

Utilities 4 Dragon

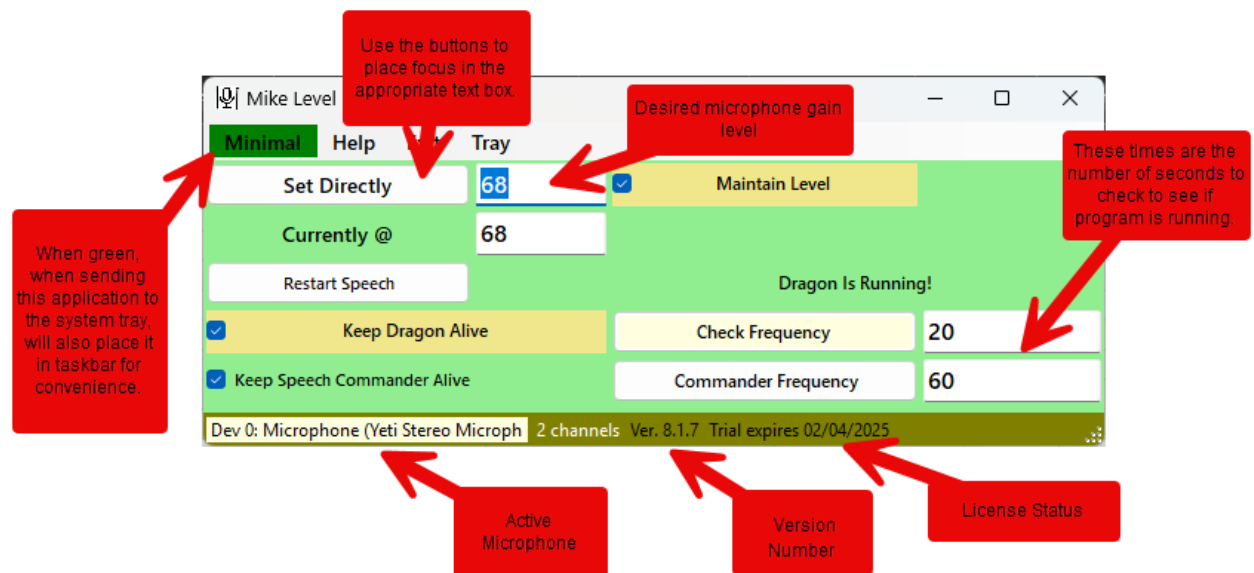
Mike Level

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Description



A few programs, Dragon, Teams, and others, have default options to “automatically maintain the microphone recording level.” They almost always maximize the level at or near 100%. This may be necessary sometimes, but other times, it is detrimental. For example, my particular

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microphone is sensitive enough to pick up noises from other rooms. A knocking dryer, for example, can cause Dragon to act on what it thinks is legitimate input.

Unwanted noise causes at least two or three problems. They can interfere with your voice dictation, cause Dragon to needlessly take some control over the process and drain your laptop battery if that's how you're operating. They can also overdrive your audio input, making the signal a little harder for Dragon to process properly.

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On the other hand, if the input level is too low, Dragon has a hard time interpreting what you are saying. So, it's critical to get the right balance.

This is where Mike Level may be of benefit.

What This Tool Does

Normally, you would go to the control panel, to the device manager, to the sounds control, choose your device, go to the level page, etc.

Instead, say “**Mike level**” which will bring up this application.

There is no magic number/level for everybody. Everyone has different microphones and noise environments to work with. With a little time and experience, you'll discover the right number for you.

This program can help you quickly set and keep your default microphone's volume level at your chosen level.

Setting the Level

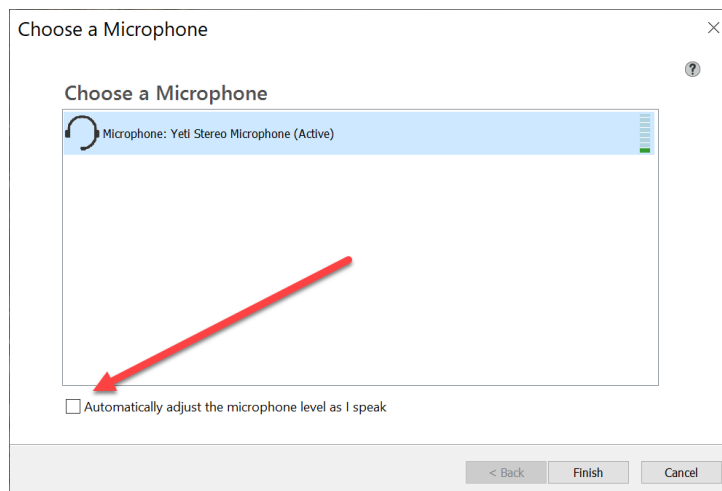
The text box containing your current microphone level is to the right of the label "Currently @." An easy way to set the number is to say “**set directly.**” This will place the focus in the text box to the right of that button. Then dictate the number. This would be a number at 100 or below.

Maintain Level

As mentioned, many applications try to automatically maintain their perceived optimum recording level. You can try to turn off their options to do that if they are available. However, this program will keep a check on that number, and automatically keep the recording level at your desired level when this box is checked.

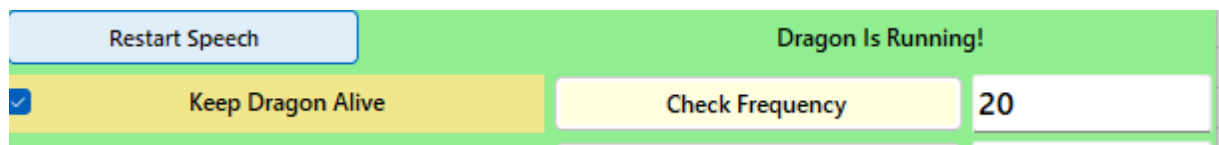
For example, in Dragon, a checkbox determines whether the automatic level is being adjusted by Dragon. In DPI 15, it's under profile, managing audio sources.

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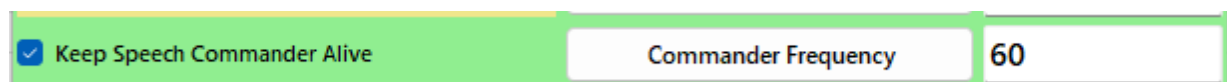


Convenience Options

Keeping Dragon alive – with that checkbox checked, the program polls every <number of seconds> that is set to the right of the check frequency button. In the illustration above, is checking every 30 seconds to see if the Dragon process is running. If it is not running, it will attempt to start it back up automatically. Note: if you have the “voice computer” product installed, and it is running, this program will ignore this process. **Voice Computer** has other means to help you manage Dragon. A label let you know whether Dragon is up and running or not.



Keeping Speech Commander alive – with that checkbox checked, the program polls every <number of seconds> that is set to the right of the commander frequency button. In the illustration above, is checking every 30 seconds to see if the Dragon process is running. If it is not running, it will attempt to start it back up automatically.



Microphone Description

At the bottom of the application, the label shows what the default microphone that is operating on is known by in your system.

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Minimal

sets whether you want to put the application in the taskbar, by default, it is always found in the system tray area.

Update

if you see this button, it means an update is available. Click on this button to automatically download that update.

Exit

Closes the program down. No processes are now running by this application.