FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sales: info@FreedomScientific.com

JAWS 16 and MAGic 13 Are Windows 10 Ready

(St. Petersburg, Florida - July 28, 2015)

Freedom Scientific announced today the compatibility of the latest updates of the JAWS® 16 screen reader and MAGic® 13 screen magnification software with Windows® 10. Windows 10 is scheduled to be released on July 29, 2015, and will be offered as a free upgrade for devices running Windows 8.1 or Windows 7.

“Over the past few months we have worked with Microsoft to ensure compatibility with Windows 10. The newest versions of JAWS and MAGic are ready for Windows 10, without the need for paid upgrades,” said Eric Damery, Vice President of Software Management at Freedom Scientific.
Anyone planning to update to Windows 10, who has an earlier version of JAWS or MAGiC, will need to follow the instructions provided on the Freedom Scientific prepared guide for our customers. Please visit our Windows 10 Upgrade web page for the smoothest transition to the new Windows Operating System.

**About Freedom Scientific**

Freedom Scientific is the leading worldwide provider of assistive technology products for those with vision impairments. The Company sells its products worldwide and has offices in Florida and Switzerland. The Company's products have been translated into 24 languages and are available in 55 countries.

Freedom Scientific® and JAWS® are registered trademarks in the United States and/or other countries. The names of actual companies and products mentioned herein may be the trademarks of their respective owners.

We invite you to like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.
**Speech Recognition for the Mac**  
*Nuance Products for OS X*

## OS X Compatibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OS X 10.7</th>
<th>OS X 10.8</th>
<th>OS X 10.9</th>
<th>OS X 10.10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lion</td>
<td>Mountain Lion</td>
<td>Mavericks</td>
<td>Yosemite</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dragon Dictate 4</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Requires 4.0.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dragon Dictate Medical 4</td>
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<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dragon Dictate 3</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Requires 3.0.2</td>
<td>Requires 3.0.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dragon Dictate Medical 3</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dragon Dictate 2</td>
<td>Requires 2.5.2</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MacSpeech Scribe</td>
<td>Requires 1.1.1</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>MacSpeech Dictate</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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</table>

All Dictate and Scribe products automatically notify customers when new updates are available. Nuance recommends keeping your software up to date.

If you are not automatically prompted to download updates, select "Check for updates..." from the Dictate or Scribe menu.

### Dragon Dictate 4 Customers

Dragon Dictate 4 is compatible with OS X 10.8 and 10.9. Version 4.0.6 or later is required for OS X 10.10.

### Dragon Dictate Medical 3 Customers

Dragon Dictate Medical 3.0.5 is compatible with OS X 10.7, 10.8, and 10.9.

### Dragon Dictate 3 Customers

Dragon Dictate 3.0.4 is compatible with OS X 10.7, 10.8, and 10.9.

If you see a "Dragon Dictate is not supported on OS X 10.9" message, click the Continue button. Select "Check for updates..." from the Dictate menu to update to Dictate 3.0.4.

Dragon Dictate 3 will not be updated for OS X 10.10. We recommend upgrading to Dragon Dictate 4.
Dragon Dictate 2.0 and 2.5 Customers
Dragon Dictate 2.5.2 is compatible with OS X 10.7.

MacSpeech Dictate 1.5 Customers
MacSpeech 1.5 is compatible with OS X 10.6.

MacSpeech Scribe Customers
MacSpeech Scribe 1.1.1 is compatible with OS X 10.7.

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Forget Typing, Dictate with the most accurate Speech Recognition engine powered by the Nuance Dragon Naturally Speaking Engine for Speech to text, Text to Speech and forget your keyboard

More

Get the app

To use this app, upgrade to Windows 10.

Works on: PC

Ratings and reviews

Average customer rating

Features

- Voice Recognition Powered By Nuance with No Training Required in 28 Languages!
- Text to speech with highest quality voices
- Email Spoken Text
- Post to Facebook
- Post to Twitter
- Copy Speech Recognized Text and Paste to ANY App
- Docked Mode
- Free TRIAL
- Paste ANY Text and have it read to you
- Powered by same company which makes Dragon Naturally Speaking!
- 55 Second Recording Time
- Timer which lets you know how much time you have left to speak

App details

Publisher
SpeechTrans Inc

Category
Productivity

Approximate size
6.95 MB - 28.78 MB

Age rating
For ages 12 and up

Supported processors
neutral, x86

Supported languages
English (United States)

Learn more
SpeechTrans Dictation website (http://www.speechtrans.com)
SpeechTrans Dictation support (http://speechtrans.com)

Additional terms
Publisher privacy policy (http://speechtrans.com/privacy-policy)

Capabilities
DRAGON NATURALLY SPEAKING
Run Your World with Your Words. Email, Search, Create Memos by Voice.

