

## OUR STAR RATINGS

With every product we review, we tell it like it is and give it Computeractive's authoritative star rating.

Here's what those stars mean:

Excellent	★★★★★
Worth it	★★★★☆
OK by us	★★★☆☆
Poor	★★☆☆☆
Awful	★☆☆☆☆

## OUR STAMP OF APPROVAL



The Buy It! stamp of approval is a sign that a product has exceeded our high expectations in both quality and value for money. If you see the Buy It! logo you know we were impressed with the product and we think you will be too. The Try It! Stamp is our equivalent award for software and services that are free of charge.

A list of products that we think are the best available in various categories can be found at the back of the Tried & Tested section

## PRICES

The prices we print are the suggested retail prices set by the manufacturer. Products can often be found much cheaper on the internet or in shops.

## TECHNICAL TERMS AND JARGON

While we try to keep our reviews free from technical language or jargon, it is sometimes unavoidable. See the Jargon Buster column for concise explanations of highlighted words.

## HOW WE TEST

Computeractive's reviewers follow strict guidelines to ensure the opinions expressed in the magazine are fair, accurate and independent. Every product or service we review is thoroughly examined and tested by experts. The manufacturer has no involvement in our tests and is never told the result of a review prior to publication. Please note that our reviews grade products, not customer service.

We welcome feedback on our reviews – send us an email to [ca@nextgenpublishing.net](mailto:ca@nextgenpublishing.net)

## SOFTWARE

# MacSpeech Dictate

Dictate terms to your Mac



interpret your voice. For those who suffer from repetitive strain injury (RSI) or have limited manual dexterity, speech recognition may be the only way to control a computer or enter text.

Dictating text can also be much easier than entering it on

a keyboard for anyone who is not the speediest typist; conversing in real time with other chat room users or an instant messaging buddy, for example, can be stilted when typing with only one or two fingers.

MacSpeech Dictate is a new speech recognition product for the Macintosh, with underlying speech recognition powered by the dictation technology used in Dragon Naturally Speaking from Nuance Communications, Inc. MacSpeech Dictate delivers a truly Mac user experience, and conforms to behaviors already familiar to Macintosh fans worldwide. Beyond dictation, MacSpeech Dictate lets people perform basic navigation of their Mac and control it with their voice to launch applications, open new windows, execute

menu commands, etc

Once installed, the software asks you to go through a setup wizard that can be tiring for some as it takes around 10-12 minutes. This also helps the MacSpeech Dictate get acquainted with your voice pattern. Once done you can save your voice profile.

Once everything is setup, you can just invoke installed applications with your voice. Like when you say, "Open Microsoft Word," the application loads. However, dictating simple sentence in Word like "This is the MacSpeech Dictate review" would not get recognised correctly, the first time. Once the software gets used to your voice, it becomes really easy to dictate and it also recognises the words accurately.

A feature that we really liked about the MacSpeech Dictate is that it works according to the active program. For instance, when we were working with Entourage (mail client), a set of Entourage commands appeared on screen. This is indeed a very useful feature for first time users.

MacSpeech Dictate requires Intel-based Macintosh hardware and requires Mac OS X 10.4.11 or Mac OS X 10.5.2 and higher and is priced at Rs.11,995. For people who do extensive typing using their Mac this one can be a good investment.

**A**nother voice recognition software review. However, this is a little different, as it is dedicatedly meant for Mac users. This is quite evident from the name – MacSpeech. There are plenty of reasons you might want to control a PC or rather a Mac in this case using speech recognition instead of a keyboard and mouse.

All you need is a microphone and some time to train the tool to

## WE SAY

Dedicately Mac, this one does a good job of voice recognition

**OVERALL:** ★★★★★

## DETAILS

**Contact:** ICONS

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**Retail Price:** Rs. 11,995

**Buy:** [www.macspeech.com](http://www.macspeech.com)