

AbilityNet Newsletter 09 01

Welcome to this first new, more frequent newsletter from AbilityNet. We've responded to our followers who have asked for shorter, sharper news from AbilityNet, with a focus on accessibility and accessible technology. We hope you'll find this format easy to read and of interest

AbilityNet News

Podcast No 2 released

Our latest podcast has just been released – contents include Best of BETT, accessible voting booths, mobile phones accessibility, news roundup and monthly access tips

Its available for free from www.abilitynet.org.uk/podcast

Play at IT – Northern Ireland

Play AT ICT Northern Ireland is funded by the Roald Dahl Foundation working with the five regional Education and Library Boards in Northern Ireland, supporting 26 Nursery Schools providing support packs, training, assessments and access to a loan bank of assistive technology for those participating in the project. This project is aimed at increasing the utilisation and awareness of the value of accessible technology within pre-school education.

EasyAssessment

Community Resource for people with a learning disability

Our new resource to aid people with a learning disability to make AT decisions is now available – Supported by speech output and symbols (Courtesy of widgeit software) It's a unique resource supporting users with low literacy and demonstrating how the web can be enhanced to provide value to all

<http://www.abilitynet.org.uk/easy/>

Access News

[BBC subtitling](#)

The BBC is providing more subtitled content on its various channels including Film Network a showcase for new film makers and Signs of Life an interactive online thriller.

[Demystify ARIA](#)

A collection of video and podcasts about ARIA accessibility including screen reader demos and how to create accessible widgets.

[Web design at university](#)

How can we improve web design at university level so it reflects current practices and technology? Suggestions include getting in touch with a university, sponsoring an educator and volunteering your time.

[Internal or external usability testing](#)

Jake Hird discusses the pros and cons of usability testing. Should you outsource or can you do your own testing in house?

[Seeing machine](#)

Researchers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center have developed a seeing machine that will enable some people who are visually impaired to view images.

[Happy Birthday Apple Mac](#)

The 24th of January was the 25th birthday of the first Apple Mac.

Special Offers

AbilityNet is committed to offering resources that work to bridge the digital divide to all. As a result we have packaged a series of resources together to help everyone get online and connected

eLearning for All

The AbilityNet eLearning site at www.abilitynettraining.org is a huge resource of training on all aspects of technology for people with a disability. It includes product training such as Dragon Naturally Speaking, Understanding needs such as the impact of Visual Impairment and new technologies such as access to mobile phones

Over 50 Courses for £35+vat per user per year – Organisational licenses are also available

AccessAT and Access Fun

Building on the work of RSC Scotland in developing AccessApps, AbilityNet can offer preloaded pendrives with a range of open source and freeware assistive technologies and activities for children with a disability.

Each pendrive is crammed with applications and resources and can be ordered directly from <http://www.abilitynet.org.uk/newsarticle72> at only £16.99 each

Courses

Using ICT to Support People with Dyslexia

- 9 February 2009 Warwick
- 27 April 2009 Manchester

Effective Assessment of Problems at Computer Workstations

- 13 February 2009 Covent Garden, London
- 24 April 2009 Warwick

Introducing Accessibility in Microsoft Windows Vista and Microsoft Office 2007

- 6 March 2009 Warwick

A practical introduction to website accessibility:

- 12th March 2009 Covent Garden, London

Understanding and testing your website with the new WCAG 2.0 accessibility guidelines:

- 25th March 2009 Covent Garden, London

Web 2.0 the new frontier of web accessibility – latest trends and techniques:

- 9th April 2008 Covent Garden, London

Stay in Touch with AbilityNet

Lets stay in touch – and there are lots of way to do it

Join our daily twitter channel at [@abilitynet](https://twitter.com/abilitynet)

Join our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/abilitynet

Read our regular blog at www.abilitynet.org.uk/blog

Join GATE – [The Global Assistive Technology Encyclopedia](#)

If you would like to join our mailing list to be updated with news and information from AbilityNet please visit <http://www.abilitynet.org.uk/newsletter.php>

Finally

Like what we do ? Help us do more by becoming a friend of AbilityNet

By giving to our **AbilityNet Ambitions Appeal** you will be helping us to reach out to even more people.

Make your online donation at <http://www.justgiving.com/abilitynet/donate/>