



# **Assistive Technology Solutions for Reading**

**Carolyn Phillips & Rachel Wilson, Tools for Life**

**With contributions from Martha Rust, Liz Persaud, Ben Jacobs & Ben Satterfield**

[www.gatfl.org](http://www.gatfl.org)

*For Handouts: <http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki>*

**EASI Webinar  
Series 2015**

[www.amacusg.org](http://www.amacusg.org)



# Description

Technology can help all students achieve academic success! This webinar is focused on assistive technology solutions for reading. Presenters will share some of the basic difficulties individuals with learning disabilities encounter when they are reading and then provide examples of how low, mid and high assistive tech devices are creating solutions. Discussion will focus on specific environments and how these devices are assisting people living with various learning disabilities in college. Strategies, solutions and resources that provide supports will be discussed.

For Handouts: <http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki>



# AMAC

AMAC Accessibility is a social change organization on a mission to create affordable services for governmental, private and non-profits organization working with individuals with disabilities. Services include e-text, braille, captioning, assistive technology, office management software and consulting.





# Accessibility Made Smart

AMAC creates practical solutions that work, with a focus on utility, ease of use, and high quality.

- **Accessibility Consulting** focuses on organizational accessibility needs with evaluation, technical assistance, customer support, and website accessibility solutions.
- **Braille Services** produces customized projects from both print materials and electronic text including partial books and chapters or graphics only using cutting-edge technology.
- **Captioning Services** makes classrooms, meetings, labs and other audio environments fully accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- **Professional E-Text Producers** provide high-quality e-text in many formats such as PDF, DOC, DAISY, and HTML.
- **Certified Assistive Technology team** provides on-site and remote assessments, demonstrations, training and technical assistance for education, work, and daily living environments.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.amacusg.org](http://www.amacusg.org)

# Tools for Life Mission

We're here to help Georgians with disabilities gain access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in the communities of their choice.





# Which One???



# LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OPTIONS & CONSIDER ACCESSIBILITY



# Samsung Galaxy Tab 3



- Android System
- 7, 8, or 10 in screen
- Camera
- Micro card
- Wi-Fi
- USB for computer
- Some built-in accessibility app
  - Download others
- Starts at \$199.99



# Kindle Fire HD/HDX

- eBook Reader and mobile tablet
- Front facing camera
- Access to Amazon apps
- Free cloud storage for Amazon purchases
- Purchase Apps
- 7inch or 8.9 inch screen
- 'Mayday' button HDX
- Starts at \$139- HD
- \$199- HDX



# Kindle Fire HD/HDX

- Download Books and Movies
- Access to Amazon
- Front Facing Camera
  - Skype
- Can Read Books out loud
  - If book has this feature enabled
  - Check on product details page
  - Whispersync for Voice
  - Immersion Reading
- Mayday Button
- Can Change:
  - Font
  - Line Spacing
  - Text Size
  - Background color



# Layout of the Kindle Fire HD

- External Speakers

- Power Button

- Charger

- Headphone Jack



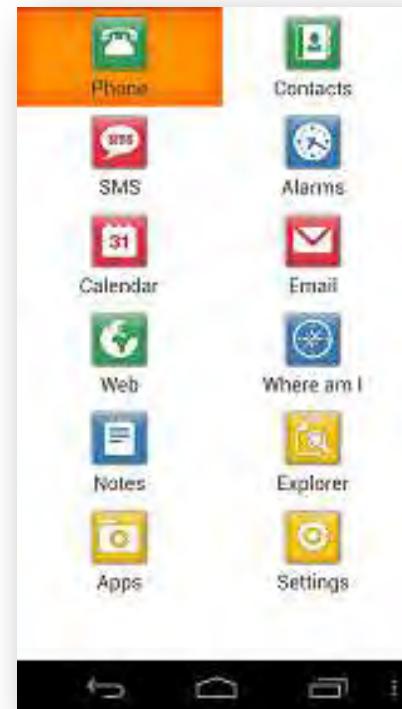
# Android Tablets

- Accessibility features are not built in
  - Talkback, Kickback, and Soundback
  - Gesture Feature in Jellybean
  - Eyes - free keyboard
  - IDEAL Web Reader for internet
  - No zoom or contrast right now
- What operation system is tablet running
  - Jellybean, Ice cream sandwich, Honeycomb, Gingerbread
- Google Play Store to buy apps
  - Must have Gmail address
  - Can use Amazon gift cards
- Not the best to use with someone who has low vision and/or blind or cognitive disabilities



# Accessible Android Apps

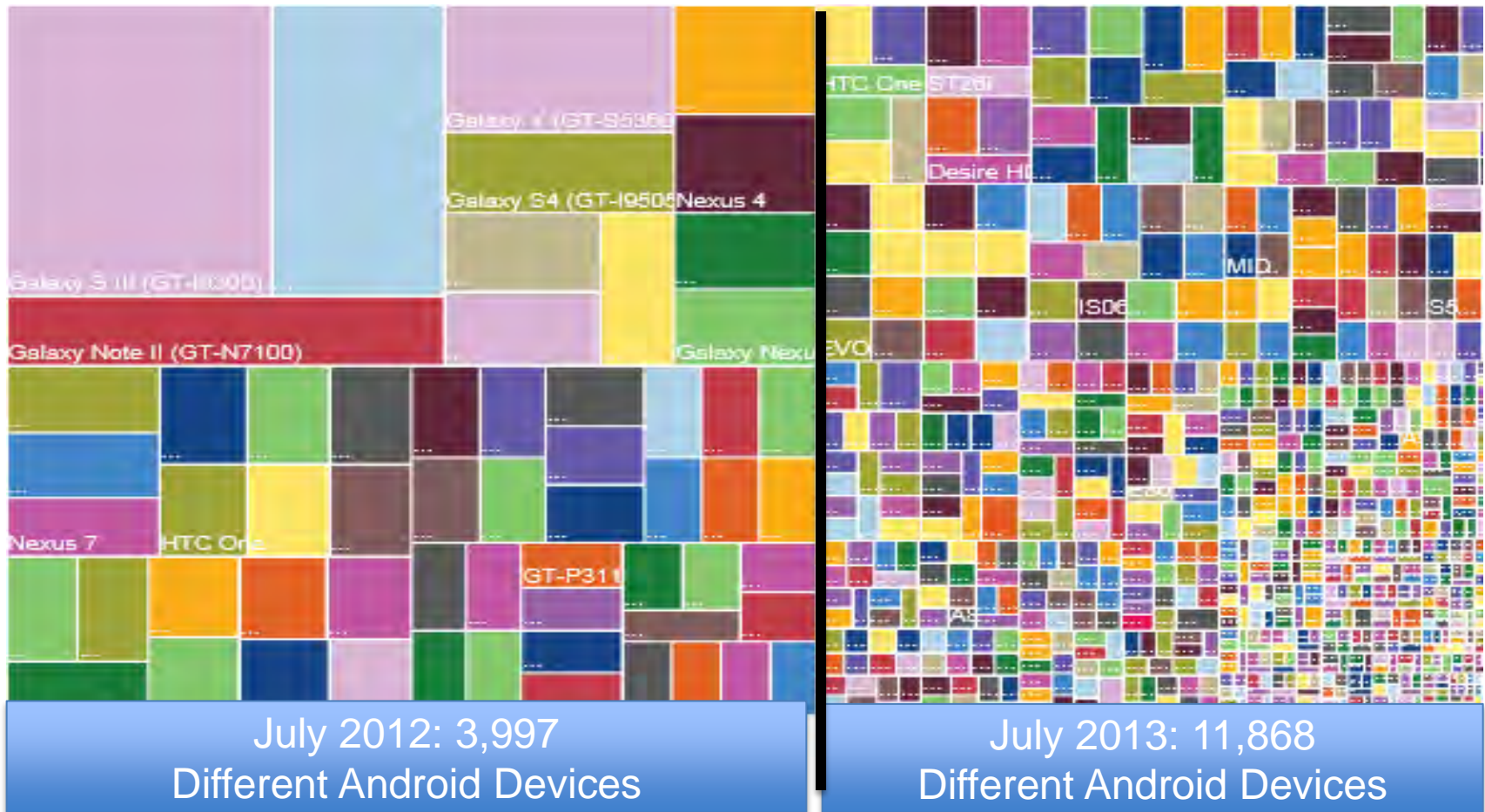
- Big Launcher- icons look darker and text is larger
- Vlingo Virtual Assistant and iris. (alpha)- voice command apps
- Text to Speech Toy- Text-to- Speech
- Eyes-free keyboard
- IDEAL web reader
- Code Factory - Mobile Accessibility Suite for AT&T users
  - 12 different apps / 30 day free trial -\$99
- [www.androidaccess.net](http://www.androidaccess.net)







