



Featured this month: utilities, a file recovery program and a speech recognition software

Norton SystemWorks 2.0

An integrated set of utilities for complete system control

Norton brings you the Aspirin equivalent of the cyberworld called Norton SystemWorks 2.0. This suite provides you with ample weapons to combat anything from system freeze to virus-infected files with the ease of a professional.

Norton AntiVirus 5.0

Voted as one of the best anti virus programs over the years, Norton AntiVirus is designed to combat the latest trojans and viruses, and provide the user security for their files at all times. Features include:

- 1 Auto-protection and scheduled virus-scans.
- 1 Boot record scans at start-up.
- 1 A list and description of all viruses listed with Norton.
- 1 Bloodhound Technology detects unknown viruses and provides a Quarantine system, allowing you to separate infected files that cannot be disinfected by Norton so you can upload them to the Norton Web site for research by the company.
- 1 Monitors your files constantly for viruses in the background.
- 1 Checks floppy disks as well as files downloaded from the Internet.
- 1 Offers virus information update reminders and download updates from the Norton Web site.
- 1 Ability to make a Rescue Boot Disk,

AntiVirus Program Disk and an AntiVirus Definitions Disk for data recovery in case of a virus-related system crash.

- 1 Maintains a log of files scanned and lists names and details of infected files.

Norton CleanSweep 4.0

Norton CleanSweep ensures efficient installation and uninstallation of applications, and that the PC remains free of any debris (such as registry entries or redundant .DLL files) after an application has been uninstalled. The new CleanSweep 4.0 does a complete job of uninstalling applications and includes tools to clean up orphaned DLLs, cookie crumbs, ActiveX controls, lost clusters and other unnecessary files.

- 1 Uninstall Wizard deletes not only the

free the required space on your hard disk and still retrieve the program whenever you want. The Archive Wizard creates an archive icon you can click if you ever want to restore the program.

1 Backup Wizard creates a single, compressed backup file of a program in case you need to restore that particular file. Unlike the Archive Wizard, the Backup Wizard leaves all original files and configuration information untouched.

1 Move Wizard moves a program to another drive, folder or directory.

1 Transport Wizard transports a program file or data to your notebook, another PC or other storage media.

Norton CrashGuard 4.0

Norton CrashGuard 4.0 does a good job of alerting you of a disaster. It also monitors system traffic to provide information about a potential problem.

1 New Crash Assistant walks you through the process of saving your work in other programs and reviving the ailing application.

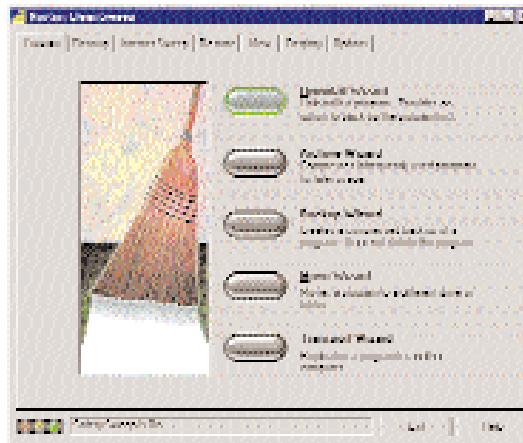
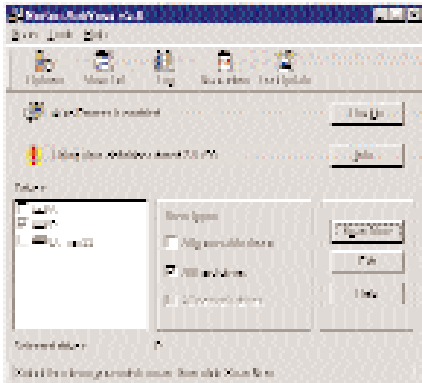
1 You can preserve your recent work in more than 100 of the most popular software applications, which include Microsoft Office, Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 and Intuit Quicken.

1 Protects previously saved files from being overwritten.

1 In case you drop carrier when browsing or your browser crashes, the CrashGuard resumes at the Web page where the connection dropped.

