



Humans of IT

# Technology by and for everyone, accessibility and inclusivity

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#MSTechCommunityAPACOnline



HELLO WORLD



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# EMPIRE CODE



Image credit: Empire Code



# LET'S TALK ABOUT

## My personal journey:

- Losing my eyesight
- My path to higher education
- How on earth can a blind person code?

## Accessibility

- What is accessibility?
- Why should you care about it?
- What we can do moving forward

SEE FROM MY VIEW

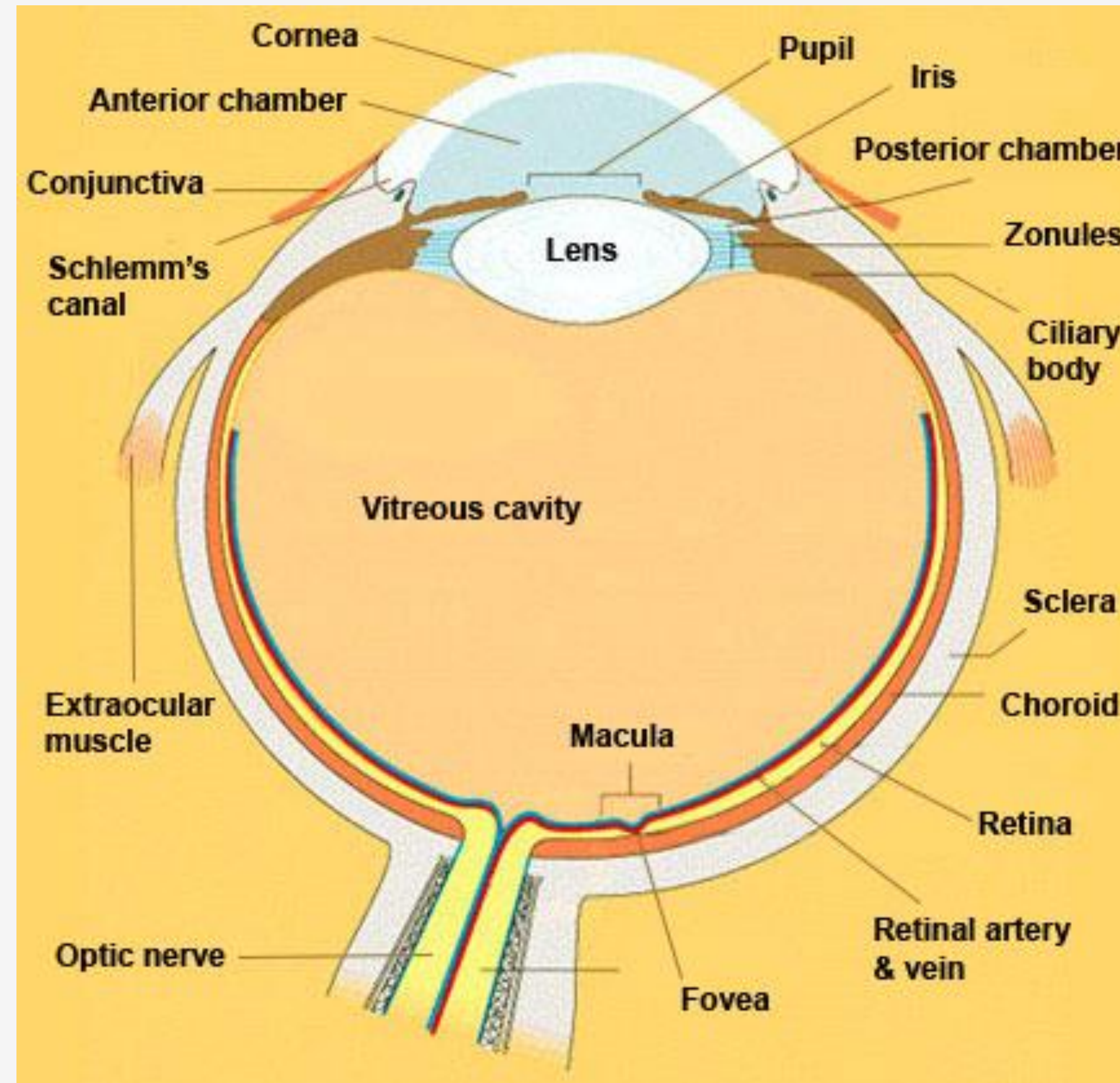


Image credit: The Eyes Have It

## WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE



Image credit: The American Foundation for the Blind



## WHAT I USE EVERYDAY





# LOSING SIGHT OF WHAT'S IMPORTANT

“Accept what you cannot change. Change what you cannot accept.”



Focus on what you can do



## FINDING A PATH



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School of  
**Information  
Systems**

Image credit: Temasek Polytechnic and Singapore Management University

WHY ARE WE HERE?

Understand: first step to establish empathy

Discover: how can we make the world more inclusive

Act: learn about what you can do today



# THE CASE FOR ACCESSIBILITY

Some reasons for inclusive design:

- Equal access and opportunity
- The Internet: a utility for everyone, not a privilege
- Good business and software practice: no need to build it twice
- Legal requirement

# INACCESSIBLE DESIGN

Some examples:

- Sharing poster image to promote event (no text content)
- No sign language interpreter for large-scale events
- Complicated touch gestures on mobile devices



# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Ask yourself if you are a...

- Producer: Who can't use my creation and why?
- Consumer: Is what I'm using unusable to someone else?
- Leader: Who is being excluded and why?
- Team Player: Are my actions creating barriers for inclusion of others?

# WHAT CAN THE BLIND DO?

Learn to help yourself before others can help you



Example: How I learned to code

Step 1: What do I want to accomplish?

Step 2: What does everyone do to achieve it?

Step 3: Try it. Was it possible?

Step 4: What obstacles did I encounter?

Step 5: What can I not live without?

Step 6: Find another way (if need be)



# OUTCOME

This is the process I used:

- To find the right code editors and tools
- To find the most accessible, easy-to-read tutorial sites
- To work with new team mates
- To tackle new courses

## WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

Better understanding of the vision impaired  
When life gives you lemons, you make lemonade  
How accessibility is a two-way process



THANK YOU