

# The E-mail Interface to RoboBraille

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Sensus ApS  
Københavnsvej 27, 2  
DK-3400 Hillerød  
[www.RoboBraille.com](http://www.RoboBraille.com)

## Introduction

RoboBraille features a comprehensive e-mail based interface with functionality identical to that of the web interface. The e-mail interface can be used for a variety of purposes, including:

- To use RoboBraille from platforms that do not provide access to the file system, e.g., iOS-based devices such as iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch.
- As an efficient alternative to the web-based interface.
- As an alternative for users who find the web-based interface complicated.
- To integrate RoboBraille with other systems, such as digital libraries, learning management systems, multi-functional devices, etc.

The e-mail interface to RoboBraille is based on a set of dedicated e-mail accounts for various tasks. To use the e-mail interface, users forward documents to these e-mail accounts. As an example, to convert a PDF document to an MP3 audio file using an American English speech synthesizer, the document is forwarded to [american@RoboBraille.org](mailto:american@RoboBraille.org).

Conversion options are specified in the subject field of the e-mail. As an example, to generate an MP3 audio file at the fastest speech rate, write +++ in the subject field of the e-mail.

## Files and File Names

RoboBraille only supports one file attachment per e-mail request. Users should be aware that images in mail signatures are usually converted to file attachments. In such cases, a request to RoboBraille may be rejected as the e-mail will appear to have more than one file attachment.

The names of file attachments are encoded differently by different mail systems. To ensure that RoboBraille is capable of recognizing file names, accented characters and other special characters beyond the ASCII character set should be avoided.

Unlike the web interface, documents types are not filtered when using the e-mail interface. As a consequence, it is the responsibility of the user to forward only supported document types to particular e-mail accounts. Forwarding unsupported document types will result in error messages.

## Usage Statistics

Activities reported in the RoboBraille usage statistics are captured based on (1) the site ID of the web form used to submit the request or (2) the e-mail domain of the submitted request. Since users of the e-mail interface will not include a site ID, only e-mails from registered e-mail domains will be included in usage statistics. As an example, if a user at XYZ University (registered e-mail domain xyz.edu) submits requests via the e-mail interface from her e-mail account [abc@xyz.edu](mailto:abc@xyz.edu), it will be included in the usage statistics. If the user submits requests via the e-mail interface from her e-mail account [abc@gmail.com](mailto:abc@gmail.com), it will not be included in the usage statistics.

## MP3 Audio Services

### E-mail accounts

E-mail account	Meaning
american	American English
arabic	Arabic
arabicbilingual	Arabic/English Bilingual
britspeech	British English
bulgarian	Bulgarian
cantonese	Chinese, Cantonese
mandarin	Chinese, Mandarin
taiwanese	Chinese, Taiwanese
sara	Danish, female
anne	Danish, female.
carsten	Danish, male. Distinct pronunciation
v	Dutch, female
m	Dutch, male
finnish	Finnish
parlefrancais	French
deutsch	German
grspeech	Greek
greenlandic	Greenlandic
hungarian_female	Hungarian, female
hungarian_male	Hungarian, male
icelandic_female	Icelandic, female
icelandic_male	Icelandic, male
audio	Italian
japanese	Japanese
korean	Korean
regina	Lithuanian, female, older
aiste	Lithuanian, female, younger
vladas	Lithuanian, male, older
edvardas	Lithuanian, male, younger
norwegian	Norwegian
mova	Polish
textoparavoz	Portuguese
romanian	Romanian
russian	Russian
preberi	Slovenian
castellano	Spanish, Castilian
leeme	Spanish, Latin American
swedish	Swedish
czech_zuzana	Czech, female
czech_iva	Czech, female
slovak_laura	Slovak, female
slovak_melanie	Slovak, male

E-mail account	Meaning
welsh_female	Welsh, female
welsh_male	Welsh, male

## Options

The following options are available:

Option	Meaning
+	Fast rate of speech compared to the default rate of the voice.
++	Faster rate of speech compared to the default rate of the voice.
+++	Fastest rate of speech compared to the default rate of the voice.
-	Slow rate of speech compared to the default rate of the voice.
--	Slower rate of speech compared to the default rate of the voice.
---	Slowest rate of speech compared to the default rate of the voice.

