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News Flash

Dragon Newsletter | October '08



Welcome to the latest issue of our monthly Dragon Newsletter. Please see below for updates on the latest product news, tips and tricks to improve your use of Dragon NaturallySpeaking, and stories from current Dragon users.

Dragon in the News

Introducing Dragon Medical 10

Earlier this month, Nuance announced the availability of Dragon Medical 10. The new software, designed specifically for the healthcare industry, offers new medical vocabularies, improved integration with electronic medical record (EMR) systems, enhanced regional accent support, and customizable commands, like Voice Shortcuts and DragonTemplates. For more information about this product, you can read the complete press release at http://www.nuance.com/news/pressreleases/2008/20080916_dMedical.asp.

Can You Beat Dragon?

When we introduced Dragon NaturallySpeaking 10 last month, the press release mentioned the results of a research project that we have conducted for the past year here at Nuance. We host a typing test on our Web site that compares your typing speed and accuracy to the dictation results delivered by Dragon. (If you haven't already tried it yourself, visit <http://www.nuance.com/talk> and see if you can beat Dragon!).

After testing 35,000 people, Nuance found that the average typing speed was 35 words per minute (WPM), down from previous estimates of 40 WPM. The data showed that the average accuracy for typists was only 58 percent. Dragon's **near-perfect accuracy** means less time spent pecking away at the keyboard and more time actually getting things done at speeds of up to 160 WPM. And, perhaps best of all, Dragon will never misspell a word.

Improving Accuracy and Productivity



Tell Us What You Think

Do you use Dragon with a digital voice recorder?

If so, do you use the recorder more often than you use the headset for dictation while sitting at your PC?



Your feedback will help us prioritize new features and enhancements for future versions of the product.

Using Dragon with a Digital Voice Recorder

Looking for a fast, easy way to capture your thoughts, prepare meeting notes or complete reports on the go? Take the power of Dragon NaturallySpeaking with you - whether you're heading to an appointment, at the airport, or simply away from your PC! If you're using Dragon with a headset microphone at your PC, consider the productivity benefits of using the same software with a digital voice recorder.

Use a handheld digital recorder to capture your dictation when you're away from your desk. (See below for tips on selecting the best device to use with Dragon.) When you're back at your PC, transfer the audio files from the device to your PC. File transfer methods vary based on the recorder you use. Some devices simply plug directly into the USB drive of your computer so you can "drag and drop" audio files from the device directly to your PC. (If you are not sure how to transfer recorded data to your computer, see the documentation for your recorder.)

Open Dragon and click "transcribe recording." You will be prompted to locate the specific audio file for transcription, and then Dragon will automatically transcribe the file. Supported audio formats include: .wav, .vox, mp3, .wma, .sri, and .wma files. Click "advanced settings" to choose which window Dragon should transcribe your text into. This will allow you to have the output transcribed into a specific application, such as Microsoft Word.



Selecting a Digital Voice Recorder

If you already have a copy of Dragon and simply want to begin using it with a digital voice recorder, we've compiled a list of the devices that work best with Dragon (most are priced between \$40 and \$300). A rating of compatible digital recorders can be found on the Hardware Compatibility page in the Support area of the Nuance website: <http://support.nuance.com/compatibility/>. Select Dragon from the drop-down list, then select "Recorders," and a list of about 30 different choices will appear. Our rating system makes it easy to select your new device: the recorder with the most "dragons" will offer the best accuracy results.

Please note: The ability to transcribe text from a digital voice recorder is only available in the Preferred, Professional and higher editions of our software, and Dragon version 8 does not support many of the current digital voice recorders supported by Dragon versions 9 and 10. (Click on the "Help" menu of the DragonBar and select "About NaturallySpeaking" to determine which edition of the software you have.)

Tips and Tricks

Creating a New Dictation Source

Before you can transcribe your audio files from a digital voice recorder, you'll need to set up Dragon to receive the input from your device. The best option is to add the digital voice recorder as a NEW SOURCE for your existing user profile, rather than creating a completely new user profile for the digital voice recorder. Why? Any customization that you created for Dragon (e.g., custom-added words and phrases, spoken forms and individual pronunciations, optional settings, custom commands etc.) are captured and saved within your user profile. If your digital voice recorder is set up as an entirely new user profile, it would be like starting from scratch: the refinements you have made to Dragon will not be available from your recorder. This means that your recorder transcripts would contain many preventable errors -- errors due to the absence of your desired custom words, for instance.

Click the Open User tab under the NaturallySpeaking menu on the DragonBar. Click on Source then on New to open the New Dictation Source dialog box from which you can choose a new input device type. Once you select from the list and click OK, Dragon presents you with some text to read to finish "enrolling" your new dictation source.

You Asked, We Answer

You Asked:

"Can I use Dragon to transcribe recordings of lectures, interviews or meetings with several people?"

Answer:

No, Dragon NaturallySpeaking is a speaker-dependent system, meaning that it is trained to recognize the voice of a single user and cannot distinguish speech from more than one speaker. People have no problem understanding different voices, because we can easily adjust to the unique characteristics of every voice. But speech-recognition software, such as Dragon, works best when the computer has a chance to adjust to each new speaker. In other words, Dragon can only "understand" a single speaker, and can't be used to transcribe a recording with multiple speakers such as a meeting or an interview. But you can still take advantage of Dragon to capture the content of multiple speakers by "respeaking" into your microphone what people said.

Dragon Customer Profiles

Many of our customers are already taking advantage of the benefits of using Dragon with a digital voice recorder for added productivity on the go. For example:

Carol N.

Dragon NaturallySpeaking allows me to wear two hats: (1) technical and business writer and (2) novelist. Traveling to and working at technical writing jobs didn't leave me much time for writing fiction, so I purchased Dragon NaturallySpeaking and a Sony recorder. I recorded while driving in the car to and from work and wherever else the muse struck. Then, I connected the recorder to Dragon via USB and my deathless prose was transcribed in the word processing software I use to write books. Thanks to Dragon, what used to be only a dream has become a reality. I have two romance novels being released this year and a third is in progress.

Conrad O.

...Because I would often think of great ideas while I was away from my computer, I would many times forget them before I could get back, or I couldn't word it the same way. However, with Dragon's technology I can carry my voice recorder with me and record my ideas immediately and then Dragon will [transcribe] them for me from the audio files so that I never lose those great ideas. I have even dictated a whole sermon on audio while traveling and Dragon typed it for me as I spent time with my family. Dragon has been both a life saver for my time and an inspiration for my creative work."

Earl G.

...I am an independent consultant servicing multiple U.S. Government agencies in the Intelligence, Security and Law Enforcement communities. Routinely I am in the field conducting interviews and performing research, the results of which must be communicated in lengthy reports on short time lines. Using a Panasonic Digital Recorder, I am able to use idle time, between events to record parts of my reports and later upload them into Dragon, upon my return to my office. This time savings alone provides me an advantage over my competition. I am able to maintain a recognized record of timely submissions.

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