# Android Device Fragmentation





# **The Future of this OS is Limitless**

- Google has the futuristic ambition and the funds to take Android to unprecedented heights. In many areas — such as predicting what users will do next.
- Google Now knows that in the morning you're getting ready for work and will tell you about the traffic.

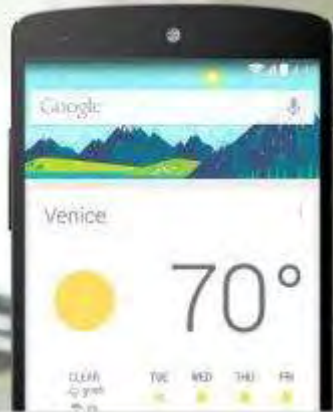
# Google Now

Google now What is it How to get it Cards [Get it now](#)

## Introducing Google Now

The right information at just the right time

From knowing the weather before you start your day, to planning the best route to avoid traffic, or even checking your favorite team's score while they're playing, Google Now brings you the information you want, when you need it.



Assistance around the clock

# Technology Changes Fast

- June 2007- 1<sup>st</sup> iPhone
- Sept 2007- 1<sup>st</sup> generation iPod Touch
- October 2008- 1<sup>st</sup> Android phone sold
- April 2010- 1<sup>ST</sup> iPad
- 2010- Google launched its Nexus series of tablets and smartphones
- 50 billion downloads!



# Statistics

- There are approximately 73 million iPhones in the world.  
» *Apple, 2012*
- In 2010, Apple reported that over 1000 new apps are submitted every day.
- In 2012, 400 million iTunes accounts  
» *Y. Lachelle, Aug., 2010 and H. Dediu, June 2012*
- Apple receives about 49.5 Million App downloads per day!  
» *H. Dediu June 2012*



# Apple iPad/ mini iPad

- Multi- touch screen
- New iOS 7
- Millions of apps
- Surf web
- iTunes
- Videos
- Organization
- Accessibility
- Books
- Photos
- Speakers
- New iPad had 5.0 megapixel camera
- Starts at \$499/\$399 and mini \$329



# Apple iPod Touch

- 5 Megapixel Camera
- Millions of apps
- Videos
- Surf Web
- Voice Over
- Organization
- Speakers
- Bluetooth
- New iOS 7
- Starts at \$299 / \$199 4<sup>th</sup> gen





# Layout of the iPad

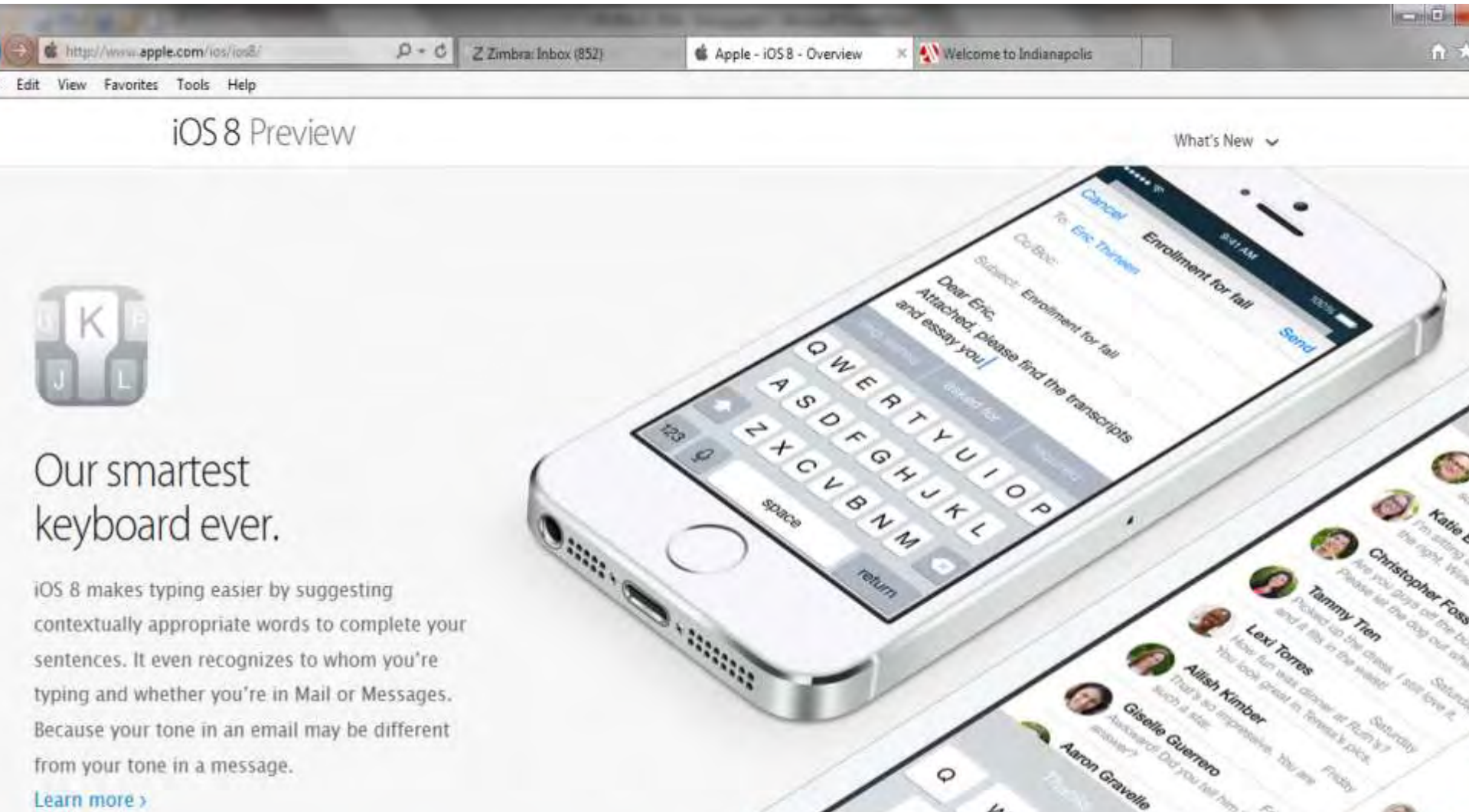


# Built-in Accessibility Features

- VoiceOver
- Zoom
- Large Text
- Invert Colors
  - (white on black)
- Speak Selection
- Speak Auto Text
- Mono Audio
- Assistive Touch
- Guided Access
- Home-Click Speed
- Incoming Calls
- Braille Displays



# iOS 8 - Fall 2014



http://www.apple.com/ios/ios8/

Edit View Favorites Tools Help

## iOS 8 Preview

What's New ▾

Our smartest keyboard ever.

iOS 8 makes typing easier by suggesting contextually appropriate words to complete your sentences. It even recognizes to whom you're typing and whether you're in Mail or Messages. Because your tone in an email may be different from your tone in a message.