All other contents in the subject field, including an empty subject field, will set the speech rate at the default rate of the voice.

## Supported document types

The following file types can be converted into MP3 audio files:

.TXT, .ASC, .PDF, .TIFF, .TIF, .GIF, .JPG, .BMP, .PNG, .PCX, .DCX, .J2K, .JP2, .JPX, .DJV, .DOC, .DOCX, .HTM, .HTML and .RTF

## Notes

All files are converted to plain text files prior to conversion into MP3. All formatting information and semantic mark-up are consequently removed.

Prior to conversion into MP3, all paragraphs are normalized, potentially adding a period (.) at the end of all lines with hard line breaks to ensure proper pausing.

# DAISY Audio Services

## E-mail accounts

E-mail account	Meaning
daisy	DAISY project produced with DAISY Pipeline. User reply in English.
danskdaisy	DAISY project produced with DAISY Pipeline. User reply in Danish.
deutschdaisy	DAISY project produced with DAISY Pipeline. User reply in German.
englishdaisy	DAISY project produced with DAISY Pipeline. User reply in English.
nldaisy	DAISY project produced with DAISY Pipeline. User reply in Dutch.
pldaisy	DAISY project produced with DAISY Pipeline. User reply in Polish.
newdaisy	DAISY project produced with SaveAsDaisy and DAISY Pipeline. User reply in English.
bulgarian_daisy	DAISY project produced with SaveAsDaisy and DAISY Pipeline. User reply in Bulgarian.
hungarian_daisy	DAISY project produced with SaveAsDaisy and DAISY Pipeline. User reply in Hungarian.
romanian_daisy	DAISY project produced with SaveAsDaisy and DAISY Pipeline. User reply in Romanian.
czech_daisy	DAISY project produced with SaveAsDaisy and DAISY Pipeline. User reply in Czech.
slovak_daisy	DAISY project produced with SaveAsDaisy and DAISY Pipeline. User reply in Slovak.
welsh_daisy	DAISY project produced with SaveAsDaisy and DAISY Pipeline. User reply in Welsh.
daisymath	DAISY project produced with SaveAsDaisy and DAISY Pipeline. User reply in English.

## Options

There are no options for the DAISY Audio Services.

## Supported document types

The following file types are supported by the daisy, danskdaisy, deutschdaisy, englishdaisy, nldaisy and pldaisy accounts:

.DOC, .DOCX, .RTF and .XML

The following file types are supported by the newdaisy, bulgarian\_daisy, hungarian\_daisy and romanian\_daisy accounts:

.PDF, .TIFF, .TIF, .GIF, .JPG, .BMP, .PNG, .PCX, .DCX, .J2K, .JP2, .JPX, .DJV, .DOC, .DOCX, .RTF and .XML

The following file type is supported by the daisymath account:

.DOCX

## Notes

Source documents to be converted by the daisy, danskdaisy, deutschdaisy, englishdaisy, nldaisy and pldaisy accounts must be well-formed, reflecting the semantic structure of the documents. The first element in the document must be a heading at level 1, and the author and title of the document must be set in the meta data of the document.

.PDF, .TIFF, .TIF, .GIF, .JPG, .BMP, .PNG, .PCX, .DCX, .J2K, .JP2, .JPX, .DJV, .DOC, and .RTF files are converted to .DOCX format prior to conversion by the newdaisy, bulgarian\_daisy, hungarian\_daisy and romanian\_daisy accounts. XML files are not converted but assumed to be in Word 2003 XML format. Missing meta data is added in the conversion process.

Mathematical contents to be converted by the daisymath account must be composed using the MathType plug-in to Word from Design Science.

