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Cyber street: Accessing social networking tools



The image shows three social media icons: a blue Twitter bird, a blue Facebook 'f' logo, and a speech bubble containing a yellow smiley face and a red speech bubble, all connected by a faint white line.

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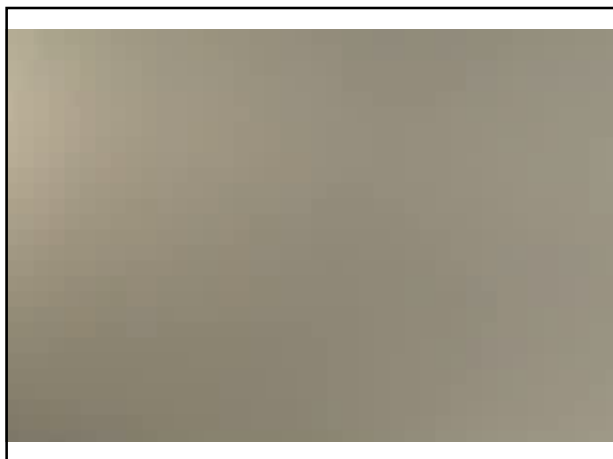
Social media are the cornerstones of modern communication and it is essential that people with disabilities, who can become socially isolated, are able to use these tools and stay connected with the world

Varley, 2008

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Sharing one's identity provides a sense of belonging and value; for students with disabilities, this may remove their identity-as-difference perspective

Israelite et al., 2002; Woodward, 1997



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Why teach it?

- Electronic messaging is the backbone of social networks and other online communities
- People who cannot communicate with electronic text can become increasingly isolated

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Social networking helps AAC users

- Converse as equals
- Communication looks the same from all senders
- Usually the rhythm of conversation encourages non-instantaneous response
- “Conversations” can happen over distance and time –supporting mobility-impaired and stay-at-home users

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Features of software

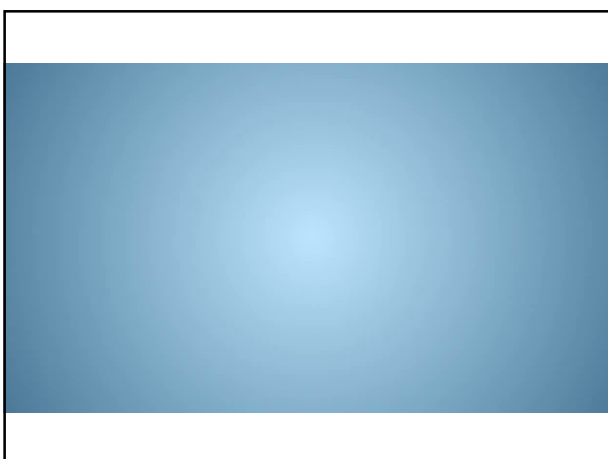

- Onscreen keyboards
- Mouse emulation
 - Cross hair
 - Radar
- Rate enhancement
 - Abbreviation expansion
 - Phrase banks
 - Word/Phrase Prediction

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Mouseless browsing

- MLB enables you to browse the web entirely with the keyboard
- Small boxes with unique IDs behind every link and/or form element
- Type in the ID to trigger the corresponding action i.e. following a link, pressing a button or selecting a text field

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What is Facebook?


- Social networking service launched in 2004 with more than 600 million active users
- Users create personal profiles
- Communicate with friends through private or public messages and chat

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and DynaVox Series 5

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and Tobii Communicator

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What is Twitter?

- Users broadcast thoughts, information, questions, updates
- Limited to 140 characters per post, where each post is usually referred to as a “tweet.”
- Web links in tweets are often shortened to fit within the allotted space.

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What is Twitter?

- each profile is public to everyone else unless the user decides to make it private.
- users have “followers,” or people who can see each tweet they post on a homepage.
- more “viral” and this is mostly due to the nature of Twitter's content — it's short, quick, super sharable

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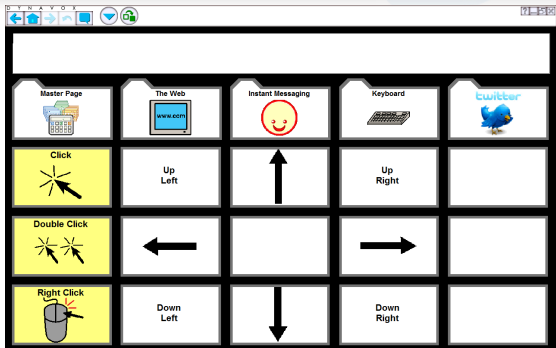
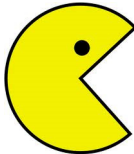
Why Twitter?

