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Generation of meeting transcript using speech recognition

ABSTRACT

Participants in meetings conducted via audio or videoconferencing often engage in notetaking. This can cause participants to be less engaged. This disclosure describes techniques to automatically generate a meeting transcript. At the beginning of a meeting, participant identities and voices are learned as participants introduce themselves. During the meeting, participants can enable transcript generation with voice commands. Speech-to-text techniques are used to generate a text transcript of the meeting that associates speech with corresponding participants.

KEYWORDS

- Speech recognition
- Videoconference
- Voice commands
- Online meetings
- Meeting transcript

BACKGROUND

Meetings conducted via audio and/or videoconferencing tools enable participants based in different locations to see and hear other participants. However, such tools do not provide transcription of participant speech, necessitating that participants manually take notes. This can reduce the level of engagement of the participants due to the effort involved in taking notes. In some instances, participants may miss portions of the meeting. Further, it is difficult to attribute individual comments within a discussion to the corresponding speaker, especially when multiple participants speak simultaneously.
DESCRIPTION

This disclosure describes techniques to automatically provide a transcript of the corresponding proceeding to participants of an online meeting, e.g., a videoconference. With the permission and express consent of the participants, the voice and names of consenting participants are matched at the beginning of a meeting, e.g., when participants introduce themselves. By learning the voice of each participant, subsequent speech of each participant is transcribed and automatically matched to the speaker. A meeting transcript generated in this manner can list everything that each individual participant (that provided consent) spoke during the meeting, even when multiple persons speak simultaneously during the meeting.

Fig. 1

Fig. 1 illustrates a conversation manager (114) that uses speech recognition to generate a transcript (116) of an online meeting, e.g., an audio/video conference hosted by a meeting server (112). As illustrated in Fig. 1, Alice (102), Bob (104), Charlie (106), and Dan (108) are participants in an online meeting hosted by the meeting server over a network (110).
permission, a transcript (116) of the meeting is generated using speech-to-text technologies. As illustrated, the transcript identifies each speaker and their utterances during the meeting.

Transcription is initiated or paused by the host of the meeting using triggers such as voice commands (e.g., a trigger word) or other input mechanisms, e.g., touch, gesture, etc. Upon receiving input to start transcription, a text document is created. When participants provide consent, the meeting transcript is automatically saved to each user device that participates in the meeting.

The described techniques enable participants to remain engaged and involved during a meeting. Without the burden of notetaking, participants can interact and converse with each other. The techniques can be implemented as part of software and/or hardware that enables online meetings, e.g., videoconferencing software.

Further to the descriptions above, a user may be provided with controls allowing the user to make an election as to both if and when systems, programs or features described herein may enable collection of user information (e.g., information about a user’s social network, social actions or activities, profession, a user’s preferences, or a user’s current location), and if the user is sent content or communications from a server. In addition, certain data may be treated in one or more ways before it is stored or used, so that personally identifiable information is removed. For example, a user’s identity may be treated so that no personally identifiable information can be determined for the user, or a user’s geographic location may be generalized where location information is obtained (such as to a city, ZIP code, or state level), so that a particular location of a user cannot be determined. Thus, the user may have control over what information is collected about the user, how that information is used, and what information is provided to the user.

CONCLUSION
Participants in meetings conducted via audio or videoconferencing often engage in notetaking. This can cause participants to be less engaged. This disclosure describes techniques to automatically generate a meeting transcript. At the beginning of a meeting, participant identities and voices are learned as participants introduce themselves. During the meeting, participants can enable transcript generation with voice commands. Speech-to-text techniques are used to generate a text transcript of the meeting that associates speech with corresponding participants.