



KnowBrainer® Review of Dragon 16

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Note: *Dragon 15* can only currently be used, with some restrictions in Windows 11 (no desktop or start menu commands). You will not be able to use Ver. 15 in the next Windows 11 release.

This review covers the Ver. 16 edition of Dragon which is now referred to as [Dragon Professional 16](#) and [Dragon Legal 16](#). Nuance has simultaneously released [Dragon Professional 16 VLA](#) and [Dragon Legal 16 VLA](#). VLA licensing additionally adds server network support and unlimited activations. OLP pricing (5 or more VLA licenses) includes multiple license discounts.

*Note to Dragon Medical users: DMPE 4 (local installation of Dragon Medical) reached the end of it's cycle on March 31, 2021. Nuance discontinued support on March 31, 2022. DMPE 4 end-users will either have to switch to [Dragon Medical One \(DMO\)](#) (a cloud version of Dragon Medical) or hobble DP16 with a third-party medical vocabulary, which will not work in many EMRs also note that **DMPE 4.3.1 will not work in the next Windows 11 release.***

Dragon 16 Pros and Cons

PROS:

The following features are new to Dragon 16:

- Full Windows 11 Compatibility with Windows 11 specific enhanced commands
- Runs better in Windows 11 (a lot went on under the hood)
- Microsoft Office 21 Compatibility
- Corel WordPerfect Office XX1 Compatibility
- Apache OpenOffice Compatibility
- Multiple screen MouseGrid support (up to 3 resolution matching monitors)
- PowerMic 4 Support (formally only available in cloud versions of Dragon)
- Microsoft Teams Support (but not as powerful as the KnowBrainer AI commands)
- Microsoft Word Dragon friendly Modern Comments dictation support
- Improved high resolution monitor support
- Dragon security and resilience optimization
- Improved Microsoft Edge Dragon extension
- Fixed Command Browser preview window which went MIA in Ver. 13 through 15
- User Profile Maintenance when closing Dragon
- Fix for Microsoft Word "Jumping Pages" issue
- Dragon Professional/Legal 16 VLA priced the same as Dragon Professional/Legal 16
- Note that Dragon 15 users may have more trouble in Windows 11, which is a good reason to upgrade to Ver. 16

CONS:

- Previous versions of Dragon included 4 activations. Ver. 16 only includes 2 but VLA licensing includes unlimited activations
- Significant price increases. Ver. 15 originally sold for \$300 and later \$500. Ver. 16 is \$199 more
- After 6 ½ years of development (more than 3 times longer than any other releases) no real new features
- **Dragon 15 will not run in the next major Windows 11 release. It looks like Nuance intends to force everyone in the Ver. 16.**

CONCLUSIONS:

When I initially compared Ver. 15 to Ver. 16, my first knee-jerk reaction was **Fuggeddaboudit**. I couldn't see any difference other than the splash screen. If you are still using Windows 10 but not using WordPerfect XXI, Microsoft Word, Outlook, MS Teams or need to use the MouseGrid on multiple monitors, save your hard-earned ca\$h ~~or in my case, the Big Haired Lady's bail money~~. You have absolutely no reason to upgrade. I have been using NaturallySpeaking, now called Dragon, since 1996 (a year before it was released to the public). In my opinion, every new release, with the exception of Ver. 14, was worth purchasing. I believe Ver. 14, which only came out one year after Ver. 13, included nothing more than Windows 10 optimization and a few aesthetic menu changes. At that time, most upgrades took 2 years to produce so Ver. 14 should have been a free upgrade called something like Ver. 13.5. I did not recommend the Ver. 14 upgrade to Ver. 13 users.

By comparison, no version of Dragon was more important or received more development than Ver. 15 which introduced Deep Learning, a new speech engine (that didn't require training), not having to choose an age group or even needing to choose between male and female algorithms. Ver. 15 was also 1/3 smaller. Dragon 15 was lean and mean but needed a lot of patching. But... here is the rub.