## Accessibility Services

### E-mail accounts

E-mail account	Meaning
convert	General accessibility conversion with user reply in English.
convert_alt	PDF accessibility conversion with user reply in English. See options below for PDF files regarding image over text/text over image.
converteer	General accessibility conversion with user reply in Dutch.
converter	General accessibility conversion with user reply in Portuguese.
converti	General accessibility conversion with user reply in Italian.
convierteme	General accessibility conversion with user reply in Spanish.
konverter	General accessibility conversion with user reply in Danish.
konvertiere	General accessibility conversion with user reply in German.
konwersja	General accessibility conversion with user reply in Polish.
potconvert	General accessibility conversion with user reply in Greek.
convertbg	General accessibility conversion with user reply in Bulgarian.
converthu	General accessibility conversion with user reply in Hungarian.
convertro	General accessibility conversion with user reply in Romanian.
convertcz	General accessibility conversion with user reply in Czech.
convertsk	General accessibility conversion with user reply in Slovak.
convertcy	General accessibility conversion with user reply in Welsh.
o2pdf	Office-to-PDF conversion with user reply in English
dos2win	MS-DOS text to Windows text converter.
epub2txt	Converts an EPUB e-book to plain text user reply in English.
epub2rtf	Converts an EPUB e-book to RTF, user reply in English.

### Options

The following options are available for accounts except o2pdf and dos2win:

Option	Meaning
doc	Word document in DOC format.
docx	Word document in DOCX format.
rtf	Rich Text File format.
pdf	Tagged PDF. By default, tagged PDF files are returned with the recognized text in a layer on top of the original image. To have the original image placed on top of the recognized text, use the convert_alt email account instead.
pdf – Note handouts with slides as images	The original slide is included as an image with the handout notes as accessible text.
xls	Excel spreadsheet in XLS format.
xlsx	Excel spreadsheet in XLSX format.
csv	Comma separated file.
txt	Windows text file.
htm	HTML file.

## Supported document types

.PDF, .TIFF, .TIF, .GIF, .JPG, .BMP, .PNG, .PCX, .DCX, .J2K, .JP2, .JPX and .DJV, files can be converted into .DOC., .DOCX, .RTF, .PDF (tagged), .XLS, .XLSX, .CSV, .TXT, .HTM, .EPUB and .MOBI files.

PowerPoint presentations (.PPT, .PPTX) can be converted into .RTF (outline), .HTM and PDF (tagged) files. PowerPoint presentations with handout notes can be converted into PDF (tagged).

Word documents (.DOC, .DOCX) can be converted into .TXT and PDF (tagged) files.

EPUB e-books can be converted to MOBI Pocket and vice versa. EPUB e-books can furthermore be converted to RTF and TXT.

## Notes

The service is unable to convert protected PDF and Word documents. Such protections must be removed prior to conversion.

When converting from a document format with semantic information to another format that supports semantic information, accessibility features in the source documents are generally retained.

By default, the service returns PDF documents with the recognized text on top of the original image. In some situations, it may produce better visual results if the original image is placed on top of the recognized text. This functionality can be selected as an option (see above). The quality of the text recognition remain the same.

## E-book Services

### E-mail accounts

E-mail account	Meaning
epub	EPUB with user reply in English.
epub_de	EPUB with user reply in German.
epubbg	EPUB with user reply in Bulgarian.
edpubda	EPUB with user reply in Danish.
epubhu	EPUB with user reply in Hungarian.
epubro	EPUB with user reply in Romanian.
epubcs	EPUB with user reply in Czech.
epubsk	EPUB with user reply in Slovak.
epubcy	EPUB with user reply in Welsh.
mobi	MOBI Pocket (Kindle) with user reply in English.
mobi_de	MOBI Pocket (Kindle) with user reply in German.
mobida	MOBI Pocket (Kindle) with user reply in Danish.
mobibg	MOBI Pocket (Kindle) with user reply in Bulgarian.
mobihu	MOBI Pocket (Kindle) with user reply in Hungarian.
mobiro	MOBI Pocket (Kindle) with user reply in Romanian.
mobics	MOBI Pocket (Kindle) with user reply in Czech.
mobisk	MOBI Pocket (Kindle) with user reply in Slovak.
mobicy	MOBI Pocket (Kindle) with user reply in Welsh.
epub3	EPUB3 with user reply in English.
epubwmo	EPUB3 with media overlay, user reply in English.
epub2txt	Converts an EPUB e-book to plain text, user reply in English.
epub2rtf	Converts an EPUB e-book to RTF, user reply in English.

