Kurzweil Software Overview

What does Kurzweil do?
The central and most basic feature of Kurzweil software is that it enables the computer to read aloud electronic, public domain text from a variety of formats. Its three components all provide text-to-speech capabilities, but each component has additional features aimed at helping students to access and write text.

Kurzweil's Three Components	
Kurzweil Firefly • Web-based application • Houses documents that students can upload and access via the web (like Google Drive) • Reads **public domain** text aloud using a variety of voices & speeds • Highlights text as it's read • Provides dictionary tools • Translates text (using Google translate) • Allows students to highlight & make notations • Houses documents uploaded by professors for their students to access	**Some ways that students can use this feature:** • If students are doing research using articles from databases, pdf copies of the articles can be stored and read aloud from their web-based folder. Articles can be highlighted & notated. • Literature or articles in the public domain can also be stored & accessed. • Professors can upload documents for students to access. • Students can upload files of their own writing and have them read aloud as part of the proofreading process.
Kurzweil 3000 • Full, downloadable application for PC or Mac; does not require internet access to work • Performs all of the reading, highlighting, reference, and translation features of the web-based Firefly • Has a full-featured word processing tool • Has the ability to manipulate and edit scanned/uploaded documents to make them easier for Kurzweil to read.	**Some ways that students can use this feature:** • All public domain text described above can be read aloud and annotated. • They can scan pages (or upload images) from their textbook and have them read aloud. • They can use more in-depth study skills features for highlighting, annotating, and organizing text. • Create MP3s to listen to from their phones. • Write their own papers and have them read aloud.
Kurzweil Read the Web (Chrome extension) • Reads aloud text on web pages • Provides dictionary and translation tools	**Some ways that students can use this feature:** • If professors provide students direct links to sites such as *The New York Times* or *Newsweek*, the Read the Web extension can read aloud directly from the web page. No downloading is necessary. • This extension works very well with Openstax online textbooks and some Pearson products.

Who can use it?
All of these applications are free for students and staff of Capital Community College. In order to use any of the components, you need a username and password.

How can I learn more about it?
Contact the Academic Success Center. Emily Hebert or Laura Reale-Foley can provide a demonstration and set you up with a username and password. Students can also make appointments to get started.