[Learn more >](#)

# iOS 8 - Fall 2014



## iOS 8 Preview



iCloud Drive.  
Any kind of file.  
On all your devices.

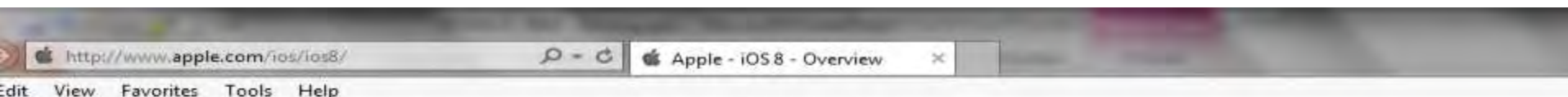
The good news: You can work on any file, anywhere. The bad news: You can work on any file, anywhere. That includes presentations, PDFs, images, and more — right from iCloud. On whichever device you're using, including your Mac or PC.

[Learn more >](#)





# iOS 8 - Fall 2014



## iOS 8 Preview



### Health.

An entirely new way to use your health and fitness information.

Now your activity tracker, heart rate monitor, and other health and fitness apps can talk to each other. Which means they'll be able to work even harder for you. And all the information is accessible in one easy-to-read dashboard.

[Learn more >](#)



# VoiceOver

- Standard feature on iPhones, iPads, and iTouches
  - World's first gesture-based screen reader
  - **DOES NOT WORK WITH ALL APPS**
    - Does not work with many eBooks or textbooks
    - Works with built-in apps
  - Built-in voices that speak 36 languages
- Adjustable speaking rate
  - Echoes each character as you touch it when typing or can speak completed word instead.
  - Speak Auto-text
  - Has the rotor
  - Works with all built-in applications



# Assistive Touch

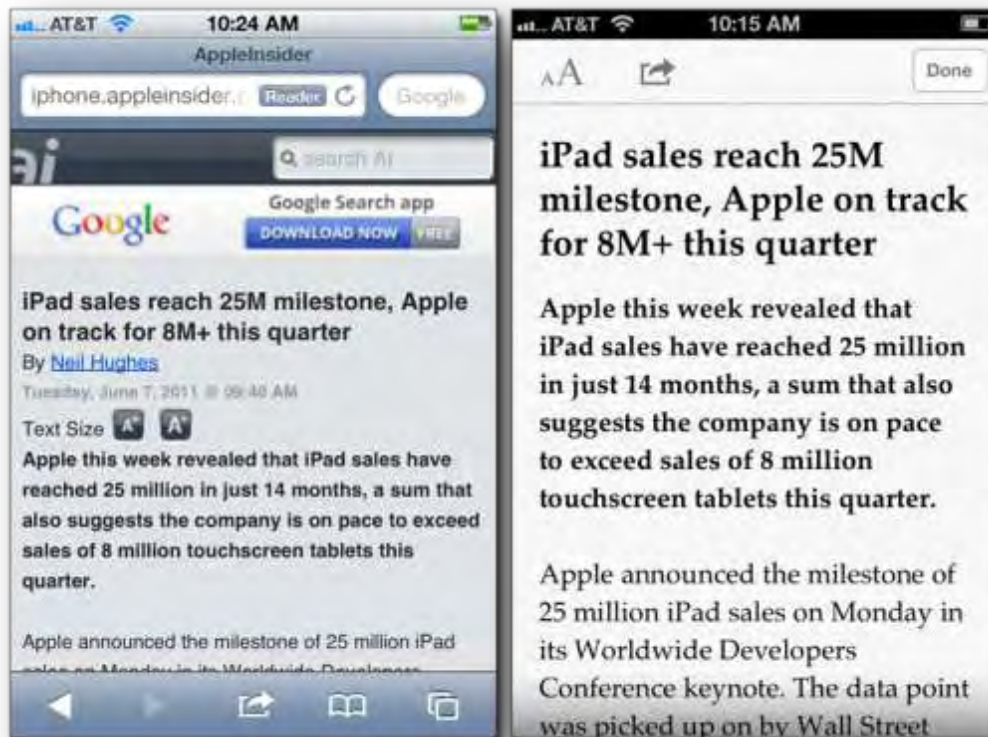
- Lets you enter Multi-Touch gestures using one finger or stylus
  - Create custom gestures
- Supports the use of adaptive input devices
  - Headsets and switches
- Change Tracking Speed



# Creating Keyboard Shortcuts

- Go to General => Keyboard and make sure Shortcut is turned on
- Go to Add New Shortcut
- Put in your Phrase
- Create Short Cut
- Example:
  - Phrase : Tools for Life – Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program
  - Shortcut is: TFL
  - So when TFL is typed it will put in the above Phrase
  - OMW => On My Way!

# Reader for Websites



- Read articles and web pages without distractions
- Clutter disappears
- Add link into Reading List and finish later

# Guided Access

- Helps remain on task and focus
- Limit to one app / turn off home button
- Restrict touch input on certain areas of the screen



# Refurbished Tablets

- If you do not need the latest and greatest consider an older models for a discount
- Want to make sure that refurbish tablets have been certified
- Look for at least 1 year warranty
- Many places now sell
  - Apple
  - BestBuy
  - Amazon





# Surface Pro 3



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Microsoft  
Surface

[Why Surface](#) ▾ [Products](#) ▾ [For Business](#) ▾ [Where to Buy](#) ▾ [Support](#) ▾

[Surface Pro 3](#) | [Power and performance](#) [Best of a tablet](#) [Windows, Office, and Apps](#) [Great Pen experience](#) [Buy now](#) [+](#)

Ready to switch? Trade up your MacBook Air for a Surface Pro 3 now.

[See offer](#)

	PORTABILITY	PROCESSING POWER	MULTITASKING
 Surface Pro 3	 Weighs a mere 2.4lbs and is only 0.53" thin with the keyboard <sup>®</sup> attached	 Choose from Intel® Core™ i3, i5, or i7 processors	 With Windows 8.1 Pro, you can snap up to 3 apps or desktop programs side by side to multitask with ease
 13" MacBook Air	 Tips the scales at 2.96lbs and is 0.68" thick	 Available with Intel® Core™ i5 and i7 processor options	 OS X offers no support for snapping 2 apps side by side, but does allow you to multitask

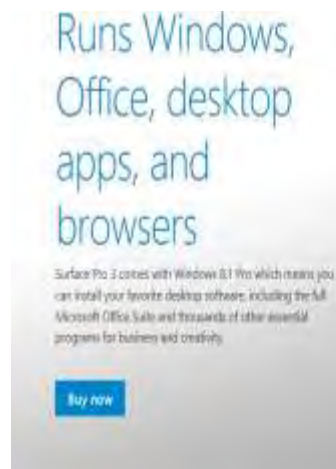




# Surface Pro 3



- Pro
  - 30 day trial of MS Office
  - Ability to download software
- Open 3 Windows
- Tiles
  - Start screen
- Charms
  - Right hand side



