



Message Banking™ for Everyone

“After all, communication is the thread that connects us all.”

— John Costello, MA, CCC-SLP
Director at Boston Children's Hospital and Creator of Message Banking



Message Banking is a joint beta project between Boston Children's Hospital Department of Otolaryngology and Tobii Dynavox with a goal of providing a free and open message bank for people at risk of losing their voice.

This Message Bank system will guide people through the Message Banking process, help organize the messages, store the messages until they are needed, and provide ways to download the messages for use on any system that can play back those messages.

Use of the system is free to the user. Storage of the messages is free. Downloading stored messages for personal use is free. In addition, the system will work on various types of AAC devices and communication software.

Message Banking is hosted on myTobiiDynavox.com and accounts for this site are free.

Preserving Your Acoustical Fingerprint

The Message Banking process has long been spearheaded by John Costello of Boston Children's Hospital. Message Banking is a way for individuals, like those with ALS, to preserve their voice and maintain a personalized connection with family and friends. Message Banking gives individuals a way to record and curate (or “bank”) words and phrases, including those that may be unique to him or her and that may hold special meaning to family and friends. The result is a library of personalized messages that lets the individual's personality shine through each time they are used.



To learn more about Message Banking, please visit tobiidynavox.com/message-banking.

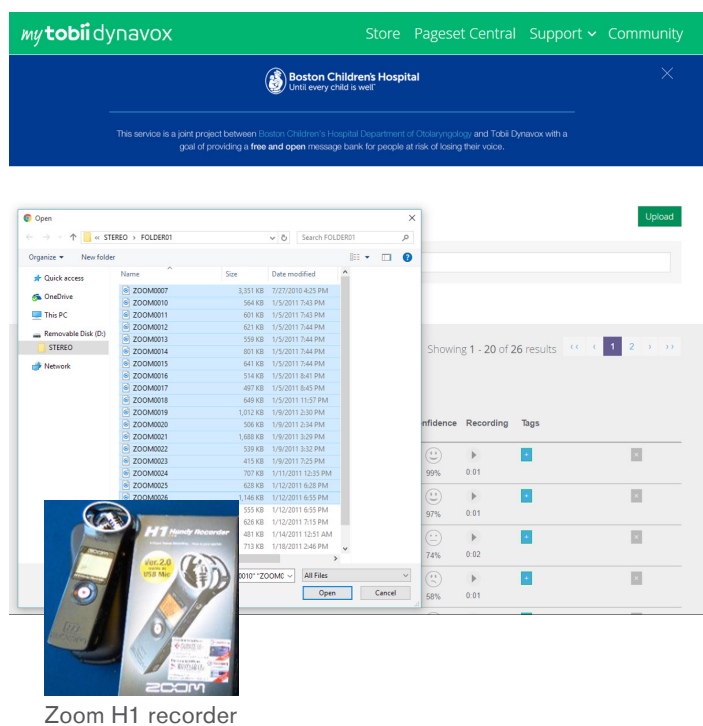
Banking Messages on myTobiiDynavox.com

To bank messages on myTobiiDynavox.com, you first create the recordings. We recommend a high-quality recorder to best preserve your voice, such as a Zoom H1 recorder. We currently support the .wav file format.

To begin Message Banking:

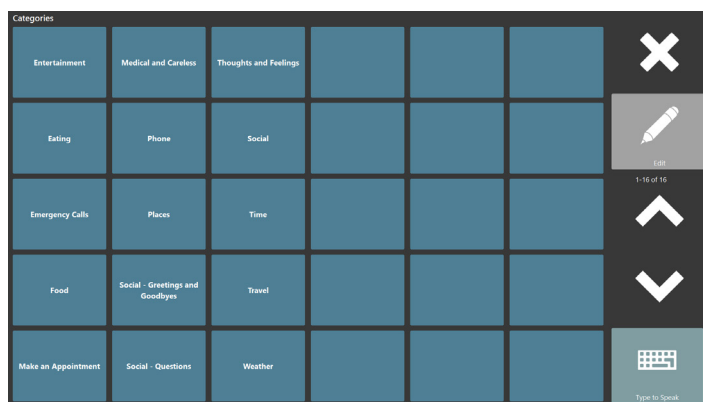
- Record your first round of messages and upload them to myTobiiDynavox.com.
- Uploaded messages are transcribed using the IBM Watson supercomputer and text is returned with an accompanying confidence score.
- Listen to uploaded messages and accept or correct the transcription.
- Tag messages with one or more categories so you're able to easily find them later.
- Upload more messages whenever you have them.
- Once you're ready to use your messages, download them as a .zip file for use on your device or communication software.

Messages will be stored on myTobiiDynavox.com for as long as you need them.



Message Banking and Communicator 5

While Message Banking works with various devices and software, Tobii Dynavox has created special features in Communicator 5 to easily import and use your banked messages. You are able to import your .wav audio files directly from the .zip'ed message bank file. Recordings are automatically imported to the "My Phrases" area and dynamically added to Phrase pages. The messages are categorized by the tags you've assigned. In addition, text from transcribed messages is used in Prediction, meaning you're able to use message banked recordings instead of TTS when that phrase is selected.



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"It's very easy to lose sight of the person that I used to be, but with the message banking, it allows us to hold on to that."

– Todd Quinn, Message Bank participant, diagnosed with ALS 2011