

Dragon Helps Individual Breakdown **Barriers.**

Challenge

- Manage cerebral palsy
- Identify and implement a solution that transcribes spoken words into written text
- Complete high school work and graduate

Solution

- Dragon

Results

- Eliminated the need to write
- Completed school work and graduated
- Increased independence and freedom

Peter Hall found himself struggling with cerebral palsy from birth. Unable to comfortably hold a pen or pencil, writing and drawing were both difficult. He was also slowly becoming disillusioned with school when by sheer luck, a family friend introduced him to Dragon voice recognition software. Since then Peter has been able to meet challenges he never thought possible.

“It’s fair to say that Dragon has helped me become increasingly independent and breakdown barriers.

I feel that I can really do things ... and that sense of independence and freedom is incredibly valuable to me.”

Peter Hall

While Peter found home life manageable and supportive, primary school was another matter. Taking down notes in class or copying information from the whiteboard was an ordeal, while completing homework and projects was an arduous process. He was looking towards high school with trepidation.

‘I was overwhelmed because I wasn’t sure how I was going to get through high school. How was I going to write essays, take down class notes and get through exams?’ said Peter. ‘These were the obstacles I was facing and it was quite daunting for a 13 year old kid.’

Peter managed to get through his first year of high school with the support of his family and teachers, who prepared notes for him, gave him additional time to complete assignments and helped with exams. Then while he was in Year 8, as chance would have it, a family friend suggested he look at Dragon voice recognition software. Peter did and it has assisted him to gain greater independence and achieve his goals ever since.

Dragon brings voice recognition to the PC or Mac and allows individuals to simply talk to create content

and command a computer. It reduces the need for typing and delivers up to 99 percent recognition accuracy straight out of the box. By using Dragon’s powerful voice recognition software people can interact with and command their computer as well as cruise through email, surf the Web and create reports and notes just by speaking.

‘Initially I found using Dragon very frustrating. The whole concept of using software to do my homework and type up my assignments was completely new. To make matters worse, my voice was breaking and Dragon works by using voice profiles. So depending on what state my voice was in, Dragon might or might not recognise me.

‘I was just on the verge of giving up when VoiceX came into the picture. VoiceX are specialists in providing speech recognition and dictation solutions. They also offer training and support. In my case, they helped me learn how to use the software effectively and supported me while I persevered. Once my voice broke, Dragon became so easy to use. I was making my own notes, doing research, and completing homework and

assignments all by voice. It was a liberating and empowering experience, and my perspective on life changed completely,' recalls Peter.

Today, he uses Dragon for much more than typing up notes and assignments. 'Dragon now offers greater capability than the software did ten years ago when I first started using it. This means I now use it to do more. I use it to send emails, publish videos on YouTube, book flights on planes, surf the net, and to open and control programs on my computer,' he said.

Peter is also about to embark on another challenge with the help of Dragon - tertiary study. He intends to study business and pursue a career in this field.

Peter believes that there are now many tools available that can assist individuals with an impairment. He also believes that if you need professional help you should just ask. He said, 'If VoiceX wasn't there when my voice was breaking I probably would have walked away from Dragon, so it's really important that people ask for professional help if they need it.'

'It's fair to say that Dragon has helped me become increasingly independent and breakdown barriers. And I hope that Nuance continues to enhance the software, because the more capability it has, the more I can do.

'The software has also helped me gain a real sense of confidence. I feel that I can really do things. I can book my own flight. I can send my friend an email. I can order my own groceries. Without Dragon none of this would have been possible, and that sense of independence and freedom is incredibly valuable to me,' he says.

About Nuance Communications, Inc.

Nuance Communications is reinventing the relationship between people and technology. Through its voice and language offerings, the company is creating a more human conversation with the many systems, devices, electronics, apps and services around us. Every day, millions of people and thousands of businesses experience Nuance through intelligent systems that can listen, understand, learn and adapt to your life and your work. For more information, please visit nuance.com.
