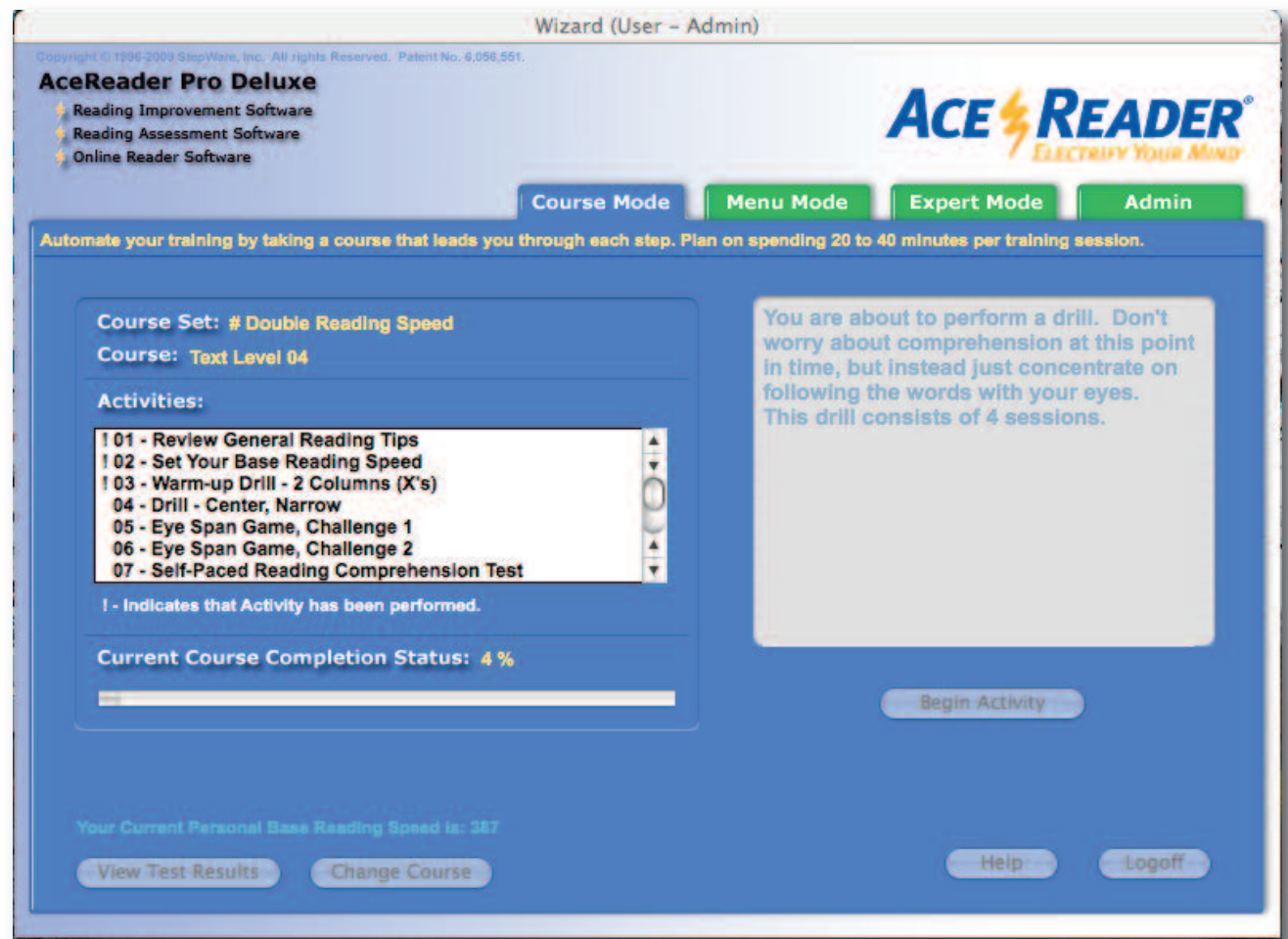
AceReader Pro Deluxe

One of the challenges that we face is switching from reading real books to reading them on a computer. The vast majority of my students, even though they were immersed in their computers, preferred to read hardcopy text books and not ebooks. CDs with their text book on it were available and less than a quarter of the class asked for the CD to be included with it. Nowadays, you can get computerized versions of magazines rather than hard copies. As our society attempts to become more and more paperless, we need to become more proficient with reading online text. AceReader Pro can help bridge that gap. The goal of AceReader is to help you read faster while maintaining your comprehension, be it hard copy or paperless. This does not happen overnight. AceReader has a set of drills that you need to use (15-20 minutes a day) with diligence in order to get the desired improvement. How do you become an ace reader? Practice, practice, practice.

