Tech Info Library

PlainTalk: Description of Apple's Speech Recognition Technology

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TOPIC --

This article provides a description of PlainTalk (Apple's implementation of speech recognition technology).

DISCUSSION --

With PlainTalk on the Quadra 840AV and Centris 660AV, Apple is introducing the first personal computers that seamlessly integrate Speech Recognition and Text To Speech technologies. PlainTalk is the speech component of the Audio/Visual Technology suite. For more information on this technology, search the Tech Info Library on "AV Technology".

Speech Recognition

The Speech Recognition component of PlainTalk is based on the Casper technology. It is a continuous-speech system that is independent of the person speaking.

Speech Recognition enables a whole new user experience whereby users will be able to streamline operations by simply invoking commands or complex macros by speaking them.

Text to Speech

Text to Speech gives the computer the ability of reading text based information and synthesizing speech via the computer's speaker.

Multiple voices at various sound quality levels are supported.

This enables new capabilities such as audible proof reading or in combination with the telephony capabilities that GeoPort provides to listen to your E-mail messages from remote locations.

Writing speech commands is accomplished through two different methods:

• AppleEvent enabled applications commands are written using AppleScript.

• Non-AppleEvent enabled applications will use a new version of QuickKeys from CE Software that will support spoken Commands.

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