# Layout of Surface

- Power Button

- Camera

- Speaker

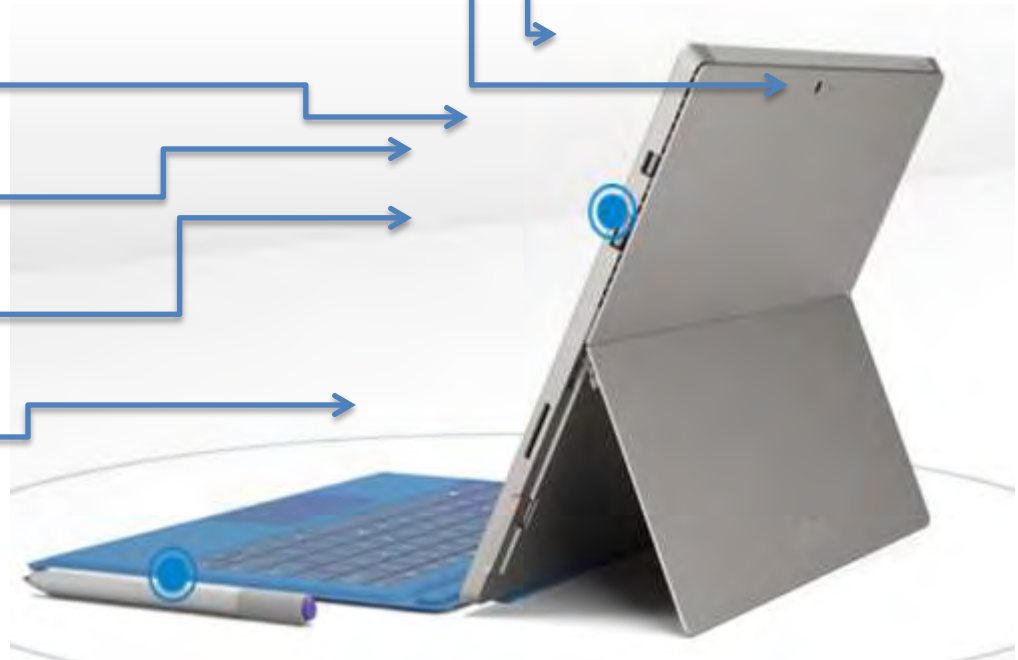
- Micro USB

- USB

- Charger

- On Left Side

- Speaker
- Headphone Jack
- Volume control



# Accessibility of Surface

- Uses Windows 8
  - Ease of Access
- Narrator
- Magnifier
- On-Screen Keyboard
- Windows Speech Recognition



# TFL AppFinder

**Search by:**

✓ **App Name**

✓ **Categories**

- Book
- Education
- Environmental Adaptations
- Hearing
- Cognition, Learning, Developmental
- Navigation
- Personal Care and Safety
- Productivity
- Communication
- Therapeutic Aids
- Vision





TRAINING

FUNDING

PUBLICATIONS

TFL WIKI

MEET THE TFL TEAM

MEET THE  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

DIRECTIONS/MAP

JOIN OUR  
MAILING LIST

SCHEDULE A TOUR

Welcome

AT Services

Try AT

Get AT

AT Guides

Research



### Welcome to Tools for Life

Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, is committed to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.

Tools for Life and the TFL Network work collaboratively together to accomplish our mission through:

- [AT Demonstration](#)
- [AT Evaluations and Assessments](#)
- [AT Funding Options & Education](#)
- [Access to the TFL AT Lending Libraries](#)
- [AT & Durable Medical Equipment Reuse](#)

### ATLANTA ABILITIES EXPO

# Abilities EXPO

**MAR  
14**

Georgia World Congress Center  
Hall C4  
Atlanta, GA

### WEBINARS

**FEB  
6**

[Choosing Core AT Inventory for  
the Classroom](#)

**FEB  
18**

[Two Peas in a Pod: IEP  
Objectives & Standards Based  
Instruction](#)

**MAR  
6**

[TFL & Center for AT Excellence  
TBD](#)

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[Webinar Archives](#)

### TOOLS FOR LIFE APPFINDER

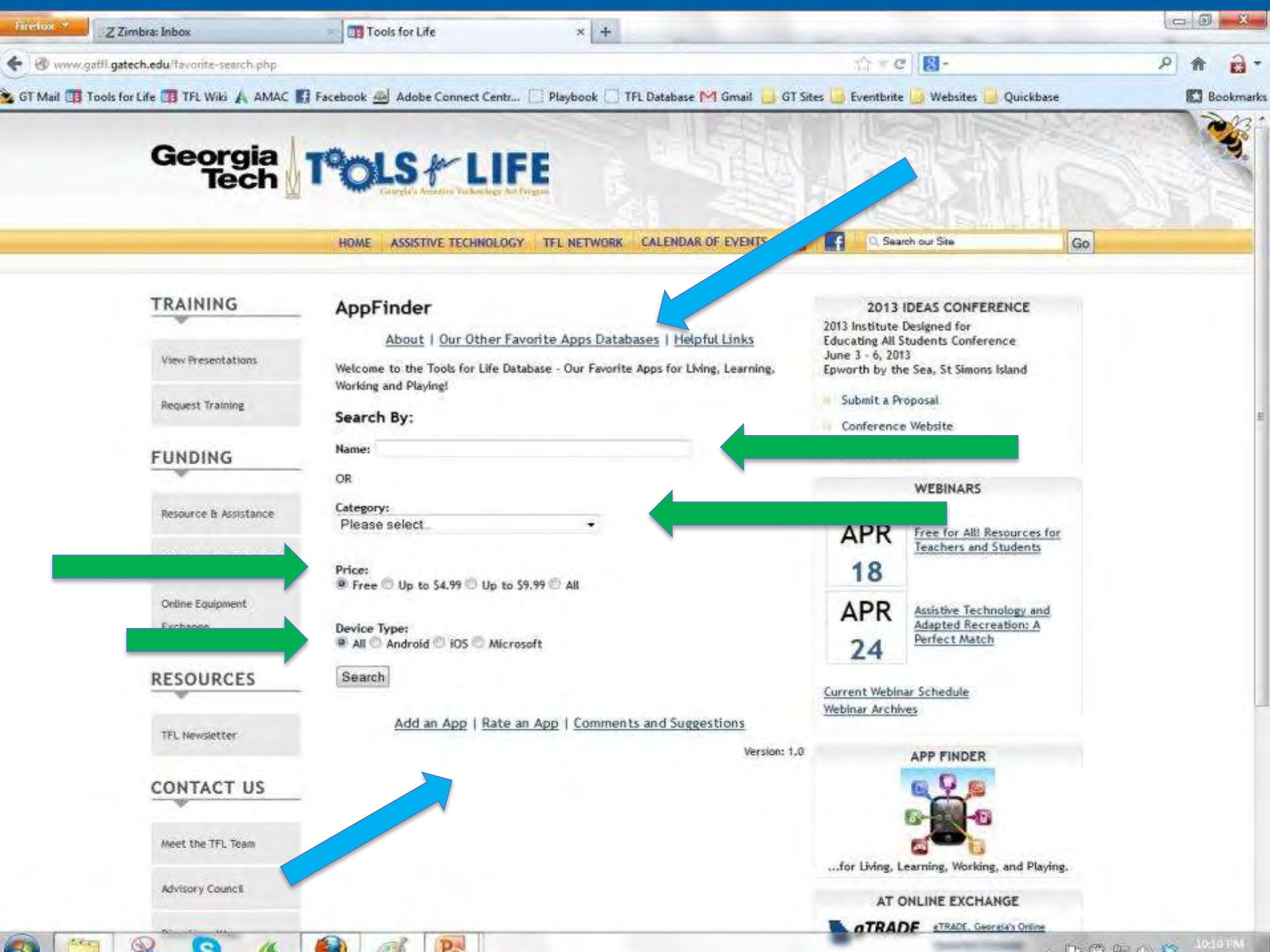


...for living, learning, working, and playing.

