SAM

Synthesiser Access Manager

for the Windows® 95 and Windows NT® Workstation 4.0 Operating Systems

Software Licence

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N.B.
- You should save your work and make regular backups, particularly before installing new software or hardware.
- Due to the many possible hardware configurations and inherently complex nature of software, errors do occur.

Care of your compact disc

- Do not put your disc in direct sunlight.
- Avoid high heat and humidity.
- Handle your disc carefully to avoid scratching it.
- Never stick labels on your disc.
- Never write on your disc.
- Keep your disc in the supplied case when not in use.

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1 Introduction

SAM (Synthesiser Access Manager) is a Windows 95/NT module that facilitates the sharing of your speech synthesiser and Braille display between SAM-compatible access products, such as the Hal screen reader and Cicero text reader system.

SAM has been developed because with the increasing number of talking access products on the market, users can now encounter problems when they want to use their screen reader in conjunction with other "talking" products, such as Cicero.

SAM resolves these problems by automatically and intelligently deciding which access product has the right to pass information to the speech synthesiser and Braille display. This allows users to run all their SAM-compatible speech applications seamlessly.

SAM incorporates an SSIL interface that allows SAM-compatible applications to use existing 16-bit SSIL drivers (until 32-bit SAM drivers become available). However, not all SSIL drivers will work under Windows NT. (Please refer to section 3 for further details.)

This guide tells you everything you need to know in order to install and configure SAM.

2 Installing SAM

This section tells you how to install SAM. If you purchased an Orion computer with Cicero or Hal, there is no need for you to read this section, SAM will have been set up for you. If you have purchased Cicero or Hal on CD-ROM, there is also no need for you to read this section.

2.1 Installing SAM

To run SAM you need:

- An IBM PC compatible computer with a 486DX processor (running at 33 MHz or faster). (A Pentium processor is recommended).
- 8 MB of RAM. (16 MB of RAM recommended for the Windows NT version).
- Windows 95 or Windows NT Workstation 4.0.
- A SAM or SSIL compatible speech synthesiser.
or
- A SAM compatible Braille display.

These recommendations will ensure that Windows runs optimally.

Before installing SAM you must install your speech synthesiser or Braille display according to the instructions supplied by the manufacturer. You must also load any appropriate device drivers. Failure to configure your speech synthesiser or Braille display properly may result in your machine running excessively slowly, or locking up altogether with no speech output when SAM-compatible applications are run. (Please consult your speech synthesiser and Braille display manuals for further details.)

To install SAM, first of all turn on your computer and start Windows in the usual way.

When Windows has loaded, insert your SAM Master disk in drive A, then do the following:

- Press CONTROL+ESCAPE to bring up the Windows Start menu.
- Press R to select the option "Run…".
- Finally, type A:\SETUP and press ENTER to start the SAM installation program.

After the installation program has copied the necessary files you will be prompted to reboot your computer.

2.2 De-installing SAM

To de-install SAM choose the "Uninstall SAM" option from the "Dolphin SAM" group in the Start menu.

Warning: You should not normally want to de-install SAM. If you do, your SAM-compatible applications, such as Hal and Cicero, will stop working.

3 Configuring SAM

This section tells you how to configure SAM if for instance you want to use a different synthesiser or Braille display with your SAM-compatible applications, or you want to attach your synthesiser or Braille display to a different port.

Note: Each SAM driver should have an accompanying readme file, stored in the driver's directory. This file may contain important information about the driver. For Braille display drivers, this readme file will contain a list of the key combinations to press to control Braille navigation features. For example, if you wish to read the accompanying readme file for the Tieman CombiBraille, please read the file COMBI.WRI in the C:\SAM\COMBI folder.

To configure SAM choose the "Configure SAM" option from the "Dolphin SAM" group in the Start menu.

The "SAM Configuration" dialog box will then be displayed. If SAM is not already running SAM will be started without loading any synthesiser or Braille display drivers. This will give you a chance to disable any drivers that may be causing problems on your machine (especially SSIL drivers).

The SAM configuration dialog box lists all the available SAM drivers. Each driver displays a "units" number, which is the number of currently available speech synthesisers or Braille displays of that particular type.

