



Adapting Technology ■ Changing Lives

Near future digital accessibility

Where Captain Kirk meets Knight Rider

Mark Walker

Exploring New Perspectives on Innovation in the Digital Age

ESRC Seminar, Brighton University

October 2013



About disability

11.2m people in the UK registered disabled
£80-120bn spending power per annum

- Visual Impairment
- Hearing Impairment
- Mobility and Physical Impairment
- Learning and Cognitive Impairment

AbilityNet Charitable Services

Specialist advice and information about how disabled people can use computers and the internet

- Free Helpline
- Free Factsheets
- Free Home Visits
- Free Online Tools
- Free Assessments

The logo for i4Communities, featuring the text 'i4Communities' in a blue and orange color scheme.The logo for T4G awards 2013 TECHNOLOGY+GOOD, featuring the text 'T4G awards 2013' in blue and black, with 'TECHNOLOGY+GOOD' in black below it.

AbilityNet Commercial Services

Accessibility Services

- User testing
- Consultancy
- Training

Assessment Services

- Workplace assessment
- Disabled Students Allowances



Mind the Gap: Digital Inclusion Strategy



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the AbilityNet website. The page title is "Mind the Digital Gap: It's bigger than you think | AbilityNet". The URL in the address bar is "www.abilitynet.org.uk/mindthegap". The page features the AbilityNet logo and navigation menu. The main content area includes a red "DONATE NOW" button, a section for "Free IT Support for Disabled People", and a "Mind the DIGITAL GAP" graphic. The article text discusses the growing digital inclusion gap and the need for a new strategy.

Mind the Digital Gap: It's bigger than you think
A new strategy for digital inclusion, November 2012

AbilityNet believes there is an urgent need to address the growing gap between what technology enables some of us to do and the barriers that many people face when trying to complete the same digital tasks. We also need to recognise the significance of this gap in both social and economic terms.

For too long the debate about accessibility has focused on issues that are specific to people with disabilities. Pursuing legal action to ensure that every website includes alt-tags for people who use a screen reader would be a pointless exercise, when there is a much more important strategic issue that needs urgent attention.

Business, Government and the Third Sector are driving us to serve ourselves more and more, creating increasingly complex systems for us to use on websites, phones, apps, self-service terminals and now our televisions. As we move towards convergence across digital platforms we need to ensure our approach to inclusivity moves away from device and content and towards user interaction.

As the variety of high end digital technology available to us explodes a capability gap is growing and affecting millions of people. The challenges of filling this gap are made more complex because we have an ageing population. We must act to close the gap between the benefits that technology offers and people's capabilities.

www.abilitynet.org.uk/mindthegap



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Welcome to the Technology4Good Awards



The winners of the Technology4Good Awards 2013 were announced by Mariella Frostrup at an Awards Ceremony in London on 4 July.

[Barclays Bank](#)

Winner, Accessibility Award 2013 sponsored by AbilityNet and BATA



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T4G Youth Awards 2013



[The winners of this year's T4G Youth Award have been announced.](#)

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British Paralympic Association



155 days to go



1070 days to go

“Sport is my life,
my soul,
my passion”

