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Please call LAB Resources for a copy of our 2008 Catalog!



Kurzweil 3000 USB

Kurzweil 3000 USB makes the popular Kurzweil software portable. Instead of installing it on a single computer, the USB version makes it available on a USB Flash Drive. Students can then use Kurzweil 3000 USB on virtually any Windows computer (that meet system requirements) and do not have to go to a special area or computer to do their work.

Students can also save their files on the USB flash drive

giving them access to these files on any computer in which they are working.

Kurzweil 3000 USB is available in the Professional Color; Professional Black/White and Learn Station configurations. The Professional Editions allow students to scan and edit documents. Learn Stations offers all the reading, writing and learning tools of the Professional



Edition without the scanning capabilities.

For more information, or pricing, please contact LAB Resources at 262-691-3476 or 800-691-3476.

LAB Notes

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Introducing ... LAB Lesson Plans for Dragon NaturallySpeaking 9



Our new LAB Lesson Plans for Dragon NaturallySpeaking 9 are designed to assist educators in helping their students become proficient users of Dragon NaturallySpeaking.

According to Maxwell Maltz, author of "Psycho-Cybernetics", it takes 21 days to form a new habit. Learning to use speech recognition is a new habit. Our experience in training individuals to use

Dragon NaturallySpeaking has supported this theory. We have found that individuals who stop using speech recognition software in the first week or use it only sporadically during the first month will frequently stop using it altogether.

Our new LAB Lessons Plans for Dragon NaturallySpeaking provide 21 Lessons Plans. These lesson plans are designed to take a stu-

dent from the very beginning to being a proficient user of Dragon NaturallySpeaking. They also promote consistent practice.

LAB Lesson Plans for Dragon NaturallySpeaking are priced at \$14.95. We also offer them bundled with our LAB Lessons Tutorial for Dragon NaturallySpeaking. Pricing of the bundle is \$29.95

Jan. 2008



New! Classroom Suite 4

Classroom Suite 4 is now available. This new version of Classroom Suite is designed to provide systematic explicit instruction in reading, writing and math at the Pre-K—5th grade level.

Classroom Suite comes

with pre-designed activities, templates, testing and authoring capabilities.

Templates are organized into 4 categories: Early Learning, Math, Reading and Writing.

Lessons can be individualized in a few

seconds.

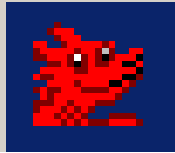
Reports allow easy tracking of students.

Please call LAB Resources:

- * With questions
- * For more information
- * Pricing
- * Training Materials

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Dragon Corner

This regular column answers a commonly asked question about Dragon NaturallySpeaking

Question: What is the Speech to Noise ratio and why is it important?

Answer: The Speech-to-Noise ratio is a measurement that compares the sound of the user's voice against the noises built into the microphone and computer sound card as well as the background noise. The Speech-to-Noise ratio is, therefore, a measurement of the computer's sound system, not the user's speech. It is an important measurement for determining whether the sound system of a specific computer is adequate for future success with Dragon NaturallySpeaking on that computer.

The Speech-to-Noise Ratio is generated when the Audio Setup Wizard is run during setup of a new user.

At the end of the Audio Setup Wizard, Dragon NaturallySpeaking will give you a message letting you know if your computer passed. It will also give a score to show how well the sound system did. This score is the Speech-to-Noise ratio. Here is what the number means:

28 and above:	Above average
22 – 28	Average
15 – 22	Below Average
< 15	Unacceptable

It is a good idea to write this number down for future reference. A low Speech-to-Noise ratio may be the reason a student is not having good success with the software. Again, this is a measure of the sound card combined with the microphone—not the student's voice.

An easy solution to a low Speech-to-Noise ratio is to use a USB microphone. A USB microphone bypasses the computer's sound card. If you switch to a USB microphone, be sure to set up an entirely new user file, selecting USB microphone as the Dictation Source on the New User Wizard. Another option is to replace the computer's sound card with a sound card tested and certified to work with Dragon NaturallySpeaking by Nuance, the manufacturer of Dragon NaturallySpeaking.

LAB Resources is an authorized Value Added Reseller for Dragon NaturallySpeaking. We provide training, support and have created our own tutorials and training materials. Please call LAB Resources for more information (262-691-3476 or 800-691-3476).

Software Implementation Suggestions

by Linda Baldwin

Implementing a new software program can be a big challenge for a school district. After software has been evaluated and a decision has been made, schools endeavor to make sure the software is actually used.

Here are a few suggestions to help software get implemented successfully:

- Before purchase, make sure there is motivation to use this software. Do educators believe it will help them do their jobs, and, ultimately, help their students?
- Once software is purchased and installed, it is important that educators receive training so that they are confident they know how to use their new software.
- Determine needs and interests prior to training to make sure they are addressed during the training.
- Studies have shown that training is most effective when divided over several sessions rather than including all information in

one training day.

- The choice of whether to use someone on staff or hire an outside trainer must be made. Many considerations go into making this decision. One advantage to using someone knowledgeable within the district is that it is more cost effective for the district when training is spread over several sessions. Also, this person can then function as the "go to" person within the district when questions come up.
- Studies have shown that training needs to be active to be most successful. Hands-on activities and discussion opportunities are critical.
- An Implementation Strategies worksheet helps a group determine what steps need to be followed following the first training. In what order do they need to be done and who will do them also need to be determined.
- Take-home materials from the training are important to support educators when they get back to their classrooms and begin to use the software

with their students.

- One of the best ways to gain confidence in using a software program is to teach it to someone else. Following a training, educators can be encouraged to use the software with one of their students within the next week. It is important to do this step before the information just learned is forgotten.



Proper training and an implementation plan reduce frustration.

LAB Resources is the manufacturer of their own line of training materials designed to help schools use and implement the software they have purchased.