

Cory Lamle: Life in the grid with Dragon.

Like other full-time programmers, Cory Lamle spends a lot of time in front of a computer. After more than 20 years of such work, he developed tendinitis in one arm. Not only did it threaten to hamper his career, but it also had the potential to derail his blog, LifeInTheGrid.com, where he offers tips and technology reviews aimed at online entrepreneurs.

His blog features many in-depth articles, including one he wrote about Dragon NaturallySpeaking after adding the software to his workflow. Lamle observes: “Not only has Dragon helped my tendinitis from significantly less typing, but I’ve been able to enhance my workflows and processes so much that I feel like I actually hired an internal virtual assistant.”

He writes his blog posts in Microsoft OneNote, where he has a template set up. “When you’re typing, you tend to keep stopping and looking back at what you just wrote,” Lamle says. “But with Dragon, I can start talking about what’s on my mind and keep going. I can dictate for five to ten minutes and then go back and realize: ‘Wow, I just dictated an entire blog post.’” He estimates he gets his writing done in half the time it used to take. That time savings also carries over to email in Microsoft Outlook, along with Internet searches and other basic tasks.

Can't go without it

While Lamle can't use Dragon while coding because of unique programming language syntaxes and development environments' ability to fill in code as he types, he does employ the speech recognition software for the technical support tickets he also handles for his employer.

"I have templates for responses to support tickets," he explains, "but I usually also need specific information, so in that case, I turn on Dragon and start talking."

Lamle also uses the Dragon Dictation app on his iPad when he's out of the office, so he can write notes on the go and even compose sections of blog articles when inspiration strikes. "Dragon has completely changed my interaction with the computer," he says. "It's such a powerful tool that to do business without it doesn't even seem reasonable. Now that I have it, I wouldn't want to go without it."

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