Voice Recognition Software for Windows

Narrow Results

By Price
- Free to try (60)
- Free (28)
- Purchase (2)

By Category
- Business Software (90)
- Voice Recognition Software (90)

By Operating System
- Windows (90)
- Windows XP (75)
- Windows Vista (53)
- Windows 2000 (49)
- Windows 7 (44)
- Windows 98 (32)
- Windows Me (28)
- Windows NT (27)
- Windows 8 (22)
- Windows Server 2008 (19)

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Downloads Last Week
Show 10

- Free Voice to Text
Convert voice into text.

User Rating: Total Downloads: 91,717

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Speakonia</strong></th>
<th>Have text, HTML pages, and the Clipboard read aloud.</th>
<th>Editors' Rating</th>
<th>Total Downloads</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Read full review›</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Windows: Version 1.3.5 ... Added: 07/22/02</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Express Scribe Free</strong></th>
<th>Transcribe audio recordings and control audio playback with a foot pedal.</th>
<th>Editors' Rating</th>
<th>Total Downloads</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>User Rating</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Windows: Version 5.78 ... Added: 07/24/15</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Ultra Hal Text-to-Speech Reader</strong></th>
<th>Have document text read out loud.</th>
<th>Editors' Rating</th>
<th>Total Downloads</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>User Rating</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Windows: Version 2.0 ... Added: 03/28/14</td>
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<th><strong>Dragon NaturallySpeaking Home</strong></th>
<th>Turn your spoken words into text much faster than you can type.</th>
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<th>Total Downloads</th>
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<td></td>
<td>User Rating</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Windows: Version 13 ... Added: 07/22/14</td>
<td></td>
<td>205</td>
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</table>

**Ads**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Text To WAV</strong></th>
<th>Convert documents into WAV or AVI files and read text aloud.</th>
<th>Editors' Rating</th>
<th>Total Downloads</th>
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<th><strong>Braina</strong></th>
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<th><strong>TextAloud</strong></th>
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<th>Total Downloads</th>
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<th>Have your computer read to you.</th>
<th>Editors' Rating</th>
<th>Total Downloads</th>
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<td>User Rating</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Windows: Version 1.1 ... Added: 08/08/02</td>
<td>Last Week</td>
<td>76</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Text Speaker
Turn text into spoken audio and convert documents into MP3 files.
Read full review
Windows  Version 3.2  Added: 12/12/12
Editors' Rating
Total Downloads
User Rating
Last Week
Results 1 - 10 of 90

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http://download.cnet.com/windows/voice-recognition-software/
8/13/2015
Windows 10 Status

ZoomText and Window-Eyes on Windows 10

Microsoft announced that they will ship their new Windows 10 operating system on July 29th and we are working to ensure our products will work with it.

To keep you up-to-date, each week we will post our progress for ZoomText and Window-Eyes.

August 12, 2015

The ZoomText development team is still working hard on support for Windows 10. Our team is dedicated to delivering the best Windows 10 support and making sure that ZoomText works with as many applications as possible.

July 30, 2015

Window-Eyes 9.2 has been released. Using this version, customers can now install and use Window-Eyes on the Windows 10 operating system. To order a new license or an upgrade, call 802-362-3612 or email sales@aisquared.com. If you own Microsoft Office 2010 or newer, you can download Window-Eyes 9.2 for free at www.WindowEyesForOffice.com.

July 23, 2015

Pre-order Today!

You can now pre-order your Windows 10 update for ZoomText!

ZoomText 10.1.14 will support Windows 10.

To pre-order call 802-362-3612 or email sales@aisquared.com.
We anticipate shipping as soon as possible after Windows 10 is released.

Window-Eyes 9.2 supports Windows 10 and is available today!

**July 15, 2015**

Below we have put together some key information to help you plan for the release.

**Questions and Answers**

**Will ZoomText and Window-Eyes support Windows 10?**

Yes. ZoomText and Window-Eyes will support Windows 10. In fact, Window-Eyes 9.2 is available now with Windows 10 support!!

**When will ZoomText and Window-Eyes work with Windows 10?**

As soon as possible after Windows 10 is released on July 29th. We’ve been testing ZoomText against the Microsoft developer releases for months and continue to pay attention to the folks in Redmond, Washington, USA. Our developers are happy with their progress thus far. Window-Eyes 9.2 has been released and has support for Windows 10.

**What Ai Squared products already support Windows 10?**

- ImageReader 1.x
- ZoomText Keyboard

**Will there be a cost for Windows 10 support?**

Some users will have to purchase an upgrade and others will get Windows 10 support for free. To help you understand the different scenarios, we have created two separate tables so that you can figure out which scenario applies to you. The first table is for ZoomText users and the second table applies to Window-Eyes users.