### AT ONLINE EXCHANGE







## TRAINING

View Presentations

Request Training

## FUNDING

Resource & Assistance

Online Equipment  
Exchange

## RESOURCES

TFL Newsletter

## CONTACT US

Meet the TFL Team

Advisory Council

## AppFinder

[About](#) | [Our Other Favorite Apps Databases](#) | [Helpful Links](#)

Welcome to the Tools for Life Database - Our Favorite Apps for Living, Learning, Working and Playing!

### Search By:

Name:

OR

Category:

Please select...

Price:

☒ Free ☐ Up to \$4.99 ☐ Up to \$9.99 ☐ All

Device Type:

☒ All ☐ Android ☐ iOS ☐ Microsoft

Search

[Add an App](#) | [Rate an App](#) | [Comments and Suggestions](#)

Version: 1.0

## 2013 IDEAS CONFERENCE

2013 Institute Designed for  
Educating All Students Conference  
June 3 - 6, 2013  
Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island

- [Submit a Proposal](#)
- [Conference Website](#)

## WEBINARS

APR  
18  
  
APR  
24

[Free for All! Resources for  
Teachers and Students](#)

[Assistive Technology and  
Adapted Recreation: A  
Perfect Match](#)

[Current Webinar Schedule](#)  
[Webinar Archives](#)

## APP FINDER



...for Living, Learning, Working, and Playing.

## AT ONLINE EXCHANGE

[aTRADE](#) [eTRADE](#), Georgia's Online



## TRAINING

[View Presentations](#)
[Request Training](#)

## FUNDING

[Resource & Assistance](#)
[Dollars & Sense Database](#)
[Online Equipment Exchange](#)

## RESOURCES

[TFL Newsletter](#)

## CONTACT US

[Meet the TFL Team](#)
[Advisory Council](#)
[Directions/Map](#)
[Join our Mailing List](#)

## My Favorite Apps

You searched for: Learning, Cognition, and Developmental

Logo	Name	Category	Device Type
	<b>tango Video Calls</b> Tango brings you free, high-quality mobile voice and video calls over 3G and Wi-Fi! Millions of people around the world are using Tango in an exciting new way. It	Learning, Cognition, and Developmental	iOS
No Ratings			
	<b>i-prompt</b> Professional Tele-prompting software for your iPhone or iPod Touch.	Learning, Cognition, and Developmental	iOS
No Ratings			
	<b>Dragon</b> Dragon Dictation is an easy-to-use voice recognition application powered by Dragon	Learning, Cognition, and Developmental	iOS
 			
5 stars by 1 users			
	<b>iBooks</b> iBooks includes the iBookstore, where you can download the latest best-selling books or your favorite classics	Learning, Cognition, and Developmental	iOS
No Ratings			
	<b>Say Text</b> SayText reads out loud the text in the image. It is intended for the visually impaired users. SayText is a free spin off product from the DocScanner team.	Learning, Cognition, and Developmental	iOS

## 2013 IDEAS CONFERENCE

2013 Institute Designed for Educating All Students Conference  
June 3 - 6, 2013  
Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island

- [Submit a Proposal](#)
- [Conference Website](#)
- [Exhibitor Details](#)

## WEBINARS

**APR 18**

[Free for All! Resources for Teachers and Students](#)

**APR 24**

[Assistive Technology and Adapted Recreation: A Perfect Match](#)


[Current Webinar Schedule](#)  
[Webinar Archives](#)

## APP FINDER



...for Living, Learning, Working, and Playing.

## AT ONLINE EXCHANGE

 **gTRADE** [gTRADE - Georgia's Online Equipment Exchange](#)

encourages members to offer AT and DME for sale or donation to others who may benefit from using technology unneeded by others.





# SOME OF OUR FAVORITE APPS!



# IPAD APPS TO SUPPORT BLOOM'S REVISED TAXONOMY

ASSEMBLED BY KATHY SCHROCK

<b>C</b>	CREATING	 Storytelling	 Video Editing	 Videocasting	 Mixing	 Animating	 Podcasting
<b>E</b>	EVALUATING	 Moderating	 Conferencing	 Networking	 Posting	 Collaborating	 Critiquing
<b>An</b>	ANALYZING	 Outlining	 Structuring	 Organizing	 Surveying	 Deconstructing	 Mashing
<b>Ap</b>	APPLYING	 Interviewing	 Simulating	 Demonstrating	 Presenting	 Editing	 FREE Illustrating
<b>U</b>	UNDERSTANDING	 Categorizing	 Annotating	 Tweeting	 Blogging	 Subscribing	 Explaining
<b>R</b>	REMEMBERING	 Recalling	 Listing	 Bookmarking	 Searching	 Mindmapping	 Word Processing

# Learning Ally

- Learning Ally
  - [DAISY](#)
  - Membership required
  - over 75,000 audiobooks, audio textbooks, and other recorded books
  - Free Trial





# Audible.com

- Digital audiobooks
- Read by Hollywood stars, authors, and professional narrators
- Listen anywhere
- Over 150,000 titles
- Membership
  - \$14.95/ month for one book

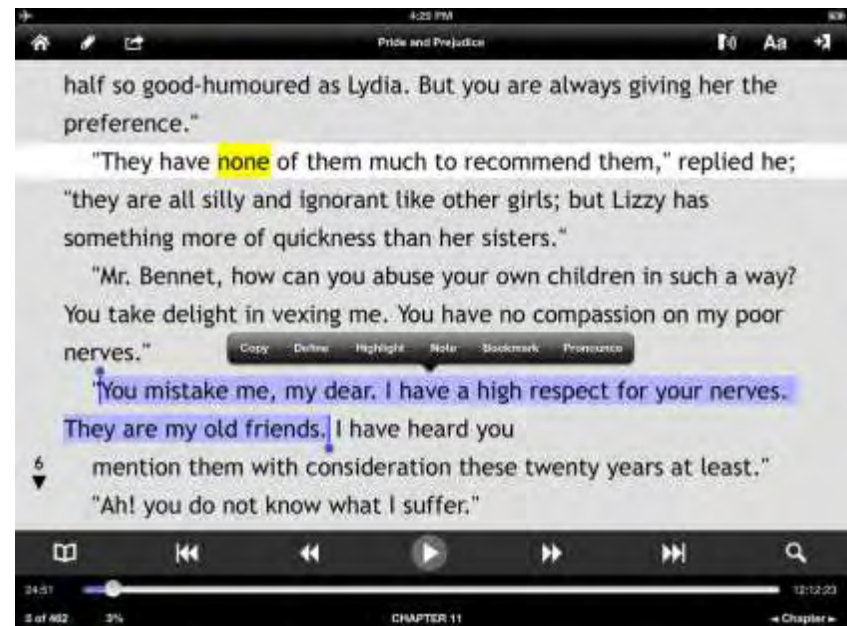


# Voice Dream



- Text to Speech
- Highlights as it reads
- Import
  - Bookshare
  - Dropbox
  - Gutenberg
  - Word Doc
  - PDFs
- Buy different voices
- Change rate of speed

