

# The Connection



## “Connecting the Dots” Video wins National Award

INDATA is pleased to announce that we have won the Assistive Technology Industry Association’s (ATIA) Organization Contribution Award for the video “Connecting the Dots: My Assistive Technology Story.” This national award was presented at the ATIA Conference October 28-31 in Schaumburg, Illinois.

“Connecting the Dots: My Assistive Technology Story” is an introductory video that provides an overview of four individuals with disabilities who use assistive technology (AT) to better their lives. Four additional videos were produced to highlight each individual story of Nicholas, Tom, Charisse and Jackie. All four people came to Easter Seals Crossroads for different reasons, but each of them was referred to and received help from the agency’s assistive technology program.

All videos use the theme “Like I Can” to show how assistive technology has helped people become independent and perform the same daily tasks as able-bodied or sighted individuals. Nicholas says, “You can’t query a database like I can,” which emphasizes his unique story in regard to blindness and his use of assistive technology to access computers.

Erica Lange, Sara Croft and Nicholas Goldsberry, INDATA’s 2009 summer interns, posted the AT video entries on YouTube. Awards were based on the number of online views each entry received. According to ATIA, “The goal of the contest was to broadcast AT and raise awareness around the world of the power of assistive technology.”

The ATIA is a not-for-profit membership organization of manufacturers, sellers and providers of technology-based assistive devices and services. Its mission is to serve as the collective voice of the AT industry so that the best products and services are delivered to people with disabilities.

Two additional INDATA Project videos, “Nicholas’s Story” and “Tom’s Story,” both received honorable mentions. All four of the INDATA Project videos, which were created and produced by Fusework Studios in Indianapolis, can be viewed at [www.likeican.com](http://www.likeican.com).



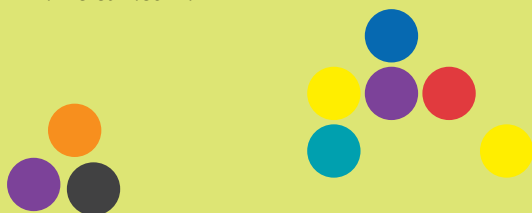
*Tom Poynter gets the red carpet treatment at the “Like I Can” premiere at The Westin.*



*Charisse Cogell is all smiles as one of the “Like I Can” video stars!*



*Tom Poynter, Jackie Miller and Charisse Cogell at the premiere event.*



### Borrowing AT from the Mainstream

One of the things that people find frustrating about assistive technology is that it can be hard to find. For example, you don't find wheelchairs at the local superstore and you can't buy a screen reader at the office store. However, there are a number of very useful assistive technology devices that may be right under your nose at the local office supply store, department store or even the hardware store! The following items are all readily found in mainstream retail outlets, and you don't have to rely on an Internet site or an in-home sales presentation to buy them.

#### Pulse Smart Pen from Livescribe

This amazing pen records hundreds of hours of classroom lectures and synchronizes those recordings with the location of your pen while you take notes. This means that when you're doing homework you can place your pen on your notebook and hear that portion of the class lecture played over again. It really is amazing, affordable and available at Target, Best Buy, Costco and other retailers. Retail price: \$169 - \$199  
More information: [www.livescribe.com](http://www.livescribe.com)



#### "Talking" iPod shuffle with voice-over

For less than \$80, you can have a talking iPod that will hold up to 1000 songs! The new generation of the iPod shuffle uses "voice-over," — a program designed to assist the blind and visually impaired by reading the name of the song, artist and playlist to the listener. Although it was designed to help joggers keep their eyes on the trail, it makes this affordable device accessible to people who are blind or visually impaired. Look for these devices at Walmart, Target, Best Buy and other retailers.



