

Compatibility between Dragon® Medical and EMR/EHR

 speakeasysolutions.com/blog/2011/07/20/compatibility-between-dragon-medical-and-emr-ehr

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July 20,
2011

Electronic medical record/electronic health record systems are designed to function in a variety of environments. These medical record solutions are primarily:

- Applications installed and utilized locally,
- HTML-based, accessed through a web browser, and/or
- Accessed remotely (i.e. via a Citrix environment).

While Dragon is fully compatible with most Windows-based applications, there are varying degrees of compatibility with other applications. Speakeasy Solutions Inc. considers three major factors when investigating the level of compatibility between Dragon and other applications such as EMRs.

1. **The ability to edit and correct previously dictated text** — Dragon refers to this as Select-and-Say or Full Text Control. In order to provide timely care, most physicians dictate their narrative directly into an EMR, and need to quickly proofread their dictation before leaving the patient record.
2. **The ability to navigate the EMR.** If an EMR is designed to function according to Windows API codes, then Dragon should allow the physician to navigate through the EMR by voice (either directly or through the use of custom created voice commands).
3. **The ability to use resident Dragon and custom commands.** Custom commands include creating boilerplate text (i.e. medication instructions, surgery risks and benefits, normal exam templates etc.), as well as efficiency voice commands for performing tasks in an EMR (printing a letter or prescription etc.). These commands allow a physician to save considerable time for repetitious tasks that would ordinarily be performed with keyboard and mouse clicks.

Dragon Compatibility with Various EMRs

Please find following a list of EMR types, from most to least compatible with Dragon:

- Locally installed EMR applications that follow Windows API and Dragon compatibility coding.
- HTML-based EMRs that follow HTML and Windows API compatibility, and are utilized via Internet Explorer.
- Operating Dragon within a Citrix environment, on a Citrix based EMR where Full Text Control is possible.

At this point, results will vary in terms of compatibility levels with the following types of EMRs (in no particular order):

- Locally installed EMR applications that are not completely compatible with Windows API and Dragon coding.
- HTML based EMRs that do not follow HTML and Windows protocols.
- Operating Dragon locally into a Citrix environment.

A Summary of Using Dragon Remotely

Physicians can use a locally installed Dragon to access a remote based EMR or use Dragon on a Windows Server via a remote desktop connection.

Using Dragon Outside of a Remote Environment (from a local installation)

Users cannot, unfortunately, use a locally installed Dragon through a remote connection and take advantage of the following Dragon features:

- Full Text Control — the ability to edit, correct, and playback previously dictated text by voice
- use text and graphics commands
- use Advanced Scripting commands
- use step-by-step commands that contain send keys steps
- use step-by-step commands that contain type text steps

With Dragon Medical, users may be able to take advantage of the dictation box as well as some text and graphics commands for a more functional experience. You will have Full Text Control while in Dragon's dictation box, but experiences will vary from set up to set up. We suggest working with Speakeasy Solutions Inc. to discover the most expeditious methods for employing these techniques for your particular situation.

Using Dragon on a Windows Server via a Remote Desktop Connection

Through a remote desktop connection Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2 and Windows 7 Ultimate Server includes the ability to enable audio redirection from a remote desktop connection into the server.

For Dragon Medical users, this allows speech recognition to take place over the network when Remote Desktop Connection version 7 (or higher) is used to connect the Windows client to the server.

End-users can connect to Dragon Medical running on a supported server from a workstation where Dragon is not installed. The workstation connects to a supported server using Microsoft™s free Remote Desktop Connection, version 7 or higher. This provides bi-directional audio with Windows Server 2008 R2 and Windows 7 Ultimate Server. End-users can use Dragon Medical on a server with the EMR applications they use, limited only by the EMR's compatibility with a locally installed Dragon Medical.

More details and server specifications can be found within the blog post, "[Using Dragon NaturallySpeaking & Dragon® Medical Practice Edition on a Windows Server via Remote Desktop Connection.](#)"

Dragon® Medical versus Nonmedical

Nonmedical versions of Dragon have been disabled from functioning on computer systems where an EMR is present.

Consequently, EMRs should not be testing the nonmedical versions with Dragon. Speakeasy Solutions Inc. is always available to [assess the level of compatibility of Dragon with an EMR.](#) Such tests can be performed with a physician who has an existing EMR or the EMR provider themselves.

Dragon Limitations

Let me say that Dragon is not entirely blameless with respect to incompatibilities. It, like all other software applications, has its issues, but its usefulness is contingent on other applications following standard Windows protocols.

As a quick aside, for instance, Dragon functions exceptionally well in Microsoft Outlook and Microsoft Word, and while it has built-in commands to function with Microsoft PowerPoint, it lacks Full Text Control. But this is why Dragon has spent considerable time developing workarounds such as the dictation box. And also why custom commands can be created to fill in other efficiency and application navigational gaps. Again, this is where the value of solution providers such as Speakeasy Solutions Inc. is of considerable benefit; we are out there in the field working with physicians, and we understand what their needs are (or at least we try to!), so that they can be assisted.

Dragon Benefits with an EMR

Bottom line benefits in using Dragon with an EMR (regardless of compatibility) are:

- Personalized and detailed narrative, improving documentation
- Repetitious text inclusion with a spoken command (i.e. surgery risks discussed)
- Speedier data entry
- Reduced demands on support staff