**ZOOMTEXT SCENARIOS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>I purchased ZoomText 10.1 after 5/31/15</td>
<td>ZoomText for Windows 10 is free!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>I received ZoomText 10.1 before 6/1/15, I have an ESP or SMA* that is not expired</td>
<td>ZoomText for Windows 10 is free!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>I purchased ZoomText 10.1 before 6/1/15, I do not have an ESP or SMA</td>
<td>Purchase normally priced ESP or SMA* and ZoomText for Windows 10 is free!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I purchased ZoomText 10.1 before 6/1/15, I do not have an ESP or SMA, I do not wish to purchase an ESP or SMA</td>
<td>Purchase ZoomText for Windows 10 (domestic or international) for $49.00!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>I own a ZoomText 10.0 or earlier</td>
<td>Purchase a normally priced upgrade and ZoomText for Windows 10 is included!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: in scenarios 2 and 3, a user does not need to use an ESP or SMA count to get Windows 10 compatibility.

| WINDOW-EYES SCENARIOS |
|---|---|---|
| Number | Scenario | Price |
| 1 | I purchased a new copy of Window-Eyes 9.1 after 5/31/15 | The Window-Eyes 9.2 download is free! |
| 2 | I received Window-Eyes 9.1 before 6/1/15, I have an SMA* that is not expired | The Window-Eyes 9.2 download is free! |
| 3 | I purchased Window-Eyes 9.1 before 6/1/15, I do not have an SMA | Purchase normally priced SMA* and the Window-Eyes 9.2 download is free! |
| 4 | I purchased Window-Eyes 9.1 before 6/1/15, I do not have an SMA, I do not wish to purchase an SMA | Purchase downloadable upgrade to Window-Eyes 9.2 for $49.00! |

*Note: in scenarios 2 and 3, a user does not need to use an SMA count to get Windows 10 compatibility.

**When can I order?**

The upgrade to Windows 10 is not currently available for purchase. We will continue to update you on our progress and notify you when the upgrade is ready.

**Home**

**Products**

- ZoomText
  - Magnifier
  - MagReader
  - ZoomText on USB
  - Tour
  - Download Trial
  - Upgrade
  - Buy
- ZoomText Mac
OCTOBER 4, 2014

Windows 10 Magnifier – A First Look

For those of you who hadn’t heard yet the Windows 10 Technical Preview is available to the general public as of earlier this week. For information about how to get a copy of and install the technical preview check out Paul Thurrott’s on going articles on Winsupersite.com (http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwinsupersite.com%2Fwindows%2Fwindows-10&sa=D&ust=1&usg=AFQjCNHQTveQCvL38x9I0zMdEpkWADQpQA) he also is a co-host of Windows Weekly Podcast on the TWiT Network (http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Ftwit.tv%2Fww&sa=D&ust=1&usg=AFQjCNFpEHVyb2oxOWdorjXrm-wwX8NoQ). After downloading the 64-bit version of the Windows 10 Technical Preview I set out upon the epic journey of creating a virtual machine environment to install it into. In this particular case this would allow me to run Windows 10 on a Mac and run OS X at the same time; which I’m doing at the same moment as I’m writing this article. It worked out great for me. I had the benefit of using Mac’s Zoom feature while manipulating and running the Windows 10 installer; which simply appears as another window in OS X. If your interested in trying this out and you’re like me, not having a spare PC lying around, check out this handy article on LifeHacker about how to use VirtualBox (http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Flifehacker.com%2Fwindows-10-technical-preview-now-available-for-download-1641212531&sa=D&ust=1&usg=AFQjCNEDFJQOZa_OebTg_2wDJouP5Jlp27g) to try out Windows 10. Hey its free by the way!

Ok, now for what you really wanted to know! What’s up with Windows Magnifier? Well to tell you the truth the interface looks exactly the same to me. First let me say I’m primarily a low-vision software user; day-to-day I use Mac’s Zoom and ZoomText on...
my Windows 7 PC. I also can’t get by without Inverted Colors or some equivalent
High-Contrast mode. Now with that out of the way let me tell you about running
Magnifier on Windows 10. So from the Start Menu.... Yes, that’s right, I said “Start
Menu“ its back baby! I opened the Run Command dialog box and simply typed in
“magnify” and it launched as always. By default it launched at 200% magnification or
2x, so if you’re like me you’ll need to bump up the magnification quite a bit. You can
do this using the same keyboard combination that you’ll find on Windows 7 systems.
(To increase or decrease magnification press Windows Key + the plus or minus keys
accordingly.)

Here’s a picture of the translucent magnifying glass we’re familiar with from as far back as Windows 7. Oh by the
way, in addition to starting at 200% Zoom, Magnifier also
starts up in “Full Screen” mode just like it typically does
on Windows 7 systems.

The Windows Magnifier seems to have all the core
features of the older version we’d find on a Windows 7
system. The maximum zoom level goes up to 1600% or
16x, it has an “Invert Colors” Mode, and apparently the
same rudimentary tracking features. Under “Tracking” in the Settings drop-down you
see the three following options: “Follow the mouse”, “Follow the Keyboard focus”, and
“Have Magnifier follow the text insertion point”. Here’s a screenshot of Windows 10
Magnifier settings panel, which undoubtedly looks familiar.