Retail price: \$59 - \$79  
More information: [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)

#### Computers with large print, screen reading and voice activation

Have you heard all the buzz about Windows 7? There are lots of ads promising better security, stability and features. Did you know that Windows 7 has improved accessibility? Here are some things that Windows 7 includes for people with disabilities: improved speech recognition to let you dictate your documents into

your computer; an improved screen magnifier including lens and full screen magnification; and an on-screen keyboard that lets you type with your mouse or a switch and predicts what you're about to type. Many of these features have been included in previous versions of Windows (and some of them are on Macintosh systems, too), but they've been updated and improved in Windows 7. You'll find Windows 7 at Walmart, Target, Best Buy, Office Depot and other retailers. Retail price: \$119 - \$319  
More information: [www.microsoft.com/windows](http://www.microsoft.com/windows)

#### Oxo tools

Do you ever drop your spatula on the kitchen floor? Do your hands ever cramp when pruning your rose bushes? Oxo makes a large variety of tools for the home that are ergonomically designed with easy-to-use grips. Although designed for everyone, they're durable and especially useful for people with arthritis or other mobility issues. Products can be used in the kitchen, bathroom or garden and range widely in price. Oxo tools are available at Kroger, Walmart, Target and other retailers. More information: [www.oxo.com](http://www.oxo.com)

Do you have suggested "Gizmos" and/or "Doodahs" that you'd like to see mentioned in future installments of this feature? If so, send your ideas to Wade Wingler at [wwingler@eastersealscrossroads.org](mailto:wwingler@eastersealscrossroads.org). Please understand that inclusion in this publication does not constitute an endorsement by Easter Seals Crossroads. Pricing information is gathered from common sources but should be verified with product vendors.

### Employee Spotlight



#### Alvin Alviar, Technician

Alvin received his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science at the University of the Philippines and a graduate certificate in non-profit management at IUPUI's School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a volunteer with the Assistive Technology Center for quite some time before becoming a part-time employee. His educational background and previous experience working as an information technology consultant for a private business have made him a valuable employee for the ATC department.

## My Assistive Technology Story with Justine Horlander

Her story is one that begins with a love of art and ends with a return to independence.

Justine Horlander is an Indianapolis native diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa Inversa. It is a disease that she was already familiar with. Her mother, grandmother and eight-year-old son, Nathan, all have some form of Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP), an optical disease caused by damage to the retina with symptoms including loss of peripheral vision. But Justine has the inverted form of RP that causes, instead, central vision loss.

A 1989 graduate of Herron School of Art with an emphasis in graphic design and illustration, Justine's artistic abilities were challenged and creativity halted with the onset of RP. Her eye doctor encouraged Justine to work with Easter Seals Crossroads, thus beginning her journey into the world of assistive technology.

Easter Seals Crossroads introduced Justine to her first piece of assistive technology — the CCTV. It uses a video camera to magnify an image, which is then seen on a monitor. Finally in 1994, Justine was able to continue her work in photography with the CCTV. She

not only can look at her photos, but also can read mail, recipes and phone lists.

In 2009 when she started working with Belva Smith, Training Coordinator in the Assistive Technology Department at Easter Seals Crossroads, Justine was introduced to ZoomText — software that is used to magnify what is seen on a computer screen. With ZoomText, Justine can now send e-mails, plan for her family's vacation to Croatia and organize her thousands of photos.

Before assistive technology, Justine had to put her work on hold whenever someone wasn't around to help. Now, she can use her CCTV and ZoomText on her computer to help her son with homework, produce her art and do many other things that people without RP can do.

Justine is extremely grateful for her assistive technology and to Easter Seals Crossroads — this combination gave her back her work, her passion and her life.



## Save the Date *July 29-30, 2010*

# INDATA to Host Statewide Assistive Technology Conference 2010

Are you interested in learning about assistive technology? SAVE THE DATE for the 2010 INDATA Statewide Conference at the Indiana Convention Center on **July 29 and 30**. In 2009, over 500 people registered to attend 20 educational sessions on assistive technology in relation to aging, employment, independent living and education, as well as visit the 50 exhibitor booths. The cost of the 2010 event is free and lunch will be provided. Sign up today on our e-mail list to receive updates on registration or contact Sara Croft at 317-466-2013, 888-466-1314 or [scroft@eastersealcrossroads.org](mailto:scroft@eastersealcrossroads.org).