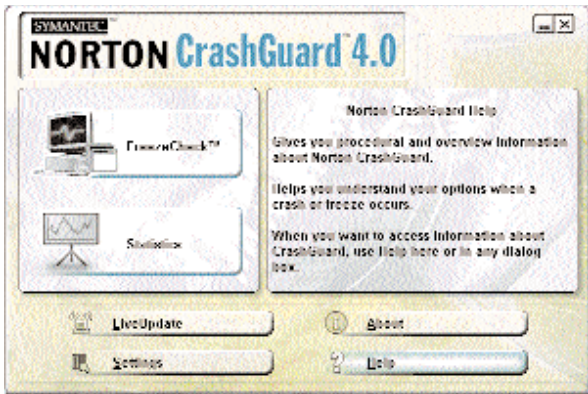
1 FreezeCheck diagnoses problems with a program that has frozen during operation. Depending on the diagnosis, you could choose the recovery option or click Cancel to return to the program.

1 FreezeCheck gives you a distinct status of your non-responding application. It tells you whether the program has



program's individual files, but also any external references to the file, such as program icons or entries in system configuration files (such as system.ini). The Wizard leaves intact any components that are shared with other programs.

1 Archive Wizard uninstalls programs but saves copies of the (program) files and configuration information in a compressed format. This takes up much less disk space than the original files. You can



crashed or if it might if you continue using it.

Norton Utilities 4.0

This is a complete prescription for all health hazards faced by your PC. Norton Utilities 4.0 also provides you with options to optimise your computer, data and system recovery tools. Features include:

- 1 Disk Editors Safety Net allows DOS access to files.
- 1 Live Update handles

download of updates from the Norton site.

- 1 Connection Doctor checks problems related to Internet connections.
- 1 Diagnostics System is a hardware testing tool.
- 1 Disk Doctor diagnoses and repairs disk problems including partitions.
- 1 File Compare allows you to compare and undo changes to all types of files.
- 1 Optimization Wizard improves performance of the OS by configuring critical files.



1 Protection allows you to recover files deleted from the Recycle Bin.

- 1 Registry Tracker maintains changes made to Registry and System files.
- 1 SpeedStart optimises and quickens application loading process.
- 1 Speed Disk defragments the hard disk and frees up space.
- 1 System Doctor monitors the working of the entire system in the background.
- 1 WinDoctor tracks and rectifies Windows errors.
- 1 Web Services, a Norton Web site that provides updates and a library of utilities.
- 1 Space Wizard identifies unused or duplicate files for freeing up space.
- 1 System Information gives you a complete hardware inventory of your system.
- 1 WipeInfo erases all traces of deleted files and folders.

VERDICT **A**

- ♦ Wonderful utilities in one pack
- ♦ Heavy on the system

Contact: Godrej Pacific Technologies
 Price: Rs 4,265
 Phone: 022-5182431
 Fax: 022-5184463
 E-mail: mohapatra@godrejpacific.com
 Web site: www.symantec.com

Lost and Found 1.0 To the rescue

Unlike other file-recovery software available to individual users, Lost & Found 1.0 allows you to recover files from virtually any disk, even if all its File Allocation Tables (FAT) have been destroyed or directories wiped out. It can also recov-

er files that were unintentionally deleted from functional hard disks and removable media.

Lost & Found cannot be run without its own diskette, which is bootable, and assists the user in booting into DOS—essential for using the software to begin the recovery process.

Lost & Found works well with both SCSI or IDE disks. In case of the SCSI disk, though, the detection process takes longer. Once this is done, the deleted files are listed in a colour-coded display that uses green text to indicate files that can be definitely recovered, yellow for those that have a lesser chance of recovery, and red for unrecoverable files. Almost all green- and yellow-coded files on

the list recover to near perfection and the program lets you save them in a compressed archive.

The performance of Lost & Found 1.0 far exceeds most other data recovery tools available in the market today due to its simplicity in use and functionality. It retrieves data in one single step, whereas many other data recovery tools would have required a complicated procedure.

