Dragon Naturally Speaking access

Dragon Naturally Speaking is a speech recognition application that produces text output from voice input.

The University does not have a site licence for Dragon Naturally Speaking. Instead, the software is licensed to individual users.

Personal uses for Dragon Naturally Speaking

Dragon Naturally Speaking is often used by people with disabilities who have difficulty using a keyboard or mouse, or who have difficulty committing their ideas to written form.

Students

After an assessment of their study needs, students with disabilities may have Dragon Naturally Speaking provided for them via the Disabled Student Allowance from their funding body (e.g. Student Finance in the UK) and not by the University.

Staff

If a member of staff requires access Dragon Naturally Speaking for disability reasons, funding may be available through the Access To Work scheme. Further details about this scheme can be accessed from HR. If Access to Work funding is not available, but there is a valid disability-related need for Dragon software, it would still be provided by the university.

Academic uses for Dragon Naturally Speaking

In an interview situation which is being transcribed using Dragon, the microphone will commonly be placed between the interviewer and the interviewee. This arrangement can cause the following issues:

- To increase accuracy, Dragon can be trained to recognise your voice. But Dragon is NOT equipped to be trained for the recognition of two or more voices.
- The ideal position for a typical microphone is closer to the speaker than the two person layout commonly allows, and loss of quality and therefore loss of accuracy of transcription commonly occurs.
- The interviewer and the interviewee may speak may at the same time, Dragon is not able to transcribe the result of simultaneous speech.

Purchasing Dragon Naturally Speaking

Currently the most economical way of purchasing Dragon Naturally Speaking is direct from a reseller that specialises in sales to higher education (e.g. Softcat, Academia or Pugh).

For further information, make a request about Dragon Naturally Speaking.