- Download for later reading
- \$9.99

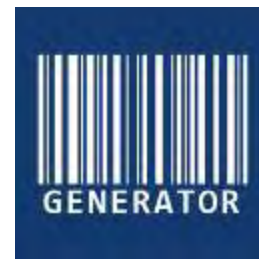


# Some Surface Apps

- Maluuba
  - Personal assistant app



- Barcode Generator
- Free way to create your own barcodes

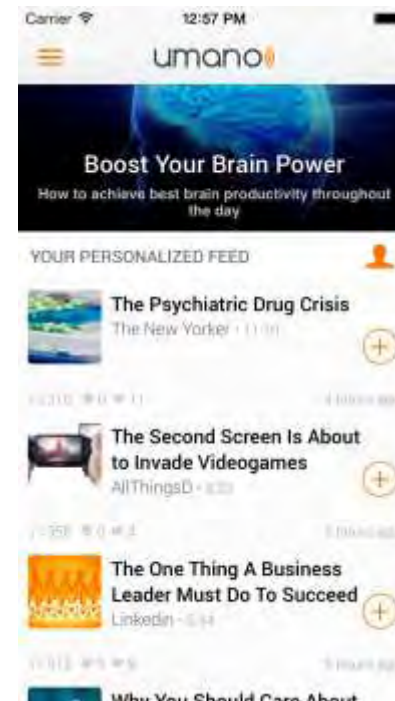


- Apollo
  - Can be a calendar
  - See when the sun sets and rises

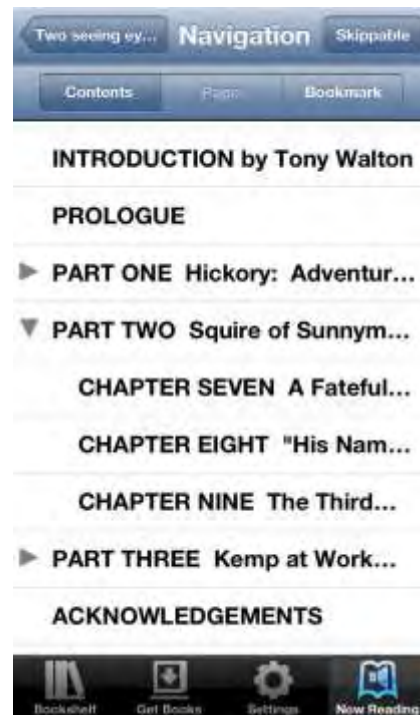


# Umano

- News read to you by real people
- Make a playlist of articles
- Download to listen to offline
- Upgrade to premium for \$3.99/ month
- Free



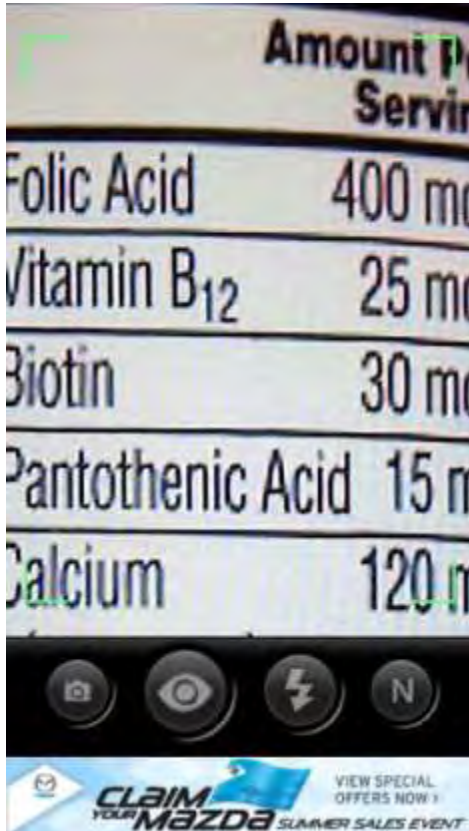
# BARD Mobile



- Access directly to the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS)
- Must be registered
- Settings
- Can use with braille display
- <http://www.loc.gov/nls/find.html>
- Free



# Magnify



- FREE
- Turns Android phone into a digital magnifying glass with built-in flashlight
- Can use gestures anywhere on the screen:
  - Double-tap: Zoom out/in
  - Single-tap: Focus
  - Long-press: Turn light on/off



# MyMedSchedule



- Keep track of medication
- Reminders
- Refill Reminders
- Healthcare Provider Profiles
- Insurance Information
- Allergies
- Works across Platforms
- Free
- [www.mymedschedule.com](http://www.mymedschedule.com)



# Ginger App



- Free
- Grammar and Spell checker
- Personal Assistant
- Use it to correct text messages, Whatsapp messages, Gmail and Outlook emails, and even social media apps such as Facebook

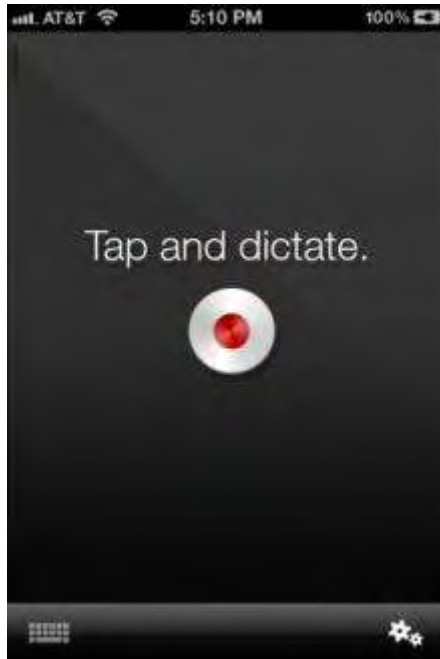




- Free
- Keep track of your cash and credit cards
- Pay your bills
- Real-time alerts and reminders about upcoming bills, overage charges, and suspicious transactions
- Understand your debt



# Dragon Dictation



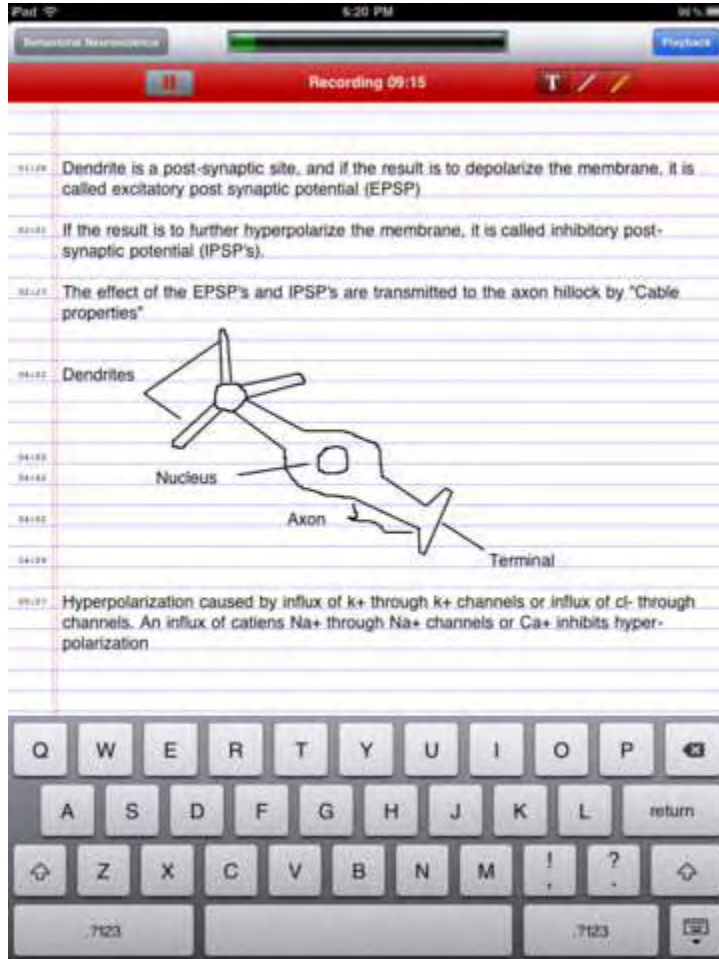
Hi John call me when you get this e-mail. I'm running a little bit late.



