Charlene Cullen

Speech Pathologist
Speech Language and AAC Consultant

Greg O'Connor

Teacher
Education Services Manager

Communicate: SymWriter

a powerful word and symbols processor for emergent writers

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www.spectronicsinoz.com

Spectronics Free Emailed Update Service!

www.spectronicsinoz.com

Session Outline

1. Introduction to SymWriter

2. Writing into the Document

3. Writing with Grids

What is Communicate: Symwriter?

• Tool designed to help people

✓ who have difficulty writing text
✓ students who are struggling with literacy
✓ adults with a learning disability including an acquired disability

• It can also help teachers to develop symbol supported literature

• Successor to Writing with Symbols 2000

Slide 1

	Writing with Symbols 2000	Communicate: SymWriter
Talking word processing	✓	✓
Rich Text Formatting		✓
Spell checking with pictures	✓	✓
Graphics on the Page		✓	←
Flexible, scalable page layout		✓	←
Drag and drop graphics		✓	←
Easy file sharing		✓	←
Talking symbol processor	✓	✓
Picture Communication Symbols (PCS)	✓	Available as add-on
Widgit Literacy Symbols (WLS)		✓
Smart Symbolising based on parts of speech		✓	←
Qualifiers to show plurals and tenses	✓	✓
Adjustable text and symbol size	✓	✓
Choice of the best symbol for the word	✓	✓
View your symbol choices, even in text-mode		✓
Symbols appear above or below text	✓	✓
Add your own graphics as symbols	✓	✓
Thumbnail views of graphic choices		✓	←
Thumbnail views for browsing pictures		✓	←
Grids for writing	✓	✓
Easy creation of grids for writing		✓	←
Free form grids		✓	←
Scanning for one or two switches	✓	✓
Grids for Printing	See Communicate: In Print	

http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/article/26099

Slide 2

What is Communicate: Symwriter?

A writing tool for:
- Independent writing
- On-Screen writing grids
- Smart symbolising
- Continuous documents

Can I drink a can of drink?

Slide 3

Australian / New Zealand Symbols

- All new ANZ symbols
- All vocabulary has been checked and edited for ANZ usage
- New ANZ writing grids
- Two Australian voices (Karen and Lee) now shipped with the program
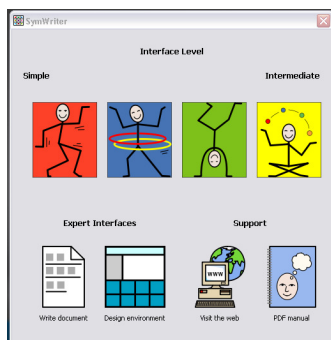- Free symbol updates which include changes to accommodate feedback from ANZ users

Slide 4

Free Symbol Updates

http://www.widgit.com/symbolupdates

- From 2009 all users of the Communicate Series will be entitled to upgrade their symbol set free of charge
- The Winter 2008 update adds over 3,000 new symbols

Slide 5

Interface Level

Simple   Intermediate

Let's have a look!!!

Expert Interfaces   Support

Write document   Design environment   Visit the web   PDF manual

Slide 6

Writing into the Document

- Write using the keyboard
  - Automatic symbolisation gives immediate feedback
  - Speech support
  - Spell checker with speech support

Smart Symbolising Technology

- Designed to increase the accuracy of symbolisation, analysing the grammar of the sentence and choosing the symbol that illustrates the correct part of speech

Changing Symbols and Words

- Changing the symbol from the symbol chooser (F9)
- Changing the words for a symbol (F11) or change symbol text button
- Changing the image on a word using the Graphics tab

Graphics Browser

- Browse any pictures on your hard drive eg. My Pictures, and some other network places
- Put in a loose digital image or add a digital image as default instead of a symbol

Changing Colour

- Changing the colours in a symbol using the colour graphic icon
- Switching between colour and monochrome symbols
- Skin tone icon

