



Speech Recognition

Computer Club Presentation

January 9, 2012

Some form of Speech Recognition has been bundled with Windows since Windows 98. Hopefully, each edition improved a little bit on the previous version. The latest bundled version is 'Windows Speech Recognition' which comes with Vista and Windows 7.

The presentation focused on the tutorial. One easy way to access this is to type all or part of 'speech' into the Start Button Search window and select 'Windows Speech Recognition'.

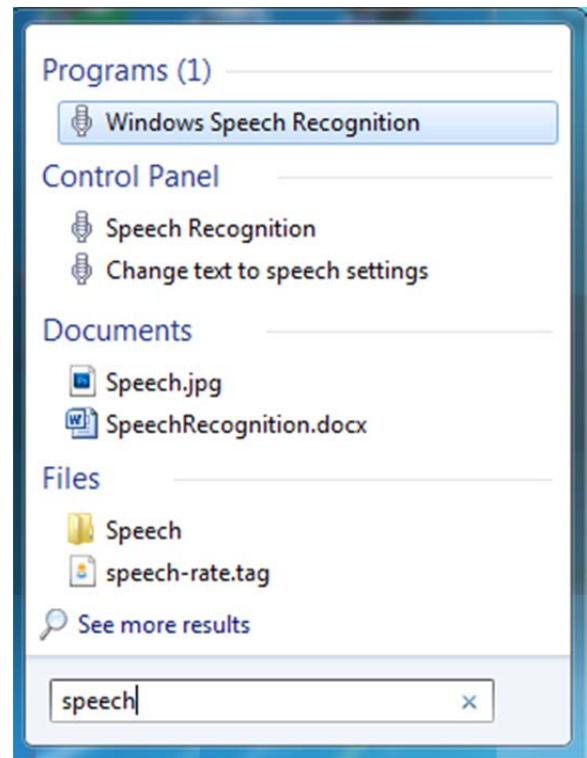
If this is the first time you have used the program, you will be asked to initialize the program. Among other tasks, you will be asked to read a sentence which helps calibrate the program.

When the program is ready, a small icon will appear at the top of your screen.



Right Click on this icon and a pop-window will appear with many useful choices.

Choose 'Start Speech Tutorial'. The first portions of this Tutorial were the presentation.



Naturally, for speech recognition, a microphone is needed. Some thought is required in selecting one. There is no one choice that is ideal for everyone. The presenter, Forrest Meiere, used the USB Headset 530 from Logitech. He felt that this was the best compromise, value versus price. It is available from Amazon for \$37. Amazon offers headsets from \$20 to hundreds of dollars; your choice. His only suggestion is to get a USB Headset, not a free standing microphone. A USB device will probably plug right in and go whereas any device which plugs into an audio input will require a driver. Getting the correct driver is just an unnecessary step.

The bundled Windows Speech Recognition program is not a Microsoft product. It was written by Nuance whose main product is Dragon. The bundled program is a scaled back version of Dragon. If you want to upgrade, purchase Dragon Premium. The Home version is not much better than the free version and the Professional versions are not worth the price for non-professionals. The latest version of Dragon Premium is 11.5. The lowest price I have seen is \$99.99 for Students or Educators. A registration for Continuing Education at CCU should work.