- Voice Recognition
- Free
- Dictate notes, emails, Twitter, and Facebook
- Supports many languages
- Cut, Copy, Paste
- Android
  - Dragon Go!
  - Dragon Hands Free Assistant



# AudioNote



- Records your notes, meetings or lectures
- Can take notes by typing, stylus, or drawing
- Time stamps so you can go directly to where you want to hear
- Highlights notes when read back
- \$4.99

# Perfect OCR

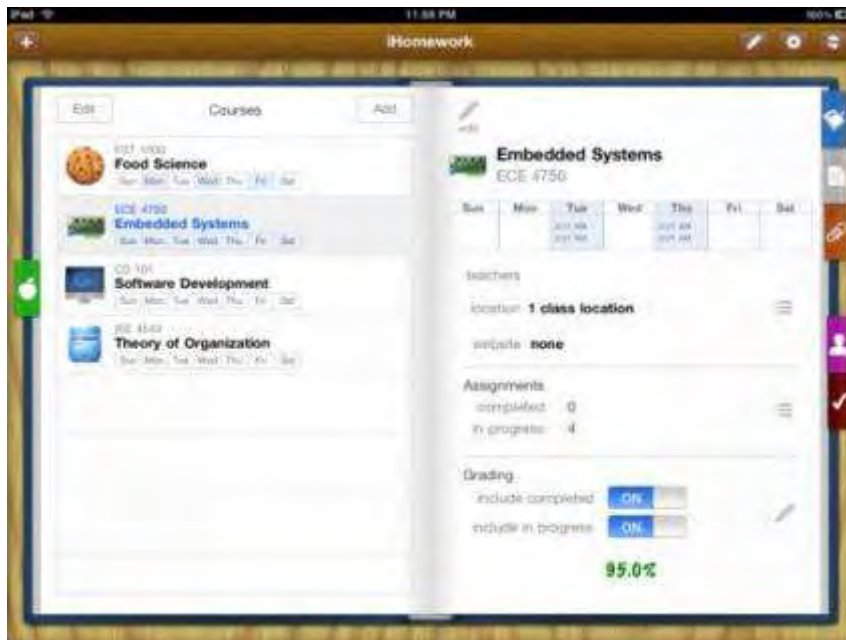


- \$3.99
  - Uses the built in camera to scan documents
- Edit, copy, store, email documents
- Upload to online storage is as Evernote
- Does take practice for picture

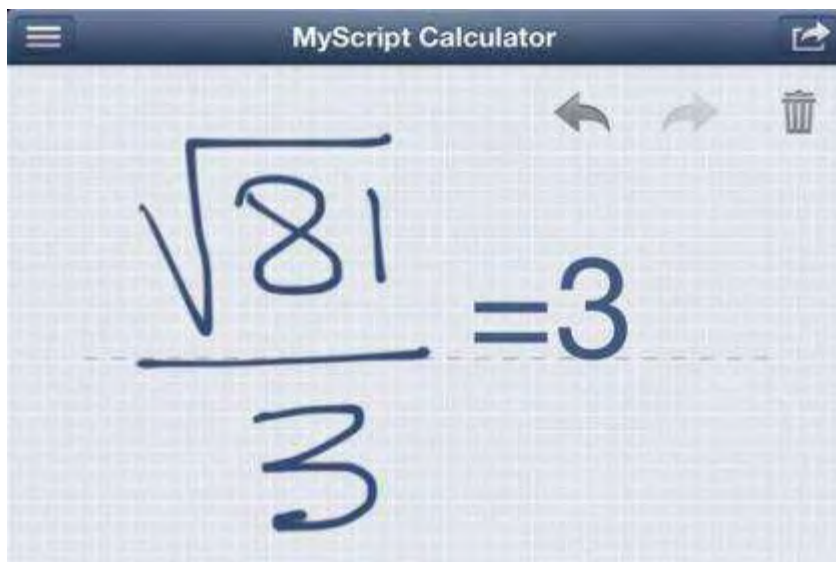
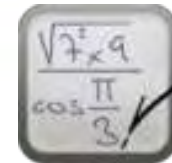
# iHomework



- Keep up-to-date with your school work, grades, to-do's, teacher's information
- School organizer that can be with you anywhere you go, whether that be on your iPhone/iPod touch, iPad, or Mac



# MyScript Calculator



- Use your handwriting to write any arithmetic formula
- Write and calculate mathematical expressions in with no keyboard
- Scratch-out gestures to easily delete symbols and numbers
- Portrait and landscape operation
- Redo and undo functions



# Money Counter Calculator



- iPad only
- Enter amount of coins and dollars and total is provided
- Free





# Picture Scheduler



- Create visual tasks with attached audio, video or picture
- Tasks can have alarms
- Alarms can be repeated daily, weekly, monthly or you can select specific weekdays
- Tasks can be organized into categories with a picture
- Can hide task and reveal later



# Cozi

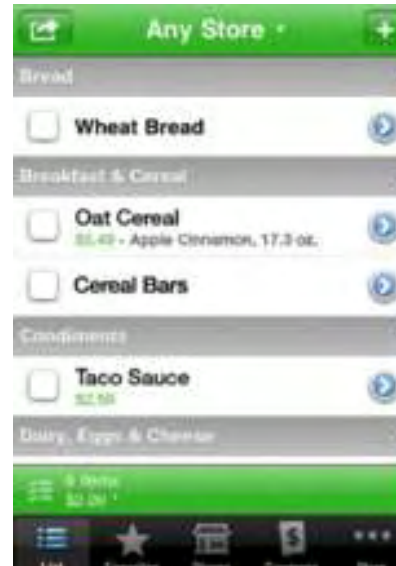
- Free
- You can access from a computer, smartphone or tablet
- Manage a family calendar and set reminders.
  - Add an appointment and it uploads to your Cozi account so everyone can see it.
- Get your grocery shopping lists when you're at the store, even when offline.
- Add a to do list item right when you think of it and have it right there in your pocket to remind yourself.
- Jot down a memory as it happens in the journal.
  - Add a photo from your library to capture the moment.
- Add and edit non-repeating calendar appointments, shopping lists, and to do lists while offline.



# Grocery IQ



- Pictorial shopping list
- Customize different lists for different users using pictures on camera roll
- Add your own items and categories
- Assign item prices
- Assign item locations (for example, aisle numbers)
- Several accessibility options
  - text-to-speech
  - uses large easy-to-see images
  - item prices automatically totaled
- \$4.99



# Fooducate



- Track calories
- Provides healthier options
- Educates on food ingredients
- Save favorites
- Create lists
- App for allergies and gluten-free
- App for diabetes nutrition
- Free
- [www.fooducate.com](http://www.fooducate.com)





