

Talking Scripts

a quick and easy way to make your script "speak"

by Bob Kelly
August 2007



The SAPI (Speech Application Programming Interface) object is a scriptable one, which means you can take advantage of this feature in your scripts. It is built into Windows XP and later systems (including Server 2003) so if your target systems are new enough, you're already set up to make use of it.

```
Set objVoice = CreateObject("SAPI.SpVoice")  
objVoice.Speak "Welcome to the machine"
```

That is all there is to it. Create a reference to the object and use the "speak" method to instruct the specified text to be spoken. Almost disappointingly, the voice "Microsoft Anna" that ships with Vista sounds very good, and you can't have fun with the expected "computer voice" sound with which you

may be familiar.

Windows XP included "Microsoft Sam" and a couple of more voices are available by installing the SAPI SDK: <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=5E86EC97-40A7-453F-B0EE-6583171B4530>

So when would you use such a thing? Well, like lots of nice things you can do, maybe there is no good excuse to take advantage of it. It's like good old "Beep" from the early days, soon as administrators discovered you could make the computer beep, by simply typing "beep" logon scripts around the world started annoyed users around the world (at least until nonstop complaints resulted in their removal). Well, here you go again-- have fun with it until you get lots of calls asking "what did that say?". [M](#)

Bob Kelly is president and co-founder of AdminScriptEditor.com, home to an integrated suite of powerful scripting tools as well as a shared library of scripts and language help. He has authored books on Scripting and Desktop Administration as well as several white papers. Bob also runs AppDeploy.com where he writes and produces videos on topics related to software deployment. You can contact Bob about "Talking Scripts" at bkelly@adminscripteditor.com.