Qualifiers

- Indicates plural, verb tense, comparative or superlative
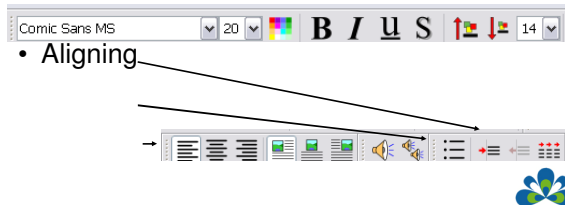- Can change locally for one symbol or for the whole document

Symbol Sets

- Over 8000 Widget Literacy Symbols (WLS) in colour and B&W
- Drop pictures from symbol browser 1500 Widgit pictures or from anywhere on your computer

Text and symbol formatting

- Font and symbol size and colour

- Indents

- Aligning

Text Only or Symbols

- Writing in text only and seeing the meaning with symbols
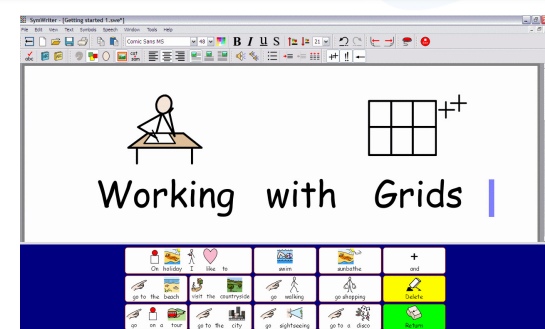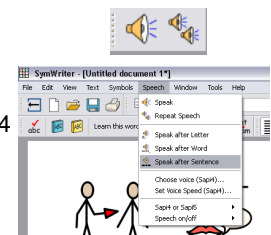- Adding key symbols to text using the symbol chooser

Using the Spell Checker

- Either using a right click for simple spell checker
- Using the spelling icon to do a full check of the document

Speech

- Click to hear speech for each word or sentence
- Click to hear it repeated
- Set auto-speech to choose settings
- Can be read with SAPI-4 and SAPI-5 voices

Working with Grids

Writing with Grids

- Assists students to write by giving pre-defined content
  - Simple grid writing with symbols
  - A sequential series of grids
  - Linked grids with a menu
  - Text grids
  - Free form layout with pictures

Writing with grids

- Write by selecting cells which display symbols, send the content to the writing document
- For larger vocabularies, grids of cells can be linked to access more words and phrases – called Environments

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Stage
A stage is an area of the screen that can hold grids, trays, buttons and text boxes.

Button
A button is like a single cell that can be placed in a tray or directly onto a stage.

Text-mode
This is used for writing text into grid cells.

Arrow-mode
This is used for most other purposes, for example resizing, linking, editing appearance and moving.
Switch between arrow and text-mode by pressing the key **F2**.

Grid
A grid is a regular array of cells. Cells can be merged in a grid to make it semi-regular.

Tray
A Tray is a free-form area where graphics and text boxes may be positioned freely. A tray may also have a graphic as a background.
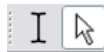
Cell
A cell is a single entity within a grid. Usually a cell has a border and is used to contain text and symbols.

Command Graphic
This is a graphic without a word attached, but which can be sent to the document either with some pre-defined text attached, or as a loose graphic for illustration.

- When working with grids and stages there are two modes:

  - Text-mode: used for writing text

  - Arrow-mode: Used for other purposes such as resizing, linking, editing appearance and moving

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Getting Started with Grids 1   Group One

Getting Started with Grids 1

Getting Started with Grids 2   Demonstration

Getting Started with Grids 2

Getting Started with Grids 2

- Tidy Cells: makes text and graphics consistent in each cell
- Expand to fit: after tidying, if you want contents to fit whole cell
- Edit Cells: change appearance

- Rows and Columns: insert or delete

Getting Started with Grids 3   Demonstration

Activity Ideas and Applications Environments

What can you find?

Online Resources

- Widgit Resources
  http://www.widgit.com/resources/index.htm
- Widgit Product Support
  http://www.widgit.com/support/index.htm
- DynaVox Knowledge Base
  http://dynavoxsys.custhelp.com/

Spectronics Online Training Services!

www.spectronicsinoz.com/**onlinetraining**