

Selecting the Right Speech Recognition Technology for Your Application

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What does Talkhouse do?

- Specialize in Voice Search
- Make Speech Recognizers
- Research & Development
- Application Development

Example applications using voice search

- Searching personal music collections on your computer or phone
- Searching manuals in your car
- Searching stock quotes over the phone

The purpose of search might be to save the user's time.

Two places where we can save the user's time

- Time spent learning the system
- Time spent searching

Key word searches are 'natural'

- Today, most people are used to searching this way; It's the most common way to search.
- Key words are short, easy, and more resistant to disfluency than longer, more complicated utterances.
- They're very flexible, even for complicated compound searches, and allow the system to grow.
- The result is less learning time.

Keyword searches are fast

- Low disfluency rate is good for accuracy
- Short utterances are recognized quickly
- Combined searches require no significant grammar and no extra steps. They can be done in a single utterance.

Why most voice recognition systems don't use key words

- Many recognizers were designed for grammar-oriented commands.
- Many recognizers were designed for dictation.
- Many recognizers were designed for data mining.
- Key words, not so sexy.

Who killed Jeeves?

- Excellent case study for effectiveness of key word search vs. natural language search
- Ask Jeeves had lots of resources, good NLP, didn't have to contend with voice recognition errors.
- Ask Jeeves needed to switch to keywords **and rebrand** to let users know.
- Now known as Ask.com

Thank you

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