Will Bayley, silver & bronze medallist, Table Tennis

Sports

London 2012

Get Into Sport



t 3 f 0



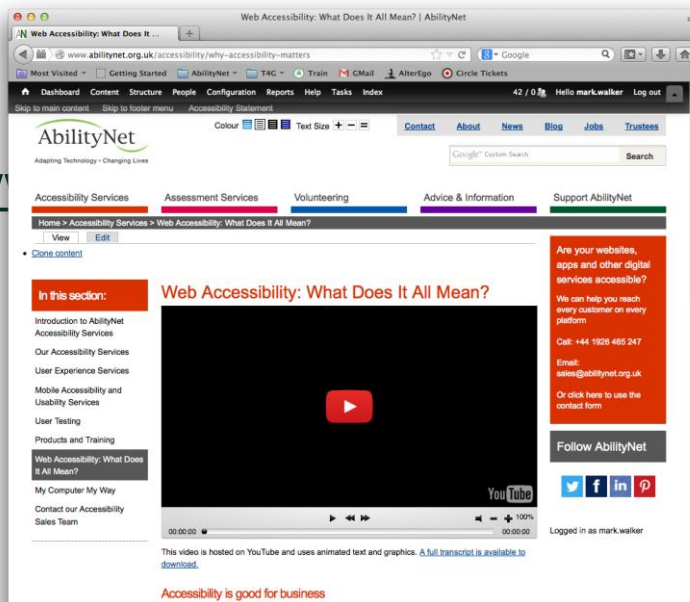
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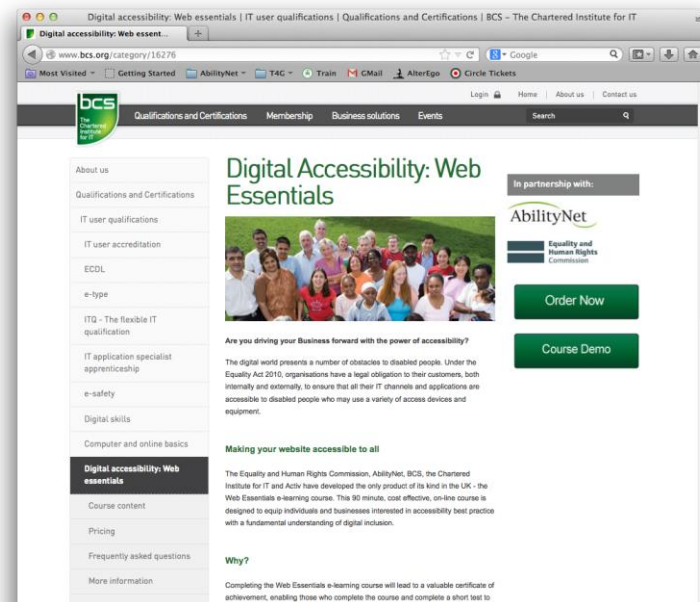
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Learn more

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www.bcs.org/dawe

With technology came opportunity



Adaptability brought inclusion

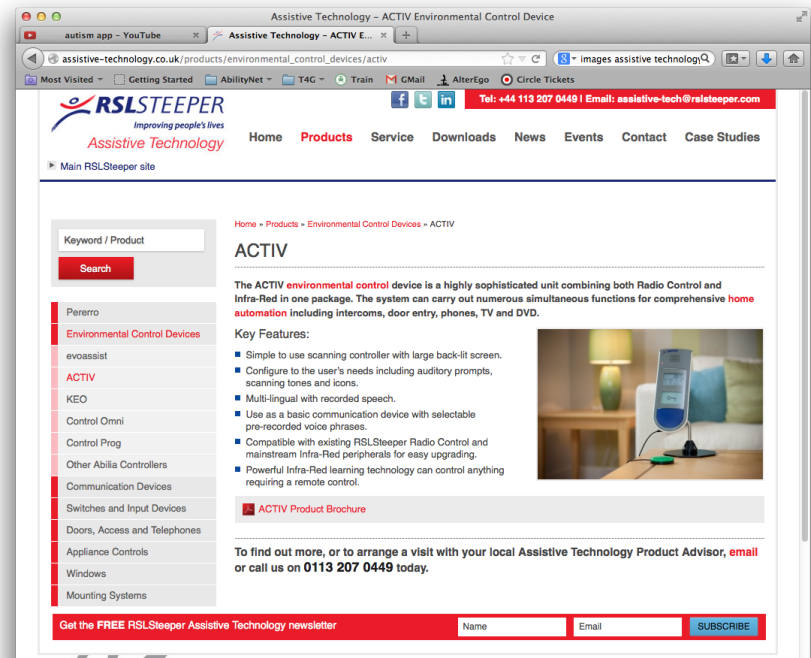
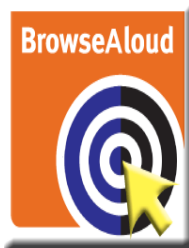
Accessibility built in

