



DRAGON NATURALLY SPEAKING SUCCESS STORY

Andrew Konietzky:

WRITING SMARTER, FASTER, STRONGER WITH DRAGON

When a friend suggested he try voice recognition software, pop culture writer and film critic Andrew Konietzky admits he was skeptical. "Voice recognition has never worked like it does in Star Trek," he recalls thinking. But he was willing to give Dragon NaturallySpeaking a try and, sure enough, he says, "I was impressed, even with the Star Trek-like commands such as 'send email.'"

Soon Konietzky was at the helm of his PC, commanding it as if he was sitting in a captain's chair overseeing the exploration of the final frontier. His setup includes a boom microphone that is sensitive enough to pick up his voice as he paces the room, which he typically does while writing. He notes: "I use Dragon to write articles and film reviews, put together short story ideas, search the web, and so forth. I write the way I talk, and when friends get emails from me, they say: 'I can hear you saying that.'" He notes that Dragon helps him achieve a conversational style in his articles too.

Konietzky's thought processes move at a rapid pace — each new topic of discussion during a conversation with him brings up related points that he explores like mental cul-de-sacs before returning to the main thoroughfare — but Dragon has no problem keeping up; it "meshes my thoughts and vocal senses into one majestic, soaring beast," he explains.

He continues: "I write articles in chunks. If I'm writing about a film, I might think of something from the middle of the movie, so I'll space down, write that part, and then go back to where I was. Dragon also lets me easily rattle off ideas while working on an article — I can bracket them off by saying 'beginning' or 'ending,' so I know where they go later."

As an example, Konietzky cites a piece he wrote about the ten most underrated movies of 2010: "I rattled off a list of movie titles when I started, and then I started going into more depth for each one. I was also able to include notes like 'Need photo here,' and so forth. Dragon made it easy to quickly jump around." That list was compiled for Suicide Girls, where he's a contributor; he also writes for Film Slate and the Daytona Sun.

A Versatile Tool

Konietzky carries a digital audio recorder with him everywhere he goes, "just in case an idea for the next article, short story, or novel hits me while walking on the beach or a local nature trail. With Dragon's accurate vocal diagnostics, I can throw my personality into the mix; it even catches the Florida flavor of my speech patterns."



Konietzky has also contributed to various podcasts, including "The Instance," which is centered around the popular role-playing game World of Warcraft, and the general videogame-themed "EXTRALIFE." "We use Skype to record the podcasts, and I have Dragon running the whole time," he explains. "When we're done, it's a simple matter of cleaning up the transcript of what I said to create the show notes."

Konietzky is a self-described "uncontrollable gadget geek who loves all kinds of tech goodies," and the way he grips a pen led him to use a computer for writing at a relatively early age, so he was receptive to relying on voice recognition software as soon as it was suggested to him. However, he says, "Dragon NaturallySpeaking should be a requirement when anyone seriously begins writing. It just makes things flow smarter, faster, and stronger."



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