

SitePal Technical Note: Adding Subtitles to Your Scene

This technical note explains how to implement subtitles in your SitePal Scene.

You do not need to be a programmer to follow the instructions in this document, no programming is involved.

Introduction

Your (Silver plan and higher) account supports subtitle functionality, which means that as your SitePal character speaks, it can also display text associated with the audio being spoken.

Subtitles can display a precise transcript of the audio being spoken, or they can display different information. Subtitles can be in the same language as the audio, or in a different language. This is entirely up to you.

Finally, subtitles can be displayed when playing audio via the API, or when audio is played as a result of user action (i.e. pressing the “play” button).

Implementation

Getting subtitles to work in your SitePal Scene requires two things:

1. The audio being played must have a transcript.
2. Subtitles must be enabled for the Scene.

Let’s examine what each of these entails.

Step 1 – Adding a Transcript to Your Audio

First, please note that a Transcript is assigned to an Audio, not to your Scene. Each and every audio you wish to play with subtitles must have a transcript.

We distinguish between ‘Static’ and ‘Dynamic’ audios. Static audios are audios that are set up ahead of time in your account and appear in your audio library. This includes audios that were uploaded, or recorded by microphone or added via TTS. Dynamic audios are created in real time via API functions sayText or sayAI.

For Static audios, you must add the text transcript when you add the audio. When you upload or record the audio, enter the text transcript for the new audio in the “Transcript” field.

Note that Static TTS audio has a built-in transcript – the text used to generate the audio will be used as its own transcript, if no transcript is provided. Nevertheless, the option to add a transcript for TTS is provided, for two reasons:

- a. You might want to display subtitles in a different language.
- b. TTS text often uses phonetic spelling to improve pronunciation (e.g. “Vladimir Pootin”) – which you would not want displayed.

For Dynamic TTS audios, the spoken text is used as its own transcript. So there is no need to do anything. This also means that there is no way to display different language subtitles for Dynamic TTS.

A transcript cannot be added to an existing audio, the audio will need to be re-added, because the

Step 2 – Enable Subtitles for Your Scene

In your Scene List page, open the Scene Options dialog, and check “Display Subtitles”. That’s it!

Working Example

A technical example of multi-lingual subtitles using the methods described above, is available in our support examples page, here -

<https://sitepal.com/api/examples/subtitles.html>

This example uses ‘sayText’ to play one of several previously created audios. The audios all sound the same, but display different subtitles. This required adding the same audio several times, each time with a different transcript, hence creating several audios. View the source code of the page to see how it is implemented.

Troubleshooting

If your subtitles do not display:

- Verify that your Scene’s “Display Subtitles” attribute is checked.
- Verify that your audio has a transcript (you can do so by clicking on the “Edit” button for your audio.
- Check your plan – are you a Silver Plan subscriber or higher?

Questions? Send us a note to: support@sitepal.com