

Accessible &  
Learning  
Technologies for  
Educators of  
Reachable Digital  
N A T I V E S

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Education (T.R.E.) Center



Bi - Weekly Resources for  
Reaching & Teaching  
"Digital Natives"  
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Technology Resources for  
[www.TRECenter.org](http://www.TRECenter.org)

Note: Some links are time-sensitive. Access to some may require registration or free subscriptions.

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**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** "What is important to me now is continually moving toward helping everyone to live a full and meaningful life filled with hope - with or without technology." David Grapka

### UDL ALTERNATIVES

"Universal Design for Learning is a concept or philosophy for designing and delivering products and services that are usable by people with the widest possible range of functional capabilities. It includes products and services that are directly usable (without requiring assistive technologies) and that are made usable with assistive technologies."

AT Act of 1998, P.L. 105-394, S.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2007/10/31/10udl.h27.html?tmp=845799659> Article discussing how UDL has been written into NCLB.

Web 2.0: What is it? Are you using it? For answers to these questions and more about the latest (and you thought you had a ways to go on Web 1.0!) check out these resources!

[http://seilts\\_edit241.blogspot.com/2006/07/web-20.html](http://seilts_edit241.blogspot.com/2006/07/web-20.html) Web 2.0 Primer

<http://www.earthlink.net/elink/issue104/tech.html> How to be a Blogger

<http://chatt.hdsb.ca/~magps/boylit/Podcasting%20in%20Education> podcasting in education

<http://www.learningwiki.com/> A Wiki that you can use

<http://www.laits.utexas.edu/hebrew/personal/tts/table.html> web-based text to speech tools

<http://www.cast.org/system/galleries/download/pdResources/tts.doc> text to speech from cast

### **Free Graphic Organizer resources:**

<http://faculty.trinityvalleyschool.org/corderg/go/free.html>

<http://gliffy.com> online - no download or install

<http://bubbl.us> online - no download or install

<http://cmap.ihmc.us> Cmap - free download

<http://www.mindmeister.com> mindmeister. Free and collaborative. Start an idea and invite others to help flush it out. Great way to get kids to talk, share and work together on a project.

<http://www.frykholm.se/rita.html> New shareware Drawing Program for Mac OSX.

<http://plasq.com> Skitch for Mac combines screen shots with drawing & type tools, easy uploading to web sites, gets images from your iSight, iPhoto library or Finder and sends images to iPhoto, .Mac and email, or drag them anywhere. (from Kirsten A. Haugen)

## ACCESS ALTERNATIVES

<http://www.macspeech.com/> iListen from is a voice recognition package for the Mac.

<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/iRfYhnhjqkcbbeCibiWJtLuH?format=standard> New Web site to help people with disabilities network

<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/iRfYhnhjqkcbbdCibiWJjnpI> offers people with disabilities Facebook-like social-networking opportunities as well as medical news and career advice. The site's founder, J. Glen House, a quadriplegic who graduated from medical school, also aims to help advertisers more efficiently reach people with disabilities.

QUESTION: Do you consider Microsoft Word as Assistive Technology? If a student is eligible for extended time for testing with the use of a word processor.....do you feel that Microsoft Word is considered the Assistive Technology?

ANSWER: The border between conventional products and assistive technologies is a fuzzy one. But of all the mainstream software products, I can think of no other that comes closer to being a full-fledged assistive technology than Microsoft Word. The program has dozens of built-in commands, features, and settings (many of which are hidden or poorly documented) that greatly simplify computer access for people with a wide range of disabilities. Furthermore, Microsoft Word can be customized to better fit the needs of individuals through custom commands and user interface modifications. Many techniques are described in

<http://www.cantoraccess.com/abilities-2006.htm>

<http://www.cantoraccess.com/csun2005-radical.htm>

<http://www.cantoraccess.com/csun2004-vba.htm>

## ADMINISTRATOR ALTERNATIVES:

<http://www.ncrtec.org/pd/tssa/> Technology Standards for School Administrators Developed

by the Collaborative for Technology Standards for School Administrators 2001

<http://www.ncrtec.org/pd/llwt/> Leadership and Learning with Technology. This site consists of six interrelated module frameworks that focus on planning and actions essential for implementing, managing, and supporting educational technology in schools. Each module provides goals and resources for creating a workshop. The resources include a wide range of technology-oriented analysis, planning, and skill development. The six modules provide a framework for districts to create meaningful workshops designed for specific needs.

