

Dragon and the Passion of Writing.

Challenge

- Identify a tool that can type quickly and accurately using voice
- Implement an easy to use solution
- Save time
- Improve productivity

Solution

- Dragon voice recognition software

Results

- Could now write quickly and accurately using voice
- Easy to use
- Increased productivity
- Saved time

Renowned Australian children's author, Jacqueline Harvey, uses Nuance's Dragon to help her write her novels and keep abreast of her hectic work schedule.

The best-selling author of the Alice-Miranda series as well as the Clementine Rose series, first heard of Dragon some years ago while she was teaching full time and writing part time. However, it was not until she took up writing full time, that Jacqueline seriously considered using Dragon.

“When you are contracted to write about six books a year, this involves a lot of writing. Each Alice Miranda novel is about 54,000 words long, while a Clementine Rose novel consists of about 18,000 words. When you are writing so much, any tool that can help you speed up the process and save on time, is an asset.”

Jacqueline Harvey
Author

Dragon brings voice recognition to the PC and allows individuals to simply talk to create content and command a computer. It eliminates the need for typing and delivers up to 99 percent recognition accuracy out of the box. By using Dragon’s powerful voice recognition software people can interact with and command their PC as well as cruise through email, surf the Web and create reports and notes just by speaking.

‘I was familiar with Dragon as some of my teaching colleagues were using the software but it was not until I made the move to full time writing that I decided a tool that can help me write quickly was worthy of investigation,’ explained Jacqueline.

To her surprise, Jacqueline found the software refreshingly easy to install and use. This proved an added bonus as she is so short on time.

‘Like most authors, time is precious for me so I was not keen to use voice recognition software that requires a steep learning curve or which is time intensive. However, Dragon is neither of these. The software

comes with an interactive tutorial, which is reasonably straightforward and user-friendly, and before I knew it, I was up and running,’ she said.

When working on a manuscript, Jacqueline’s pace is utterly hectic. As deadlines approach she frequently works almost non-stop for about 10 hours a day, writing some 3,000 words everyday until the novel is completed. In addition to writing, she also has to fulfill numerous speaking and publicity engagements as well as book launches, which are time intensive.

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Dragon is now a valuable addition to Jacqueline’s array of writing tools.

'Every author has their own approach to writing and I am no different. Most of my brain storming and planning of a novel is done the traditional way – pen to paper. Once I have the plan and know the roles of the major characters however, I start writing using both state-of-the-art Dragon and conventional typing.

'Dragon is terrific. It helps me get through the writing process faster, particularly when I am on a roll and need to get my ideas and paragraphs written quickly. Speaking to a computer is far quicker than typing,' she said.

Jacqueline also makes extensive use of Dragon when she is tired. As she explains, 'When you have had a busy day and are exhausted, it is much easier to talk to write a section of the novel than it is to type.'

As part of her writing and editing process, Jacqueline often reads what she has written and edits by speaking in character. Contrary to what she expected, Dragon easily distinguishes between when she is in character and speaking as herself.

'I thought the software would have difficulty with this technique but it has proved me wrong. It did not take long for Dragon to adapt to my voice and to distinguish between mine and when I am in character mode. In fact, the more I use Dragon the more impressed I am with its capability,' said Jacqueline.

Aware that Dragon can also be used to surf the Web and manage emails, Jacqueline explained that she would soon be exploring the software's capacity in these areas.

'My work schedule is extremely demanding and if Dragon can also assist me with my research on the Web and managing my emails, then I am keen to investigate these avenues. Any tool that can help me save on time and which makes me a more productive author is a bonus,' concluded Jacqueline.

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