I guess the real test will be using it in
a real world work environment over a
more extended period of time. In the
past I’ve found Magnifier, on Windows
7, to be... let’s say... not the greatest
experience. Don’t get me wrong it’s a
thousand times better than it was in
previous iterations, back when it was
a lens and you didn’t even have a full
screen option. But I’ve never used it
as a workhorse for day-to-day
activities. If you had to tweak or fix
somebody’s system on the fly it was
great but otherwise I’d opt for
ZoomText, especially if it required
several hours on the system. My chief
problems with Magnifier were its tracking ability and I've seen it get flaky at times if
the CPU had a serious draw on it. So while the UI and features look the same on the
new Windows 10 Magnifier I can't speak to the reliability when the system is under a
load or the tracking. For that I'll need some more time with it. We here at Low Vision
Rants will strive to keep you updated about Windows 10 Accessibility features as we
learn more; and as new Betas are released from Microsoft.

About My Setup:

These screenshots and opinions are based on my experimenting with Windows 10
Technical Preview Build 9841. This install was made inside a Virtual Machine on Mac
OS X (Version 10.9.4 Mavericks) using VirtualBox 4.3.16. My VM was allocated 2GB
of RAM and a 25GB Hard Drive. The iMac I was using is an i5 Quad-Core 2.5Ghz
box with 4GB of RAM. So far Windows 10 has run pretty smooth under these
conditions. You can find me on Twitter if you have any further thoughts. (@Certdoctor
(https://twitter.com/certdoctor))
Dragon NaturallySpeaking 12 brings an updated speech recognition engine, new webmail integration and better Bluetooth microphone compatibility to voice dictation on Windows.

After weeks of testing, I'm quite impressed by its speed and accuracy. In fact, I recently dictated an entire document using Dragon NaturallySpeaking 12. The program successfully recognized nearly every word and punctuation mark I threw at it. I still find it challenging to remember all the commands that I can say for document editing and operating system control. However, the new Dragon Sidebar helps users learn the program faster.
What's New

Some of the new features that version 12 brings includes the following.

A faster and more accurate speech recognition engine really makes Dragon NaturallySpeaking 12 great compared to earlier versions. I haven't used the Windows version of Dragon NaturallySpeaking for several years. Version 11 shared the same recognition engine as Dragon Dictate 2.5, the Macintosh version of the voice dictation application, which I used extensively on my Mac. Recognition speed in this new version jumped considerably. Accuracy makes dictating to the program much more enjoyable. It requires far less correction.

Advertisement
Dragon NaturallySpeaking
Run Your World with Your Words.
Email, Search, Create Memos by Voice.

Dragon NaturallySpeaking 12 adds support for the online email services like Google and Hotmail. The program integrates with the user interface of both webmail services. It works well with Gmail. I don't use Hotmail, but I'm told it behaves the same. Since the webmail tool runs online, it gets an update soon after Google or Microsoft releases updates to their services.

Dragon not only dictates your speech, but it also reads text and speaks back to you with an improved text to speech engine. As with most text to speech systems, Dragon's sounds a little wooden. It reads with little emotion and human inflection. However, compared to other text-to-speech systems, Dragon's sounds more natural than most.

Faster and More Accurate Performance

![Dragon NaturallySpeaking 12 Dictation Modes](http://notebooks.com/2012/10/01/dragon-naturallyspeaking-12-review-voice-dictation-for-windows/dragon-modes/)

http://notebooks.com/2012/10/01/dragon-naturallyspeaking-12-review-voice-dictation-for-windows/dragon-modes/
Voice dictation software users want speed and accuracy above all other features. Dragon truly shines, delivering accuracy better than any other version to date. My [review](http://notebooks.com/2011/04/14/dragon-dictate-for-mac-good-for-simple-dictation-only/) of the Mac version, Dragon Dictate, found that the program suffered from a memory leak that Nuance [fixed in version 2.5](http://notebooks.com/2011/07/31/dragon-dictate-2-5-for-mac-adds-speed-stability-and-social-networking-second-look/). Dragon NaturallySpeaking 12 doesn’t suffer from any lag or sluggishness so long as the user installs it on a sufficiently powerful system. Most computers purchased in the last few years should work. I tested on a 6-year-old HP laptop and it worked, but not well. On a recent model Toshiba with a latest gen Intel Core i7 processor and plenty of RAM it worked great, putting text onscreen almost instantly after I dictated it.
The user can reduce the speed setting for lower powered systems

Compared to Built-in Windows Dictation

Both Windows 7 and OS X ship with voice dictation built-in. The voice dictation built into Windows 7 doesn’t impress me. So, clearly Dragon NaturallySpeaking 12 offers a far superior voice dictation option for most
users. It's easy to use and controls the system well. The built-in recognition recognizes text less accurately than Dragon.