<http://www.setp.net/Subscribe.html> Special Education Technology Practice

<http://www.balancetime.com/> Time Management

## MATH ALTERNATIVES:

<http://www.moffsoft.com/freecalc.htm> and <http://www.moffsoft.com/downloads.htm> "FreeCalc" Free downloadable calculator from Moffsoft can be enlarged to fit the entire computer screen size if you prefer; four color choices, which are not displayed on the download page. There is also an onscreen tape which can also be printed. From Nancy Shuster <nshuster@ACES.K12.CT.US>

<http://www.numeracysoftware.com> The Big Friendly Calculator - offers size adjustment.

<http://www.dessci.com/en/products/mathtype/default.htm> You can download a free, functional version for a 30-day trial period. You can customize your own logic palette if you need to. Can be very useful for students with hand writing issues. (from Steve Noble)

## MUSIC ALTERNATIVES:

<http://drjean.org/> Some music is designed for younger children but a lot is educational, traditional and funny, entertaining songs. You can see the songs and the words.

<http://musicrobot.com/> Search for free midi files for songs, right click on the desired midi file and save "target as" to keep the music on your computer.

There is an excellent music CD from Bill Downey and Bob Mayo, speech pathologists working in schools. Their CD is designed to teach language skills and basic concepts. The CD is designed for younger children, but may be of interest. Their website is <http://www.bobbill.com>

<http://www.musicalyogaadventures.com> Great yoga CD, written by an OT and special ed music teacher called "Musical Yoga Adventures." It has joyful songs with easy-to-follow routines, downloadable graphics of poses and lyrics to songs. Songs emphasize connection to nature and each other.

#### **PARENT ALTERNATIVES:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qTiYA1WiY8>  
How far will parents go to support their children? From Colleen Gilhooly

#### **TEACHING ALTERNATIVES:**

[http://www.readwritethink.org/student\\_mat/student\\_material.asp?id=38](http://www.readwritethink.org/student_mat/student_material.asp?id=38) Read, Write, Think

<http://www.clasohm.com/lmt/en/> "LetMeType"

[http://www.ideal-group.org/initiatives/access-tomorrow/project\\_overview.htm](http://www.ideal-group.org/initiatives/access-tomorrow/project_overview.htm) Access Tomorrow Project (from Janet Hopkins)

<http://interactivemultimediatechnology.blogspot.com/2007/11/nobelprizeorgs-educational-outreach.html>

<http://itcfusion.wikispaces.com/English>

#### **TECHIE ALTERNATIVES:**

You can convert the YouTube video via Zamzar (<http://www.zamzar.com>), pick a format you

want (ie: avi, mpeg, mov, etc), and then download it from Zamzar and include it in your presentation. It's easy to use & free. To convert a video, click the URL hypertext in Step 1, then paste your address in and click the "add URL" button. That will load the url and then you can pick the type of file you want to convert to. It'll do the conversion then send you an email with a link when it is done. You can download it from there. hth.

#### **VENDOR WEBSITES AND NEWS:**

<http://trecenter.org/vendors.htm>

<http://www.Axistive.com>  
For an assistive technology news website

<http://www.cricksoft.com/us/accessibility/bundle.asp> The AT Bundle includes everything you need to get up and running in minutes - and you save money too!

#### **LINKS to CLOSING THE GAP:**

Solutions – Convenient and Easy to Use!

About Closing The Gap - 5 minutes

Solutions Demonstration - 10 minutes

<http://closingthegap.com/ctg2/solutions/youtube.lasso>

Request a DVD be mailed to you

<http://closingthegap.com/ctg2/requests/index.lasso>

Try the 14-day Free Trial Now

<http://closingthegap.com/ctg2/trial22/customerindex.lasso>

#### **Order Now**

<http://closingthegap.com/ctg2/orders/indexSub.lasso>

## Dear Friends and Colleagues:

This biweekly, free email newsletter provides resources to people interested in the use of technology as a tool to help all students. If you have information to share that would be of value to members of our learning community, including job notices, please write and let us know. We'll be happy to share it here or at our web site. Contact, reprint, and subscription information is at the end of this document.

Thank you for your interest in the TRE Center and our work. We look forward to having you share your wisdom with the people on this list and with those you serve.

Sincerely,  
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## ABOUT ALTERNATIVES:

\*Respond directly to the person posting an item.

\*To submit questions or items for consideration, send to: [Dgrapka@gw.neric.org](mailto:Dgrapka@gw.neric.org) If you know others who would like to receive ALTERNatives, please direct them to:

<http://www.trecenter.org/news.htm> for subscription information. To speak to a human about newsletter issues, please contact TRE toll free in NY 800-248-9873.

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