AAC Devices Can Create Text Files

WHAT: This strategy is designed to help students create text files that can be opened and re-read, or printed and shared with others.

> **Overall Goal:** Student will be able to read and share text that he/she wrote.

WHO IS THIS FOR: This strategy can be used with all students who are learning to put letters/words together to create a message. It gives students a chance to practice creating text using the supports of their AAC communication device (minspeak icon sequences, symbols/words in Gateway, and text with word prediction). This text can be saved and used for editing or sharing.
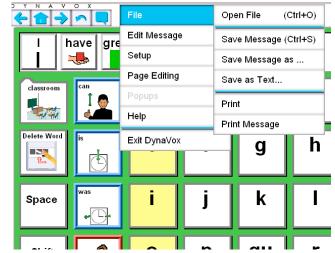
Dynavox (MT4, DV4, V, Vmax, Maestro):
You can download the following instructions from the Dynavox Knowledge Base.

On these devices, remember to compose your message in the message window first, then follow these steps:

1. Select the blue **Main Menu** icon or white pull-down icon in the title bar.
2. Select **File**.
3. Select the desired *save* option:
   Save Message As: The *Enter file name* menu will open. With this option, you can assign a name to the file and decide where to store it. If the file is given a different name, it will not overwrite the original file. On the DV4/MT4, it is *saved* as a txt file. On the Vmax/V or Maestro, it is *saved* as a dyw file.
   Save as Text: With this option for the V or Vmax and Maestro only, you can *save* the file in a plain text (**txt**) format so you can load it into a word processing program (using *Save Message or Save Message as* will *save* it in a **dyw** format that can usually only be loaded in the *message window* of a device). The DV4/MT4 automatically *saves* as txt files.
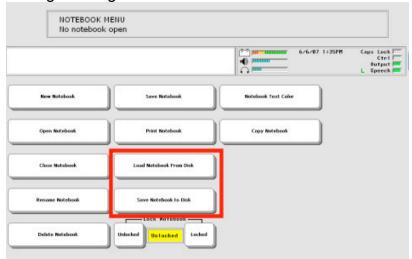4. In the left viewport, select the folder where you want to *save* the file. If you want to *save* it to a USB storage device, select the *Show All Directories* check box so it displays and then X the drive that represents the flash drive (i.e. D, E or UMS_FOLDER).
5. Select the **Name** text box and enter a name for the text file.
6. Select the **OK** button.
7. The *Message Window* text is now *saved* to the designated location.

Prentke Romich (Vantage, Vanguard, ECO)
Unfortunately, files cannot be save on the SpringBoard. For this student, use the USB connection to create files on another computer and save/print the word processing document from the other computer.
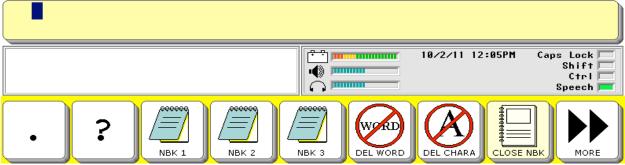
Check the Prentke Romich Company Knowledge Base Articles for the following:
- Transferring Notebooks Using the USB port on a Vantage/Vanguard.
- Saving/Loading a Notebook to Your Flash Drive in the ECO.
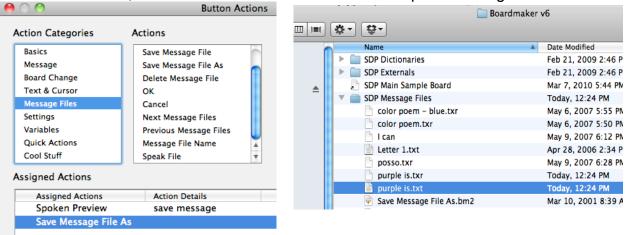

Here are the main points:
1. If you plan to save a notebook to disk, you need to open a notebook before you start composing your message.
2. Beginning programmers can start with Notebook 1, 2, or 3 from the NOTEBOOK activity row. When you are in a notebook, the message window changes color.
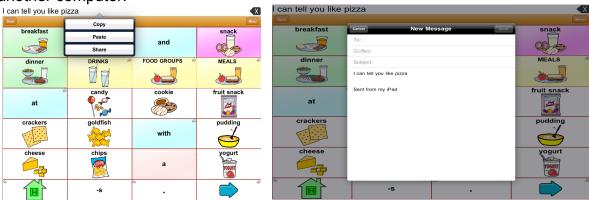

3. When you are more comfortable using notebooks, you can program other buttons in this activity row (or on the NOTEBOOKS page) to open specific notebooks.
4. Once the student has the message that you want to save created in the message window, he/she can use the NOTEBOOKS activity row to save the notebook.
5. Next, find the NOTEBOOK MENU on the NOTEBOOKS page or in the system toolbox.
6. Your Notebooks are listed. Select the Notebook you want to save.
7. Type the name of the file.
8. The Notebook is loaded onto your flash drive as a **text** file (**.txt**).
9. Activate **OK** to exit.

Can we do this on other devices/applications?

To save a message as a .txt file in **Boardmaker Speaking Dynamically Pro**, assign the action "Save Message File as" to a button on the page. The student will be prompted to give the file a name. The file can be found on your computer in the Applications Folder (Program Files)\ Boardmaker v6\ SDP Message Files. The image below is on a Mac; the destination will be similar on a computer running Windows.

On an iPod Touch or iPad running the **TouchChat** app (from Saltillo), hold down the message window until the options menu appears. From the share menu, you can choose to e-mail the contents of the message window in order to access the text on another computer.

NOTE:
If you want to do this in other applications, contact the developers and ask them to add this sharing feature – IT IS IMPORTANT!

How To Extend Learning:

- Put files up on a computer with a projector for sharing, adding more or editing.
- Have students load the file back into the communication device and listen to what was written (by selecting the message window or using other tools/behaviors that would read one sentence and advance).
- Load other text files onto the device and add more using core vocabulary or spelling pages.
- Use files as modeled writing or writing prompts.

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