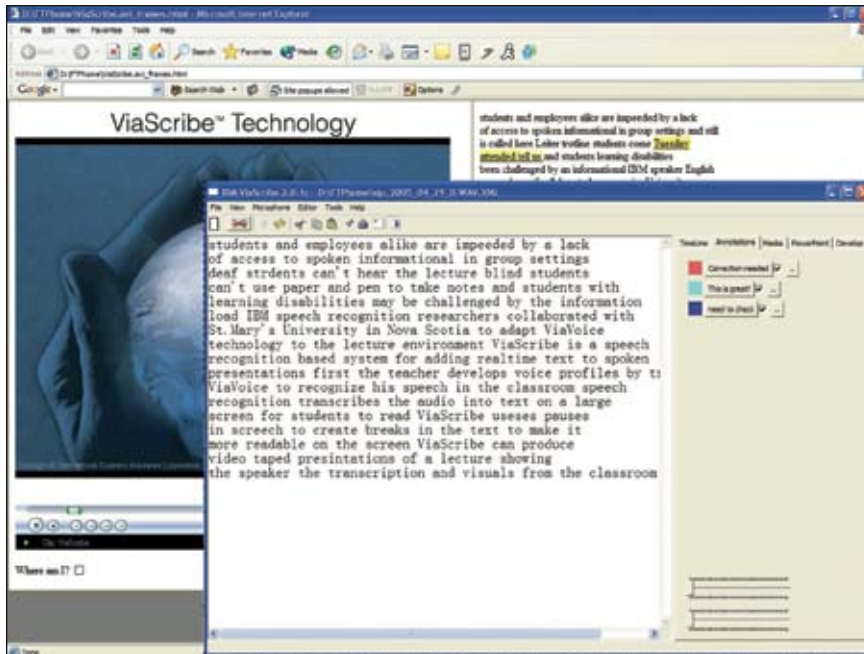


## IBM ViaScribe



### Highlights

- ***Creates a written transcript of existing audio or video content or provides an instant transcript of live audio content***
- ***Automatically captions audio content as it occurs***
- ***Offers an intuitive interface for speakers to learn and use***
- ***Facilitates searching and indexing of content***

### A more accessible classroom experience

For years, universities have faced a number of challenges in making classroom lectures accessible to students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Traditional methods—sign interpreters, stenographers or student note takers—are often costly, difficult to procure or inconsistent.

Because IBM has been a leader in speech recognition software for more than 40 years, Saint Mary's University in Nova Scotia, Canada asked IBM to adapt the technology for classroom use—specifically to help create accessible lectures for students who were deaf or hard of hearing. Out of this request, IBM ViaScribe™ was developed. This unique software provides educators and students with one of the first live captioning systems for use in the classroom environment.

### A more accessible business environment

A live captioning system can be of value in enterprises across the spectrum of the public and private sectors too. For example, business meetings and presentations, corporate training and other employee communications, shareholder meetings, conferences and even doctor-patient appointments are all events that could reap the benefits that ViaScribe provides.

### How it works

Speakers spend an hour or so creating a voice profile that helps ViaScribe “learn” their particular speech patterns. During their presentation, they talk into a wireless microphone that transmits the audio to ViaScribe's speech-recognition software. Captions are generated in real time, presented on a screen and saved for later use.

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## Technical Requirements

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Processor	1.5 Ghz+
Memory	512 MB
Hard disk drive	1.5 GB
Operating system	Microsoft® Windows® XP
Internet browser	Microsoft Internet Explorer

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### Transcripts on demand

When a presenter speaks into the wireless microphone, ViaScribe digitizes the speech producing both a transcription and an audio recording. The audience has the benefit of being able to obtain a raw, unedited transcript immediately following the presentation. Speakers can then edit the transcript to correct recognition errors or provide additional information and post the notes on the Web in various accessible formats, including searchable transcripts, synchronous multimedia and digital audio. This helps enable greater access for all—including those who are deaf, hard of hearing, mobility impaired, learning disabled, non-native speakers and distance learners.

### A more intuitive captioning tool

IBM has worked to improve upon traditional speech-recognition technology to produce a tool that is more accurate and easier to use. For example, ViaScribe software allows speakers to talk naturally, without interjecting punctuation marks such as “period” or “comma.” When a speaker pauses, ViaScribe skips to a new line, making the screen display and resulting transcript more readable. Other features include:

- A simplified error-correction system for editing after the presentation.
- The option to have recognition errors written out phonetically to aid in comprehension.
- Automatic synchronization of audio, captions and visual information to create accessible learning materials.

### Improved search, index and archive functions

ViaScribe’s automatic captioning and transcription offer benefits beyond increasing accessibility for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. With a written transcript, speakers can more easily index lectures, helping users search for and locate specific information faster and more efficiently. And, transcribed text is easier to send to automatic text summarization or translation programs—enterprises can become more accessible to customers, students, clients, citizens and employees worldwide.

### Learn more

As a result of many people’s efforts, ViaScribe has won several awards for research innovation, including the “Best New Ability Award” from the New Freedom Foundation. For more information on automated speech recognition and ViaScribe, contact Sara Basson at 1-800-IBM-4YOU or e-mail: [sbasson@us.ibm.com](mailto:sbasson@us.ibm.com) or visit the IBM Human Ability and Accessibility Center at [ibm.com/able](http://ibm.com/able)



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11-06  
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