Plaintalk 1.4: Using English Text-to-Speech ReadMe (8/95)

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TOPIC ---

This is the Read Me file for using Text-to-Speech in Plaintalk software version 1.4.

DISCUSSION --

About the English Text-to-Speech Software.

This document contains two parts:

• "Installation Notes for This Computer," which discusses which pieces of the text-to-speech software are already installed on this computer and explains how to install the optional additonal software

• "Using English Text-to-Speech," which is a verbatim copy of the Read Me document that comes with the English text-to-speech software (and which will be installed on your hard disk if use the Installer in this folder)

Installation Notes for This Computer.

The folder in which you found this document contains the complete set of files needed to install English text-to-speech software. Most of the software, including MacinTalk 3, is already installed in your System Folder. MacinTalk 3 provides 19 high-quality voices. However, MacinTalk Pro, which comes with three even higher-quality voices, is not yet installed.

The Read Me document copied below, "Using English Text-to-Speech Software," explains more about the English text-to-speech software. You may want to read the following sections of "Using English Text-to-Speech Software":

• To learn how to use the software, go straight to the section "Trying Out the Text-to-Speech Software." Because all the software you need is already installed, you don't need the instructions in the section "Installing the Software."

• If you decide you want to install the MacinTalk Pro software to add the three higher quality voices to the 19 voices you already have, follow the instructions in "Installing the Software." Remember that MacinTalk Pro voices require more random-access memory (RAM) than MacinTalk 3 voices.

Using the English Text-to-Speech Software.

With the English text-to-speech software installed, many Macintosh programs can read English text out loud. One of the programs that can read to you is the SimpleText program, which comes with this computer and is already installed on your hard disk. (You are probably reading this document using the SimpleText program.)

The instructions in this document tell you:

— what you need to use this software;
— how to install the software;
— how to try out the software using SimpleText;
— how to choose a standard (default) voice;
— some technical details;
— how to solve common problems.

What you need to use the English text-to-speech software.

To use the software, you need the following software and hardware.

— a Macintosh or Power Macintosh computer;
— version 6.0.7 or later of system software;
— at least 300 kilobytes of RAM in addition to what the rest of your system software takes;
— at least 5 megabytes of space available on your hard disk.

Installing the software.

To install the English text-to-speech software, follow these steps.

1. Print these instructions before you start. You will not be able to view them on screen during the installation.

2. If you have been using an earlier version of text-to-speech software, see the note for you at the end of this section.

3. Quit any programs you have been using.

4. While holding down the Shift key on the keyboard, choose Restart from the Special menu. Don't release the Shift key until you see the "Extensions Off" message on your screen.

5. To start the Installer program, double-click its icon. You can find the Installer program in the same place you found these instructions.

6. In the introductory screen that appears, click Continue.

7. In the next screen, click Install. The installation takes a few minutes.

8. When you see a message reporting that the installation was successful, click Restart.

After the computer restarts, you can start using the text-to-speech software. You can try it out using the instructions in the next section.

Note for users of PlainTalk 1.0: The improved version of MacinTalk Pro included with this text-to-speech software is intended to replace the old PlainTalk text-to-speech software. However it may not work with some computers that have a 68030 processor. If you have such a computer and want to keep using the old PlainTalk text-to-speech software, you should not use the standard Install procedure described in these steps. Instead, after step 6, choose Custom Install from the pop-up menu, select MacinTalk 2 or MacinTalk 3, then proceed with steps 7 and 8.

Trying out the text-to-speech software.

You can try out the text-to-speech software in the SimpleText program by following these steps.

1. Open any SimpleText document. Or, since this document is already open, you can do the remaining steps with it.

2. Click anywhere in the text to make sure nothing is selected.

3. Choose Speak All from the Sound menu. (If you cannot hear anything, you may have the sound turned all the way off. Check in the Sound—or Sound & Displays—control panel.)