**Steep Learning Curve**

![Interactive Tutorial](http://notebooks.com/2012/10/01/dragon-naturallyspeaking-12-review-voice-dictation-for-windows/dragon-tutorial/)

*Run the program's tutorial to learn how to use this powerful program*

Dragon NaturallySpeaking 12 does require a time investment to learn operating system voice commands. The new version gives the user better correction of text using voice commands. That’s where the new Dragon Sidebar and introductory tutorial helps. Be sure to go through the tutorial. Users who struggle with the new correction system added to this version will want to practice.

**Value**

[Dragon NaturallySpeaking 12](http://www.nuance.com/dragon/whats-new-version-12/index.htm) is an investment, at $199 for a new user and $149 to upgrade from earlier versions. Last year an injury forced me to use voice dictation, making the price an easy decision to maintain productivity. Some people need voice dictation all the time due to a physical impairment. The rest of us must to decide if dictating out loud in an office or crowded environment will embarrass us. Those who work by themselves at home or in an office will benefit from this excellent upgrade.
Users of older machines might want to pass on version 12. It's a little too beefy and needs a powerful system with a current generation processor.

If you need dictation software on a Windows PC, Dragon NaturallySpeaking 12 is the best choice available for those needing advanced features with speed and accuracy. Voice dictation has arrived. I wrote this entire article using Dragon NaturallySpeaking 12 and only hit the keyboard a few times while actually dictating the text.
In a continuing series, Lamont Wood uses the Gettysburg Address for his Windows Speech Recognition vs. Dragon NaturallySpeaking head-to-head shootout ...

aNewDomain.net — In his continuing series covering speech recognition, our Lamont Wood asks the ultimate question. Of two leading options — Nuance Communications’ Dragon NaturallySpeaking (DNS) and Windows’ built-in Windows Speech Recognition (WSR) — which one is better? And at what? Deep dive ...

For general purpose desktop dictation you have two choices: Windows Speech Recognition (WSR), an unheralded feature that’s actually built into Microsoft Windows, or Dragon NaturallySpeaking (DNS), an off-the-shelf software package from Nuance Communications.

So the question is, which one is better?

Well, WSR is free and is already installed. But you can’t use it until you acquire and install a suitable headset microphone and then figure out how to invoke the software.
As for Dragon NaturallySpeaking, you have to pay for DNS and install it. Yet it comes with the necessary microphone, not to mention far more extensive documentation.

After that top-line comparison, the easiest way to answer the question as to what program is technically best at what it was built for lies in the real world. How do the two perform with actual document production? I put each to the test. Here's my product review shootout, pitting Windows Speech Recognition and Dragon NaturallySpeaking head-to-head.

For purposes of comparison, I used a widely-circulated government document known as "Lincoln's Gettysburg Address." Typed, it has 271 words. Pronouncing all its punctuation marks — as you have to do with speech recognition — makes it 314 words long. Also for the purposes of comparison I used dictionary words, not five-keystroke words.

First, I timed how long it took to type it in. Keyboarding the document's 271 words took 314 seconds, representing 51 words per minute. There were 25 errors, giving an accuracy rate of 91 percent. Correcting brought the time to 475 seconds, for a throughput of 34 words per minute. So there's the bar. Now compare that to what it took in Dragon NaturallySpeaking and Windows Speech Recognition.

Dragon NaturallySpeaking: Dictating the 314 utterances with DNS, I finished the draft in 159 seconds, for a rate of 126 words per minute. There were two recognition errors, for 99.4 percent accuracy.

Correcting the errors brought the process to 255 seconds, for a throughput of 74 words per minute.

Windows Speech Recognition: Dictating the 314 utterances with WSR, I finished the draft in 164 seconds, for rate of 115 words per minute. There were seven errors, for 97.8 percent accuracy.

Correcting the errors brought the process to 258 seconds, for a throughput of 73 words per minute.
Analysis and caveats

The first caveat to think about is that I personally am quite skilled using both systems. I was alone in a quiet room for both tests and, after all, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address does not present a challenging vocabulary. Your results will vary.

Meanwhile, this comparison involved dictation — that is, the input of text composed by someone other than you. Speed and accuracy are helpful with such tasks. But most office workers are trying to compose original text, so what matters is the system's ability to keep up with them as they decide what to say.

How fast can you decide what to say? A solid day's work for a professional writer is something like 1,000 to 2,000 publishable words.

Using either DNS or WSR you ought to be done for the day in about 20 minutes. Obviously, it doesn't work that way.

In my experience, the rate at which you compose coherent, grammatical text is about 50 words a minute in sporadic bursts.

During the intervening periods you will be staring at the blank page, sweating blood. Anyone who's completed a professional typing class should be able to type 50 words a minute. And doubtless people have produced 2,000 words a day using quill pens.

The real advantage ...

Because speech recognition can't accelerate the decision-making process — and because keyboarding is fast enough for composition (at least for me) — you must ask yourself what the advantage of using speech recognition really is.

In my experience, its advantage is that it makes the composition process essentially effortless. You decide what you're going to say, you say it, and it's there on the screen. The keyboard is no longer a stumbling block — nor a source of intractable muscle problems.
Cortana on the PC: Can we talk?

