“Walk the Walk by Devin Humphrey”

When approaching the development of designs for programs or web applications for special needs individuals, extreme consideration should be taken. There are other special needs categories that need to be handled with a delicate hand that may not be mentioned in the below context. If your end user is physically impaired there are awesome built in features contained within operating systems and programming languages available. Some of the common examples are text to speech, specific language tags, and unique color patterns for the visually impaired.

Let’s say we were designing an application for the hard of hearing, asking specific questions to yourself will help with finding a great concept. For example; What would you like to see if no sound is involved? What visually excites people? What gets your solution the best results? When designing applications, it is key to take these things in consideration so you can reach people that are otherwise left out. This concept applies to other disabilities and life in general. Treat others as you would like to be treated.

When designing for the visually appeared, there is obviously different severities of this impairment. They range all the way from color impairments to blindness and special considerations need to be handled for each specific disability. In otherwords when someone is blind, they have different sensory and self-awareness needs then someone that is color blind. I believe making the app compatible with the text to speech app is a crucial step in designing a solution that will benefit the blind.

When designing applications, size does matter. Let me give you a scenario, if an application was written for a cell phone would it scale up appropriately? Obviously, the answer is “no”, there are a lot of different frameworks used to combat this issue. Some great language examples include Bootstrap, CSS, and Flask. I personally like bootstrap when dealing with web applications. Other consideration that need to be taken into account is the lack of technology in specific geographical regions.

In retrospect, there are numerous factors that should be taken into consideration when designing programs. In order for solutions to capture the ultimate goal you need to keep others needs in mind. There are of course environmental factors that need to be taken into consideration as well, including physical hardware screen size, technology capabilities, and overall accessibility getting your solution in the hands of your targeted audience.