



How Does Version 9 compare to earlier versions of DNS

Version 9 appears to be approximately 15% more accurate than Version 8 which was 23% more accurate than Version 7.

Medical 9 is rumored to be 25% more accurate than Medical 8.

Although you can create a **“quick” user file** by simply running the Audio Setup Wizard, this procedure is not recommended because your accuracy will only be equivalent to Version 7 or at best 8. We recommend spending the usual 10 minutes training or even better, installing [UniVoice](#) (non-gender specific pre-trained Preferred & higher user file).

True Citrix & network server support. Numerous improvements for IT and network professionals. MSI Installation for network deployment (exclusive to the professional versions of NaturallySpeaking).

User files can now be **Roamed over the Internet** as opposed to Version 8 local intranet roaming (exclusive to the professional versions of NaturallySpeaking)

Expanded Select-&-Say control in many otherwise non-Select-&-Say programs such as Netscape-based Web browsers like Mozilla and Thunderbird.

There is a new **Green Select-&-Say indicator** in the Dragonbar but it is not viewable when using NaturallySpeaking as a Tray Icon Only.

The **Command Browser has been revamped** with numerous improvements. You can double-click on any command to display it and additionally open a Preview window (similar to the Outlook e-mail preview pane). The Command Browser now only takes 1 second to open. Even after importing our 300 personal commands (some of which are several pages long), the Command Browser only took 6 seconds to open as compared to the usual 23 seconds in Version 8.

At first glance the Vocabulary Editor looks the same as the Version 8 Vocabulary Editor because the menu items haven't changed but it's what's under the hood that counts. For beginners, the Vocabulary Editor opens in 1 second rather than 6 or so seconds, as with Version 8. It looks like a lot of work has gone to the Vocabulary Editor because previous versions of this utility completely ignored 25% of the phrases that we added like "Control Panel". We also attempted to write rules so that any time we say the word medical, followed by a number, it would appear as "Medical 9". Our personal vocabulary is rather complex and contains close to 3000 phrases. After spending a few minutes tweaking our vocabulary in Version 9, we are experiencing almost perfect vocabulary recognition. This **Vocabulary Editor also seems to be smarter about learning our work habits**. Previous versions have never come close so we were very impressed with this feature. In our opinion, the Vocabulary Editor improvements alone are worth the price to upgrade.

Version 9 (Preferred and higher) includes a **new Auto transcribe .wav file folder** that NaturallySpeaking will automatically search for transcription purposes. Version 9 can also **transcribe MP3 files**, along with the usual wav files.

Blue tooth support has been added.

If you hold down the {Esc} Key while dictating you can add **Voice Notations** to Microsoft Word

Although Nuance's minimum hardware requirements remain the same, they are more realistic about their recommended requirements which are now a 2.4 PIV with 1 RAM. Please note that if you plan on using NaturallySpeaking 9 with Windows Vista you should plan on 2 Gb of RAM but DNS 9 will not work on Windows Vista until SP2 is released some on or before January 30, 2007. Version 9 now requires 2 CDs (Medical & Legal requiring 3 CDs). Version 9 requires more processing power. Version 8 typically used 150 Mb of active RAM (as displayed by the Memory Usage under the Windows Task Manager Processes Tab). Version 9 is using between 250 and 300 Mb of RAM. To put this in perspective, KnowBrainer 2006 uses approximately 13 Mb of RAM. Antivirus software typically uses about 6 Mb of RAM and Word 2003 (normally considered to be a processor hog), uses about 70 Mb of RAM.

Improved VocTools - Vocabulary Builder (exclusive to the professional versions of NaturallySpeaking)

Improved Dictation Box for non-Select-&-Say documents. You can easily change the default font size and style. You can even change the size of the box and NaturallySpeaking will remember the changes. You can optionally change some of the internal programming such as how you want the Dictation Box to act when there is already text in a field that you jump to. We would have preferred that the text be copied to the clipboard when using Dictation Box because NaturallySpeaking sometimes loses the text during the paste process but you need not worry because we have added this a **Paste All** command to KnowBrainer 2006. You can additionally force the new Dictation Box to add a highlighted selection or an entire document to the Dictation Box.

We now have single phrase Select-&-Say in non-standard Windows. In other words, you can dictate a sentence and if you see an error, you don't have to say "correct that" to put the entire phrase in the Spell That Correction Dialog Box. You can simply say "Correct <words/s>". Note that this feature only works on your last dictated phrase which we find to be a very slow way to work.

Version 9 can now read back text in Outlook & Outlook Express. Of course this feature was also available in Version 6 but went AWOL in Version 7 through 8.

Version 9 includes a new feature which adapts acoustic information continuously while you are dictating. Nuance refers to this as "SilentAdapt" which is essentially equivalent to constantly running the Acoustic Optimizer which translates into NaturallySpeaking continuously improving your user files.

Previous NaturallySpeaking algorithms were based on bigrams and trigrams but Version 9 adds 4-grams (**quadgrams**) + many more phases. Quadgrams, additional phrases and algorithm tweaks are probably responsible for Nuance's claims of a 20% gain in accuracy. Our test results showed an overall **accuracy gain of 15%** but that's still impressive. Equally impressive is the new Ver. 9 exclusive UniVoice software which can boost the accuracy by an additional 15% for a **30% possible accuracy gain**.

Version 9 temporarily adds words to your personal vocab from emails that you respond to. Example: If someone refers to a "wokjok", NaturallySpeaking will temporarily add it to your vocabulary so that when you say "wokjok" NaturallySpeaking will guess and hopefully get

it right. After you send your e-mail, the temporarily added vocabulary will disappear.

Our favorite new (long overdue) feature is an option to **uncheck "Automatically add words to vocabulary"** via NaturallySpeaking's Options/Correction (Tab){Alt+t}. Ever since Version 6 was in beta testing, we've been begging the manufacturer to either discontinue or offer us an option to turn off this miserable feature. The new KnowBrainer 2006 **Tweak My Computer** command, it will automatically remove this unpopular feature and it is already disabled and UniVoice.

A lot of end-users "justifiably" complained that the new user training text was too small to read. The new **training text is VERY large**.

Even though NaturallySpeaking 9 is even more of a resource hog than previous versions, Command Browser integrated and **Advanced-Scripting commands deploy significantly faster**; possibly 2 or 3 times faster. We also found **dictation to be a bit faster** than Ver. 8. We used a PIV 2.8-GHz dual core desktop with 1 Gb of RAM in our tests.

We were disappointed that NaturallySpeaking still occasionally loses Select-&-Say and or the ability to dictate into Microsoft Word when you have several Microsoft Word documents open at a time. When this occurs we are forced to close and relaunch Word. Fortunately we added a **Repair Word** command to KnowBrainer 2006 to assist. As with previous versions of NaturallySpeaking, you will probably want to chop long documents into smaller chapters because NaturallySpeaking becomes sluggish after about 60 pages or so.

Final note: Frankly, we were very surprised at the improvements and bug fixes. We think there are still a few design flaws but KnowBrainer 2006 should take care of most of them. Manufacturers typically focus on adding features rather than fixing what's wrong with their product but this time Nuance accomplished both and our biggest surprise was how little we could find wrong with the product.

