

Easy as 1, 2, 3: Create alternative formats the EasyConverter version 5.01 way and become an AltFormat Professional

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Abstract

Dolphin Computer Access is proud to introduce EasyConverter version 5.01: a solution which brings out the altformat professional in every user. EasyConverter version 5.01 creates a feature-rich environment to satisfy the requirements of the altformat expert, whilst being easy-to-use to empower novices to become Altformat Professionals in no time! Recent improvements include:

- New easy-to-use Wizard interface
- Enhanced use of EasyConverter Projects
- Client Profile Manager
- Quick Conversion options
- Improved scanning & OCR

"Easy as 1, 2, 3" is a must see session for anyone involved in the creation of alternative format materials, whether expert or complete novice.

1 Introduction & Market Requirement

1.1 Introduction

As the only solution empowering alternative format professionals to create fully customisable DAISY, MP3, large print, text and Braille alternative formats, Dolphin EasyConverter has prevailed as the essential alternative format creation tool since its introduction in 2006. EasyConverter has successfully empowered organisations and institutions to meet their legislative obligations under US Section 508, the British Disability Discrimination Act and other worldwide disability legislation.

1.2 Market Requirement

The range of people involved in the creation of alternative format materials is one of extreme variety; from administrative workers who may be completely unfamiliar with the concept of alternative formats, through to expert alternative format coordinators. Each and every one of these people involved in the creation of alternative format materials needs to be able to convert materials in a simple, well organised and professional manner. With these objectives in mind, Dolphin has introduced EasyConverter version 5.01: a solution intended to bring out the altformat professional in every user.

2 The Solution: EasyConverter v5.01

Designed off the back of extensive market research, customer feedback and usability testing, EasyConverter version 5.01 creates a feature-rich environment to satisfy the requirements of the altformat expert, whilst being easy-to-use to empower novices to become Altformat Professionals in no time! This has been achieved through a number of marked improvements.

2.1 Easy-To Use Wizard Interface

One of the crucial difficulties facing altformat novices is a lack of understanding of the stages involved in creating alternative formats. EasyConverter version 5.01 has incorporated an intuitive step-by-step wizard design, taking all users through the various steps involved in creating high quality alternative formats. A new progress bar is included to indicate how many steps of the conversion remain. The user is taken through each of the stages, concluding with a summary page that confirms the options they have chosen and what they will be producing when the conversion commences.

2.2 Enhanced use of EasyConverter Projects

In recognising the need of altformat professionals to create more than one 'flavour' of the same source document, EasyConverter version 5.01 encourages users to create project files. EasyConverter projects empower users to use the same inputted and edited document to create a multitude of different alternative formats quickly and easily, storing them all together in one handy file location.

2.3 Client Profile Manager

With requests for alternative formats often being made by the same client more than once, recalling and inputting preferences into EasyConverter every time an alternative format is created is not only extremely laborious, but also a completely unrealistic expectation for the busy altformat professional.

EasyConverter version 5.01 has incorporated an innovative Profile Manager, allowing altformat professionals to create a profile for a particular client, storing all their altformat preferences in the Profile Manager; whether they be Large Print with size 28 font or DAISY with a RealSpeak voice. When creating an alternative format, the user has the option to select a Profile from the Profile Manager, thus negating the need to input each and every client preference and allow the conversion to be completed efficiently and hassle free. This will also put a smile on your clients also, who are guaranteed to receive consistent high quality materials, in the format that meets their exact preferences.

2.4 Quick Conversion options:

For one-off requests for an alternative format, EasyConverter version 5.01 includes a Quick Conversion option, speeding up the process to create a one-off bespoke alternative format.

2.5 Improved Scanning & OCR

EasyConverter version 5.01 includes several significant improvements when processing paper-based documents. The scanning and editing phase now includes the option to see a left hand column thumb nail of which page you are in your document. Improved toolbar options via quick click icons are included, to ensure users can see what all of their editing options are. Users can also zoom in and out to see the detail of the scanned document, ensuring that all the details of the scanned document are accessible.

3 Conclusion

3.1 Unveiling at DAISY 2009

Due to be released in September 2009, EasyConverter version 5.01 will be unveiled by its creator, Mattias Karlsson. As Dolphin's AltFormat Product Manager, Mattias is the driving force behind Dolphin's entire range of AltFormat (Alternative Format) software solutions. For over 15 years, Mattias has been at the forefront of the development of alternative format materials for the vision impaired and the print impaired. His dedication to ensuring that every child and adult who requires alternative formats has access to them has been recognized worldwide. In particular, he is well regarded for his contributions to the invention and development of the digital talking book format DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System). Nowadays, as an active member of numerous international DAISY working groups he continues to push at the boundaries of DAISY innovation.

Required Equipment:

No additional requirements.

Further Remarks:

None.