DakotaLink

Winter News 2024

Technology Solutions for Life's Limitations

Greetings!

Happy New Year, 2024! We hope you had a safe and healthy holiday season. We were lucky enough to have Ted Carrell back in Sioux Falls as our Low Vision Specialist, but he determined that retirement really IS for him, and he will be leaving DakotaLink mid-January. We appreciate everything he has done for us and the people of South Dakota and congratulate him on his retirement. The Low Vision Specialist position is in Sioux Falls and here is the posting for the position with a link to the application: https://www.kelolandemployment.com/vj/low-vision-technology-specialist/255234

Federal Update

Passage of the 21st Century Assistive Technology (AT) Act in December 2022 by the U.S. Congress was an important step forward for AT Act Programs given the last AT Act reauthorization occurred in 2004. Through the modernization of this law, prioritization for increased collaborations/partnerships was noted as a goal for AT Act Programs. Specifically, AT Act Programs are to provide a continuum of services that increase the access to, and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) in the

environments of Education, Employment, Community Living, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Accessibility.

DakotaLink Advisory Council

Richard Moeller – Chair, Kendra Gottsleben – Vice Chair, Eric Weiss – Member at Large

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday March 12th, 2024, at 2:00 pm Central.

We are planning to do our "in-person" meeting in Fort Pierre in June of 2024. We are looking forward to that.

If you or anyone you know would like to be a part of the DakotaLink Advisory Council, I have provided a link to the application:

https://www.dakotalink.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/DakotaLink-Advisory-Council-Application.pdf

The agenda and notes are also posted on our website at: https://www.dakotalink.net/# "Advisory Council Activities."

New Technology

Seeing AI is now available on Android and our technician out of Brookings (James Honomichl) tested it out and provided the following:

All channels worked similar to the iOS version.

Handwriting seemed pretty good, at least based on the attached sample. It identified:

"Free app"

"Static HW"

"com" (from the printed text on the business card)

"software"

"polites" (should have been "updates")

I noted a couple of features in Document Mode and Scene Mode that I don't recall from the iOS version, but that may just mean I need to update my iOS devices.

Document mode:

1 – ability to add more pages to the scan. You can rescan a page, delete a page, delete all pages. There was a button to share as text or images, but I did not see an option to save your scanned pages.

2 – in addition to play/pause/stop, there are forward/back navigation buttons. These seemed to navigate between what was perceived as headers on the page.

Scene mode:

1 – "more info" option. For example, taking a pic of my desk it says, "a desk with papers and a printer." Tap More Info, and I get:

"The image shows a desk cluttered with various items. There are several pieces of paper scattered across the table, some of which are on top of each other. One of these papers has the text "200153549" written on it. There is also a yellow paper with a black device on it, and the words …"

It goes on for a few more paragraphs.

2 – Explore Photo – tap this and it processes the image. In my case, it stated that there are 12 recognized objects. Drag your finger around and it describes certain items, not always with a lot of detail. Items such as "a letter," "a device," "a black rectangular object with a white face on it" (that is my laptop power adapter, with the glare from the overhead light making the "white face").

Earbud Technology

A Canadian company with a B.C. connection has just made a prestigious list. Its patented earbud technology gives users the ability to control virtually any electronic device without touching anything. No mouse, no keyboard, no screen necessary. Here is a link with a video that demonstrates how it works: https://globalnews.ca/news/10046868/time-magazine-greatest-inventions-2023-naqi-logix/

ICT News

Translate Web Content Automatically with Tools

Navigating to a new website only to see that it is not written in your language can be frustrating. Websites like The AT3 Center have language translation features, letting the reader choose the language they would like

to see the website in. However, not every site has this feature. Luckily, many modern tools can help! Two options are Google Translate and DeepL Translate.

Google Translate

Let's start with Google Chrome. If you happen to use Google Chrome, you may have already seen Google attempting to automatically translate a website if you encounter one in a different language. This feature is built into the browser. Google Translate is also a standalone website that can help you translate any website, document, image, or text on any browser. This means you can use it on any browser. To use it, navigate to translate.google.com, choose the type of content you would like to translate, and choose the languages you would like to translate to and from. Hit the "Next" button, and you will have translated content!