## Blog Blurb *Written by Sarah Norman, Social Media Intern*

# CAPTCHA Mistakenly Treats Visually Impaired Like Robots

Signing up for an account on Facebook or leaving a comment on someone's blog may seem simple enough, but for the blind or visually impaired, CAPTCHAs can present a problem. A CAPTCHA, which stands for *Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart*, is a device many social networking sites utilize to prevent spam and other harmful "bots" from entering. In short, CAPTCHAs are tests that are meant only for humans to pass. A typical CAPTCHA will ask the user to look at an image that contains distorted text and to type the letters and/or numbers they see. A blind operator would not be able to do this because screen readers cannot decipher the text in these images.



*Audio Captcha*

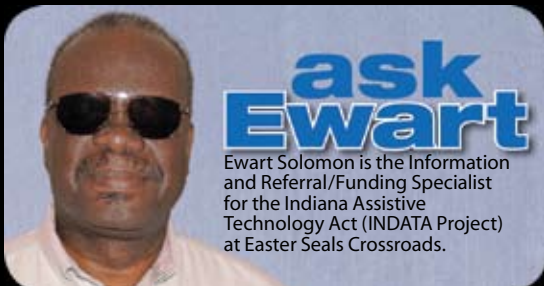
More recently, popular Web sites provide an audio option for the CAPTCHAs. Unfortunately, the audio version of a CAPTCHA is often so distorted that navigators can hardly make heads or tails of it! I tested one of the audio CAPTCHAs and, after listening to it twice, I still didn't enter the correct text. I can only imagine how frustrating this would be for someone who is visually impaired.

There is hope. New versions of CAPTCHAs are being developed at Towson University in a project called HIPPU (*Human Interaction Proof Universally Usable*). Instead of trying to read distorted text, users are asked to identify the object in an image or by the sound it makes. For example, you might be given a picture of a car or a sound clip of a

horn honking. The leaders of this project claim that HIPPU will be even more secure than CAPTCHAs because bots have a harder time recognizing graphics and sounds than text. With any luck, more Web sites will realize that CAPTCHAs are shutting out a great deal of their audience and will seek alternatives like HIPPU. It's important that these sites understand that even though a visually-impaired person

could ask someone to help type in a CAPTCHA, this need for assistance limits independence — and actually treats a person with a disability like spam.

You can read about assistive technology news, events and reviews at our blog, [blog.eastersealstech.com](http://blog.eastersealstech.com).



**Q: I am a resident of Indiana who is looking for resources on grants and scholarships for people with disabilities who need technology or adaptive equipment. Where do I go to obtain information?**

**A:** You can start by contacting disability specific organizations. If someone has a very specific disability, such as multiple sclerosis or cerebral palsy, they can contact the local chapters of the MS Society ([www.nationalmssociety.org/ini](http://www.nationalmssociety.org/ini)) or the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation ([www.ucp.org](http://www.ucp.org)).

The Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities ([www.in.gov/gpcpd](http://www.in.gov/gpcpd)) often offers scholarships for individuals or their families to attend conferences and workshops where they can learn more information about their own or a relative's disability.

About Special Kids ([www.aboutspecialkids.org](http://www.aboutspecialkids.org)) has a resources directory where you can search for specific grants or search for what funding is available by county. They are constantly updating their Web site in order to provide the most up-to-date information available.

Helping Challenged Children, Inc. provides gifts up to \$750 to pay for wheelchairs, hearing aids, communication devices, insulin pumps and other types of equipment. To qualify, you must be 18 years of age or younger, and you cannot combine this gift with insurance to pay for the requested item. To fill out an application, visit [www.helpingchallengedchildren.org](http://www.helpingchallengedchildren.org).

