



## **Module 2 - part 2**

### *IT Can Help* **Introduction to assistive technology**

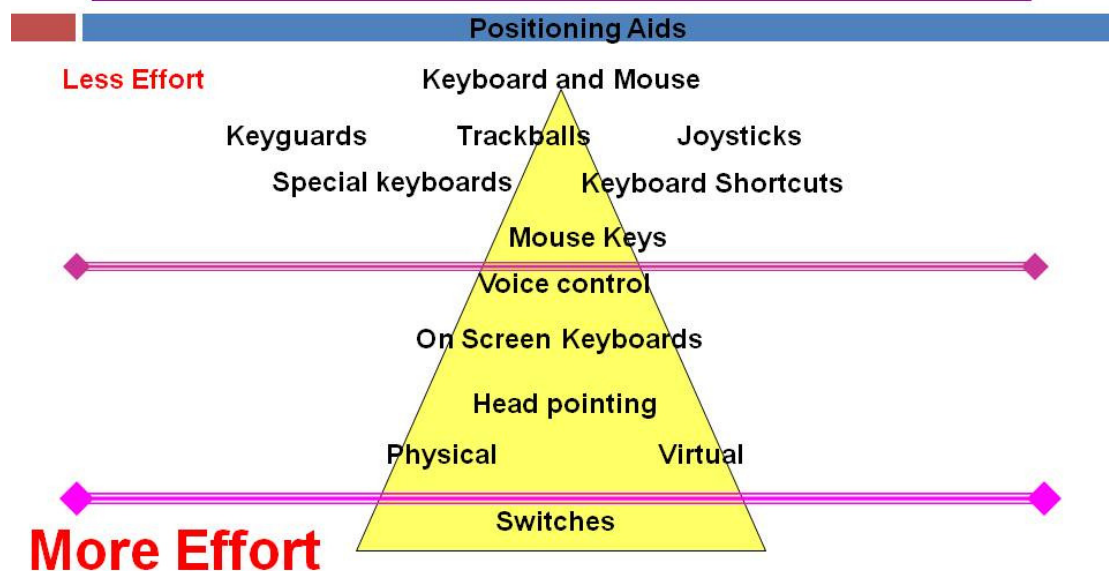
This pack intention is to give basic assistive technology awareness training

# Introduction to Assistive technology

Assistive technology is an umbrella term for any device or system that allows an individual to perform a task they would otherwise be unable to do, or increases the ease and safety with which the task can be performed'. Royal Commission definition (1999)



## The Access Pyramid



## Assistive Technology Users

Blind / Visual Impairment

Cognitive / Learning Difficulties

Deaf / Hearing Impairment

Dyslexia / Specific Learning Difficulty

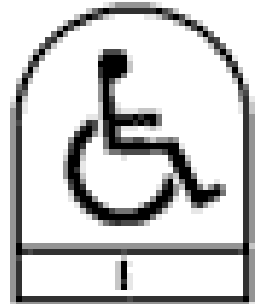
Hidden

Manual Dexterity

Mobility Impairment

- Speech

Everyone!



## BBC – My Web My Way(Free)

- Essential information.
- See <http://www.bbc.co.uk/accessibility/>
- Windows
- Mac
- Linux

*my web  
my way*

## **AbilityNet Factsheet (Free)**

- AbilityNet <http://www.abilitynet.co.uk>
- Click the At home tab(top of page)
- Select factsheets/Free resources(on the left)  
([http://www.abilitynet.co.uk/athome\\_factsheets](http://www.abilitynet.co.uk/athome_factsheets))
- Select Factsheets - numerous sheets inc
- Hearing Impairment and Computing
  - Keyboard and Mouse Alternatives
  - My Computer my way! A Guide to Making your PC Accessible,
  - Useful low cost programs and many more)
  - Skill Sheets (Useful information to leave with customer, and for self learning)

## **Assistive Technology for Mobility**

### **Access to the Graphical User Interface**

- Trackballs
- Keyboard
- Joystick
- Foot control
- Head Pointers

Alternative pointing devices, for example mouth sticks, are used to replace the mouse. The keypad on a keyboard can function as a mouse when used with software that turns the arrow keys into "mouse keys". Many alternative keyboards have mouse keys built in.

## **Visual Impairment**

RNIB is a national charity for “supporting blind and partially sighted people”. See <http://www.rinb.org.uk> for more information. To find practical information from the site, in the search box type fact sheet and then your topic. A few of the most useful are found below

### **Using a computer without vision** – technology information sheet

Summary: This information sheet from the RNIB highlights products that enable a blind person to use a computer by hearing in electronic speech what is displayed on the screen or read it as braille on a braille display.

[http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/publicwebsites/public\\_withoutvisinfosheet.hcsp](http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/publicwebsites/public_withoutvisinfosheet.hcsp)

### **Using a computer with low vision** – technology information sheet

Summary: This information sheet from the RINB describes ways of accessing a computer if you have low vision. It looks at ways of enlarging the text on the screen using the operating system, screen magnification software and making use of large monitors and other adaptations.

[http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/publicwebsites/public\\_lowvisioninfosheet.hcsp](http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/publicwebsites/public_lowvisioninfosheet.hcsp)

### **What is a video magnifier?** – technology information sheet

Summary: This information sheet from the RINB highlights video magnifiers (or CCTVs) which are a magnifying aid for people with

some useful vision. Printed material and objects can be placed under a camera and the magnified image is displayed on a screen.





























[http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/publicwebsite/public\\_lowvisioninfosheet.hcsp](http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/publicwebsite/public_lowvisioninfosheet.hcsp)




































## Ability Net























AbilityNet is happy for these documents to be copied and distributed. However we do ask you to keep the documents complete, so that our details are always available for people to contact us if they need further help.

## Factsheet List

Factsheets to download in PDF or MS Word format

Title	Factsheet in MS Word format	Factsheet in PDF format
Assessment Service - Education		
Assessment Service - Employment		
Assessment Service - Individuals		
Assessment Service - Legal Cases		
Autism and Computing		
Communication Aids		
Consultancy Services		
Dyslexia and Computing		
Dyslexia and Voice Recognition Software		
Electronic Publications		
Employment and Disability		
Epilepsy and Computing		
Ergonomic Workstations		
Free web accessibility resources		

Funding For an Adapted Computer		
Game Controllers		
General Guidelines on Printed Material		
Hearing Impairment and Computing		
Internet Hazards		
Keyboard and Mouse Alternatives		
Keyboard Shortcuts in Windows		
Keyboard – Single Handed Use		
Keyboarding and Touch Typing for Children		
Learning Difficulties and Computing		
My Computer my way! A Guide to Making your PC Accessible		
Practical Implementation Issues around Recommending Technology in Schools		
Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI) - Work Related Upper Limb Disorder		
Rheumatoid Arthritis and Computing		
Software Accessibility Services		
Suppliers		
Technical Support & Training Resources		
UK National Contact List (from AbilityNet CD)		

Useful low cost programs		
VAT on Computer Equipment for Disabled People		
Vision Impairment and Computing		
Vision Impairment and Touch Typing		
Voice Recognition for Blind Computer Users		
Voice Recognition Software – An Introduction		
Voice Recognition Software – More Advanced Features and Concepts		
Web Accessibility Information		
Web Accessibility Services		
Windows Profiles		
Windows Vista Ease of Access Centre		

## Acknowledgements

Thanks to the kind contributions and efforts of

Andy McMahon

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Version 1 11 August 2009

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