

Robert Schaefer:
TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS WITH DRAGON

Once upon a time, many people never strayed far from their birthplaces, living and working in the same general area. Today, though, improved means of transportation and advanced technology allow us to live and work just about anywhere. Robert Schaefer is a perfect example of that concept, with stays in Thailand, Bangkok, and Central and South America during his life.

Today, he lives and works in Bangkok, conducting an export business that imports electronic components, clothes, shoes, cosmetics, and other products from China and Thailand and sells them throughout Central and South America. However, he's still working on his proficiency in Spanish and Portuguese, so he uses software called PROMT to translate English into Spanish or Portuguese — and vice-versa — on the fly. He uses AT&T Natural Voices software to speak the resulting text when necessary.

Schaefer's typing, though, isn't much better than his foreign language skills, and that's where Dragon NaturallySpeaking comes into play. "I use Dragon to talk to PROMT," he explains. "I speak what I want in English into the PROMT window and the translation occurs immediately. With one click, I can hear the Spanish and repeat it, or, if I'm in a chat with a client, which is the norm for me with Skype, I can simply transmit the

translated text." He estimates that he saves 25-30% of the time he used to spend typing the many conversations he conducts during the day.

He even has an ingenious solution in place for working with an associate in Colombia who doesn't speak much English.

He notes: "She uses PC Anywhere to access my computer so she can hear the English and see the Spanish translation."

"Dragon is My Life"

Schaefer discovered Dragon while wandering around a Best Buy one day. "I'm a software junkie; if I see something interesting, I buy it," he says. "And I fell in love with Dragon immediately."

Now Dragon is a seamless part of his workday. "I'm in the habit of walking up to the computer and putting my headset

on; that's my normal mode of operation," he says. "My PC is connected to a large screen TV, so I can talk into a wireless mic and work in comfort. I use it for everything: editing documents, filling out customs forms, browsing the web, writing emails, and so forth."

Schaefer continues: "In fact, I rarely use a keyboard anymore. My keyboard stopped working one day and I didn't even bother replacing it for a while. Dragon is my life. I don't know what I'd do without it."



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