Google Translate: https://translate.google.com/?hl=en&tab=TT&sl=auto&tl=en&op=websites

DeepL Translate: https://www.deepl.com/translator

Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS)

Emergency Response System Alternatives:

You might already have one!

Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) have been in common use for many years in several forms and let you call for help in an emergency by pushing a button. These often require a monthly or yearly subscription. While these are an excellent choice for those who need such a device, many people own a smartphone, and these often have a feature built in that can fulfil the need for a PERS without additional equipment or expense.

iPhone Users

Make the call on8 or later:

Press and hold the side button and one of the volume buttons until the Emergency SOS slider appears.

Drag the Emergency Call slider to call emergency services. If you continue to hold down the side button and volume button, instead of dragging the slider, a countdown begins and an alert sounds. If you release the buttons after the countdown, your iPhone automatically calls emergency services.

Make the call on iPhone 7 or earlier:

Rapidly press the side (or top) button five times. The Emergency Call slider will appear.

Drag the Emergency SOS slider to call emergency services.

"Hey Siri, call 911" can also be used if enabled.

On iPhone 14 or later (all models), you can even Emergency SOS via satellite to text emergency services no cellular and Wi-Fi coverage is available.

Android Users

Many of these features are only available on devices that run Android 12 and up. Older devices may not have this feature. Use Personal Safety app to save emergency info prior to use!

On Android 12 and earlier, if the Personal Safety app is not installed on your phone: can sign in with your Google Account, add emergency contacts, and list medical information.

Android devices have some variations based on manufacturer and this process should be confirmed to be functional before it is actually needed!

If you are in an emergency situation, you can use your phone to start emergency actions like calling for help, sharing your location with your emergency contacts, and recording video.

On your phone, press the power button 5 times or more.

Depending on your settings, touch and hold inside the red circle for 3 seconds or wait for the automatic countdown to start the emergency call.

After you start an emergency call, other emergency actions begin based on your settings.

This information is provided by Apple, Inc. and Google, Inc. and published by DakotaLink. For more information, please contact:

1-800-645-0673 - atinfo@dakotalink.net

Outreach

DakotaLink worked with the TIE office to create a promotional video that we have posted on social media. Here is a link to the short version: https://www.facebook.com/reel/1090656748742953 We have a longer version in the works, so be on the lookout for that.

We are also doing some banner ads on Midco.

Social Networking

We continue our efforts in social networking getting a great deal of traffic on Facebook and share posts with ATAP, AT3, ILC, DHS, and DSS. More resource information on our website: https://www.dakotalink.net/at-partners/

Low-Interest Loans

We also want to remind everyone of our low-interest loan program. The loans are designed to fit your budget and we will work with you to create affordable payback payments. We will also help you fill out the application if you have any concerns with that process. The application is on our website, but here is the direct link:

https://www.dakotalink.net/dakotalink-at-fund/

DakotaLink strives to maintain its professionalism by earning a RESNA ATP certification. (ATP – Assistive Technology Professional). We currently have 5 staff with their ATP certification and will continue to help the newer employees gain that status. To maintain these credentials, we must complete a specific amount of CEU's (Continuing Education Credits) on a biennial basis. We have been doing that mostly through webinars that ATAP provides through an agreement with ATIA.

Remember, we are on Facebook! So, be sure to "like" us to see what we are up to daily:

https://www.facebook.com/DakotaLinkAT/

Be safe and healthy!

Best,

Page K Hudson

DakotaLink

Program Manager

phudson@dakotalink.net

605-977-1779

DakotaLink

1161 Deadwood Ave, Suite #5

Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

Phone: 605-394-6742

Toll Free: 1-800-645-0673

Fax: 605-394-6744

Email: atinfo@dakotalink.net

Web: www.dakotalink.net

DakotaLink is the South Dakota Assistive Technology Program

Our mission is to assist individuals with functional limitations; due to a disability, illness, injury, or the effects of aging; maximize their potential whether at home or in the community, at school, at work, or at play through the use of Assistive Technology.

An assistive technology device is any equipment or tool that helps individuals overcome limitations in daily activities.

Assistive technology services assist individuals to acquire, use, modify or maintain an assistive technology device.