

HP Voice Web Initiative 2002 at The University of Birmingham

The HP Voice Web Initiative 2002

HP Philanthropy Initiatives focus on developing and supporting programmes and partnerships that promote educational opportunity and e-inclusion for people in underserved communities.

The Voice Web Initiative aims to help open the internet to a much wider section of society using voice and multimodal technologies and to help to develop a European research community and education programmes in relevant technical areas.

HP VWI at The University of Birmingham

In 2002, HP donated equipment worth approximately £20,000 to the Department of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering as part of their Voice Web Initiative, to support educational projects under the theme of “Speech in Multi-Media”.

Spoken language technology is a key activity in the department. There is a significant research activity with funding from the EPSRC, DTI and Europe. Undergraduate courses in speech and language technology are offered in the second and fourth years, and a number of undergraduate and masters students undertake their final year projects in this area. There are exciting opportunities to combine this work with other activities in department, to explore the role of spoken language in multi-modal human-machine interaction.

These projects typically require significant computation and storage and manipulation of large amounts of data. The HP Voice Web Initiative has provided equipment to meet this requirement. Six high-performance linux workstations are connected via a 100Mb/s local network with a dedicated server, disk array and tape system. The system will be used primarily for off-line ‘batch’ processing. Access will be available to PhD students, MSc and final year undergraduate project students.



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