### Options

The following options are available for all accounts except epub3 and epubwmo:

Option	Meaning
large	Move document base line to 16pt.
xlarge	Move document base line to 24pt.
huge	Move document base line to 40pt.

### Supported document types

The following file types can be converted into EPUB and MOBI Pocket:

.TXT, .ASC, .PDF, .TIFF, .TIF, .GIF, .JPG, .BMP, .PNG, .PCX, .DCX, .J2K, .JP2, .JPX, .DJV, .DOC, .DOCX, .HTM, .HTML, .RTF, .LIT, .EPUB and .MOBI

The following file type can be converted into EPUB3:

.DOCX

The following file types can be converted into EPUB3 with media overlay:

.PDF, .TIFF, .TIF, .GIF, .JPG, .BMP, .PNG, .PCX, .DCX, .J2K, .JP2, .JPX, .DJV, .DOC, .DOCX, .RTF and .XML

## Notes

No additional notes.

## Braille Services

### E-mail accounts

The following accounts are available for Braille transcription:

E-mail account	Meaning
ueb_grade1	Unified English Braille, Grade 1, 6-dot
ueb_grade2	Unified English Braille, Grade 2, 6-dot
banagrade1	American English Grade 1 Braille, 6-dot.
banagrade2	American English Grade 2 Braille, 6-dot.
820en	British English decontractor.
fulltext6	British English Grade 1 Braille, 6-dot.
fulltext8	British English Grade 1 Braille, 8-dot.
6dot	British English Grade 2 Braille, 6-dot.
8dot	British English Grade 2 Braille, 8-dot.
bulgarian_braille	Bulgarian Grade 1 Braille, 6-dot
820da	Danish decontractor.
fuldskrift6	Danish Grade 1 Braille, 6-dot.
fuldskrift8	Danish Grade 1 Braille, 8-dot.
lille6	Danish Grade 2 Braille (reduced), 6-dot.
lille8	Danish Grade 2 Braille (reduced), 8-dot.
sekspunkt	Danish Grade 2 Braille, 6-dot.
ottepunkt	Danish Grade 2 Braille, 8-dot.
braille	French Grade 1 Braille, 6-dot.
vollschrift	German Grade 1 Braille, 6-dot.
vollskrift8	German Grade 1 Braille, 8-dot.
kurzschrift	German Grade 2 Braille, 6-dot.
kurzschrift8	German Grade 2 Braille, 8-dot.
hungarian_braille	Hungarian Grade 1 Braille, 6-dot
icebraille6	Icelandic Grade 1 Braille, 6-dot.
icebraille8	Icelandic Grade 1 Braille, 8-dot.
brailleseipunti	Italian Grade 1 Braille, 6-dot.
fullskrift	Norwegian Grade 1 Braille, 6-dot.
kortskrift1	Norwegian Grade 2 Braille (level 1), 6-dot.
kortskrift2	Norwegian Grade 2 Braille (level 2), 6-dot.
brajl	Polish Grade 1 Braille, 6-dot.
textoparabraille	Portuguese Grade 1 Braille, 6-dot.
romanian_braille	Romanian Grade 1 Braille, 6-dot
brailleintegral	Spanish Grade 1 Braille, 6-dot.
czech_braille	Czech Grade 1 Braille, 6-dot.
slovak_braille	Slovak Grade 1 Braille, 6-dot.

The following accounts are available for file export (character set conversion):

E-mail account	Meaning
eksport	Formatting and character set conversion with user reply in Danish.
exporteer	Formatting and character set conversion with user reply in Dutch.
export	Formatting and character set conversion with user reply in English.