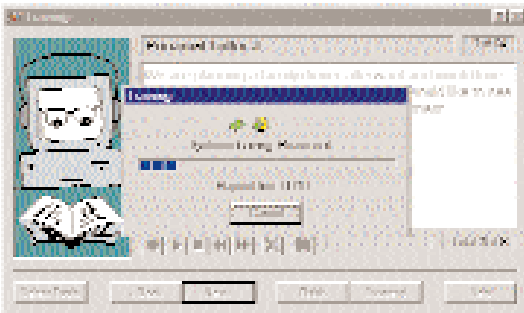


VERDICT **A**

- ♦ Ease of use
- ♦ Slow on SCSI disks

Contact: IT Secure
 Price: Rs 3,500
 Phone: 022-6431233
 Fax: 022-6422182
 Web site: www.powerquest.com

Philips FreeSpeech 98 Chatterbox

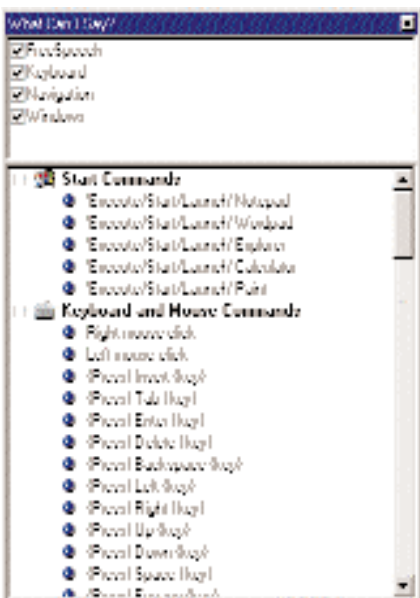


Unlike most other speech recognition software in the market, Philips FreeSpeech 98 offers a highly accurate speech-to-text conversion feature, and a low learning curve. Also, while most other software require you to train for a period of 45 minutes to an hour for a 70-80 percent accuracy level, FreeSpeech 98 takes just 15 minutes to train (standard training).

The accuracy level achieved was close to 90 percent. Of course, for a higher level of accuracy, you would have to train the software for at least an hour.

Installation and training

FreeSpeech 98 has a simple installation procedure and the system requirements are low (a Pentium-based machine with a soundcard). Before installing the



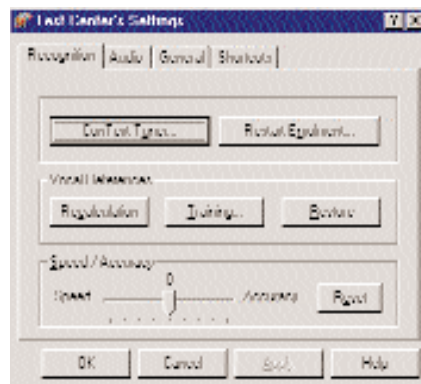
List of standard FreeSpeech Commands

software, the Philips SpeechMike has to be connected to the COM port of the PC with two wires going into the soundcard for speech input and sound output. However, the process could, have been clearer with better documentation and easy-to-understand illustrations.

The Philips SpeechMike is a mike-cum-pointing device and if you are using this device you can disconnect your mouse.

The ingeniously designed SpeechMike houses a trackball on top of the device and behaves in functionality akin to a Notebook mouse. The left- and right-mouse buttons are on either side of the trackball as well as below the mike. This makes it simpler to click when you are dictating.

Once the installation is through, a wizard takes you through the process of audio tuning and the software training session gets the program accustomed to your voice by making you read through some FreeSpeech features.



Settings for level of accuracy during correction

To complete the required 15 minute-training period, you can continue reading additional text matter.

Convenient toolbars

Besides standard dictation, FreeSpeech 98 allows you to control Windows commands such as opening and closing applications, saving files and even shutting down Windows.

The FreeSpeech function toolbar can be conveniently placed anywhere on the



SpeechMike also doubles as a mouse

desktop—you could also keep it floating or lock it in a particular place on your screen. The buttons on the toolbar allow you to activate or deactivate the mike, begin and end dictation, play recorded material, save files, set options and access Help.

Another helpful option provided in FreeSpeech allows you to save your dictation files in three different formats—word document (.doc), speech or audio file (.wav) or a combination of speech and text (.smd) file.

You can add word lists or all the words appearing in a document (.doc, .txt or .rtf) to the vocabulary of the application.

Except for the two-in-one mouse-mike, which takes a little time in getting used to, FreeSpeech 98 is an easy-to-train, well-designed package that gives a high level of accuracy.