Nuance developers didn't take 6 ½ years off. There are a lot of improvements under the hood. Many of those improvements are bug fixes; some of which have plagued us since Ver. 13. Sooner or later, you will be forced to purchase a new computer which will come with Windows 11. Dragon 15 was never optimized for Windows 11. If you are lucky enough to enjoy Dragon 15 functionality in Windows 11 now, who's to say it will continue

working as Microsoft keeps updating both Windows 10 and 11. Microsoft owns Dragon. You do the math. Optimizing Dragon 16 for Windows 11 was far more difficult than you might think. Most Dragon development (5 years in Ukraine, 18 months in India ~~and nearly a whole month in the US~~), consisted of bug fixes, stability and customer requested support for other applications. This is what many of us requested, over the last 20 years or so. Nuance usually dazzles us with new features but this time, it looks like they just fixed everything we were complaining about. Isn't that what we really wanted.

In November 2022 71% of Windows users were using Windows 10 while only 15% were using Windows 11. 4 months later, Windows 11 doubled that figure to 30% so yeah, the Windows 11 fat lady may not be singing but she's definitely warming up her pipes. I have no interest in Dragon's extended program support like OpenOffice Writer and WordPerfect XXI but I was keenly relieved to see an end to the Microsoft Word Jumping Cursor issue and I am enjoying Windows 11 optimization. While Dragon 16 is backward-compatible to Windows 10, it seems like it might be running a bit more stable and faster in Windows 11. You may as well purchase Ver. 16 now because sooner or later most of you will be forced into Windows 11. I was originally on the fence but I am now comfortable recommending the Ver. 16 upgrade, ~~unless you are still a Mac user and missed the boat again.~~

PS: We just released [KnowBrainer 2022](#) which is fully optimized for Dragon 16. See [What is New in KnowBrainer](#) which now includes artificial intelligence.

*Our customers will additionally receive a complimentary copy of our new **Dragon Training Guide** which includes step-by-step pictorial installation instructions and most importantly, our 30 new setting recommendations to make Dragon more accurate and eliminate sand traps.*

Nuance System Requirements:

8 Gb of RAM (4 Gb minimum) *KnowBrainer® recommends a minimum of 8 Gb of Ram and prefer 16 Gb. While 32 Gb of RAM is not required, it is acceptable*

CPU: 2.2 GHz Intel® dual core or equivalent AMD processor. (Minimum 1 GHz Intel® Pentium® or equivalent AMD processor or 1.66 GHz Intel® Atom® processor). *KnowBrainer® recommends a 2.6 GHz i5 or higher CPU. No Atom and no i3s*

Processor Cache: No longer an issue

Free hard disk space: 4 GB

We only recommend a KnowBrainer® bench tested qualified [USB or Bluetooth Microphone](#)

Supported Operating Systems:

- Microsoft Windows 10 & 11

Note: An Internet connection is required for product activation

Previous Reviews:

If you would like to see some of our previous reviews check out the following:

It's

Current Gold Standards:

The following is a list of speech recognition add-ons that we consider to be #1 in their microphone categories

Best Wireless Microphone = [Shokz OpenComm UC Bone Conduction Bluetooth headset](#)

Best Handheld USB Microphone = [Philips SpeechMike Premium SMP3710](#)

Best USB TableMike = [SpeechWare](#)

Best Wired Headset Microphone = [SpeechWare FlexyMike DEC](#)

Best USB soundcard = [SpeechWare MultiAdapter](#)

Best Wireless Microphone = [Shokz OpenComm UC](#)

Best Digital Recorder = [Olympus DS-9500](#)

Best Speech Recognition Application = [Dragon 16](#)

Best Dragon Command Utility = [KnowBrainer 2022](#)

[Lunis Orcutt](#) - Developer of [KnowBrainer 2022](#)

Founder of [KnowBrainer Speech Recognition Forums](#) (the world's most popular speech recognition forums)

[Chat Live](#) w/a Microsoft/Nuance Certified Speech Recognition Solutions Provider or call (615) 884-4558 x1 to speak with the world's most insufferable egotistical "so-called" speech recognition expert

Edited by Big Haired Lady (barefooted shotgun wedding wife since 1977)

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