

Speech Recognition System Takes Top Honors

Janus, Carnegie Mellon's speech translation system, developed in conjunction with the University of Karlsruhe in Germany, took top honors earlier this summer in the Verbmobil Speech Recognition Evaluations, a German competition that compared many leading speech recognizers. Using conversational speech in spontaneous dialogues, Janus registered half as many errors as some of the competing systems.

► The Verbmobil Project is a research program for speech translation started by the German government in 1993. In addition to the University of Karlsruhe, competition participants included the universities of Bielefeld, Hamburg, Muenchen (Munich) and Erlangen, as well as Daimler Benz AG.

► The Janus project is headed by School of Computer Science principal research computer scientist Alex Waibel, who also holds a professorship at the University of Karlsruhe.