

# The Assistive Software Knowledgebase

Wired Wednesday training series

CREATING THE NEXT®

# Wired Wednesday Webinar Series: Workplace Accommodations

Half hour today; one hour with CEUs for rest of series

- **Aug.5 - Intro. to the Assistive Software Knowledgebase**
- Aug. 19 – TBD (time management apps?)
- Sept. 2 – TBD (AAC apps in the workplace?)
- Sept. 16 – Software/apps to support blindness and low vision
- Sept. 30 – Software/apps to support learning disabilities
- Oct. 14 – Covid-19 and our Telework Software Accessibility Matrix
- Oct. 28 – Intro. to Work ACCESS accommodation assessment tool
- Nov. 11 – Accommodations for reopening with Covid-19

# Learning Objectives

- Identify three (3) things that make the Assistive Software Knowledgebase unique compared to other accommodation tools.
- Describe at least four (4) types of information available in the Assistive Software Knowledgebase.
- Describe three (3) ways that information is being added to the Assistive Software Knowledgebase.

# Need for Work Accommodation Tools

Employers / employees make the majority of accommodation determinations

- In a Georgia Tech. survey:
  - One-third of employees received accommodations through a vocational rehabilitation (VR) program
  - 46% through employer-supported programs
  - 19% identified their own accommodations
- After VR made accommodations, 47% of respondents asked for additional ones because of changing needs
- Employees receiving services from VR seldom return when accommodation needs change (Syracuse Univ.)

# Assistive Software Knowledgebase

Goal: Develop a centralized, online resource on assistive software and mobile apps used as workplace accommodations. It will provide the general product information as well as other information to help an employee maximize his or her use of the software.

Funded by a field-initiated grant from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR).

# Assistive Software Knowledgebase: Design

## Sources of Information

- Manufacturer info
- Crowd sourcing
- Other resources / discussion sites



## Assistive Software Knowledgebase



## Resource Information

- General Product Information
- Compatibility
- Reviews
- Usage and Training Tips

## What is Unique about the Knowledgebase?

- Focuses on software and mobile apps that are helpful in the workplace.
- In addition to general product information, it provides:
  - Structured user reviews
  - Usage / training tips (some from research findings)
- Includes commercial, shareware, freeware, open source products
- Developed, in part, through crowd sourcing

# Searches



## Search by

- Keyword
- User group + activity
- Product type

## Narrow search by

- Platform
- Features
- ...



## Product Reviews / User Tips

### Online Surveys Prompt Users About:

- Product ratings
- How it is used in the workplace
- Most helpful features / configuration used
- Compatibility (hardware and software)
- Training needs
- Likes / dislikes
- Usage tips

**Demonstration...**

# Teleworking Software (and Covid-19)

	MS Teams	Zoom	More....
<b>Keyboard Navigation</b>	?	Yes	
<b>Automatic Captioning</b>	Yes	No	
<b>Supports External Captioning</b>	Yes	Yes	
<b>Supports Screen Readers</b>	Yes	Yes	

## Zoom Teleconferencing System Feedback

- *Set up your AT and the Zoom session ahead of time to test navigation. Be sure you can access the Chat and/or Q&A to give prompt feedback.*
- *Signing in on the iPad is easier than I thought it would be, and actually seeing the screen is also far exceeding my expectations.*
- *I can see the participants faces so I can read their lips*
- *I use high contrast (white text on black background) and Zoom supports that.*
- *Keyboard navigation is available through the Zoom desktop client (5.2.0 or higher) or Zoom mobile app for iOS (4.4.5 or higher).*

## Get Involved!

- Share product reviews and user tips
- Help us complete the telework software matrix
- Help us with upcoming usability testing
- When the system formally launches in October, join us as a beta tester

# Thank you!

Thank you for your participation in this webinar!

Join us again in 2 weeks for more information about the use of assistive software in the workplace

If you have any questions or additional thoughts to share please contact:

Karen Milchus [karen.milchus@design.gatech.edu](mailto:karen.milchus@design.gatech.edu)

This development project is funded by grant #90IF0125 from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, within the Admin. for Community Living, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS).

# Review: Magnifier for Windows (1)

Overall satisfaction: 4 stars

Reviewer: I use it myself

Configuration used: Single monitor, full screen magnification (3x), standard screen colors & cursors

Most helpful feature: Ability to quickly increase the contents within the viewport

No compatibility problems with: Microsoft Office, Google Chrome, Gmail, Google Docs, Camtasia ...

Training: not necessary

## Review: Magnifier for Windows (2)

**Like:** It is built into the OS, which allows it to be quickly and easily accessed with minimal system resources.

**Dislike:** It does not always track the active cursor or element that has focus, which makes it limited in capability. It pixelates text and images more often than many third party screen magnification programs.

**Other comments:** If a person requires more than 3x to 4x magnification, and relies on a screen magnification program for the majority of the day versus relying on the enhancements within the applications themselves, a paid third party screen magnification program should be considered.



# Sample Tips: Reading/Writing Software

**Don't over use highlighting. Save it for organizing and categorizing information.**

**Word prediction can provide spelling prompts, but scanning the list will likely slow entry speed**

**[Many of these products] have videos available that demonstrate how to use different features**