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Android Apps with AT Components

Dallas Webster – March 30, 2013

This list started out to recommend apps to a specific well-educated 60-ish friend/client whose motor and mental abilities were gradually declining due to MS. But as I sanitized it, I added apps with broader applicability. I've omitted many apps for people with visual impairments that would be more broadly useful, because I have covered them in a separate compendium. It includes lots of apps that were not intentionally designed nor officially qualify as AT, but which are still noticeably helpful to people with disabilities. In most cases, there are numerous other apps, similar to the ones I list. I picked ones that were best or widely reviewed (Caveat: *At the time* – The terrain changes rapidly.), that I was most familiar with, or which seemed especially accessible.

Note that, likely as part of the Open aspect of Android and its community, apps on Android are typically free or less expensive than similar ones on iOS. But, currently, they are also less secure and slower to market than iOS apps, and less likely to work on some Android devices.

User Interface: *Big Launcher, BL Monochrome Lite Theme* – Makes buttons larger, with more contrast etc.

Speech recognition: *Assistant, Skyvi and EVA Intern (Siri-like), Voice Search, Google's built-in (semi-ubiquitous (oxymoron)) engine, Google Translate* (translates between nearly 70 languages)

Voice Dialing: *Choice Dialer* – offline dialing (a lot of STT apps require Internet)

Text to speech: *Clip Reader*.

Screen readers (a la VoiceOver): *Mobile Accessibility* and *AT&T Mobile Accessibility* (Less general - includes own apps, e.g., calendar and browser); *TalkBack*.

Symbolic Communication (a la Speaking Dynamically Pro, Boardmaker Plus): *AAC Talking Tabs, Able AAC Free, iPrompt, iToucan Talk, Sono Flex Lite*

Special keyboards: *Swype, TouchPal* – type by dragging finger between keys, with great word prediction. *Hacker's Keyboard* – rich function, customizable keyboard

Specialized browsers: *Dolphin Browser* (voice and gesture driven, with custom gestures)

Recorders: *Voice Recorder* (video recording); Built-in and aftermarket camera and digicams

Medical apps - iTriage, Epocrates (symptoms, diagnoses etc.) *Instant Heart Rate; Colorblindness, Test Your Hearing*

Daily living/Quality of life apps: *TV Listings, TV Guide* (Browse/filter offerings, select and set reminders); *Tune-In Radio* - Internet radio app; *Google Earth* and *Sky* (well-known) – Virtual navigation apps; *Google Maps* – Real navigation apps.

Productivity tools and utilities (not AT, but need to know they are available, some of which are more accessible under various circumstances): Address Books, Notepads, Calculators,

Calendars, Flashlights, Compasses, Watches/Clocks, Levels, Converters

Environment recognition: *Goggles* (Picture identification); *ShopSavvy*, *QR Droid* (product info, saving time, travel and money); *Color ID* (Color identification); *Shazam*, *SoundHound* (Music identification)

Safety, Monitoring apps: *Life 360*, *Panic Button*, *Attack Panic Button Alert*. These keep you in touch with others, by tracking people with GPS, noticing suspicious things in your environment and alerting you, your contacts or emergency services by phone, email, texting etc.)

Device finding/tracking apps: not just for theft, but for lost devices, helping with memory, vision, carelessness etc. antivirus and security program, which also finds (alarms, disables) your tablet if it is lost or stolen.

IP cameras: *IP Cam Viewer*, *IP Webcam*, *tinyCam Monitor* – User, family, friends can remotely see what tablet camera sees. They can monitor or user. External IP camera lets client “get out in the world”. Also provides security.

Video phone: *Skype*. (Easy dialing, virtual connections to others)

Book/article readers: *Nook*, *NY Times*, *Kindle* (Page turning, searching, magnification, TTS)

Educational apps: *Kids Preschool* (Kids' apps that can be useful at wide learning levels); *Memory Trainer* (Mind improvement)

Simple mind-challenging games: Challenge the mind but not vision, learning delays, motor skills, etc. All have instances with large, discrete game elements – *MatchUp*, *Memory Game for Kids*, (Match games); *YoPuzzle* (Puzzles); *Solitaire* (by *MobilityWare*), *Hearts Free* (Card games); *Mathdoku* (Ken Ken), *Sudoku Free* (Sudoku).