VERDICT A

- ♦ High accuracy
- ♦ Trackball takes some getting used to

Contact : Compuage Electronics
 Price: Rs 8,000 + Tax
 Phone: 022-4913986
 Fax: 022-4919069
 Web site: www.freespeech98.com

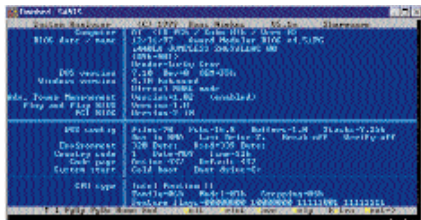
software

Test

SHAREWARE

System Analyser Parts inventory of your machine

System Analyser is shareware. It detects and provides information about all the hardware in your computer BIOS, Network, DOS, CPU/FPU, Cache, Memory, Video, AGP, Monitor, Drives, IDE, ATAPI, CD-ROM, DVD, LPT, Mouse, Keyboard, Modem, Fax, ISDN, Sound, SCSI,



ASPI/CAM, DMI, PCI, PCMCIA and more.

It also provides benchmarks for the processor, memory, hard disks, CD-ROM and the video adapter. This newest release provides status information for the Universal Serial Bus (USB). It also provides information about Microsoft LAN Manager.

Rating: H H H H

System Analyser
Download size: 180 KB
Web site: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/hniekus>

AddWeb Pro Get your site listed

AddWeb Pro submits your Web site information to hundreds of Internet search engines and directories. A page builder utility included within the shareware creates HTML pages that are more likely to appear in the listing for keyword searches.

The shareware also has a search engine checker that lets you query major search engines to see where your Web page appears in the results lists. To save

time, you can submit more than one site at a time.

AddWeb Pro works with a proxy server and generates submission reports. Unsupported search engines can be submitted using the 'engine builder'. The only limitation in the shareware version is that you cannot make use of more than 10 major search engines.

Rating: H H H

AddWeb Pro
Download size: 2.44 MB
Web site: www.cyberspacehq.com/addweb

PC Reseller System Assembler's dream

This is a 'quoting and invoicing' program for computer resellers. You can use PC Reseller System to create and print professional looking system quotations



and invoices. Wizards configure the program and the quoting systems, and enter part-inventory details, purchase orders and names of vendors. You can track your customers, payments, stock levels and quotations, and also serial numbers, warranty information, sales tax and gross income. The reporting module lets you print over 18 reports, including a current parts report formatted for customer use. However, the trial version restricts the user from entering quotes for more than five customers.

Rating: H H H

PC Reseller System
Download size: 11.23 MB
Web site: www.pcesoft.com

FREWARE

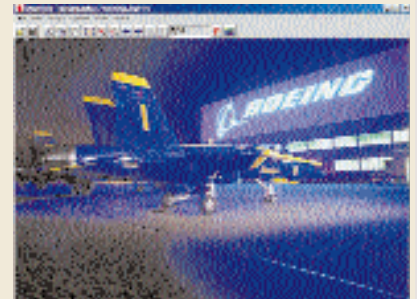
Hungry Frog Math Game

Help a colony of tadpoles grow into smart frogs by feeding them correctly solved algebra equations in the Hungry Frog Freeware Arcade Math Game. You will find the tadpoles lying at the bottom of your screen, waiting for the appetising bugs to pass by. Each bug carries an equation on its back, and each tadpole represents a solution. Your task is to match an equation with its answer, and thus serve up a tasty dinner for your hungry tadpoles.

Web site: ftp.hungryfrog.com

IrfanView 3.0

IrfanView is a fast and simple image viewer-cum-editor that supports most graphics formats, including BMP, DIB, JPG, GIF (and animated GIF), PNG,



PCX, TIF and TGA. It also features drag and drop support, directory viewing, TWAIN support, slideshows, batch conversion, and modifications such as colour depth, crop, blur and sharpen. Version 3.0 adds support for thumbnail images and also allows you to extract frames from MPEG and MOV files.

Web site: <http://stud1.tuwien.ac.at/~e9227474/>

Bill Checklist

Bill Checklist is an easy-to-use program that keeps track of your monthly bills and balances. Bill Checklist includes features such as payment history, account info, contact telephone numbers and multiple logins with password support.

Web site: www.bigfoot.com/~gilroy/software/billcheckList.html