

Dan Wells

dan.wells@cantab.net • +44 7858 506 987

Employment **Nuance Communications**

Senior Speech Scientist

Jul 2017 – Present

Speech Scientist

Nov 2015 – Jun 2017

Responsible for configuring speech recognition and voice biometrics solutions for enterprise-level speech applications.

- Handling large datasets for training NLU and speaker recognition models
- Writing context-free grammars for directed dialogue systems
- Analysis of call data and optimisation of existing solutions
- Troubleshooting problems in live customer deployments
- Contributing to internal tools and helping to define and document best practices
- UK subject matter expert for voice biometrics

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

Education **University of Edinburgh**

MSc Speech and Language Processing

2014 – 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 in zero-resource applications

Selwyn College, University of Cambridge

BA (Hons) Linguistics

2010 – 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

Computing

- Scripting and data processing in Python and Bash
- Experienced Linux user with knowledge of basic system configuration and administration

Languages

- English (native)
- French (intermediate)