Dan Wells

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EXPERIENCE

Nuance Communications
Speech Scientist   Nov 2015–Present

Responsible for configuring speech recognition and voice biometrics solutions for interactive voice response systems.

- Producing SRGS grammars for directed dialogue systems
- Training semantic models for natural language call steering
- Calibrating models for individual speaker recognition in secure contexts
- Analysis of call data and optimisation of existing solutions
- Troubleshooting problems in live customer deployments

Google (via Adecco)
Speech Data Evaluator   Jan–Aug 2014

Processed linguistic data to improve speech synthesis and automatic speech recognition quality for British English.

- Phonemic transcription of lexicon entries using in-house systems
- Transcription of acoustic data following text normalisation guidelines
- Quality control for similar work carried out by external vendors
- Devising transcription guidelines for new domains
- Analysis of ASR system output errors

Cambridge Bilingualism Network   Sep–Oct 2013

Encoded a large number of paper surveys on child bilingualism into Excel.

EDUCATION

University of Edinburgh
MSc Speech and Language Processing   2015

Intensive one-year programme covering a wide range of topics in language technology and machine learning, including courses in:

- Automatic Speech Recognition
- Speech Synthesis
- Natural Language Understanding
- Machine Translation
- Semantic Web Systems
- Univariate Statistics

Dissertation: Unsupervised speech segmentation for zero-resource applications

Selwyn College, University of Cambridge
BA (Hons) Linguistics   2013

Completed a wide range of studies across all areas of linguistics, with interests especially in phonetics and computational linguistics.

Additional courses: MML Certificate in Dutch, Introduction to Yiddish

SKILLS

Programming: Scripting in Python, Bash

Operating systems: Linux, Windows

Languages: English (native), French (intermediate)