

Assistive Technology Product/Service Information Form

Candidate's Name: Sam Dowd

Company Name and Product Name(s): BrailleNote Apex QT 18 Braille Note Taker

Product/service information web site: http://www.humanware.com/en-usa/products/blindness/brailnotes/details/id_184/brailnote_apex_qt_18_braille_notetaker.html

Product/service address and toll free number (if available): 1 800 722-3393

Product/service format(s) (hardware, software, stand-alone product, etc.): Stand-Alone Product

Product Information Resources: Highlight (or italicize) the resources in the list below you used (at the product/service web site and other resources) to learn about the product/service. (If you're not sure how to highlight on your computer, email your instructor for quick instructions.) Use as many different resources as possible to develop as complete an understanding of the product as possible.

- Print descriptions, brochures, product specification sheets
- Webinar(s)
- Downloaded trial copy and used it
- Participated in a face-to-face demo of the product
- Video tutorial/demo
- Audio tutorial/demo
- Talked/emailed/communicated with a product representative
- Talked/emailed/communicated with a product user
- Other:

Product/Service Description

Use each question below to guide your description of the product. Provide as much information as possible. You are contributing to a collection of AT resource information that you and your peers prepare.

1. "Big picture" description of the product/service (2-3 sentences):
This is a Braille note taker. It allows people with vision impairments to type in Braille as well as listen to audio recordings, or connect to a computer to work as a screenreader.
2. Detailed description of the product/service, its purpose, features, what it can do, areas it addresses, limitations, etc. Provide as much in-depth detail as possible here. Be detailed. Feel free to include a picture, if that will help us understand the product. *Do not* just copy/paste product information from the product web site/materials. Read/study and synthesize. You may use an occasional quotation, if necessary.
This is a highly-functional braille note-taking/screenreader device. It is basically a full computer inside what looks like just a keyboard. The device allows the user to take notes using a standard QWERTY keyboard, but with Braille on the letters. The device has 8

GB of storage on board so the user can store a lot of documents, or even books or articles to have read to them. It can even access news, internet radio, and other internet content.

Perhaps the most impressive thing about this device is its connectivity capabilities. This device can be connected to just about any electronic you can think of and allow a person with vision impairments to use it. For example, using USB ports the BrailleNote Apex can be connected to a flash drive to read and open documents, it can connect to an external hard drive for larger storage needs, or even a printer to print out documents or papers. In addition, the device has Bluetooth capabilities allowing it to connect to wireless listening devices or even the user's smartphone or tablet.

This device can do just about anything that a standard computer can do. And if there's something it can't do itself it can be connected to a Mac or PC and act as a screenreader/keyboard.

3. What prerequisite skills does a person need in order to use the product/service?
A person using this device should be able to read Braille.
4. If the product is used in conjunction with a computer, are Windows and Mac versions available? Are versions for smart phones and other mobile devices available (e.g. Blackberry, iPhone, Android, iPad, other tablets, etc.)? If versions are available for different devices, are they essentially the same?
The device can be used as a standalone device. But it can also be used with either a Mac or PC as well as tablets and smartphones.
5. What qualifications or eligibility criteria, if any, does an individual need to meet in order to obtain the product/service (e.g. disability, age/grade level)? What documentation is required if there are eligibility criteria?
None.
6. What does the product/service cost? Include information about different options' costs, if available.
The product is \$3,895.
7. Other important information:

Reflection: Your thoughts, comments and lingering questions about this product/service:
I will admit that I spent several minutes staring at the product and several more doing some intense research to find out how it worked without any screen attached. Then I realized that people with vision impairments don't need a screen. That's what makes this device truly amazing to me. The fact that it enables someone with low/no vision to check email, take notes in school, browse the web, etc. is phenomenal. I thought at first that the price was a bit absurd, but after finding out just how much it can do, it is an invaluable technology for someone with a vision impairment.