

Using Voice Input with JabpLite

Introduction

From version 2.00, we have introduced the option of entering transactions using voice input. This feature is intended for situations "on the go" where you need to quickly enter one or more transactions. There are two possibilities: either selecting "Match Transaction by Voice" from JabpLite's Quick Start menu or (if you have an Android Wear device) using the Transaction application.

Using Match Transaction by Voice within JabpLite's Quick Start menu

This option is only relevant for devices which have voice recognition capability. This includes many recent Android devices. You will need to activate voice input from the keyboard in Android OS which is usually found under Settings > Language and Input.

In JabpLite, activate the Quick Start menu from Extra Options > Preferences. Now when starting JabpLite, you will see a new option "Match Transaction by Voice". When selecting this option, tap in the empty text field and the Android keyboard is shown. Select the microphone symbol. You can now speak the details of your transaction in the format:

Account, Description, Amount, Reference

Android will recognise your spoken words and type them into the text field. The Account and Reference fields are optional. If the Account field is missing, JabpLite uses the account shown at the top of the form. What happens in practice is that JabpLite checks the first word you spoke. If the program recognises this as a valid account, then that account will override the one at the top of the page. If the first word isn't a valid account, then JabpLite assumes it is part of the transaction description.

The amount field should be spoken as a number in pence / cents. So for example, £123.45 should be spoken as "one two three four five". Alternatively, the last two digits can be spoken separately, for example "one two three (pause) forty-five". JabpLite will still recognise "123 45" as a valid amount. Any words after the amount are taken to be the transaction reference.

It's worth experimenting a little to get the best results. Once you are happy with the recognised text, select OK from the menu.

Once JabpLite has parsed your spoken text, it will look for a match in your recent transactions (by default, the last 1000 transactions in your specified account). If the program finds a match, then it allocates a valid category from the matched transaction and immediately creates a new transaction. If it doesn't find a match, then the program populates the new transaction form and displays that to the user. You can make any required changes and then select Create Transaction as usual.

Note that transactions which are transfers or splits are always presented to the user for confirmation. Only transactions in your home currency are supported for voice matching; if you wish to enter a foreign currency transaction then use the normal New Transaction option.

Using the Transaction app on Android Wear

Entering a transaction using Android Wear requires a different approach since there is only voice recognition available and no keyboard. The program makes some intelligent guesses as to what the user wants to do, however some transaction options are not available – for example, foreign currency transactions or split transactions.

Firstly, install the Transaction application on your Android device. The Android Wear

component will also be installed by default via Bluetooth.

To run the application on Android Wear, say "OK Google" then "open transaction" or "start transaction". The Transaction program will run and display a voice input dialog. You can now speak the details of your transaction in the format:

Account, Description, Amount, Reference

Android Wear will recognise your spoken words and type them into the text field. The Account and Reference fields are optional. If the Account field is missing, JabpLite uses the last-used account. What happens in practice is that JabpLite checks the first word you spoke. If the program recognises this as a valid account, then that program will use that account, otherwise it will use the last-used account. If the first word isn't a valid account, then JabpLite assumes it is part of the transaction description.

The amount field should be spoken as a number in pence / cents. So for example, £123.45 should be spoken as "one two three four five". Alternatively, the last two digits can be spoken separately, for example "one two three (pause) forty-five". JabpLite will still recognise "123 45" as a valid amount. Any words after the amount are taken to be the transaction reference.

Once you stop speaking, the program gives you five seconds to cancel the transaction – for example, if the voice recognition has made a mistake. If you cancel then you go back to the voice recogniser to try again. If you didn't enter a valid amount, the program asks you to try again. If you don't cancel, then your text is sent to your Android device and you should get a message back saying "Stored". If the message is "Failed", then the program was unable to store the data: make sure the two devices are within range of each other. Once the message back has been received, you have five seconds to select "More" to enter another transaction or the program ends.

Transactions which have been entered into Android Wear are processed once you open JabpLite and go to the main program. JabpLite will parse your spoken text, and will look for a match in your recent transactions (by default, the last 1000 transactions in your specified account). If the program finds a match, then it allocates a valid category from the matched transaction and immediately creates a new transaction. There is no way to indicate a debit or a credit in the program on Android Wear. If the matched transaction was a debit, then the new transaction will also be a debit. If the matched transaction was a credit, then the new transaction will also be a credit.

If the program can't find a match in the last-used account, then it will try the remaining accounts. If it doesn't find a match in any account, the program will create a transaction anyway in the last-used account with incomplete information – this transaction will be given a category of 'None' and can be edited manually later.

Note that transactions which are transfers are created automatically in both accounts. The program determines the transfer account from the previous matched transaction. Splits and foreign currency transactions are not supported to be entered using Android Wear – these must be entered in the main JabpLite program.

Some examples of spoken text which can be used

- "Barclaycard Waitrose 12345" (Account: Barclaycard, Description: Waitrose, Amount: 123.45)
- "Waitrose 12345" (Account: last used, Description: Waitrose, Amount: 123.45)
- "Waitrose 123 45" (Account: last used, Description: Waitrose, Amount: 123.45)
- "Waitrose 123 45 party" (Account: last used, Description: Waitrose, Amount: 123.45, Reference: party)

General notes on voice recognition

The voice recognition technology generally works well, but there are caveats. In general, you will find that the accuracy rate is higher on your Android mobile device than it is on your Android Wear device. Also, the recognition works for words that are normally in a dictionary but not necessarily for words that are brand names or other unusual words. On your mobile device, you have the option to correct words using the keyboard. On your Android Wear device, you can only cancel and try again. If the word isn't recognised on Android Wear after several attempts, then you will need to enter the transaction on your mobile device instead.

You may have some text which is never identified by the voice recognition software on your Android Wear device, maybe an unusual account name or description. In this case, you can use the simple conversion text function built into the Transaction application on your mobile. You can enter original text and replacement text into a simple 'dictionary'. The program will scan for the original text and, if found, substitute the replacement text. For example, you might have an account called 'NatWest' which is never recognised. You can enter something like:

My bank,NatWest

In other words original text then a comma then the replacement text. Every time you say 'My bank' the program will substitute 'NatWest'. You will see the substituted text when your Android Wear device displays the Stored message.

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First version: 1 January 2015
Latest version: 11 February 2015