Mainstream features

Personalisation



Growth of the assistive technology sector





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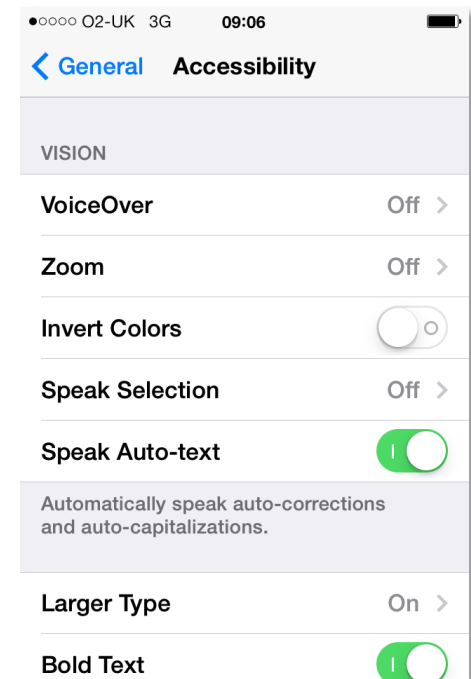
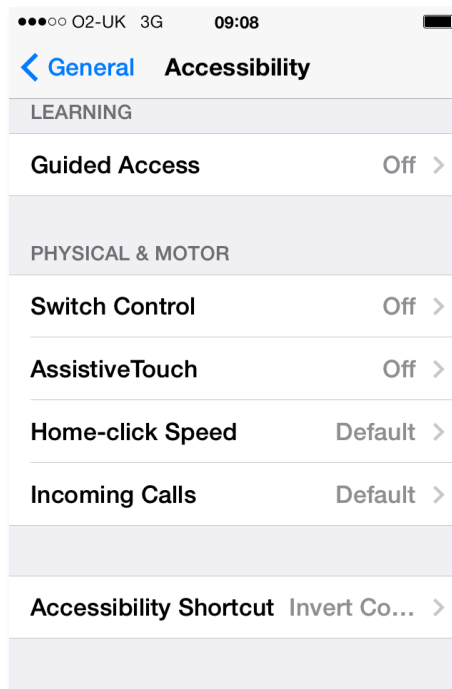
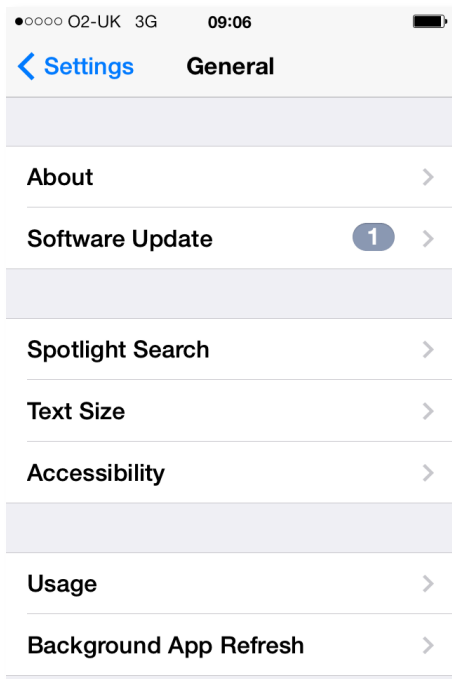
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But now... power, price, portability



Accessibility is built in...



