



We are distributing various types of information through the Internet. Shown here are just some examples. Please feel free to access them and send us your opinions.

[www.nhk.or.jp/strl](http://www.nhk.or.jp/strl)



## NHK Online: Slower/Faster Speech Function Used in Radio Services

Toshio SHIMAZU, Senior Producer, Radio Center



"Would you prefer a slower or faster speech pace? It's yours to choose anytime you like!"

This is the catch phrase for a new radio news service offered via the Internet, which started this fiscal year.

Its most significant feature is an option to choose the speech rate for an announcer

reading a script. Speech rate conversion technology developed by STRL makes this service possible. Elderly listeners who feel that an announcer's voice is hard to follow can listen to a 10-minute news segment at a slower pace, so that it takes over 12 minutes. It can also be used by people in a hurry to get the latest domestic and international news in half the time of the original news segment. Moreover, it can even satisfy visually impaired listeners who would like to obtain information efficiently in the shortest possible time.

We have already received many questions about the service, such as "how can it maintain the vocal characteristics?" and "what helps make it easy to listen to such fast speech?," reflecting a high level of interest from our listeners. The number of accesses to our website is steadily growing.

This new service was realized through the cooperation of STRL and the Radio Center. Please try out this convenient tool on NHK's homepage.



NHK Radio News top page  
(<http://www.nhk.or.jp/r-news/>)

## From the Editors

This year's open house with its exhibits on interactive services television and portable terminals left me with the impression that what were merely dreams 10 years ago are now a reality. I realized that the terminals, which could receive information from a variety of sources, would greatly benefit the information barrier-free environment. Among the crowd of visitors was a woman with a hearing impairment. She asked many serious questions about the terminals. The staff of the exhibit responded by filling several pieces of paper with writing, in the process becoming covered with perspiration. It is this type of zeal and interest that makes a dream into a reality.

This year's Athens Olympics will be broadcast to the world in HDTV. This would not have been possible without STRL's commitment to make NHK's viewers' dreams come true. I am confident that a steady flow of innovation will continue to transform our dreams into reality.



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