

# How a journalist **super-charged** her productivity with Sonocent software



## Sonocent case study

Sophie Chalmers has been an editor and journalist for 21 years.

Although she learned shorthand at the start of her career, she always found it hard to capture what her interviewees were saying while trying to build a rapport. So she switched to recording with a dictaphone.

For Sophie, the beauty of a dictaphone was that it recorded everything. Unfortunately, she would then have to spend hours listening back through the recording and transcribing the useful information. Often she would also forget parts of what she had heard before typing it out, meaning having to rewind and listen to that passage again.

### Enter Sonocent Audio Notetaker...

Sophie discovered the software by chance.

As editor of a special educational needs magazine, she was investigating tools that help young people with dyslexia and interviewed a teacher for an article entitled 'Modern note-taking for complex subjects – study tools for students with dyslexia'. In the interview, Sophie used her trusty dictaphone. But what the teacher told her about Audio Notetaker impressed her, so she went to Sonocent's website and downloaded a free trial of the software.

Sophie used the software before and after the rest of her interviews that month, including several telephone interviews over Skype. When her free trial ran out, she invested in a full licence. No more dictaphones for her.



*"Audio Notetaker **saves me hours of hard work** and makes writing articles from interviews as easy as pie."*

### A 5-point value proposition for Sophie Chalmers

By using Audio Notetaker to work with her interview recordings, Sophie gained in five key areas:

- *A reliable way of capturing everything said in interviews*
- *Improved productivity when working with recordings*
- *Ability to highlight key quotes during the interview*
- *An unobtrusive way of recording and annotating*
- *A proven method of working with Skype interviews*



# The interview

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**Sonocent:** "For anyone who is unfamiliar with Audio Notetaker, could you explain what the software does?"

**Sophie Chalmers:** "The software recognises spoken phrases and then represents these as coloured chunks that you can highlight and edit in an interactive workspace."

"That means, no more compulsively checking my dictaphone is still recording, because I can see the software reassuringly laying down phrases as chunks on my laptop screen."

**S:** "How do you annotate your recording with the software during an interview?"

**SC:** "I can highlight sections that I know, mid sentence, will end up being good quotes, and delete sections as I go along – for example, when someone pops their head around the door to offer me a coffee mid interview."

**S:** "Does the software save you time when you come to write your article?"

**SC:** "Yes, at the end of an interview, what I end up with is a visual representation of the way an article will pan out, all ready to write up."

"I can even take notes as I go, in a pane next to the relevant section of the recording – for example, the keyword of a question, to make it easier to navigate my recording afterwards."

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Sophie Chalmers, Journalist and editor

## About Sonocent Audio Notetaker

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Sonocent Audio Notetaker is a learning and productivity solution that enables students, educators and professionals to work more efficiently with recorded speech. The software has won multiple awards, including an Educational Resources Award in 2014.

For more information about Sonocent software, email [sales@sonocent.com](mailto:sales@sonocent.com)