- Collaboration, support and feedback
- Share information and resources
- Connect to those with similar interests
- Global perspective
- Inspiration and opportunities
- No longer isolated
- Stay current in a world of constant change

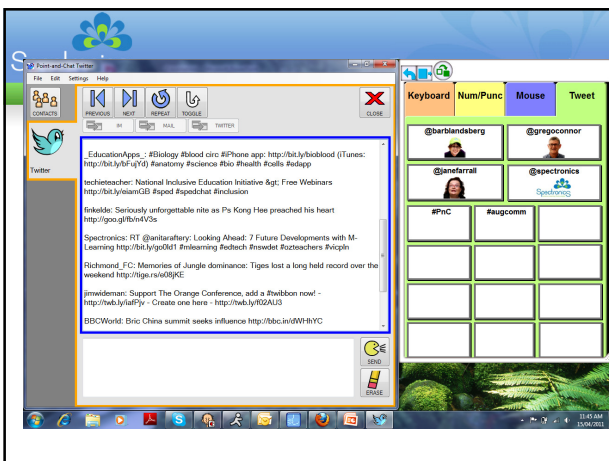
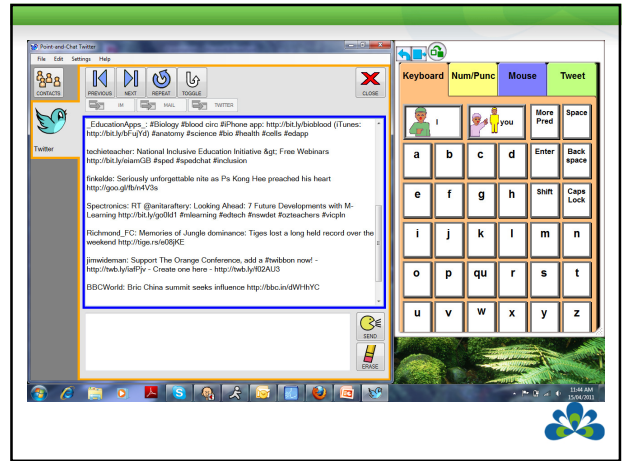
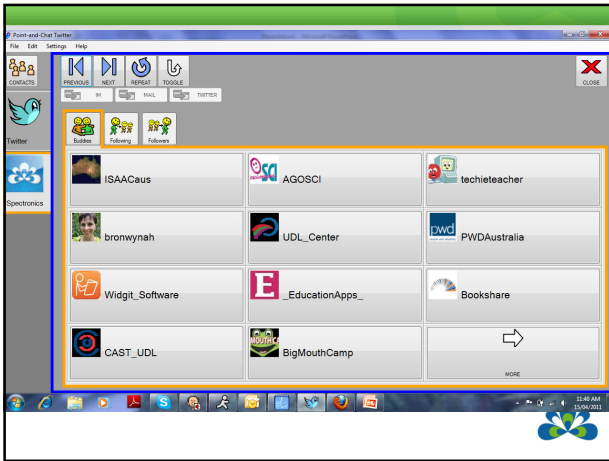
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Twitter with Point-and-Chat

- <http://www.simtalk.com/PnC/FreeTrial/>



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What is Internet Messaging?

- Form of real-time direct text-based communication between two or more people
- Makes use of internet slang or text speak to abbreviate common words or expressions

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Do you know these?

- LOL
- BRB
- TTYL
- G2G
- IIRC
- GMTA

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Accessing IM with Tobii Communicator

- Onscreen keyboards
- Mouse emulation
- Ready Made Pages
- Rate enhancement features

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Accessing IM with Point-and-Chat

- Software developed for IM, Twitter and Email
- Uses AIM internet messaging service

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Phatic files

- Studies have revealed robust IM “chat” vocabulary not available
- the “silent” responses a listener makes to tell the speaker they are listening
 - face to face conversation - nodding, smiling, grimacing and rolling your eyes
 - telephone conversations – vocal “uh huh”s, murmured “mm..mm”s and barely audible “yeah”s
- must vary, or lack of attention is indicated.

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Tracey

- 37 years old
- Locked in syndrome since 1994
- Setup:
 - Monitor mounted to overway table
 - Clamp with switch on table
 - Uses chin to hit switch
 - Tobii Communicator with scanning and onscreen keyboard

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Tracey

- Started using computer 4 years ago
- Uses internet to:
 - stay up dated on the outside world
 - stay in touch with relatives locally and interstate, plus new and old friends
 - beat the BOREDOM.....Grrrrrr
- Using Facebook, You Tube, Google, iTunes and GMail

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Tracey


- talks to new and old friends on Facebook
- has ‘met’ a lot of people from overseas but ‘talks’ with them through Facebook games
- keeps in connection with family locally and interstate

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Tracey

“The computer/internet has opened my world, it has knocked down the wall's and brought the world to me”

“More importantly I have been able to reunite with other sisters and brother over in W.A.”

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References

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