### New Approaches to Accessibility

Richard Ladner
University of Washington

## What We'll Do Today

- Disabilities
- Technology Trends
- MobileAccessibility Project
- Other Mobile Projects

### **Basic Data**

- 650 million people world-wide are disabled
- 16% of US population to ages 15 to 64 is disabled.
- 10% of the workforce is disabled
- 5% of the STEM\* workforce is disabled
- 1% of PhDs in STEM are disabled

<sup>\*</sup>STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

### Disabilities

- Vision
  - Blind
  - Low-Vision
  - Color Blind
- Hearing
  - Deaf
  - Hard of Hearing
- Speech
  - Ability to speak
  - Stuttering

- Mobility
  - Ability to walk
  - Ability to use hands/arms
- Cognition
  - Dyslexia
  - Short-term memory loss
  - Dementia
- Multiple
  - Deaf-blindness

## Models of Disability

#### Medical Model

Disabled people are patients who need treatment and/or cure.

### Education Model

Disabled youth need special education.

### Rehabilitation Model

 Disabled people need assistive technology and training for employment and everyday life.

### Legal Model

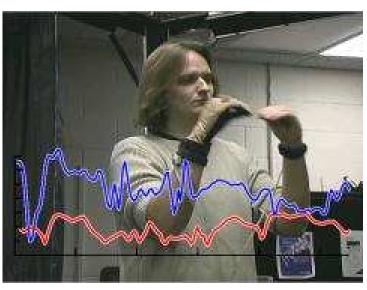
 Disabled people are citizens who have rights and responsibilities like other citizens. Access to public buildings, voting, television, telephone, and education are some of those rights.

#### Social Model

 Disabled people are part of the diversity of life, not necessarily in need of treatment and cure. They do need access when possible.













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### Personal Texting by Deaf People



TTY used by deaf people in their homes circa 1970



Modern TTY with built-in acoustic modem



SMS texting

# Optical Character Recognition for Blind People

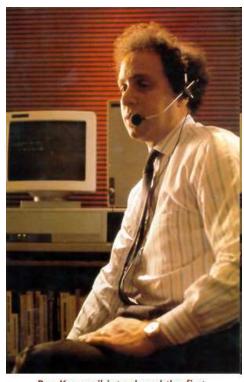


Kurzweil Machine Circa 1976



**KNFB** Reader Mobile

## Speech Recognition for Hands Free Access

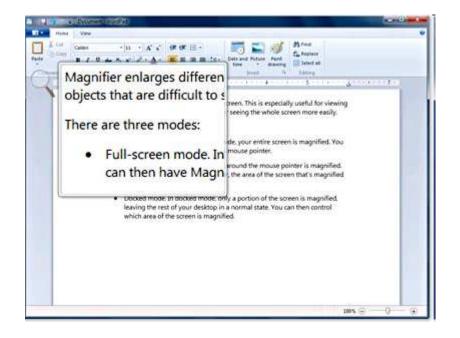


Ray Kurzweil introduced the first commercial large-vocabulary speech recognition software in 1987