What can I do now?

The voice-activated digital assistant will be on Windows 10 PCs, but it's a tough call whether users will chime in

By Matt Hamblen

Cortana, the Windows Phone voice-activated digital assistant, now works on desktops, laptops and tablets running the preview edition of Windows 10.

Microsoft began touting the new capability when it announced Windows 10 on Jan. 21 as a free, one-time upgrade for Windows users that will be officially released later in 2015. The upgrade will be available

http://www.computerworld.com/article/2879473/cortana-on-the-pc-can-we-talk.html
The Cortana capability will give PC and tablet users fast access to information and important reminders -- with assistance from Bing and GPS -- when invoked with "natural and easy" voice or typing interactions, Microsoft said at the time.

While Cortana on PCs and tablets goes beyond what Google Now and Siri on smartphones can so far offer, it isn't clear how popular, valuable or successful Cortana on PCs and tablets will be with customers. Based on Computerworld interviews with users, there's a fair amount of skepticism.

For business users, especially, who already have adjusted to software programs like Dragon Naturally Speaking for taking dictation, Cortana isn't seen as a potential replacement on their desktops.

Cortana does a lot more than take dictation. However, one important audience -- millennials -- may not like making voice commands on a desktop for performing tasks, especially after their years of relying on texting on their smartphones and widely avoiding the making of voice calls.

"Personally, I don’t find digital voice assistance very useful," said Clayton Kohler, a freshman at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. Kohler is working on a degree in finance and is involved in a startup called Mobile Maker to bring cutting edge technology to after-school programs. He's constantly on his phone or laptop or a desktop in classrooms.

"I have Siri on my iPhone now, but I still find it easier to type in a Google search for whatever I'm trying to find. I just don't think this new [Cortana on PCs and tablets] ability is that big of a deal. We're always finding ways to make tasks even easier, so I'm sure it will be popular, but I don't think it's important."

Rick Usher, an assistant city manager for Kansas City, Mo., said the cross-platform capability of Cortana "sounds like too much technology and not very useful." Voice commands are "handy when you have your hands full, but I don't see it being useful when you're sitting in front of the computer."

Usher conceded that Cortana "might be handy if we're talking about getting rid of the keyboard or the mouse" on the desktop, adding that eye-movement tracking could also be important.

Belfiore's testimonial to the contrary

More than anything, such critical comments indicate that Microsoft might need to focus more attention on explaining the value of cross-platform Cortana to average users.

Joe Belfiore, a Microsoft corporate vice president and head of the Windows team, explained the value of Cortana on the desktop in a video posted on a Windows blog.

Starting at the one-minute point, Belfiore acknowledged that while Cortana on Windows Phone had received great feedback, "people using PCs aren't used to having a personal assistant right there, ready at any time to tell them important things, like, 'you need to leave now to get to dinner on time' or to answer their questions ... about weather, world events, sports scores."

Belfiore also noted that Cortana on the desktop "can do things on my behalf" and recalled being busy typing on a desktop keyboard, then suddenly remembering he needed to send an email. "I can ask"
Accessibility on the Cutting Edge

by Steve Burdette | Jul 27, 2015 | Technology Readiness | 0 comments

On July 29, 2015, Microsoft will begin releasing Windows 10 to millions of users worldwide. In so doing, the last bastion of traditional software releases will fall. Windows 10 will be released in a software-as-a-service (SAAS) model, and while businesses and educators can opt out of the most aggressive release cycle, “versions” are about to be replaced with “major updates.” Many software vendors will not have versions of their applications optimized for Windows 10 right away: this includes adaptive technologies companies.

Microsoft is doing what Apple has done since it first released OS X in 2002. It will continuously update the operating system and force new features on consumers in the same way that Apple does with each new release of OS X. Failure to upgrade means exposure to risks as companies deprecate or abandon support of older versions altogether.

Windows 10 brings some exciting, new, enabling technologies for all users. The “Windows Hello” feature — when paired with suitable hardware — allows Windows to bypass a password entirely using facial recognition to sign in a user. The “Hey Cortana” feature allows natural-language voice queries to perform common tasks, such as “show me the Word documents I created yesterday.” Cortana also brings the power of Microsoft Bing to answer questions, such as “what is the square root of 4,060,225?” (2015, Cortana will tell you). But what does this have to do with adaptive technologies (AT) and accessibility?

It is tempting — and sometimes the best decision temporarily — to stay on an older, more-stable platform that’s known to work with existing ATs like the popular JAWS screen-reading software package, which (as of this writing) is not functioning on the latest build of Windows 10. Keeping a verified system like Windows 7 around running JAWS guarantees your vision-impaired users will be able to access content read aloud to them. But, they will be disadvantaged compared to users who need not remember a password, or who can ask Cortana for help doing research.

