

# EXSM 3929: Digital Accessibility

## M3 Weekly Response

CCID: mdshaha1, Hossain Md Shahadat  
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### Instructions

Make a **copy** of this document, **edit, export** as a **PDF** and **submit** on **eClass**.

Weekly response documents are **to be completed by Saturday evening (11:59pm)**. Each response document follows the same format; there are **four web resources** with **three talking points**.

The purpose is to help prepare you for our discussions on Tuesday evenings. To receive full marks visit each web resource, respond to the prompts, and submit on eClass.

This document will be marked out of **ten points** based on the following criteria:

DESCRIPTION	VALUE	MARK
Document is <b>submitted</b> with proper <b>ccid, name, and date</b>	2	
Document is <b>complete</b> with talking points <b>relevant to the course</b>	8	

### Notes

Late submissions are received at a **reduced value**, see eClass for details.

Please **keep this cover page** attached.

# Weekly Response

## Assistive technology devices: How disabled people use the web

Link: <https://bighack.org/assistive-technology-devices-definitions-how-disabled-people-use-the-web/>

Alt-resource: <https://webaccess.berkeley.edu/resources/assistive-technology>

- **Do you have any experience with assistive technologies?**

### **Answer:**

Yes, I have experience in assistive technology. There is a neighbour called John. John is a visually impaired college student who relies on screen reader software to access his course materials. He has a paper due next week and needs to do some web research. He boots up his computer, activates the screen reader software, and navigates to his chosen online browser. The screen reader reads the content aloud to him as he navigates the page, including the headings, links, and descriptions. He navigates the information using keyboard shortcuts, such as going from one heading to another or to the next paragraph. If the page has visuals, the screen reader will describe the image so that John understands what it portrays. The screen reader also reads aloud John's own typed text, allowing him to proofread his work and correct any mistakes. Thanks to the screen reader software, John can access and interact with digital content in a way that is equivalent to his sighted peers.

- **Were you surprised or intrigued by any assistive technology as described?**

### **Answer:**

Assistive technology is a branch of technology that tries to assist people with disabilities in overcoming their limits and achieving their objectives. It is an enthralling field with the potential to significantly improve people's lives. The technologies created to assist people with impairments are astounding in their capacity to empower them to live more independent and fulfilled lives. People using assistive technology may communicate, move, learn, and work more easily and efficiently. It is extremely encouraging to see how technology may be utilized to improve the quality of life for those with impairments.

- **Do you believe any assistive technologies may be adopted by able bodied individual?**

**Answer:**

I do think that those who are physically abled may need certain assistance technology. For instance, able-bodied people can also benefit from using voice recognition software, which was first created to aid people with impairments like dyslexia or repetitive stress injuries, to raise their productivity or improve their accuracy while dealing with text. Similarly, able-bodied people can use closed captioning and audio description technology in noisy settings or when watching video content in a public place without disturbing others. These technologies were initially created to aid people who are deaf or hard of hearing and blind or visually impaired, respectively.

## Tools and Techniques

Link: <https://www.w3.org/WAI/people-use-web/tools-techniques/>

- **Do you have any adaptive strategies?**

**Answer:**

Once I was a project manager and I was facing issues with time management and organization skills. I had difficulty meeting deadlines and often forgets important tasks. To address this issue, I decided to implement an adaptive strategy by using a task management tool.

So, I started using a digital task list app that allowed me to break down my projects into smaller tasks, set deadlines, and prioritize his work. The app sends me reminders and notifications, helping me to stay on track and complete my work on time.

By using this adaptive strategy, I was able to improve my time management and organization skills. After using this tool, I have become more productive and efficient, and I feel less stressed and overwhelmed. The adaptive strategy has helped me overcome my limitations and achieve my goals as a project manager.

- **Can you describe any favorite digital experiences?**

**Answer:**

I was planning a trip to a foreign country, and I was not familiar with the local language. So, I decided to download a language translation app on my smartphone, which allowed me to communicate with locals and navigate my way around the city with ease. The app uses voice recognition technology and provides instant translations of words and phrases.

