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(Image of a Texas Longhorn Bull grazing in a pasture filled with Bluebonnets)

Spring 2016

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Quote: Turn your disability around. Change your mindset. "I'm not handicapped, I am handicapable" by Manuel Diotte

Welcome to TTAP (Texas Technology Access Program) and our Newsletter! This spring we have some new things blooming and are happy to share with you things that may interest you and or, benefit you. We thank you for your support in our services. If you have some ideas or suggestions that you'd like to see us publish please feel free to let us know and email: Olivia Rains [orains@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:orains@austin.utexas.edu)

(Image of arms out holding an opened newspaper and on top of the image reads: "Latest News From the Device Loan Program")

We have new technology in our loan program!

Hook+ Switch

Hook+ is an Apple MFi approved switch interface that provides a reliable wired connection to the iPad, iPhone, or iPod touch via the Lightning connector. To get started, simply connect one to four switches to Hook+, turn Switch Control on, and connect Hook+ to your iDevice.

(Image of the Hook Plus device front face of the device and the image next to it is of the device back)

Hook+ utilizes the Apple auto switch configurator and the first time Hook+ is used with an iDevice it will automatically configure the iDevice to use single switch auto scanning or dual switch step scanning based on how many switches are connected to Hook+. Once initially configured, switches can be manually re-configured to meet the needs of the user. The Apple auto switch configurator is only available on Apple MFi approved switch interfaces.

Once Hook+ is connected and Switch Control is configured, you can do almost anything on an iDevice with a switch. Read an eBook, write an email, browse the internet, play games, control your home, and much more!

NOTE: Hook+ is not compatible with apps that use keystrokes for switch clicks. Hook+ uses Apple's proprietary HID Assistive Switch Control protocol for switch clicks and is compatible with Switch Control found in iOS 7 or later. To access Switch Control, go to the Settings App > General > Accessibility > Switch Control.

(Product information provided by AbleNet Inc, for more details go to:

<https://www.ablenetinc.com/hook-switch-interface> )

The Hook+ is available for loan with us, to request it you can go to:

<http://tatp.edb.utexas.edu/search.php?q=Hook>

Movement Sensor Switch (Model 655)

The Movement Sensor Switch, model 655, is a motion detection switch designed for use by individuals with upper extremity and other physical disabilities. This switch operates in momentary, latched, or timer mode and activates the attached toy or appliance with the slightest movement in front of the sensor.

(Smaller image in left corner shows a part of a hand in front of the switch device's sensor for movement detection and a larger singular image of the switch is seen zoomed in)

Adjustable sensor switch encourages even the most hyperactive person to move. Slightest movement in front of the sensor provides momentary, latched or timed output (1-120 seconds).

To borrow this device from our loan program, go to: <http://tatp.edb.utexas.edu/products.php?scid=31>

(Image of many colors of colored pencils in a tight tiered grouping to form a peak, and next to the image reads: "Art-Lime-Light")

I Want To Be A...

Do you have the goal of working in a specific field in the arts? Maybe you want to be an actor, a screenwriter, a sculptor, or a recording engineer. VSA Texas has created one page information sheets for several art careers in PDF format. Read more about how to get started in your chosen field with quick tips and local, state, and national resources. (VSA Texas is an expert resource on inclusive arts. We create and maintain an accessible and open community where everyone can participate. Our goal is to provide support and training to the public, enhance personal growth, and offer Texans access to the creative work of people with diverse abilities.)

And link to view this: <http://www.vsatx.org/artistsResources.html>

(Image is of the word InfoSPHERE with parts of the world globe print over the word Sphere.)

InfoSphere:

It Takes Both Section 508 and Universal Design

Technology is rapidly changing the nature of research. Fortunately, we have federal legislation and goodwill to help make sure that all computer technology is available to all. Of course, I am referring to [Section 508 standards](#). Section 508 is the civil rights directive diminishing any level of digital divide to access to electronic, computer, Internet technology for people with disabilities. Therefore, [Section 508](#) is obviously the federal initiative of which I speak.

It is important to understand how any vendor integrates accessibility features into their product. You should always read the company's or vendor accessibility statement. An accessibility statement should state the organization's commitment to web accessibility. A forward thinking company will also include examples of their dedication providing friendly web content and the importance of their continued efforts in this endeavor. They should highlight how elements of their site have been created to optimize user experience for all visitors. A generic accessibility statement may include information about the company's or vendor's web accessibility initiative, practiced standards, and any notable exceptions. A company or vendor can create their own accessibility statement at <http://www.accessibilitystatementgenerator.com>.

