



Computer Speech Recognition and Programming Consulting Services

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Removal of ctfmon.exe

Background

Microsoft Office XP's "Alternate User Input" installs a background process called ctfmon.exe, which can interfere with Dragon NaturallySpeaking. The problems can be somewhat random and ill defined but the more common problems include:

- Clicking on a link in the NaturallySpeaking menus cause system lockups or freezes.
- NaturallySpeaking Select-and-Say commands fail in MS Office XP applications such as MS Word and Excel.
- Navigation commands (such as "go to bottom") are properly recognized but fail to execute.

IMPORTANT: This article contains information about **editing the registry**. Before you edit the registry, make sure you understand how to restore it if a problem occurs. Follow the steps below to back up the registry:

- 1 Open the Registry Editor by clicking "Start > Run". Type in "regedit" without the quotes and click "OK".
 - 2 Export a backup copy of your Registry in case problems occur during the following procedures by going to:
 - Windows 98SE, 2000, and ME: Registry menu > Export registry file.
 - Windows XP: File > Export Registry File.
 - 3 Save this file to the Windows Desktop and name the file "backup". (You can keep "backup" for a few days and if all is well, this file can be deleted.)
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I. End the "ctfmon.exe" process

- 1 Close all open applications.
- 2 Press Ctrl+Alt+Delete to open the task manager.
- 3 Click on Processes.
- 4 Click on ctfmon.exe and click on "End Process" in the lower left corner.

II. Remove “ctfmon.exe” from the computers start up.

A. Windows 98, ME and XP

- 1 Close all open applications.
- 2 Click “Start > Run”.
- 3 Type “msconfig” without the quotes into the “Run” dialog box.
- 4 Click “OK”.
- 5 Under the “Start Up” tab look for “ctfmon.exe” and uncheck it.
- 6 Click “Apply and “OK” or “Close”.
- 7 Restart the computer.
- 8 In the System Configuration Utility dialogue box check the “Don’t show this message box then click “OK”.


B. Windows NT and 2000 (*see Important note above regarding editing the Registry*)

- 1 Close all open applications.
- 2 Click “Start > Run”.
- 3 Type “regedit” without the quotes in the “Run” dialog box.
- 4 Click “OK”.
- 5 Browse to the following keys and delete “ctfmon.exe” from the right window pane:
 - HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run
 - HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run
- 6 Close the “Registry Editor”.
- 7 Restart the computer.

III. Uninstall Alternative User Input.

Windows 2000 and XP

- 1 Close all open applications, including AntiVirus software.
- 2 Click "Start > Settings > Control Panel." (or "Start > Control Panel" in Windows XP)
- 3 Launch Add or Remove Programs.
- 4 In the list of currently installed programs select “Microsoft Office XP” or Microsoft Office 2003”
- 5 Click the "Change" button to access the Microsoft Office installer.
- 6 In the next screen, choose "Add or Remove Features," and click "Next."

- 7 If using Microsoft Word 2002, choose "Shared Office Features" and click next. If using Microsoft Word 2003, place a "check" in the "Choose advanced customization of applications" option and click "Next."
- 8 Expand "Microsoft Office".
- 9 Expand "Microsoft Office Excel", click the symbol next to "Text to Speech", and then click "Not Available".
- 10 Expand "Office Shared Features".
- 11 Click the  symbol next to "Alternative User Input", and then click "Not Available".
- 12 Expand "Proofing Tools".
- 13 Expand "French", click the symbol next to "English - French Translation", and then click "Not Available".
- 14 Expand "Spanish", click the symbol next to "English - Spanish Translation", and then click "Not Available".
- 15 Click "Update."
- 16 Click "OK" and close open windows.

IV. Unregister the Msimtf.dll and Msctf.dll files.

Msimtf.dll

- 1 Click "Start > Run."
- 2 In the Run dialog box type:
`regsvr32 /u msimtf.dll`
- 3 Click "OK."

Msctf.dll

- 1 Click "Start > Run."
- 2 In the Run dialog box type:
`regsvr32 /u msctf.dll`
- 3 Click "OK."
- 4 Confirm that CTFMON.exe is not showing as a process when you press Control+Alt+Delete (Task Manager).

V. Removal of ctfmon.exe if enabled by OS.

If the Microsoft speech utility is enabled by the operating system, use the following steps to remove the Alternative User Input Services from the Text Services:

1. Click "Start > Settings > Control Panel."
2. Click "Regional and Language Options > Languages tab > Details button > Advanced tab."
3. Under "System Configuration," check the box that says Turn off advanced text services.
4. Under "Installed services", click "Speech Recognition", click "Remove", and then click "OK".
5. Click OK in each dialog box to close it.

Note: Turning off advanced text services will disable handwriting recognition.

Additional Resources

Nuance Technote 3118: <http://knowledgebase.nuance.com/view.asp?60VQ=GFHH>

Microsoft KB 282599: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/282599>

End of KB 3002