

A Comparison of Dragon NaturallySpeaking Preferred and Legal

Most of the feature differences are based upon the fact that Dragon Preferred is the consumer / home user version while the Legal version has features included within it that are oriented toward capabilities and applications in use in a corporate environment.

The primary differences between Dragon Preferred and Dragon Legal are:

- 1) Dragon NaturallySpeaking Legal has an additional 25,000 word vocabulary. This vocabulary is a compilation of frequently used words in the legal industry. The speech engine within the software is optimized to recognize the frequency with which those unique words may be used within the legal discipline. The difference between using the Legal vs. the Preferred version can be as much as a 30%+ accuracy difference.
- 2) The Legal version of Dragon understands and knows how to properly format legal citations. When using the Preferred version, the results are unusable for a legal Preferred. The following is an example of the output generate by Dragon Legal and Dragon Preferred. The proper format for these case citations is found in the Dragon Legal column:

With Dragon Preferred	With Dragon Legal
Two eighty nine northwest second four sixteen Minnesota nineteen seventy nine	289 N.W.2d 416 (Minn. 1979)
Two sixty two Alabama two eighty five nineteen eighty seven	262 Ala. 285 (1987)
Five forty seven New York supplement third eight fifty	547 N.Y.S.3d 850

- 3) Another major difference between the two versions is the overall software Accuracy. Based upon the two above examples, a user in a legal discipline will experience higher levels of errors when using Dragon Preferred. To ensure high accuracy levels, attorneys, judges and others in the legal industry should make use of Dragon NaturallySpeaking Legal edition.

- 4) **Microsoft Outlook and Lotus Notes:** Preferred does not fully support Microsoft Outlook or Lotus Notes. This means that a user within Outlook or Notes will not have access to the majority of spoken commands that they will use in applications such as MS Word. To most users, this becomes frustrating as they expect the same functionality across the applications that they use. Legal fully supports Microsoft Outlook and Lotus Notes and enables the full command set within it.

An example of other applications NOT fully supported by Preferred include:

PowerPoint, Microsoft OneNote, Outlook, InfoPath

- 5) **Voice Notations:** Legal offers a feature called Voice Notations which allows someone dictating to make "side comments" that can be saved as part of the recorded dictation but do not appear as part of the dictated text. Preferred does not support this feature.
- 6) **Cordless Microphones:** Dragon Legal supports cordless microphones such as the Plantronics CS60-USB and CS50-USB. Preferred does not.
- 7) **Macros:** Macros are short cuts that are used to speed the creation of documents or perform repetitive tasks. Preferred supports text macros, but those macros cannot be shared across users. This is due to the fact that Preferred does not support importing or exporting of macros. Also, Preferred does not support the creation of other macros – for example, application macros. Application macros are ones where the software can perform a function within a Windows software application. For example, a number of law firms and corporate legal depts. use DNS Legal with their case / billing / time management systems. Macros have been created to make use of the application easier for the attorneys while also speeding the adoption and day to day use of the software. Again, Preferred does not support these types of things.

Legal allows for the creation of assorted macros, and the sharing of those macros across all users via import / export capabilities as well as network admin functionality to automate the process of macro sharing.

- 8) **Smart Commands:** Smart Commands allow you to change the meaning of a command depending on the location of the cursor. Legal supports SmartCommands. Preferred does not.
- 9) **Record and Recall Actions:** Use the macro recorder to record a series of mouse movements, clicks, and/or keystrokes and recall the actions using a single voice command. Legal supports Record and Recall Actions. Preferred does not.
- 10) **Automate Routine Tasks:** Use step-by-step scripting to create voice commands one step at a time, even if you are not a programmer. Legal supports step-by-step. Preferred does not.
- 11) **Speech-enable Forms and Applications:** Use the Advanced Scripting (Microsoft® VBA-compatible Advanced Scripting) tool to make forms and applications that can be navigated by voice. Legal supports this functionality. Preferred does not.

Many of the advanced functions (i.e. automating routine tasks, advanced macros, etc) are ones that can be performed by an IT person, Nuance trainer, or a user (many of these functions are not difficult to learn), then implemented and used as basic functionality by the end user.

- 12) **Vocabulary:** Beyond the base vocabulary, it is common for a group of users to add to the vocabulary, customizing it to their job or company. Whether its clients / customer names, employee names, acronyms, standard terms, etc., Legal allows for the import / export of these extended vocabularies. Preferred makes it a manual process and there is no sharing across multiple users. Also, much like with macros, there are admin tools that automate the process of vocabulary sharing within Legal.
- 13) **Deferred correction:** With Legal, a person can dictate and save their recording for later use. This is important if someone is dictating, has to stop and shut down their PC and then wants to come back and perform corrections. Or, in another case, where someone wants to dictate to their PC and have an assistant perform the correction process for them. Preferred does not support any of this functionality.
- 14) **Third Party Correction:** Much along the line of deferred correction, 3rd party correction is often used when someone uses a handheld recorder into which they dictate. Then they take that recording and pass it along to someone else who will use their Dragon profile to import the recording, convert it to text and then make corrections. Legal supports this mode of operating whereas Preferred does not.
- 15) **Citrix:** Dragon Legal is fully functional in a Citrix environment. Preferred does not operate in a Citrix environment.