L. Steven Cheairs:
BECOMING A MORE PROLIFIC WRITER WITH DRAGON

When L. Steven Cheairs was an infant in the 1950s, he experienced a serious ear infection that doctors said would cause him to become deaf. As Cheairs grew up, his parents discovered that his hearing seemed to be fine, but he struggled with spelling in school. "Eventually I learned to use brute force memorization of words," he recalls. "That worked somewhat, but I always had problems with spelling."
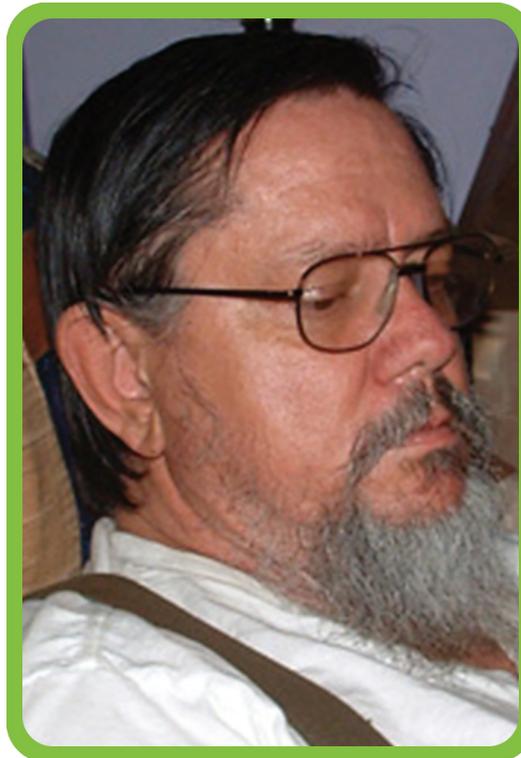
In the late 1970s, Cheairs took a job supporting Los Alamos National Lab at the Nevada test facility, working on the site where atomic bombs were tested. He was required to have a full medical exam each year, and during the first one, he discovered that he has no mid-frequency hearing. "That's where most speaking occurs," he explains. "I discovered that I had always struggled with spelling because I don't hear words the way others do. Growing up in a large family, though, I learned how to properly say the words."

Cheairs built equipment and wrote technical manuals as part of the bomb testing for Los Alamos. He later worked at White Sands Missile Range as an engineering manager, which required a lot of documentation writing too. In those early days of personal computers, he struggled with his spelling but had no way to alleviate the problem, other than to rely on editors to fix his mistakes.

After entering semi-retirement, Cheairs began writing more, but he shifted his focus to a mixture of science-fiction and Biblical research books. He became more prolific, simultaneously working on several projects and self-publishing several of them each year. However, he had to rely on friends and family to proofread his work and catch any mistakes.

Then he learned about Dragon NaturallySpeaking. Within weeks of using it, his output increased dramatically. "It used to take me 7-10 months to write a book," Cheairs explains. "Now I can write one in six weeks. I wrote my last several books from start to finish with Dragon, and I had 10 more books that I had started by hand and finished with Dragon. I write a lot faster with Dragon."

The spelling problems that used to plague Cheairs have also disappeared. "Even if I mispronounce a word, Dragon spells it correctly, because I trained it based on the way I say it," he says. "Dragon has solved this handicap."

"Today, when I'm asked what I do for a living, I tell people I'm a writer," Cheairs says. "With Dragon, I can function as normally as any other writer."

About Nuance Communications
Nuance Communications is a leading provider of voice and language solutions for businesses and consumers around the world. Its technologies, applications and services make the user experience more compelling by transforming the way people interact with devices and systems. Every day, millions of users and thousands of businesses experience Nuance's proven applications. Dragon speech recognition software gives computer users complete voice control of their digital world. With Dragon as a personal assistant, computer users can accomplish more on their PC or Mac than they ever imagined possible.

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