

Voice Reader Studio

Create your own professional voiceovers with this latest product from Linguattec

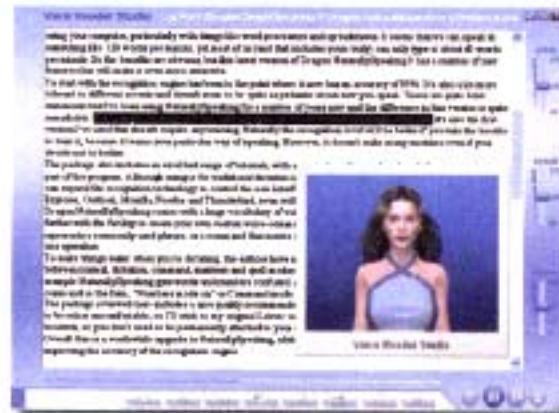
The improvement in voice recognition software has produced a number of extremely useful utilities, in fact I'm writing this article with one of them now; but it seems that the text to speech technology has not kept pace. To the point where it's quite obvious when you hear a computer generated voice, because it has a staccato almost Dalek like quality.

Yet this latest product from Linguattec seems to have overcome these limitations, with a product that generates extremely realistic spoken dialogue. There are still areas that are not perfect

and the program has facilities to deal with these, but on the whole it is a giant leap forward.

One of the things that differentiates real speech from computer-generated speech, and the thing that most text-to-speech systems get wrong is the intonation in the voice, which in many cases is determined by where we live. For example in the UK we tend to lower our tone at the end of a

sentence, whereas in Australia each sentence ends on a higher tone. However, the Voice Reader Studio seemed to cope with that very well. It also has a vocabulary



▲ You can have an animated head to read your dialogue.

editor so that any words spoken incorrectly can be defined using a phonetic spelling

The program is based around a text editor which can directly load

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▲ It's very easy to set exceptions or add words to the vocabulary



▲ The right mouse button accesses the adjustments menu.

a Microsoft Word document, also Rich Text Format, HTML files and plain old text from notepad. To hear the text spoken you simply highlight the paragraph, or click play at the bottom of the dialogue to hear the whole file. You have the choice of male or female voice and the program will show an

appropriate animated figure while the text is being read. You can also insert tags (manually or automatically) at any position within the text to modify the voice, change language and also integrate external sound bites or an effect to enhance the dialogue.

Once you're happy with the

result you can not only save the file with all the editing points you've made, you can also export the entire document to an external audio file. This can be saved as a WAV, or MP3 file that can be played on a traditional CD or MP3 Player. The final quality is good enough to be used for

Details

Price: €499.00
Manufacturer: Linguattec
Website: www.linguattec.net
Required Spec: Pentium Processor/450 MB HD Space/SVGA 16 bit video card /1GB RAM/ Windows 2000, XP or Vista / Internet Access for activation.

Ratings

Quality: ★★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★★
OVERALL
7
 Not a cheap program, but it produces better results than anything else I've heard.

whatever use you could think of, as a voice-over for a presentation perhaps or, for budding directors, as a commentary for your latest video documentary project. **mm**
Joe Lavery