

## DICTATION DEVICE

Bulletproof security makes dictation recorder suitable for high-sensitivity legal and healthcare applications

# Philips' Speechmike Air cuts the cable and sets dictation free

## KEY POINTS

- Voice recordings are encrypted, so non-authorised users cannot access them
- Speech recognition allows recorder to pick up the user's voice in noisy environments
- Speech files are easily transferred to a PC via the device's charging dock

There you are sitting at your desk in a law firm or grabbing a quiet moment between operations in the hospital and you pick up your dictation machine to make some verbal notes about your latest case and as you do so the recorder's wire drags your papers onto the floor.

So common is this situation that when Philips asked its customers what they wanted in the next dictation device they seized on the chance to get rid of the wires altogether in favour of a wireless machine.

Philips listened and delivered the Speechmike Air. It's not only wireless but also a well-crafted device that fits in the palm of the hand and provides the user with a very satisfactory dictation experience.

*MicroScope* has reviewed Philips dictation recorders before (see the link at the bottom of this page) and the comments made then apply equally here: the design is so well thought through that users can quickly get to grips with the technology.

Recording is activated by the push of a button, and a mouse-like console lets users navigate through the functions and their previous recordings.

For those who hear the word

"wireless" and immediately think "security", the recordings are encrypted. If the device is lost, then it does not contain data in a form that could be used by others.

Security is a crucial issue to those in legal and health environments and Philips has got it exactly right in making sure that the Speechmike is bulletproof when it comes to calming down those potential concerns, which makes life easier for resellers.

Another feature worth underscoring is a speech recognition capability. It allows the recorder to pick up the user's voice even in a noisy environment.

Resellers will be able to get the sale under way by showing the device and allowing users to handle it and have a play. But where the device really comes into its own is with the functionality that is part and parcel of wireless. Not only is it possible to record without worrying about pulling out leads, but the transfer of recordings to a PC is also easy.

A dock not only charges the device but allows transfer of recordings. Users can dictate what they want to the Speechmike, then slip the device back into the bay and start processing the data. The Speechmike can even act as a mouse on the PC, allowing users to scroll through speech files without having to put their hands on the keyboard.

The dictation market is one that has been crying out for innovation for some time. Those resellers that have been selling products that range from the very old to the merely out-of-date finally have something fresh and exciting to talk about.

Wireless has a buzz about it that helps to sell kit. But the Speechmike Air also offers a very real physical benefit. Those users who have been looking for a tool that will let them walk, talk and think while they are dictating no longer have to put up with any restrictions. ●

Security dictates the deal  
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