



News Flash



Dragon Newsletter | August '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 NaturallySpeaking 10

On August 7, Nuance announced the availability of Dragon NaturallySpeaking 10. With the new release, the world's best-selling speech recognition system just keeps getting better! Dragon NaturallySpeaking is faster and more accurate than ever, delivering up to 20% more accurate results than Version 9. Your transcribed words now appear on the screen in half the time it took in the past. With new Dragon Voice Shortcuts, you can search the Web for information, products, news and more with a single voice command. Updated graphical icons for the DragonBar are intuitive and easy to see. New Quick Voice Formatting makes it easier to format, delete, and copy words and passages with a single command. To see a complete list of the new and enhanced features for Dragon 10, visit <http://www.nuance.com/naturallyspeaking/resources/whatsnew>

Press Reviews of Dragon NaturallySpeaking 10

The launch of Dragon NaturallySpeaking 10 drew an immediate Editor's Choice Award from *PC Magazine*, the publication's highest endorsement. The reviewer's bottom-line assessment of the new software suggested that: "Dragon retains its lead in the speech recognition field, with surprising accuracy in dictation, even with little or no training."

Dragon 10 was hailed as "amazingly fast and accurate" by *CRN* magazine and "more intuitive and more intelligent" by *eWeek*. *The Financial Times* said Dragon 10 "represents a significant step up from previous versions" and the reviewer's personal tests of the software indicated that Dragon 10 "could be the package that finally delivers a fast, accurate voice recognition system that is also easy to install and use."

But perhaps best of all, technology columnist David Pogue of *The New York Times* actually completed a [video review](#) of the new features of Dragon 10 with his hands tied behind his back! ([see the video](#))

Tips and Tricks

Formatting Numbers

In most cases, you can dictate numbers, including phone numbers and addresses, as you normally say them. (Dragon can differentiate the need to type out "eight cars" vs. using the numeral for "8 Chestnut Street.") If you want to dictate only numbers, such as when dictating in a spreadsheet program, you can turn on Numbers Mode within the Words menu of the DragonBar.

But how can you tell Dragon that you want to write the numeral "8" instead of writing out "eight?" Simply say "Numeral eight" to write the figure. In the example above, dictating "numeral eight cars" will generate the text: "8 cars."

In addition, Dragon 10 offers customers an enhanced Formatting Dialog Box to set options that affect your dictation. From the DragonBar, click Tools, then select Formatting. This menu lets you instruct Dragon to insert numbers as numerals if they are equal to or greater than the chosen value. If the number is less than the chosen value, the number is written out.

Poll

Tell Us What You Think

In addition to core accuracy, what was the most important product feature that influenced your purchase and continued use of Dragon NaturallySpeaking?

- Support of the desktop applications I rely on (e.g., Microsoft Word, Internet Explorer, etc.)
- The ability to dictate using a wireless headset or to use a digital recorder for later transcription
- Automation of daily tasks using macro commands
- Ease of use
- I don't own a copy of Dragon.

[Click to Vote](#)

Improving Accuracy and Productivity

Issuing Commands

If you're telling the computer to do something, and it doesn't seem to be listening, or simply isn't completing the right task, the problem could be the way that you issue your commands.

Pause briefly before and after saying all commands. Dragon uses the length of the pause between two utterances to determine whether you are saying a command or dictation words. Do not pause, however, before saying dictation commands, such as "Cap", "New-Line", or "New-Paragraph." You can change the length of the pause that Dragon recognizes to identify a command. Under the Tools menu, click Options and click the Commands tab. Also, be sure you are saying a valid command. You can open the Command Browser within the Tools menu of the DragonBar and perform a search for that command to see if it is valid.

If you're still having a problem, hold down the Control key as you start to say the command. This hot key disables dictation and forces Dragon to recognize what you say as a command. You may also consider training voice commands that are often mistaken for dictation to keep the problem from recurring. Simply click Train on the Words menu of the DragonBar and enter the command you want to train.

You Asked, We Answer

You Asked:

"I am an application developer. Is it possible to integrate dictation functionality of Dragon NaturallySpeaking directly into my applications?"

Answer:

Yes, Dragon NaturallySpeaking product portfolio includes several different SDK options, all based on the same award winning Dragon technology:

- Client SDK, *for integrating Dragon dictation functionality to your desktop applications*
- Server SDK. *for building robust server-based dictation solutions*
- AudioMining *SDK, for audio search, indexing, etc.*

For more information on our Dragon Naturally Speaking developer solutions please visit <http://www.nuance.com/naturallyspeaking/products/sdk.asp>. Still have questions? Please fill out this simple inquiry form <http://www.nuance.com/naturallyspeaking/contact/contact-sdk-sales.asp>

Dragon Customer Profiles

Earlier this month we announced the three winners of our I Speak Dragon contest. At final count, more than 650 Dragon NaturallySpeaking users from all walks of life - such as college students, writers, teachers, artists, senior citizens, doctors, lawyers, military personnel and more - submitted amazing stories of improved productivity, creativity and just plain fun using Dragon NaturallySpeaking.

We're pleased to recognize the three contest winners who each received a Garmin Nuvi portable GPS device and free Dragon software upgrades for the next three years:

I Speak Dragon to Improve My Creativity

William Brotherton never learned to type while he was working for the Burlington Northern Railroad. He didn't need to. Two decades later, as he began a career in law, Brotherton purchased the very first version of Dragon NaturallySpeaking. With Dragon Brotherton has been able to write stories, articles, and even a book about his time on the railroad ("Burlington Northern Adventures: [Railroading in the Days of the Caboose](#)"). He is able to express himself creatively without ever using his hands, something that would be impossible without his Dragon software. Brotherton's story is one that represents a large number of people who are either not able to -- or choose not to -- type, and who would be seriously limited in terms of what they could do creatively if not for the freedom provided by Dragon dictation.

I Speak Dragon to Improve My Life

While serving in Iraq as commander of a tank company, Chuck Ziegenfuss was wounded by an IED. Following the injury, his typing was impaired due to the damage done to his hands by the IED. Dragon NaturallySpeaking allowed him to freely dictate his thoughts without relying on others. Ziegenfuss partnered with [SoldiersAngels](#) to form VALOUR-IT (Voice Activated Laptops for OUR Injured Troops) with a vision to provide laptops equipped with Dragon NaturallySpeaking to wounded soldiers whose

injuries prevented them from operating a computer manually. He writes: "I use Dragon NaturallySpeaking to regain control of the life that was temporarily robbed from me, and to bring that same sense of empowerment to other soldiers just like me. The use of Dragon NaturallySpeaking to use a computer, to connect, to do something that I was able to do before I was injured made me feel somewhat whole, somewhat normal, for the first time. It has been my distinct pleasure and honor to give that feeling, a feeling of ability, to our wounded. Dragon has not only improved my life, it has changed my life."

I Speak Dragon to Improve My Work

Doug Edwards is a property inspector for residential and light commercial inspections, as well as a licensed public adjuster. His job requires that he go to numerous sites on a given day to perform inspections, each of which can take anywhere from a few hours to a few days. After a long day in the field, Edwards has to create extensive, often complicated, reports of his findings. Using Dragon NaturallySpeaking, it takes him about one tenth of the time to generate an extremely clean, accurate report. Dragon has saved him untold hours of typing thousands of important details into a finished report.

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