Microsoft has aggressively promoted the free upgrade to Windows 10 for users of Windows 7 or Windows 8. While this doesn’t cover educational or business licenses, parents and their representative lawmakers are unlikely to be swayed by “implementation costs” and “compatibility testing.” Strong arguments can be made for both, but they will likely ring hollow in the ears of parents who want the newest and best for their children.

To be certain, Windows 10 requires new hardware and a different approach to technology than its predecessors to actualize all of this promise. Thirty children in a room shouting “Hey, Cortana” with all of their queries is very different than 30 students typing those queries into Google’s website.

But, as soon as the most-common ATs run on Windows 10, and that’s likely sooner than later, educational IT departments are going to be asked why Windows 10 hasn’t been deployed. Understanding the enabling features of Windows 10 when paired with traditional ATs is critical to a successful deployment. Understanding how to disable Cortana during assessments is a critical topic, but one for another post, coming in August, so stay tuned.

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What is Cortana and how it works Explained!

Intelligent voice assistant from Microsoft is called Cortana. It is similar in function to Siri, the voice assistant of Apple, and Google Now – the virtual assistant of Android.

Cortana will be integrated into the next operating system Windows 10 and the first presentation of this new virtual assistant was at the
What is Microsoft Cortana?

Cortana is a personal digital assistant, whose goal is to make your life easier. You can ask for help from Cortana to weather turning centimeters in inches, the winner in sports tournament or the birthday of a friend of yours.

How does Cortana works?

You can ‘communicate’ with Cortana with voice commands or by entering your questions or commands. Depending on whether you have written your question or you say it out loud, Cortana will respond with verbal or written text. Cortana replaces the search function in Windows Phone and appears as a live tile on your device.

Cortana can help the following:

- To schedule an appointment
- To set a reminder for an important task
- To send automatic replies to callers when you do not want to be disturbed
- To log on Facebook
- To receive updated traffic information, weather and many other things

The only condition to use Cortana is to have an account at Microsoft. Note, however, that this feature is not available for all
How to reach Cortana settings on your phone?

One of the advantages of Cortana, the personal digital assistant is that she will not ‘take it personally’ if you want to adjust the settings and the way it works. Here is how you can access the settings of Cortana in Windows Phone.

– Press the Search button to enter the Cortana, then touch Cortana’s Notebook > Settings.

– In the application list, tap ‘Settings’, slide quickly to the ‘Applications’, then tap ‘Cortana’. (If you use a version of Windows Phone 8.1 Update 2 or later, tap Settings> Cortana, to change the settings of Cortana).

Can I use Microsoft Cortana on my computer?

Windows 10 will be available with voice personal assistant of Windows Phone – Cortana. Microsoft’s goal is to unify the operating systems for desktops, tablets, smartphones, and the Xbox games console.

Thanks to Cortana can set the computer voice commands to start Powerpoint presentation, finding photos, sending email, and so on, and get advice on whether to take an umbrella before leaving.

From Microsoft assure us that the voice control will not be a substitute for the familiar type of interaction with the computer, and the two will work in symbiosis.
HERE’S HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF CORTANA, THE WINDOWS 10 DIGITAL ASSISTANT

By Tina Sieber — January 28, 2015
Cortana, Microsoft's digital personal assistant, is one of the most anticipated features in January's new Windows 10 build. She has been available on Windows Phone 8.1 since last year, but the desktop version is a different story and not fully mature, yet. Still, there's a lot you can do with her, and we'll show you how to set up Cortana and get her to work for you.

**Meet Cortana; she hasn't always been a digital assistant!**

On Windows 10, Cortana is a voice controlled digital assistant, similar to Siri and Google Now. The original Cortana was an artificial intelligence character from the Halo video game series. She obtained her intelligence from the cloned brain of Dr. Catherine Halsey, a civilian scientist and founder of the SPARTAN project. In Halo, Cortana is classified as “smart”, allowing her creative matrix to expand. While certainly more limited, the digital assistant Cortana is also supposed to learn about you to offer better recommendations. The voice of Cortana, both in Halo and Windows, is provided by actress Jen Taylor.

**You can enable Cortana outside the United States**

At this point, Cortana is designed for the United States only, but you can
enable her if you live in another country and are willing to speak US English. Until other regions are rolled out you have the option to change your region settings and language preferences.

To enable Cortana, press **Windows + S**, type “region,” and open the respective Control panel result. Switch to the **Location** tab and change your **Home location** to **United States**. Next, search for “language” and open the respective Control panel result. If not in place yet, add **English (United States)** as a language and move it up to the first position. If you have more than one language in the list, you will see an input method switch in the notification area on the far right of your taskbar. You can use this to work with a different keyboard layout. Cortana works with either, but the primary selection has to be US.

It shouldn’t be necessary to reboot your computer, but you might have to re-enable Cortana via **Search Settings**, as explained see below.

