

Votrax[®] Talking Points

OFFICES:

FRAMINGHAM, MASS.
(617) 879-3274
TROY, MICHIGAN
(313) 588-2050
NEWPORT BEACH, CAL.
(714) 557-9181
HOUSTON, TEXAS
(713) 777-7171

VOL. 4, NO. 4

VOCAL INTERFACE ANNOUNCES MICROPROCESSOR AUDIO RESPONSE SYSTEM

TROY, Michigan, March, 1977 — A new microprocessor audio response system, the VOTRAX LVM-70, is being introduced by Vocal Interface Division of Federal Screw Works, a supplier of computer peripheral equipment.

The LVM-70 is a compact, solid-state multiplexed audio response system which provides multi-line audio output and Touch-Tone* input handling capabilities for micro-computers, minicomputers and large business mainframes.

The system can service 64 telephone lines and store vocabulary in the form of digital patterns in amounts up to a maximum of 128 seconds of speech. This means that a host of Touch-Tone audio response applications are now technically and economically feasible for a wide range of business machine users. In addition, the LVM-70 offers excellent voice quality.

Outstanding features of the system include: variable word and message length for maximum flexibility, custom vocabulary consisting of words, phrases and even the voice of the customer's own choosing.

The LVM-70 supports a large number of communications data sets including the Bell 407A, 407B and several commercially available 403-type units, plus full-feature support of the Bell TRANSACTION* TELEPHONE, Automatic Call Distributor and Call Director.

The LVM-70 offers cost and technical advantages and is simple to install and operate. This is made possible by the use of microprocessor technology in the System Controller. Because of this built-in intelligence, the System Controller is able to simulate the operation of an asynchronous terminal (RS-232-C) on the host computer's communications adapter. All transactions between the LVM-70 System Controller and the host computer are conducted using standard data formats without the need for elaborate support software or special interfacing hardware.

Optional program modules offer additional capabilities for the LVM-70, including support of synchronous or asynchronous data communications, local or remote connection to the host computer, buffered communications, transaction time-out and computer-down operation features.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Computer Products Unlimited, Inc. as a distributor of VOTRAX products. Their office is located at Four Professional Drive, Suite 130, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20760, (301) 840-9524.

"SOCRATES"

TROY, Michigan — VOTRAX[®], or Socrates as it is called in the General Motors Previews of Progress program, is entertaining students across the country with its ability to talk, as well as sing.

VOTRAX is an electronic voice system which interfaces with data communications equipment. The lecturer explains to students that Socrates produces speech through phonetic sounds. And that by arranging the 64 separate phonetic sounds Socrates has available, he can say any word in the English language and produce combinations of words and phrases. Socrates then demonstrates the four basic phonetic sounds which make up the word coffee.

Socrates: "May I please have a cup of coffee?"

Lecturer: "Socrates, you're a computer. Now what would you do with a cup of coffee?"

Socrates: "I suppose you're right. 10-4, Good Buddy."

Socrates then performs the musical scale and sings a song for the group.

Lecturer: "Socrates, I have heard you do better. I thought that was terrible."

Socrates: "Well, I never said I was a singer."

General Motors originated its Previews of Progress national science assembly program for junior and senior high school students in 1937. The research-in-action demonstrations depict work being done today in laboratories and point out the contributions of research to modern living. The program also seeks to inspire student interest in science, engineering and related technical and vocational careers.

Eight lecture teams tour the country visiting some 2,500 schools. About 2 million students see the program each year.

This electronic voice system is currently being utilized in business and industry. In manufacturing, VOTRAX is used for inventory and quality control, equipment monitoring and paging. In finance it enables bankers, insurance and investment counselors to have telephone access to computers. It is being applied by the military for automated flight training systems, as well as by the medical profession where laboratory test results and other patient information can be relayed over the telephone. In addition, as a prosthetic aid for the verbally handicapped, VOTRAX aids in the areas of voice therapy and rehabilitation.

*Registered Trademark of the Bell System

DISTRIBUTORS AND REPS:

Computer Products Unlimited
Gaithersburg, MD
(301) 840-9524

Interface Technology, Inc.
St. Louis, MO
(314) 426-6880

SWITZERLAND
Siemens-Albis Ag
01-542211

EUROPE
Dr. Otto Soskutny
06121/46 38 22

CANADA - Electronetic Systems Ltd.
Toronto (416) 661-3673
Ottawa (613) 733-3781
Montreal (514) 342-4112
Vancouver (604) 687-5696

□
LVM-70

VOTRAX SERIAL ROM INTERFACE

We are pleased to announce the availability of the Model VS-6 Serial ROM Interface Option.

The three main features of the interface are :

1. Permits serial ASCII-type operation.
2. Stores up to 680 vocabulary words (assuming an average of 6 phonemes per word).
3. Using the maximum storage capacity of 4096 bytes, the cost of storage is 3.5 cents per bit.

This interface is self-contained within the VS-6 chassis and uses the standard VS-6 serial interfaces with the ROM storage unit.

The Serial ROM Interface provides storage of phonemes, words and messages within the VOTRAX unit, which allows usage in applications where computer or other external storage is not available.

Two modes of operation are presented with this interface. The PHONEME mode routes phoneme data directly into the VOTRAX unit, bypassing the ROM storage unit. The ROM mode accepts the input digital data as ROM storage starting addresses. These select the phonemes, words or messages to be uttered by the VOTRAX, which are stored in the ROM storage unit. Specific serial code words select the mode desired from the input serial data stream. Phoneme strings and ROM addresses may be intermixed in the same data stream.

The Serial ROM Interface offers a number of different storage capacities, ranging from 512 bytes up to 4096 bytes. The total interface consists of three plug-in printed circuit boards.

PAPERS & ARTICLES

An excellent paper, that recently was presented at the IEEE Winter Power Meeting, has been received from Mr. Daniel H. Hollands of Rochester Instrument Systems, Inc., titled "Display and Reporting Techniques for Categorizing Alarms". It mentions that Voice Synthesizers may be used to back up existing equipment and emphasize critical alarms occurring in a power plant control room. Reprints are available on request.

Correction to Talking Points, Volume 4, Number 3

Montreal address of Electronetic Systems Limited should be : 6420 Victoria Avenue, Suite 6.

We recently displayed Handi-Voice at the following shows :

American Speech and Hearing Association
1977 Northeastern Regional Conference
Sheraton-Boston Hotel
Boston, Massachusetts
April 6 - 9, 1977

Council for Exceptional Children
55th Annual International Convention
Georgia World Congress Center
Atlanta, Georgia
April 11 - 15, 1977

If you desire additional information, please check the box at the margin and return to :

Vocal Interface, 500 Stephenson Highway, Troy, Michigan 48084

Name _____

Company Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

VOTRAX SPEAKS YOUR LANGUAGE

Serial
ROM
Interface

Techniques
for
Categorizing
Alarms