The SAM Configuration dialog also contains three buttons: Detect All Devices, About and Close. The Detect All Devices button causes SAM to automatically detect synthesisers and Braille displays (see below). The About button calls up a dialog which contains the version of SAM you are using. The Close button closes the SAM Configuration dialog.

3.1 Configuring a driver

To configure a driver, simply highlight its name in the list of drivers in the SAM Configuration dialog and press ENTER. This will launch the configuration dialog box for the selected driver.

Next, change the driver settings, e.g. select a different serial port.

Select the "OK" button to save the changes and close the dialog.

Settings that don't have any effect on the location or type of your synthesiser or Braille display will take effect when you press "OK".

For other settings it is necessary to press the "Detect all devices now" button in the SAM Configuration dialog before the settings take effect.

When you press the Detect All Devices button in the SAM configuration dialog SAM will display a dialog prompting you to start the detection process. Press ENTER (to close the dialog) and SAM will unload all drivers. You can now change any synthesiser or Braille display hardware you may have.

When you have finished setting up the synthesiser or Braille display hardware, press ENTER again and SAM will reload the drivers (with possibly different configurations).

Warning: Some SSIL drivers don't work if you load then, unload them and then reload them again in the same Windows session. Changing your speech synthesiser whilst Windows is running may in some cases cause damage to your PC/speech synthesiser. It is recommended that you power down your PC before changing synthesiser or Braille display hardware.

3.2 Auto-detection

If there are no speech synthesiser or Braille display "units" configured in the "SAM Configuration" dialog box then the quickest way to configure SAM is to select the "Detect All Devices Now" button. If you select this button, SAM asks each driver to perform automatic detection. (SAM will also do this if after starting up there are no synthesisers or Braille displays currently configured.)

Under Windows 95 SAM will automatically detect the following speech synthesisers:

>   A Dolphin Apollo 2, Juno or Gemini
>   A Dolphin PC2 ISA card
>   A DECtalk Express
>   A DECtalk PC or PC2 internal

Under Windows NT SAM will automatically detect the following speech synthesisers:

>   A Dolphin Apollo 2, Juno or Gemini

Note: the detection is governed by the configuration settings of each driver. So, for example, if you set a driver to "Manual Detection", it will only attempt to detect a synthesiser or Braille display at the specified location.

If your speech synthesiser is not automatically detected by SAM, you can select the driver SAM uses manually by following the instructions below.

3.3 Selecting an SSIL driver

To select an SSIL driver, select the "SAM to SSIL interface" option in the "SAM Configuration" dialog box and press ENTER. This brings up a list of SSIL drivers.

Choose the SSIL driver you wish to use and press ENTER.

3.4 Quitting SAM

To quit SAM choose the "Quit SAM" option from the "Dolphin SAM" group in the Start menu.

4 Troubleshooting

If you are not using a Dolphin PC 2 card and you are experiencing installation problems affecting your network interface card or any other installed hardware that uses either of the addresses 308h or 318h, create an ASCII text file called DolCrd2.ini in your Windows directory and put the following two lines in it:

[apollo driver]
CardPort=0

When you have done this reboot your PC and run the installation program again.

If you are experiencing problems configuring/detecting a speech synthesiser or Braille display, it may be that other drivers which attempt auto-detection (such as the Dolphin Serial Synthesiser driver) are interfering with the driver you wish to use.

One way to solve this problem is to disable some of the drivers you are not using. To do this:

1. In the SAM Configuration dialog box highlight a driver you are not using and press ENTER.
2. When the Configuration dialog box appears de-select the "Auto detect" option button.
3. In the "Location" drop-down list box select "no synthesiser".
4. Choose the "OK" button to return to the SAM Configuration dialog box.
5. Finally, choose the "Close" button in the SAM Configuration dialog box.

It is also a good idea if you are experiencing problems with a particular driver to check the configuration of the driver. Try setting the driver to Manual configuration and make sure the location of the synthesiser or Braille display is correct.

The next time you start your system and run SAM your synthesiser should operate successfully.

END-OF-FILE. Last updated 09/04/98.