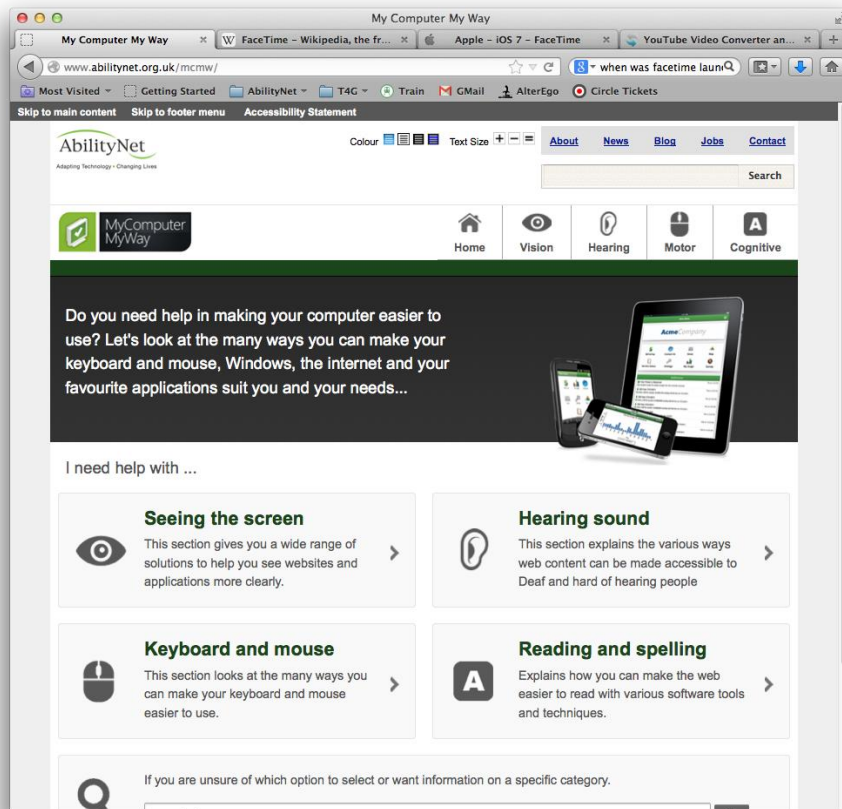
Accessibility as USP



Apple Facetime Ad 2010

www.youtube.com/watch?v=yatSAEqNL7k

My Computer My Way



Desktop, tablet, phone

Windows, Apple, Android

Link to it for free from your
accessibility help page

www.abilitynet.org.uk/mcmw



C-1701

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Living in the future



But not as we know it





Hit the streets

The image shows a screenshot of a web browser displaying a BBC News article. The browser's address bar shows the URL www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-24080422. The page features the BBC logo and navigation menus for News, Sport, Weather, iPlayer, TV, Radio, and More... The article title is "Google Street View car in 'accident'" by Zoe Kleinman, a technology reporter for BBC News. The main text reports that a Google Street View car hit two public transport buses and a truck in Bogor, Indonesia. A photograph of the car is included, with a caption stating it takes panoramic images as it drives. The article also includes a quote from Vishnu Mahmud, head of communications for Google in Indonesia, and a note that pictures of the incident were posted to an Indonesian website by an eyewitness. The name "Donkey" appears at the bottom of the article. To the right, there are sections for "Top Stories" and "Features" with various news snippets and images.

13 September 2013 Last updated at 13:47

Google Street View car in 'accident'

By Zoe Kleinman
Technology reporter, BBC News

A Google Street View car hit two public transport buses and a truck in the city of Bogor, Indonesia.

Police said the car driver hit the first bus, appeared to "panic" when the bus driver responded angrily, and tried to drive off.

But in doing so the vehicle hit a second bus and then the truck, according to local media reports.

It is unclear whether anybody was hurt at the scene. Google has confirmed that an incident has taken place.

"We take incidents like this very seriously. We're working closely with local authorities to address the situation," Vishnu Mahmud, head of communications for Google in Indonesia, told news agency AFP.

Pictures of the incident were posted to an Indonesian website by an eyewitness.

