

Speech Recognition

PlainTalk SR (speech recognition) Code Name: Casper

Keep Talking

Most AV and high end PowerPC computers today have speech recognition software in which a person talks and the computer responds with a reply or an action. Upon saying "What time is it?" the computer will reply "Seven-zero-three-P-M". If you have the correct software you can ask the computer the questions after the following instructions:

Version Information:

If you have PlainTalk version 1.0 (for 660AV and 840AV only), you would need to have System Speech Rules v1.2 AND be running AppleScript 1.1 to enable the Easter eggs. Consider upgrading to PlainTalk 1.3 if there is no easier way to obtain AS 1.1.

If you have PlainTalk version 1.2 (for Power Macintosh only), you can turn on Speech Recognition and try out the eggs immediately.

If you have upgraded to PlainTalk version 1.3 (for 660AV, 840AV, and Power Macintosh with System 7.5), the new System Speech Rules file only contains one of the 1.2 Easter eggs. There are no known side-effects by downgrading System Speech Rules, but you should keep a backup of the original handy.

Ask the computer the following under the situations indicated:

1. "Are there any Easter Eggs?"

2. "Do you need help?"
in Finder

in SimpleText/TeachText
3. "I need help!"

in SimpleText/TeachText

4. "Tell me about Casper."

with Speech Setup open

5. "What about Speech Recognition?"

with Speech Setup open

6. "Did anyone test you?"

with Speech Setup open
7. "Who was the boss?"

with Speech Setup open
(The responses are below so you can try the egg first before seeing it)

Balloon Help

Also, try selecting the version number with Balloon Help in Speech Setup.

Joking Around

From: Wayne Rugestein (jsracer@sky.net) and Wraithe (Ianm@gnu.ai.mit.edu)

Note: This is a borderline between an easter egg and an undocumented trick. It is a programmer joke but is not very secret.

Using Speech Recognition 1.4.1 say "tell me a joke" and it will tell you a knock-knock joke. If you say "go away" it will abort the joke. This is not much of an easter egg since the joke file, "Tell me a joke", is pretty obvious sitting there in the "Speakable Items" folder. If you crack the file open with ResEdit you can see all of the different jokes (there are a lot of them). If you do not know how to do a knock-knock joke, here's what you do: Your computer will say "Knock, knock," you reply by saying "Who's there?" When it responds with a name, repeat the name, then say "who?"

Speech Macro Editor

Go to "About Speech Macro Editor..." and Balloon help the pictures on the left-side of the window.

Unusual Message

From: Patrick Dekker and Anthony Sciola (leaper@brown.edu)

I am told that in the Speech Setup, version 1.3, Control Panel click the speaker icon and say an often unusual message that was previously tucked away in the 'ttvd' resource. The text resource, I believe, is suppose to be "I sure like being inside this fancy computer". This egg will only work for version 1.3 of Speech Manager and will not work in any of the versions for the above trick described (the 'ttvd' resource does not exist in any of them).

In MacinTalk, version 1.4.1, and probably other versions, "I sure like being inside this fancy computer" is the sample text for the Fred default voice. A few other voices, other than the MacinTalk Pro voices, also have interesting sayings.

These are the Responses to Above: (The dialogue in quotes is spoken by the computer, while the dialogue without quotes is written in the speech window. If the dialog has just quotes it is spoken and written.)

1. "If there were any do you think I would tell you?"
2. "I'm trapped inside this computer and I can't escape!"
3. "I'm sorry, they did not have time to add my artificial intelligence module."
4. "He's a friendly ghost from ATG"-Version 1.2 updated by Jeff Shulman and Laile Di

Silvestro

5. "Don't forget ATG"-Version 1.2 by Kurt Rodarmer, Matt Pallakoff and Arlo Reeves
6. "Not to mention ULQ"-Of course! I was tested by "Braz" Ford and Morgan Wize
7. "Our fearless leader"-The boss was Tim Schaaff

Note: ATG stands for Apple's "Advanced Technology Group". Also, Casper was the development name for Speech Recognition.