As I wanted to explore the city, I came across a famous landmark and wanted to learn more about it. After that I found an app which provides users with an interactive audio tour, complete with detailed information and images of the exhibits. The app also allowed me to take notes and bookmark my favorite exhibits for future reference.

So, I can tell this my favourite digital experiences in recent time.

- **Can you describe any frustrating digital experiences?**

**Answer:**

Me and my friend wanted to purchase a new phone online, so we visited a popular electronics store's website. However, we found that the website was very slow to load, and it took us several minutes to find the phone we want. When we tried to add the phone to the cart, the website crashes, and we had to start the whole process over again. After several attempts, we finally managed to add the phone to the cart and proceeded to the checkout page. However, the checkout page was very confusing, and we had trouble filling in the shipping and payment details. At the end we felt very frustrated and gave up on purchasing the phone from the website.

## Screen Reader Basics: Voiceover - A11ycasts #07

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5R-6WvAihms&t=3s>

- **Do you have any prior experience with screen readers?**

### **Answer:**

Yes, I have a prior experience with screen readers. Once I was preparing a presentation which contains more than 100 pages of contents. After finishing this I had to re-check this for any error. So, I used the screen reader to proofread written content by listening to it, which can help catch errors that may have been missed by reading alone. And it helped me a lot in that circumstance.

- **Did you try a screen reader after watching this video?**

### **Answer:**

Yes, I have tried the screen reader in offline and online both cases and it is helpful in both scenarios.

- **How important is it for designers to consider voice?**

### **Answer:**

Designing for speech is becoming increasingly important as voice technology becomes more commonplace in our everyday lives. As smart speakers, virtual assistants, and speech-activated gadgets proliferate, designers must take voice interaction with their products into account.

Compared to designing for a visual interface, developing for voice takes a different strategy. When compared to a conventional graphical user interface, voice interfaces might be more sophisticated since they rely on natural language processing and interpreting user intent. Designers must consider how people will interact with the interface and how it will react. They must also consider the environment in which the interface will be utilized, such as a loud setting or a person who has trouble speaking.

## Screen Reader Basics: NVDA - A11ycasts #09

Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jao3s\\_CwdRU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jao3s_CwdRU)

- **Do you have any prior experience with screen readers?**

### **Answer:**

Yes, my neighbour John use this NVDA screen reader as usual to access digital content. He is using his computer to browse the internet and comes across a website selling his favorite brand of shoes.

As he navigates the website using his keyboard, the NVDA screen reader reads out loud the website content, describing the layout, buttons, and text fields. John can use keyboard shortcuts to navigate to the various links and headings on the page and hear the content read aloud by the screen reader.

When he reaches the search bar, he types in the name of the shoes he's looking for and presses Enter. The NVDA screen reader reads out the search results, and John navigates to the specific shoes he wants to purchase. He can fill out the necessary fields for his name, shipping address, and payment information, all while using the screen reader to guide him through the process.

- **Did you try a screen reader after watching this video?**

### **Answer:**

No, As I use MacBook, so NVDA is not available for MacBook. NVDA is a screen reader software that is specifically designed for the Windows operating system. However, MacBook's come with a built-in screen reader called Voiceover, which provides similar functionalities to NVDA.

- **How important is it for designers to consider voice?**

### **Answer:**

Given the popularity and prevalence of voice-based interfaces, designers must take voice into account while creating their designs. People are using voice commands more regularly to communicate with technology as smart assistants like Siri, Alexa, and Google Assistant become more popular. As a result, designers must consider how consumers

will engage with their creations using voice commands and make sure their user interfaces are prepared for such interactions. A growing number of people prefer using voice commands to engage with technology, therefore designers who don't take speech into account run the danger of building interfaces that aren't user-friendly or accessible to them.

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**Thank You.**