Read the company's or vendor's Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) before you make a purchase. (VPAT) is a document which evaluates how accessible a particular product is according to the Section 508 Standards. It is a self-disclosing document produced by the vendor which details each aspect of the Section 508 requirements and how the product supports each criteria." (13). Thus the VPAT is important because it records the company's or vendor's level of compliance to Section 508.

Expect companies and vendors to go the next level and embrace the principles of Universal Design. Universal Design is the goodwill that exists to ensure that all of society keeps pace with [Section 508](#) standards and to educate everyone about how technological changes and accommodations for some benefits all. IBM has surprised many with their hiring of a Chief Accessibility Officer and its innovative products and services that embrace the principles of universal design. The next time you purchase information technology please assess that product for elements of Section 508 and Universal Design.

Below is a table of some databases available in libraries worldwide. I have reviewed them all for elements of Section 508 and Universal Design. The caveat is this is all subjective material. However, I am not trying to convince anyone. I am only encouraging an approach to consumerism of information technology that I am certain is not readily practiced. The links in the table are to vendor accessibility statements.

Last, please demand elements of universal design in modern technologies and especially content management systems of any kind!! Our society's sense of discovery should not hinge on exclusivity!

Source 1: Accessibility of Online Resources in Academic Libraries (Handout by Axel Schmetzke)

Source 2: <http://library.uwsp.edu/aschmetz/accessible/websurveys.htm>

Source 3: <http://www.nclive.org/about/terms-of-use>

Source 4: <http://www.dars.state.tx.us/accessibility/training.asp>

Source 5: [http://www.dars.state.tx.us/accessibility/procedures\\_h tm/ch12.htm](http://www.dars.state.tx.us/accessibility/procedures_h tm/ch12.htm)

Source 6:

[http://ascla.ala.org/toolkit/index.php?title=Accessibility\\_to\\_Library\\_Databases\\_and\\_Other\\_Online\\_Library\\_Resources\\_for\\_People\\_with\\_Disabilities](http://ascla.ala.org/toolkit/index.php?title=Accessibility_to_Library_Databases_and_Other_Online_Library_Resources_for_People_with_Disabilities)

Source 7: <https://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/web/accessibility/Sec508Check.pdf>

Source 8: [http://fast.dcccd.edu/pdf/ADA-508\\_AccessibilityCheckList.pdf](http://fast.dcccd.edu/pdf/ADA-508_AccessibilityCheckList.pdf)

Source 9: <http://www.sitepoint.com/section-508-web-accessibility/>

Source 10: <http://www.nomensa.com/blog/2009/writing-an-accessibility-statement>

Source 11: <http://www.hassellinclusion.com/2012/05/write-accessibility-statement/>

Source 12: <http://www.accessibilitystatementgenerator.com/>

Source 13: <https://accessibility.oit.ncsu.edu/training/accessibility-handbook/vpat.html>

Source 14: <http://researchguides.austincc.edu/edbs508checklist>

Melinda Townsel is the Accessibility Facilitator for Austin Community College's Library Services. She serves on ACC's College Accessibility Committee (CAC) and is the Project Coordinator for ACC's Project Enable program.

Spotlight on TTAP Demonstration Centers:

(Image of REACH logo in blue letters and a yellow spot light lamp pointed towards the REACH logo)

Reach of Dallas offers the following services:

Information and Referral, Peer Counseling/Peer Support, Independent Living Skills Training on various topics including basic computer skills and budgeting & money management, Advocacy Assistance and Training , Home By Choice - Nursing Home to Community Living Relocation Assistance, Youth Outreach and Transition Assistance, Group Adjustment to Disability Training Sessions, Training on and Technical Assistance in complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Advice and Training on the removal of architectural and attitudinal barriers that people with disabilities encounter, Community Education on disability-related topics, Social/Recreational Activities, Advocacy Group Meetings, Assistive Equipment/Technology Loan - manual wheelchairs, Free Durable Medical Equipment when available - canes, walkers, crutches, shower chairs, and bedside commodes, Employment Assistance - dressing for success, resume writing assistance, job search skills training, job placement assistance & free business clothing (as available), Information on accessible, affordable and safe housing options, DART Reduced Fare Pass authorization letters (form 1000) for people with disabilities who meet DART's requirements. Get Fit Texas—exercise and nutrition training with a one on one personal trainers. For more details, visit their website at: <http://www.reachcils.org/reach-dallas-0>

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 12PM – 3PM Assistive Technology Demonstration Open House & Reception

Join the center and see all the assistive technology that may benefit you, or someone you know! Devices for all disabilities ranging from low-tech to high-tech, all there in the center for your convenience. Stop in and meet the staff!