# Sleep Cycle



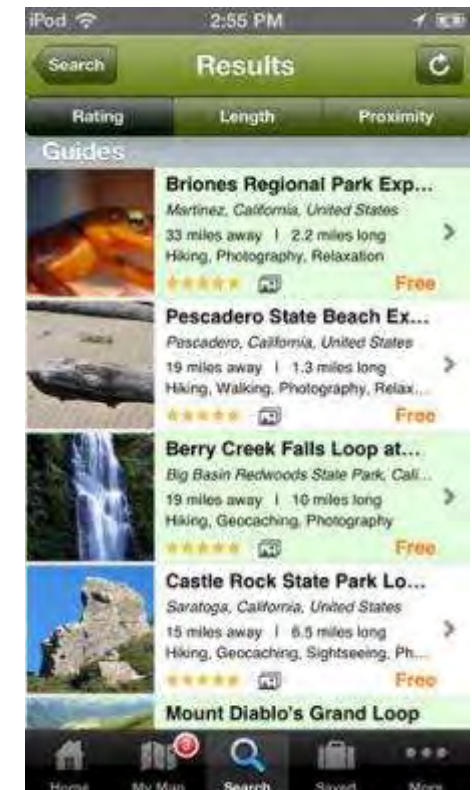
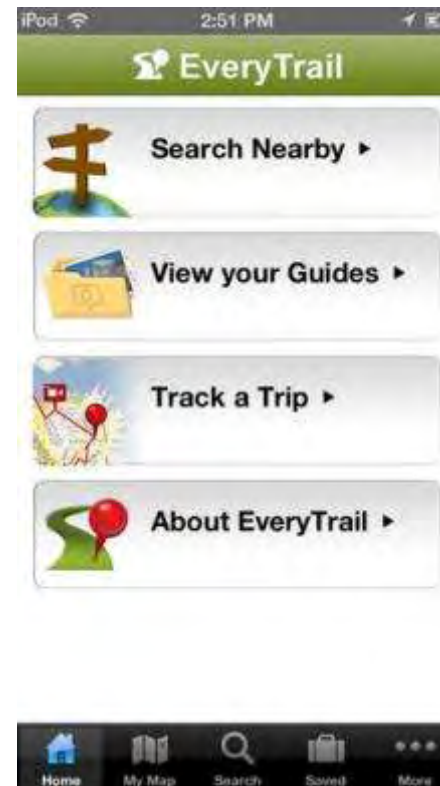
- Tracks your sleep patterns
- Uses iPhone accelerometer to track how often you move at night
- Set an alarm range
- Woken up gradually when you are in like sleep
- Feel refreshed and energized
- \$2.99



# EveryTrail



- Tracks route using your iPhone GPS
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- Download maps for offline viewing
- Free



# iMovie



## iMovie

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Get the iMovie app and start editing movies on your iPhone 4. Coming soon to the App Store for \$4.99.



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- [www.skygrid.com](http://www.skygrid.com)





# Breathe2Relax

- Portable stress management tool
- Detailed information on the effects of stress on the body
- Instructions and practice exercises to learn the stress management skill called diaphragmatic breathing





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- Choose from 100s of objects, plants and creatures to place in your garden
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## Mindwave Mobile: Brainwave Starter Kit



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Brainwave Starter Kit takes decades of laboratory EEG technology research and puts it in your hands. Simply slip on the headset and see your brainwaves change in real time. Monitor your levels of attention and relaxation, and learn about how your brain responds to your favorite music. With more than 100 brain training games and educational apps available through our store, there are plenty of options to choose from based on your age and personal interests. It's an excellent introduction to the world of brain-computer interface!

The MindWave Mobile headset transfers data via Bluetooth™ to wirelessly communicate with your computer and mobile devices (iOS and Android). You can also write your own programs to interact with MindWave Mobile by using our [free developer tools \(available online\)](#).

## Overview

The MindWave Mobile safely measures and outputs the EEG power spectrums (alpha waves, beta waves, etc), NeuroSky eSense meters (attention and meditation) and eye blinks. The device consists of a headset, an ear-clip, and a sensor arm.

The headset's reference and ground electrodes are on the ear clip and the EEG electrode is on the sensor arm, resting on the forehead above the eye (FP1 position). It uses a single AAA battery with 8 hours of battery life.

## MindWave Mobile

- Uses the TGAM1 module
- Automatic wireless pairing
- Single AAA Battery (*Not included*)
- 8-hours battery run time
- Bluetooth v2.1 Class 2 (10 meters range). Bluetooth dongle *not included*.
- [If you do not have Bluetooth on your PC/Mac, here are details on recommended Bluetooth dongles](#)



# MINDRDR FOR GOOGLE GLASS LETS YOU TAKE AND SHARE PICTURES JUST BY THINKING

NEUROGADGET - JULY 11, 2014

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# Ten days with Google Glass

By Will Shanklin  
December 23, 2013

14 Comments  
7 Pictures

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Gizmag shares some more thoughts about being part of the Google Glass Explorer program

[Image Gallery](#) (7 images)

Here at Gizmag, we're very interested in the present and future of w tech. So we thought it was fitting to sign up for the Google Glass Ex program, to give you a better idea of what Sergey Brin and compa brewing up in Mountain View. Though we aren't quite ready to di proper Google Glass review, we want to share some more thou our first ten days with Glass.



My first few days with Google Glass were mostly about the self-

Review smartwatch







HEALTH



# MIT Finger Device Reads to the Blind in Real Time



By RODRIQUE NGOWI  
Associated Press

JULY 3, 2014 1:24 AM

In this Thursday, June 26, 2014 photo, a model wears a FingerReader ring at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab in Cambridge, Mass. Researchers designed and developed the instrument, which enables people with visual disabilities to read text printed on paper or electronic devices. (AP Photo/Stephan Savola) AP



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## Wearable computing gloves can teach Braille, even if you're not paying attention

Posted June 23, 2014 | Atlanta, GA



Several years ago, Georgia Institute of Technology researchers created a technology-enhanced glove that can teach beginners how to play piano melodies in 45 minutes. Now they've advanced the same wearable computing technology to help people learn how to read and write Braille. The twist is that people wearing the glove don't have to pay attention. They learn while doing something else.

"The process is based on passive haptic learning (PHL)," said Thad Starner, a Georgia Tech professor and wearable computer pioneer. "We've learned that people can acquire motor skills through vibrations without devoting active attention to their hands."

In their new study, Starner and Ph.D. student Caitlyn Seim examined how well these gloves work to teach Braille. Each study participant wore a pair of gloves with tiny vibrating motors stitched into the knuckles. The motors vibrated in a sequence that corresponded



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College of Computing Professor Thad Starner, director of the Contextual Computing

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JULY 16, 2014

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JULY 10, 2014



## Musical Glove Improves Sensation, Mobility for People with Spinal Cord Injury

Jul 17, 2012 | Atlanta, GA

Georgia Tech researchers have created a wireless, musical glove that may improve sensation and motor skills for people with paralyzing spinal cord injury (SCI).

The gadget was successfully used by individuals with limited feeling or movement in their hands due to tetraplegia. These individuals had sustained their injury more than a year before the study, a time frame when most rehab patients see very little improvement for the remainder of their lives. Remarkably, the device was primarily used while the participants were going about their daily routines.

The device is called [Mobile Music Touch](#) (MMT). The glove, which looks like a workout glove with a small box on the back, is used with a piano keyboard and vibrates a person's fingers to indicate which keys to play. While learning to play the instrument, several people with SCI experienced improved sensation in their fingers.

Researchers at Georgia Tech and Atlanta's [Shepherd Center](#) recently completed a study focusing on people with weakness and sensory loss due to SCI.

"After our preliminary work in 2011, we suspected that the glove would have positive results for people with SCI," said Ph.D. graduate Tanya Markow, the project's leader. "But we were surprised by how much improvement they made in our study. For example, after using the glove, some participants were able to feel the texture of their bed sheets and clothes for the first time since their injury."

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Mobile Music Touch Video



Mobile Music Touch Glove 1

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by David Salisbury | Posted on Saturday, Mar. 23, 2013 — 1:11 PM

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**Our Question to You:  
What have You Learned today?**

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