If you are looking for a specific type of funding or have other questions about grants and scholarships, please contact Ewart Solomon at 317-466-2001, ext. 2531, 888-466-1314 or [esolomon@eastersealscrossroads.org](mailto:esolomon@eastersealscrossroads.org).

## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Since 1979, Easter Seals Crossroads has been Indiana's premier provider of Assistive Technology Services. These clinical services are available statewide and are the hallmark of our program. In October 2007, Easter Seals Crossroads was awarded the Indiana Assistive Technology Act grant (INDATA), which consists of state and federal funding targeted to increasing the availability of assistive technology to Hoosiers with disabilities. There are 56 programs of this type in the United States and U.S. territories. These services are available throughout the state of Indiana at no charge.



**Easter Seals  
Crossroads**

**For more information,  
call us at  
(317) 466-2013 • (888) 466-1314  
[www.eastersealstech.com](http://www.eastersealstech.com)**



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## Tech Tip

### StickyKeys

Do you have difficulty holding two or more keys down on the keyboard at the same time? If you are running Windows, you can turn on the StickyKeys option so that you don't have to hold down a key to perform a command. To activate StickyKeys, open the Start menu and then the Control Panel. In Windows XP or earlier, the accessibility option is titled "Accessibility Features." In Vista or 7, this function is titled "Ease of Access." Click on your accessibility



option and open the keyboard tab. Check the box next to StickyKeys to turn the option on. Now, if you want to use the shortcut to copy text, you can press the CTRL button and then press V without having to hold down CTRL. StickyKeys is also activated or deactivated by pressing the SHIFT key five times in a row.

## EVENTS

**What:** MARC Training  
**When:** January 22, 2010, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
**Where:** Easter Seals Crossroads  
4740 Kingsway Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46205  
(Fourth Floor Conference Room)

**Who should attend:** Anyone who is interested in utilizing the built-in accessibility features in Windows XP, Vista and 7

**Contact:** Carol Girt, Loan Library Specialist, at [cgirt@eastersealscrossroads.org](mailto:cgirt@eastersealscrossroads.org) or 888-466-1314

**What:** ATIA 2010  
**When:** January 27-30, 2010  
**Where:** Caribe Royale All-Suite Hotel & Convention Center, Orlando, FL

**Who should attend:** Anyone who is interested in learning about new assistive technology through vendors and educational sessions

**Contact:** [atia.org](http://atia.org)

**What:** Assistive Technology and Cerebral Palsy Training  
**When:** February 19, 2010, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**Where:** Easter Seals Crossroads  
4740 Kingsway Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46205  
(Fifth Floor Conference Room)

**Who should attend:** Anyone who is interested in learning about assistive technology available for those with cerebral palsy

**Contact:** Sara Croft, Education and Outreach Coordinator, at [scroft@eastersealscrossroads.org](mailto:scroft@eastersealscrossroads.org) or 888-466-1314

**What:** INDATA Conference  
**When:** July 29 and 30, 2010  
**Where:** Indiana Convention Center  
100 South Capitol Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46225

**Who should attend:** Families, professionals, teachers and students who are looking for valuable resources on assistive technology

**Contact:** Sara Croft, Education and Outreach Coordinator, at [scroft@eastersealscrossroads.org](mailto:scroft@eastersealscrossroads.org) or 888-466-1314

**What:** PATINS 2010 Tech Expo  
**When:** April 20, 2010, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Where:** Junior Achievement Building  
7435 Keystone Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46240

**Who should attend:** Parents, students and teachers who are looking to utilize the assistive technology resources that PATINS provides for the public school system

**Contact:** [www.patinsproject.com](http://www.patinsproject.com)

*If you are interested in signing up for our e-mail list, please click "Join INDATA E-mail List" on our Web site. You will receive our quarterly newsletter and information about upcoming events, quarterly trainings and conferences.*