To make an appointment to visit them, please contact them at:

8625 King George, Suite 210  
Dallas, TX 75235-2286  
Voice: (214) 630-4796  
TTY: (214) 630-5995

Email: [reachdallas@reachcils.org](mailto:reachdallas@reachcils.org)

What's coming up? :

Texas Assistive Technology Network Statewide Conference  
2016

(Image of Conference flyer reads: Celebrating 20 Years, 1996-2016. June 14 – 15, Houston, Tx)

The Texas Assistive Technology Regional Conference is sponsored by the Texas Assistive Technology Network (TATN) and the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Assistive Technology enables students with disabilities to access the curriculum, increase independence, and participate actively in education and life activities. Presentations from national, regional and local AT practitioners are featured as well as an exhibit hall.

Registration is open! The Early-bird registration is good until April 1, 2016 TTAP will be there and we hope to see you there, too! For more information, go to [www.texasat.net](http://www.texasat.net) or [www.texasatconference.net](http://www.texasatconference.net).

(Image of looking down at the top of a desk, from left to right is a black notebook with a writing pin on top, a laptop with hands typing, a cup of black coffee and an iPhone below that. Above the image reads: Feedback")

Feedback from our Loan Program users:

"Great beneficial service, response time great!"

"Your service and response time in answering our questions was excellent. We appreciate this service."

"This was the 1<sup>st</sup> attempt at AAC with my 3 year old non-verbal son who is also impacted by global development delay. He began using the device for 2 options within 3 hours of introduction."

"Thank you for letting him see that having a Disability is not the end of life."

“(Client) had her lesson yesterday after Day-Hab and the counselor said she would do well with an iPad so again THANK you for giving us the opportunity to try one out first.”

“Thank you so much. I cannot tell how big of a help this is!!!!

(Image of a little girl 5 years old, with dark hair pulled up in pink hair tie, sitting in an assistive chair with a black and white striped long sleeved shirt on and pink stretch pants. Above the picture in bold black letters reads: THANK YOU. Below image in bold black letters reads: PROJECT MEND!)

Project MEND, Inc. is a non-profit medical equipment re-utilization program operating in San Antonio, Texas. Project MEND provides refurbished equipment through long-term loans to many low-income persons with disabilities who can demonstrate financial need. The loan period is set for a period as long as the individual continues to need the equipment.

Items normally available include regular and quad canes, Hoyer lifts, regular and rolling walkers, shower chairs, trapeze bars, forearm crutches, scooters, transfer boards, bedside commodes, electric hospital beds, elevated toilet seats, and manual and electric wheelchairs. All items are evaluated, sanitized, refurbished, and repaired before being loaned and re-utilized.

## **Project Mend Success Story**

Lariah is 5 years old. She lives with disabilities that are the result of a Mitochondrial Disorder. Skeletal muscles are the primary target of Lariah’s mitochondrial dysfunction. Lariah has no head or torso control, and has weakness throughout her body. She requires maximum assistance to maintain a static sitting position. Project MEND provided an assistive device called a Tomato Chair, for Lariah. The Tomato Chair provides her with the extreme level of support that she needs.

Lariah’s mom says that if not for Project MEND she would not be able to afford a piece of medical equipment such as this. Though she has insurance, and her Doctor wrote an order for the equipment, certain pieces are not covered by her insurance. Project MEND was able to fill the gap. She is grateful for Project MEND, and we are thankful for the opportunity to help Lariah and her Mom come up with a solution that leads to mobility and independence.

Just for Laughs:

Image of the ground of dried, short grass, the bottom half legs of a horse with vintage women’s red bowling shoes with yellow shoe laces. On top of the image reads:

Q: What do computers eat for a snack?

A: Microchips!

TTAP values your input.

If you have any suggestions, comments, or article you would like to have included in our newsletter, please contact us:

(512) 232-0751/[rogerlevy@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:rogerlevy@austin.utexas.edu)

(512) [232-0750/dwest@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:232-0750/dwest@austin.utexas.edu)

(512) [232-0753/orains@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:232-0753/orains@austin.utexas.edu)

#### TTAP Demonstration Centers

REACH of Dallas

Brazoria County Center for Independent Living, Angleton

Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living, Bryan

Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living, Corpus Christi

Disability in Action, Abilene

East Texas Center for Independent Living, Tyler

Easter Seals of Greater Houston

Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, Austin

Goodwill Industries of Fort Worth

Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center, Belton

Helping Hands, Amarillo

Houston Center for Independent Living, Houston

Paso Del Norte Children's Development Center, El Paso

REACH Center for Independent Living, Plano

RISE Center for Independent Living, Beaumont

VAIL – Valley Association for Independent Living, McAllen

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