4. If you want the computer to stop reading, choose Stop Speaking from the Sound menu.

You can also try the following:

— To read a portion of the file, select the words you want to read then choose Speak Selection from the Sound menu.

— To have the computer speak in a different voice, select a voice from the Voices sub-menu in the Sound menu, then choose the Speak All or Speak Selection command from the Sound menu.

— To use the text-to-speech features of other programs, see the instructions that came with those programs.

Choosing a standard (default) voice.

If you have system software version 7.0 or later, you can use the Speech control panel to choose your favorite voice to be the default voice for all your programs. To set the default voice, follow these steps.

1. Open the Control Panels window by pulling down the Apple menu and choosing Control Panels.

2. Open the Speech control panel by double-clicking its icon in the Control Panels window.

3. Open the Options pop-up menu at the top of the Speech control panel and choose Voice.

4. To change the default voice, choose the voice you want from the Voice pop-up menu. To hear what the voice you chose sounds like, click the speaker button. If you're concerned about RAM usage, Agnes, Bruce, and Victoria take about 1,500 kilobytes of RAM; the rest take 300 kilobytes or less.

5. To change the rate at which the default voice speaks, move the slider.

6. Close the control panel.

Technical details.

The software that enables your computer to speak has these components:

    — Speech Manager, a system extension;

    — one or more of these English speech synthesizers, depending on your hardware and software:
            - MacinTalk 2 for standard-quality speech,
            - MacinTalk 3 for high-quality speech,
            - MacinTalk Pro for highest-quality speech.

    — several voice files, each identified with one particular synthesizer;

    — the Speech control panel (unless you have system software version 6.0.7 or 6.0.8).

The Installer installs the files that are appropriate for your system.

— If you have version 6.0.7 or 6.0.8 of system software on any Macintosh, these files are installed.
    - Speech Manager, in the System Folder;
    - MacinTalk 2, in the System Folder;
    - 9 voices, in the Voices folder, which is in the System Folder.

— If you have version 7.0 or later of system software on a Power Macintosh or on a Macintosh with a 68040 processor, the following files are installed.
    - Speech Manager, in the Extensions folder;

- the Speech control panel, in the Control Panels folder;
        - MacinTalk 3 and MacinTalk Pro, in the Extensions folder;
        - 19 MacinTalk 3 voices, in the Voices folder, which is in the Extensions
folder;
        - 3 MacinTalk Pro voices (Agnes, Bruce, and Victoria), also in the Voices
folder.

• If you have version 7.0 or later of system software on a Macintosh with a 33
MHz or faster 68030 processor, the following files are installed.
        - Speech Manager, in the Extensions folder;
        - the Speech control panel, in the Control Panels folder;
        - MacinTalk 3, in the Extensions folder;
        - 19 voices, in the Voices folder, which is in the Extensions folder.

• If you have version 7.0 or later of system software on any other computer, the
following files are installed.
        - Speech Manager, in the Extensions folder;
        - the Speech control panel, in the Control Panels folder;
        - MacinTalk 2, in the Extensions folder;
        - 9 voices, in the Voices folder, which is in the Extensions folder.

Troubleshooting (problems and solutions).

— My Macintosh won't speak.
        - Turn up the speaker volume in the Sound control panel.
        - Choose a voice that requires less random-access memory. The voices Agnes,
Bruce, and Victoria take the most memory.

— The Installer program says there's a problem with the hard disk.
        - Re-install your system software, then try installing the English
text-to-speech software again.

— The Installer program displays other error messages.
        - Make sure you restart the computer with extensions off, as described in
"Installing the Software," above.

— I had an older version of text-to-speech software, then did a custom
installation of the new software, but some of my older voices disappeared.
        - The custom installation you chose erased the older version of the
software that can use those voices. You can install newer versions of the voices
by doing another custom installation of the new software to install MacinTalk 2
or MacinTalk 3 — whichever you used to have. (If you're not sure which you had,
you can install both.)

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