Donkey

The Street View car takes panoramic images as it is driven around the world

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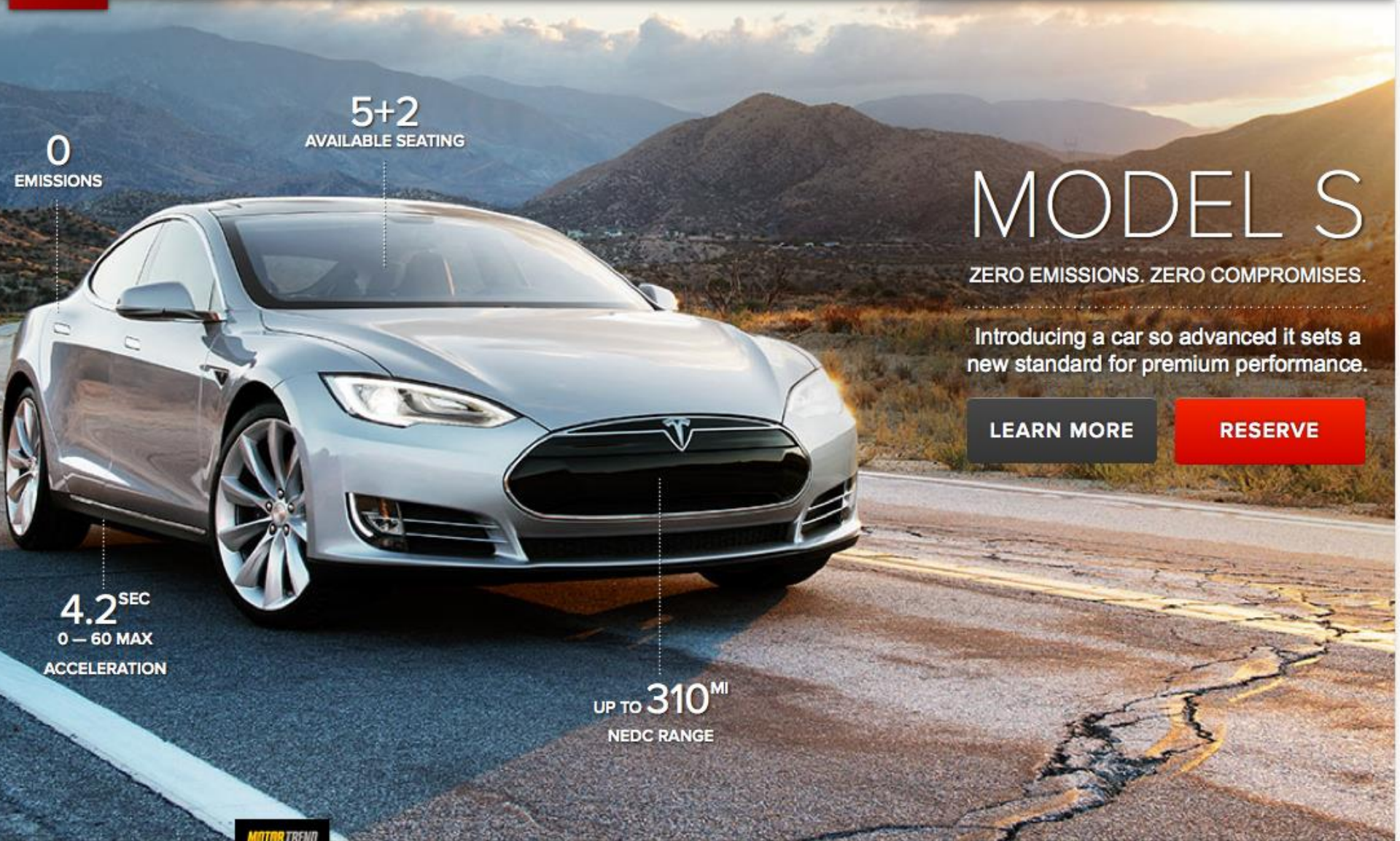
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Thu, 18/04/2013 - 20:33 -- Robin.Christopherson

Why Google Glass is a clear winner for the blind

Robin Christopherson is AbilityNet's Head of Digital Inclusion



What?? Google's glasses with heads-up display are a winner for users who can't even see? Absolutely. Moreover they promise huge potential benefits for users with a range of other impairments too.

I'll explain - but first it's worth giving a bit of background to what Project Glass is all about (if you already know all about these uber-geeky glasses then skip down to the next paragraph).

As you'll have gathered from the picture these are indeed glasses, but they're glasses with a difference. They have a computer built-in and that computer is intelligent and able to do a lot of what a smartphone does including running apps, making voice or video calls, taking photos or videos and playing you your favourite music. The best introduction is probably Google's own Project Glass promo video they put out a year or so ago.

Free IT Support for Disabled People

Our FREE helpline offers expert advice and information about how disabled people can use computers and the internet. Call us now on: 0800 269 545

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So what's next?

- Responsive knowledge systems
- Adaptation and personalisation
- Gesture controls
- 3d printing
- The Internet of Things
- Inclusive/universal design





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