

# Microsoft acquires speech recognition company Nuance for \$16 billion



Microsoft has closed on its approximately \$16 billion acquisition of speech recognition company Nuance.

The deal, which was announced last year, helps Microsoft Corp. get more entrenched into hospitals and the healthcare industry through Nuance's widely used medical dictation and transcription tools.

Nuance Communications Inc. has been a pioneer in voice-based artificial intelligence technology and was instrumental in helping to power Apple's digital assistant Siri.

The Burlington, Massachusetts-based company has since shifted its focus to health care.

"This powerful combination will help providers offer more affordable, effective and accessible healthcare, and help organizations in every industry create more personalized and meaningful customer experiences," Scott Guthrie, executive vice president of the Cloud + AI Group at Microsoft, said in a statement on Friday.

The transaction has been under scrutiny by British antitrust regulators, who opened up an investigation

into the deal in December because of concerns that it could result in a "substantial lessening of competition" in the UK market.

Microsoft continued to shop this year, and in January announced that it would spend \$70 billion to acquire video game maker Activision Blizzard.

Mark Benjamin will continue to serve as CEO of Nuance, Burlington, Massachusetts, and report to Guthrie.

Shares of Microsoft, based in Redmond, Washington, declined slightly amid a broader market sell-off Friday.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

### Cruising along

Once you turn your attention to the centrefold of your favourite weekend supplement, you will know why the title of this note is what it is.

We also have our regular sections updated for you to read through. Oh yes, LIFE gets featured on Spotlight too.

I'll leave it at that for now.

Have a great weekend, everyone!

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# Virtual Museum Bangladesh inaugurated



Virtual Museum Bangladesh (VMB), a virtual platform developed to preserve the country's heritage sites in the digital sphere, was recently launched in the capital.

Dr. Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, Prime Minister's Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Affairs Adviser unveiled the virtual museum at the

Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Auditorium of the National Museum in Dhaka.

The museum allows visitors to have an immersive experience as they venture through the heritage sites of Bangladesh with virtual reality headsets and computers from the comfort of their homes.

The museum currently offers

virtual tours of 6 famous heritage sites of Bangladesh, including Shat Gombuj Mosque, Panam Nagar, Kantajew Temple, Eleven Shiva Temple Complex, Bara Sardar Bari and Choto Sona Mosque.

Visitors can log onto [www.virtualmuseumbd.com](http://www.virtualmuseumbd.com) through the website or download the app to explore the virtual museum.