

Dictation

What systems are you using or can you recommend for one attorney and one paralegal for dictation? I'm not talking about software that does voice recognition, like Dragon Speaking. I'm asking about modern versions (digital) of the old school way we used tape machines for dictation and playback devices with headsets and foot switches for transcription.

I think my 8x8 VOIP allows me to adjust the playback speed of VMs, in which case I could just leave VMs as dictation files (from anywhere, or in-office), and they could be played back through the standard interface or downloaded as audio files. There are numerous apps and utilities that allow you to control playback of generic audio files, though I don't know about a foot switch. (A foot switch seems rather archaic.)

I find it hard to imagine a current VOIP provider that doesn't allow you to download audio files from your VM box.

Richard J. Rutledge, Jr., North Carolina

That's certainly one option, but for the mobile attorney, it's not very user friendly with regard to back spacing and such. Take a look at this

system:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00JFADJZ4?tag=breakwindo-20>

It has pretty good reviews.

Mike Phillips, North Carolina

Look to the products from NCH www.nch.com.au for both dictation and transcription. American Dictation .com has the equipment at honest pricing. There's also the app Dictate + Connect which is for Android and Apple devices. I won't go into here, but I believe it secure enough for attorney-client work product as it doesn't share or load to any servers (unless you FTP to your own or a service provider for the transcription part).

Any questions, feel free to ask on or off list.

Andrea Cannavina, nope notta lawyer

I use ExpressScribe from NCH. No problem. My assistants do not use the foot pedals, just keyboard controls.

Marshall D. Chriswell, Pennsylvania

We always used Dictaphone products. Included a foot pedal. Boss would make a pile of files on his credenza as he dictated on them. When I was ready for more dictation, I would take the tape out of his machine and pick up the pile of files. I would replace the tape with a fresh one for him. Then, at my desk, I would flip the pile of files so the top file was the first on the tape and start transcribing. Worked like a champ.

Marilou Auer, not a lawyer

At one point early in my career, a different boss purchased a Think Tank.

It was digital, I believe, and on a loop. It was a big box that was connected directly to the boss's dictation equipment by a cable. A red light indicated there was dictation pending. Because it was on a loop, if I was caught up on dictation, I could type right along with him as he dictated. He was good at dictating, never going back to make changes or add a paragraph. This was a good thing, because I was typing on an IBM correcting Selectric II. Great memories!

Marilou Auer

Just wanted to point out that Dragon is speech recognition, not transcription. Transcription is far more valuable in terms of saving time and costs as there are a LOT of things that Dragon can't do (even when it is accurate).

Andrea Cannavina, nope notta lawyer

We recently had to take our daughter to a pediatric ophthalmologist, and he used a Dictaphone. I'm not sure I'd ever actually seen one in person before. I'd be willing to bet this one has been in use for decades, but whatever works!

Heather Balmat, Virginia

When I started working for law firms in the mid-1980s, there was one guy who persisted in referring to the microcassettes he used for dictation as "belts." I'm sure that's a linguistic artifact from the original Dictaphone.

L. Maxwell Taylor, Vermont