As readers, we have two habits that will slow us down. One is sub-vocalization, pronouncing words in our head as we read. The other is re-reading or regression where we let our eyes wander back to re-read text. AceReader attempts to make us read at a higher speed. At these speeds it becomes physically impossible to sub-vocalize and keep up. You are forced to read ahead and won't have time to regress. But AceReader will also help you to reduce eye fixation time (the time spent focused on a single point). It will help expand your eye fixation zone and give you the ability to read a wider text width with your eyes focused on a single point. It hopes to improve your ability to reposition your eyes at a rapid rate.

These are not new techniques. They are proven speed reading technology. Many will attest to their increased ability to read faster after applying these techniques. What AceReader brings is a set of drills that you can practice right on the computer screen rather than out of a text book. Some of the drills would be hard to do if not for the computer set up. And since the computer pre-assesses your reading speed, the practice programs start from a personal skill level and moves forward for you. It is atuned to your ability and will progress as you progress. You can't get such individual training in a text book.

AceReader uses two technologies to help you learn to take in multiple words at one time. *Rapid Serial Visual Presentation* (RSVP) in which the text is displayed in the center of the text area. RSVP can help you read faster than normal because your eyes do not have to move.



The words come to your eyes instead of your eyes going to the words. *Tachistoscopic Scroll Presentation* in which text is displayed in a manner that forces your eyes to move just like they do in normal reading. TSP can train you to read in a normal fashion but at higher speeds. More simply put, AceReader uses drills to improve two facets of reading. It improves the speed at which your eyes can move across the page and it increases the width of your scan when your eyes are

focused on a point. The "course mode" runs through a pre-set list of drills. First you read a passage and answer four multiple choice questions to assess your base reading/comprehension speed. Then two drills each for the two afore mentioned facets are given. This is repeated 12 times with different patterns for a total of 60 drills. After completing this first phase you can then choose the "change the course" button and try to go for faster and faster reading speed.

The "menu mode" allows you to specify exactly which of the two areas you would like to work on. Rather than working your way through all of the drills, you can pick the ones that you would like to focus on. You should really start with the other mode just to get an understanding of what AceReader is trying to improve. The "menu mode" is more for the advanced student.

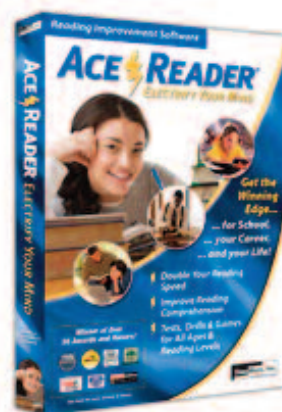
The next mode is the "expert mode". You can use this to train and read faster while on your computer having full control of all options. In this mode you load your own text files into AceReader. You will actually be practising your speed reading on material that you will be using in your day to day work. If reading science journals is your thing, then use these in AceReader. Your comprehension improvement will directly be reflected in work productivity. Use AceReader to skim text rapidly from a variety of documents and from your clipboard. The clipboard allows you to import text from other applications, such as your favourite word processor and text from the Internet (i.e. Web pages, e-mail, news groups). The text is displayed with VCR-Like play and stop buttons. Utilize the "Burst" and "Sentence Search" features to read efficiently while online. Adjust (1) speed of text presentation, (2) font colour, (3) font size, (4) background colour, (5) number of words or lines, and (6) delays. There is a further "admin mode" which allows you to manage the users. This is more for the teacher or office manager.

There are two versions of AceReader for the home. The Pro version is for individual use. The Pro Deluxe allows up to 5 users. It keeps track of where each of the five users are in their drills and builds in extra features such as Test, Drill and Game editors, Readability Stats, and a Spell checker. There is also a higher end school version for multiple users. I can't do justice to a review without mentioning a few other less obvious uses of AceReader. You can use the Flash Card Game to memorize learning material. You can also use the Burst Forward and Burst Repeat features to rapidly read and re-read text for the purpose of memorizing it. Use AceReader as a computerized flash card system to read and re-read text for the purpose of learning a foreign language. AceReader supports the international ASCII character set (i.e. English, Spanish, German, French, Italian, etc.).



There is an excellent help manual that comes with the application (over 100 pages) but the application is very user friendly. You can easily start the learning drills without this manual. Go visit their web site at <http://www.acereader.com>. You can a look at what it has to offer for the three types: personal, educational and business. Read some of the testimonials and look at some screen shots.

Whether you read real books or ebooks, magazine articles on or off line, AceReader will improve your reading speed. Since running through the first set of drills, I have noticed an improvement in my reading speed. I am trying to put into practice the eye movement so that I can move through a line much faster. With more drills, my reading speed can only increase. Mac OSX 10.1 or later is needed. Go to the website and download a 30-day trial version of the software and try it out. If you like what you see then \$49.95 gets you activated.



Article Submitted by Marcel Dufresne