E-mail account	Meaning
potexport	Formatting and character set conversion with user reply in English (for Greek).
eksportiere	Formatting and character set conversion with user reply in German.
esporta	Formatting and character set conversion with user reply in Italian.
zmienbrl	Formatting and character set conversion with user reply in Polish.
exportar	Formatting and character set conversion with user reply in Portuguese

The following accounts are available for file partitioning:

E-mail account	Meaning
filpart	Partition file with user response in Danish.
verdeel	Partition file with user response in Dutch.
potpartition	Partition file with user response in English (for Greek).
filepart	Partition file with user response in English.
dateiaufteilen	Partition file with user response in German.
suddividifile	Partition file with user response in Italian.
partirficheiro	Partition file with user response in Portuguese.

## Options

The following options are available for the Braille transcription and/or export accounts:

Option	Meaning
logtext5	Log-Text Braille notetaker with old character set.
logtext	Log-Text Braille notetaker with old character set.
braillelite	Braille Lite with US character set.
braille-lite	Braille Lite with US character set.
nacb	North American Computer Braille. This is the standard character set of many Braille embossers.
computerbraille	North American Computer Braille. This is the standard character set of many Braille embossers.
uscomputerbraille2	North American Computer Braille. This is the standard character set of many Braille embossers.
us437	IBM code page 437.
germanascii	German computer ASCII.
german_ascii	German computer ASCII.
ibm850	IBM code page 850.
eurobraille	EuroBraille.
italianjaws	Italian JAWS.
italian_jaws	Italian JAWS.
brailnote	Brailnote note taker.
braille-note	Brailnote note taker.
db5	InterpointElekul at the Danish Association of the Blind.
db5_elekul	InterpointElekul at the Danish Association of the Blind.
ibos_elekul6	InterpointElekul at the Institute for the Blind and Partially Sighted
Unicode	Unicode Braille (in the 2800-28FF range).
pefXXYYpd	Portable Embosser Format. <i>XX</i> specified the number of characters per line. <i>YY</i> specifies the number of lines per page. <i>p</i> specifies pagination. <i>d</i> specifies duplex embossing. <i>p</i> and <i>d</i> are optional.

Option	Meaning
Canute360 <i>p</i>	Produces a PEF file formatted for the Canute multi-line Braille device. <i>p</i> specifies pagination and is optional.
nacb <i>XXYYp</i>	Produces a formatted Braille document in North American Computer Braille. <i>XX</i> specified the number of characters per line. <i>YY</i> specifies the number of lines per page. <i>p</i> specifies pagination and is optional.
Unicode <i>XXYYp</i>	Produces a formatted Braille document in Unicode. <i>XX</i> specified the number of characters per line. <i>YY</i> specifies the number of lines per page. <i>p</i> specifies pagination and is optional.
format <i>XXYYp</i>	Formats an existing Braille document in OctoBraille format. <i>XX</i> specified the number of characters per line. <i>YY</i> specifies the number of lines per page. <i>p</i> specifies pagination and is optional.

Not all export filters are available for all language options.

The following options are available for the file partition accounts:

Option	Meaning
File size	The maximum size of each part in bytes. As an example, specifying 50000 will divide the source document into parts of up to 50,000 bytes.

## Supported document types

The following file formats are supported by the Braille transcription accounts:

.TXT, .ASC, .PDF, .TIFF, .TIF, .GIF, .JPG, .BMP, .PNG, .PCX, .DCX, .J2K, .JP2, .JPX, .DJV, .DOC, .DOCX, .HTM, .HTML and .RTF

The following file formats are supported by the export accounts:

.TXT

The following file formats are supported by the file partition accounts:

.TXT, .ASC, .PDF, .TIFF, .TIF, .GIF, .JPG, .BMP, .PNG, .PCX, .DCX, .J2K, .JP2, .JPX, .DJV, .DOC, .DOCX, and .RTF

## Notes

No additional notes.