“Hey You!”
Digital Assistants as Assistive Technology

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Tools for Life
CIDI creates practical solutions that work, with a focus on utility, ease of use, and high quality.

- **Accessibility Consulting** focuses on organizational accessibility needs with evaluation, technical assistance, customer support, and web accessibility solutions.

- **Braille Services** produces customized projects from both print materials and electronic text including partial books and chapters or graphics.

- **Captioning Services** makes classrooms, meetings, labs and more audio environments fully accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing.

- **Professional E-Text Producers** provide high-quality e-text in many formats such as PDF, DOC, DAISY, and HTML.

- **Certified Assistive Technology** team provides on-site and remote assessments, demonstrations, training and technical assistance for education, work, and daily living environments.

  For more information: [www.amacusg.org](http://www.amacusg.org)
Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.
What is AT?
Assistive technology is:

"any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of a person with a disability."

Assistive Technology Act
Universal Design
Designed for Maximum Usage
Your Digital Assistant
Early Digital Assistant
Who Am I Talking to?

It depends!
Samsung
Apple
Echo
Android
Privacy and You

- “Always listening”
- Trigger word
- Data storage
- Control of recordings
- Mute
- Encryption and Association
Alexa!
A Brief History of the Echo

• 2014 – Echo (Prime members only)
• 2015 – Widely available
• 2016 – Echo Dot and Tap
• 2017 – Echo Look, Show, Spot, Plus
Alexa and Her Skills

- Alexa is the smart assistant that come with every Echo device
- Lives in the cloud
- Skills improve the functionality vastly
  - Games
  - News
  - Entertainment
What Can You Do with Alexa?

BBC NEWS

UBER

amazon echo

hue PERSONAL WIRELESS LIGHTING

Spotify®
Useful Skills for Reading

- Georgia Radio Reading Service
- Audible
- Tune-In
- NFB Newsline
- The Bible
- Torah Scholar
Alexa Skill Options

https://www.amazon.com/b?ie=UTF8&node-13727921011
Alexa Books Skills

https://www.amazon.com/s?q=books&i=alexa-skills&ref=nb_sb_noss
Ok, Google...
The Google Home

• 2016 – Google Home released
  • Had to play catchup
• Can distinguish between up to 6 people
• 2017 – Google Home Mini and Max
  • Synchronized playback across devices
  • Voice calling
Google Assistant

• As of 2017 installed on 400 million devices
• Two way conversations
• Shop by voice with certain retailers
• 3rd party integrations
• Duplex
• Goal is to build an emotional rapport
Google Home Actions

- Daily briefing
- Automations
- Make calls/send messages
- Broadcast
- Games and other integrations
Where is Google Assistant
Google Assistant Action Options

https://assistant.google.com/explore?hl=en
Hey, Siri!
Apple HomePod (the New Kid)

• 2018 – officially released
• Focus is on music
• Not as integrated as Echo or Google Home
• More secure (and more expensive)
Siri Integrations

- Similar functionality to other smart speakers
  - News, directions, etc.
- Find your phone
- Ask anything you’d ask Siri on the phone
- Timers, Nutrition facts, measurement conversions
- AirPlay content not natively supported
Where is Siri Hiding?
Siri Commands

https://www.cnet.com/how-to/the-complete-list-of-siri-commands/
Smart Speaker, Smart Home

Getting your digital assistant to help in the real world
Smartly Implementing Technology

- Alexa, Google and Siri all have capability to control smart home devices
  - Always check for compatibility!
- Echo has the widest variety of options
- Door locks, thermostats, lights, smart plus, moisture sensors, and MORE
Tools for Life, Georgia’s Assistive Technology Act Program

Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation (formerly AMAC Accessibility)

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