**Set up & customize Cortana**

To get started with Cortana, click the halo or search bar in the taskbar and **Allow** her access to your usage data. She will ask for your name and whether she pronounces it right. You can change your name anytime by opening search, clicking the menu icon in the upper left, and selecting **Settings**. Here you can also turn
Cortana on and off. Although she offers, you cannot teach her how to correctly pronounce your name, yet. It’s one of the many things not available until after a future update.

To function at her best, Cortana needs a few more things, including permission to show you reminders and your location. If you missed giving her any of these details during the initial setup, you can change that via the respective options in the upper left hand menu. Under Settings, you should turn on “Let Cortana respond when you say ‘Hey Cortana,’” which means you’ll be able to call on her hands-free.

Cortana will learn about you while you’re using your computer. You can get her up to speed by adding a few things manually, including your home and work location (Places) and whether you preferably get around by car or transit (Notebook > getting around). Features like headline news, news near me, and weather near me are on by default, but you can turn them off or remove them via the Notebook, which is where Cortana keeps track of your interests. You can add categories by clicking the + button in the bottom right.
This is what Cortana can do for you

![Weather screenshot]

If you enabled **Hey Cortana**, you’ll be able to communicate with her hands-free. Simply say “Hey Cortana” immediately followed by your question or command. Alternatively, you can tap the microphone symbol and start speaking.

Depending on the quality of your microphone, Cortana will catch you from up to seven feet (about two meters) away. I found her ability to hear instructions on top of background noise remarkable. As long as you speak up and are at least as close to the microphone as surrounding noise sources, she will pick up your commands without issue.

This is the first version of Cortana on the Windows desktop, so she can’t do quite all the things available on Windows Phone. For example, I couldn’t get her to give me directions or compose an email. One day I could set reminders, the next day this feature was broken. In some cases, it’s a matter of figuring out the right instruction or sequence of commands. Whenever she cannot answer a question or command, she either returns an apology or opens a browser tab with a Bing search. Fortunately, the Bing results page typically displays a perfect answer.

- **Ask Cortana for the weather**: You can create a more complex question by asking for the weather in a specific
city, in degrees Celcius or Kelvin (Fahrenheit is the default), and on a specific day or next week.

- **Cortana knows sports scores:** Ask her how your team played. She currently supports the NBL, NFL, some European soccer leagues. Unfortunately, she can't show you a list of results or tell you the next game.

- **Cortana can do math!** She can solve math problems, including more complex ones like "10% of 30 divided by 3". She can also convert units, such as from Celcius to Fahrenheit or from feet to meters. Finally, she knows exchange rates, for example, ask her for the Bitcoin exchange rate.

- **Cortana can search your files:** But she cannot open documents. Just tell her what to search for, e.g. "find cover letter" and you'll get a list of files on your local drive and on OneDrive.

- **Cortana can track your flights:** You can ask her for the status of your flight. In future updates she should be able to pick up information from your email and set reminders automatically.

- **Let Cortana set reminders:** As mentioned above, this one doesn't seem to work right now, but it did initially and it had bugs. We don't know when reminders will be back. As of right now, Cortana will let you insert all the details and then tell you "Sorry, I couldn't create that. Please try again later," once you are ready to schedule.
Ask Cortana these fun questions

With the right sequence of questions, you can have a fun conversation with Cortana. You'll find that she has a sense of humor and quite a few Easter Eggs. If you want to improve your AI communication skills and have a laugh, here is a list of questions you should ask Cortana:

- Yo!
- Guess what!
- How old are you?
- How do you work?
- Where are you from?
- Who is your mother?
- Who is your father?
- Can you speak Klingon?
- Ask me a question!
- Tell me a joke!
- Tell me a story!
- Sing me a song!
- Where is Master Chief?
- Are you dead?
- Who is Doctor Halsey?
- Make an impersonation!
- What do you think about Clippy?
- Do you know Satya Nadella?
- Who is the tallest woman in the world?
- What is the answer to life, the universe and everything?
- What is the meaning of life?
- Are you better than Siri?
- Are you better than Google Now?
- What do you think about Google?
- Beam me up Scotty.
- Surprise me!
- You are awesome!

For some questions she has multiple answers or will answer to variations.

**You can disable Cortana**

If you can’t warm up to artificial intelligence, you can disable Cortana. Under Settings, turn her off. To remove all the data she collected about you, click Manage Cortana data underneath the on/off switch. This will open Settings > Privacy > Speech, inking & typing where you can Stop Cortana from getting to know you and Clear all the information she has stored about you so far.

**More features are likely to be included in future builds**

When testing Cortana, we often ran into the apology “Sorry, I can’t do this for you right now. Check back again after future updates.” In some cases, the requested feature does exist on Windows Phone. Even if it doesn’t, we think this message means that Microsoft expected the question and is planning to add the respective feature soon.
Following future updates, Cortana should be able to open apps (this already works if you type in the command), set complex reminders, add appointments to your calendar, take notes, compose emails, give directions to preset locations (provided maps have been downloaded), offer traffic information, set an alarm, and more.

What would you like Cortana to do for you?