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1 - Devices

This section describes the basic types of devices.

Desktop and Laptop computers

A computer can be used to read emails, write documents, and keep track of information. Most people use their computers to surf the internet and interact with web services like buying things online, banking, posting pictures, etc...

CCTV

A basic CCTV is nothing more than a monitor and a camera with a simple set of controls. Most computers could be turned into a CCTV by attaching a camera to the computer.

Navigation

A navigation system helps you get around and usually uses GPS. There are only a few standalone systems like the Trekker Breeze that are accessible to the blind.

Portable Video Magnifier

A portable video magnifier is a mini CCTV that you can take with you.

OCR Book Scanners

OCR stands for optical character recognition and OCRs are used to load printed materials like books or newspapers into a computer or standalone device. The computer or device can then read the text from the document to you in a digital voice.

Player Recorders

A player and/or recorder can play back recorded materials. Some standalone devices like the Victor Reader Stream can even download books directly from the web through WiFi.

Smart Phones

An ordinary phone can answer a call, but most smart phones can do everything that was just described.

Accessible Home Phone

CTAP provides home phones that are accessible.

2 - Searching

Searching the web for information requires one thing only. That one thing is patience, lots of patience.

Some useful keywords for searching are

- 1) Accessibility
- 2) Hotkey
- 3) Tutorial

Some useful hotkeys for searching the internet:

Alt + Home Key to instantly return to your home page.

Cntl + T to open a new tab.

Cntl + W to close the current tab

Cntl + Tab Key to switch between tabs.

Shift + F10 to open a links option menu.

Note pressing Alt + F4 will close the current internet window, but you might accidentally close an application. Pressing Cntl + W will only close internet tabs or windows and will not close most applications.

3 - Zooming

Describe hotkeys for Windows

Alt + Spacebar, then X to maximize a window.

Cntl + Mouse Scroll Wheel Up and Down will zoom in and out.

Zoom commands for Windows Computer:

Press Windows Key + Plus Key will launch MAGNIFIER.

Press Windows Key + Minus Key will zoom out.

Press Windows Key + Plus Key will zoom in.

Press Alt + Cntl + I Key will invert colors.

Press Windows Key + Esc Key will exit magnifier.

Note if you launch magnifier using the hotkeys then you will need to zoom out before you can zoom in.

Zoom commands for iMac computer:

Command + Option + 8 will turn zoom on or off.

Command + Option + Plus Key zoom in.

Command + Option + Minus Key will zoom out.

Command + Option + Control + 8 will turn the Invert colors setting on or off.

Command-Option + Control + Comma Key will reduce contrast.

Command-Option + Control + Period Key will increase contrast.

4 - OCR

Most printers these days have a built in scanner with an OCR mode. There are also standalone flatbed scanners with OCR modes.

The next type of OCR scanner is a tower like a Hover Cam that sits on top of your desk connected to your computer.

There are also standalone tower devices that are designed to do OCR and read the results out loud.

Most Smart Phones can perform this same task.

Do a demo of using KNFB Reader on an iPhone 6.

5 - Voice Command

In the original Star Trek the crew was always talking to their ships computer. That SciFi dream is now a reality.

There is software like Dragon Naturally Speaking for most computers, but it is a little hard to use.

Most smart phones have voice command like Siri or Okay Google.

Now lots of TV devices have added a Voice Command search option.

Do a little demo of Siri on an iPhone 6.

Schedule an event

Set the timer

Turn VoiceOver off and on.

Turn Invert colors on and off.

6 - TV Navigation

Talk about X1's Voice Guidance.

Demo Apple TV Voice Over.

Talk about using a computer and Rabbit TV

7 - Video Described

Video Description is when someone has recorded a description of what the actors are doing so someone who is blind can understand what is happening.

To Turn Video Description on set the Audio SAP setting to Spanish or Espanyol.

Finding shows that have Video Description is not easy.

You could just keep trying until you find a show, or use the American Foundation for the Blind web page.

The AFB web page is

www.afb.net

The described listings link is

www.afb.net/tv.aspx

8 - Video Streaming

Netflix

Hulu

Roku

Rabit TV

Blindy TV

Blind Mice Mart – Described Video Vault

9 - Phone Numbers and Links

**The phone number for Comcast Accessibility is
1-855-220-0379.**

The link to the Comcast Accessibility page is

<http://www.comcast.com/accessibility>

**The videos on the Comcast web site do a good job of describing how to setup
and use Comcast's new X1 cable box accessibility features.**

**The phone number for the Braille & Talking Book Library is
800-952-5666**

The link for the National Library Service for the Blind NLS is

<http://www.loc.gov/nls/>

**The phone number for Apple Accessibility Support is
1-877-204-3930**

The link to Apple Accessibility web page is

<http://www.applevis.com/>

Accessible home phones are available for free from CTAP.

CTAP - California Telephone Access Program

1-800-806-1191

The link to the CTAP page is

www.californiaphones.org

**Note that there is a CTAP office in San Jose and San Francisco and both are open
2 days a month.**

The link to the Described TV listings is

<http://www.afb.org/tv.aspx>

Note: to turn on the described audio, set the audio SAP to SPANISH.

Note: the listing provided are on East coast time, so remember to subtract 3 hours to get the right time of a show. To watch a show at 8pm look for the listed shows at 11pm.

Free Video Described TV shows can be found at Blindy TV.

The link to Blindy TV is

<http://www.blindy.tv/>

Free Video Described TV shows can be found at Blind Mice Mart.

The Blind Mice Mart Phone Number is

713 893-7277

The link to Blind Mice Mart is

www.blindmicemart.com

Note you will need to create an account and log in to access the Blind Mice Movie Vault.