Mobile Speech Recognition

## **Built-in Accessibility**



Windows 7 Magnifier



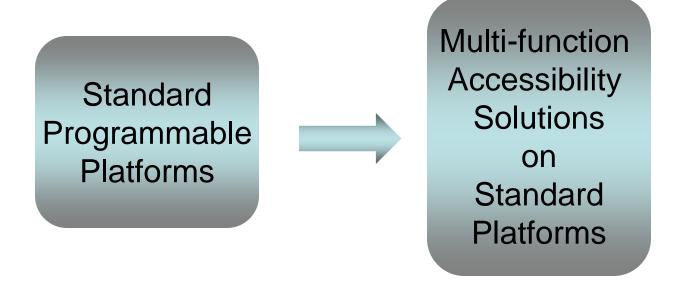
iPhone VoiceOver

### **Trend**

Accessibility
Solutions

Mobile
Mainstream
Solutions

### **New Trend**



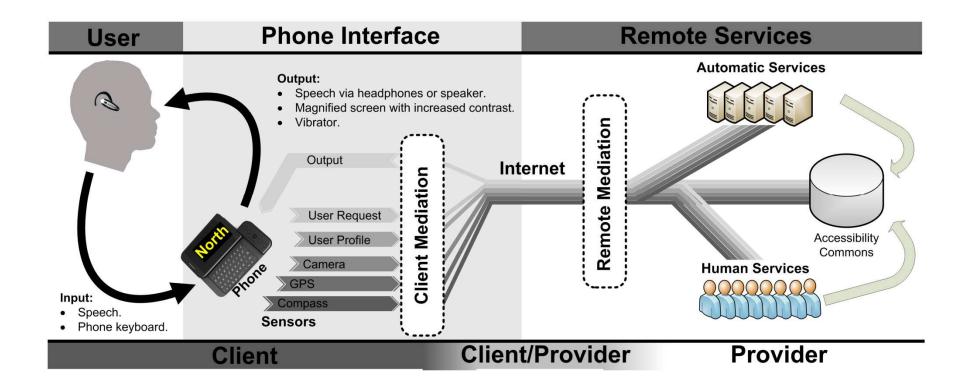
Laptops, notebooks, phones,... are programmable!!

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### MobileAccessibility

Bridge to the world for blind, low-vision and deaf-blind people



http://mobileaccessibility.cs.washington.edu

### **Platform**

- Sensors
  - Video camera
  - Microphone
  - GPS
  - Compass
  - Accelerometer
- Human input
  - Keyboard
  - Touch screen
  - Speech
- Output
  - Speech
  - Audio
  - Visual
  - Vibration









### **Alternative Platforms**



## Blind Portraits Chandrika Jayant



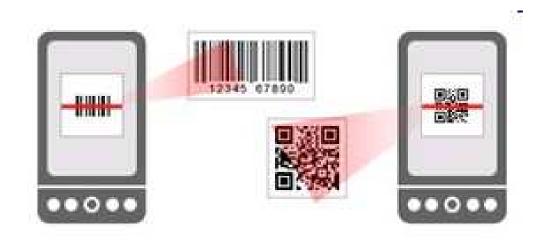
**Portrait** 

Vibrate and Speak



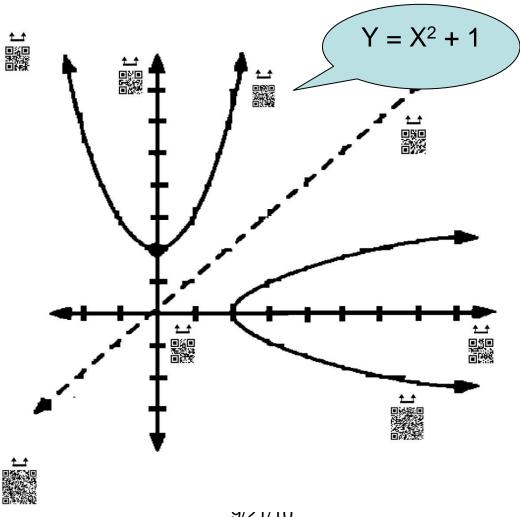


## Talking Barcode Reader Chandrika Jayant



## **Tactile Graphics**

Josh Scotland, Chandrika Jayant



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### Appliance Reader Chandrika Jayant, Tom Guo

It is 2:35 AM, at 29.8 Celsius, and 73% humidity.

http:/www.mtixtl.com/productimages/oven/box-panel-300.jpg

### GoBraille Shiri Azenkot



## Capstone Projects From 2010

http://www.komonews.com/news/local/87737592.html?tab=video

## Capstone Projects From 2011

- The Phone Wand Navigating routes using orientation and vibration feedback.
- Pic2Speech Custom augmented speech.
- Street Sign Reader Reading street signs so you don't have to.
- WhosHere Finding out which friends are around you.
- SwipeSounds The sound of gestures.
- Sound Detector Detecting recognizable sound patterns to alert the user.

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## Ideal Group



http://ideal-group.org/sj131264/

### **Project Possibility**



http://projectpossibility.org/index.php

### **Braille Notetakers**





BrailleNote





### Braillenote with GPS



### **DeafBlind Communicator**



### VizWiz

- Bigham, Jayant, ... (UIST 2010)
  - Take a picture and send it to humans with a recorded question.



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### MobileASL

### Eve Riskin, Jake Wobbrock, ...

ASL communication using video cell phones over current U.S. cell phone data network

### Challenges:

- Limited network bandwidth
- Limited processing power on cell phones
- Limited battery life



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### Research

- User Centered Design
- Lab studies
  - Control as much as possible
- Field studies
  - Instrument to log data
  - Experience sampling
  - Diaries
  - Surveys

