



Edition 54

## Editor 's Desk

Dear friends,

*Life imposes things on you that you can't control, but you still have the choice of how you're going to live through this." —**Celine Dion***

Happy Reading!!

Regards,

Bhavna Botta

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## Tech innovations changing the way of life.

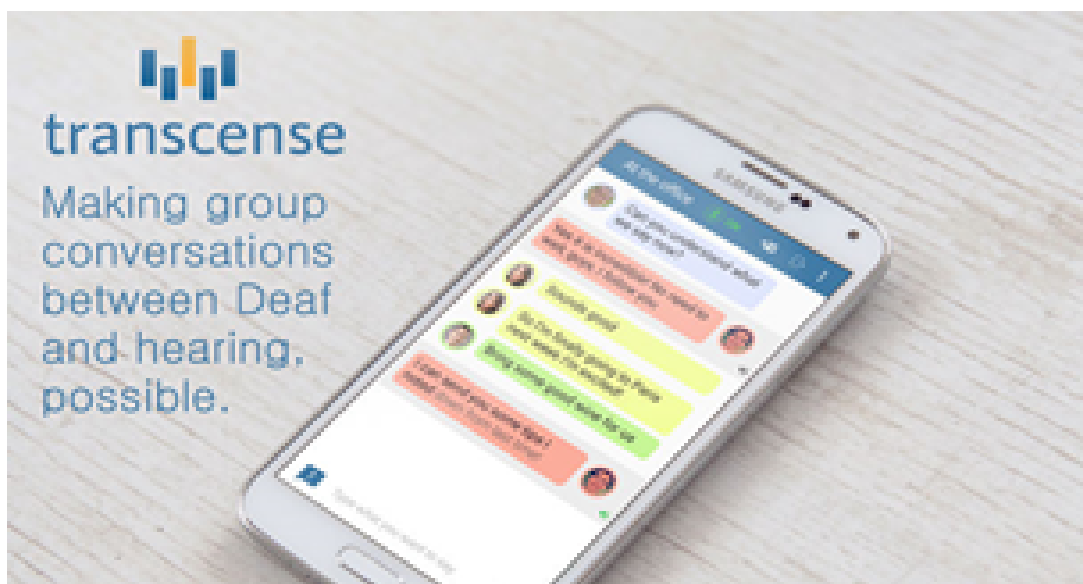
### Transcense

The deaf can communicate via one-on-one conversations using sign language or lip-reading, but about when a group conversation arises?

Transcense offers a great solution that can still keep the deaf in group conversations.

In a conversation, with the use of each participant's smartphone's microphone, the app catches what they are saying then converts it into text in real-time.

Each speaker has its corresponding text bubble, differentiated by color, just like what you would find in a regular group messaging chat room.



# • dot ⠠⠠⠠⠠

Dot is a wearable that is also the world's first Braille smartwatch. Dot is a practical solution that is more affordable than regular e-Braille devices, which may cost thousands, yet still works well for the blind. Dot helps the blind access messages, tweets, even books anywhere and at any time.

Technically, this tool functions with six dots on four cells found on the surface of the smartwatch.

These dots will raise or lower to form 4 letters in Braille at any time. It can connect via Bluetooth to any smartphone, then retrieve and translate the text (from an email or messaging app) into Braille for its owner.

When you receive a call on your smartphone, the Dot Watch vibrates and displays the name of the caller. Every text message you receive on the smartphone is instantly translated to Braille and forwarded to your Dot Watch.



## Helpful list of tech solutions



Originally featured in Access and Inclusion through Technology

<http://www.accessandinclusion.news/#/>

<https://a11yby.com/dyslexia-10-tech-tips/>

### 1) Screen Reader / Text to Speech

- TextHelp Read&Write
- Apple Read Aloud
- Amazon Alexa (Reads Amazon Books)
- Browsealoud
- SuperNova Magnifier and Screen Reader
- NVDA Screen reader
- Zoomtext Magnifier and Screen Reader
- ClaroRead
- Office 365 Read text aloud

### 2) Voice Dictation

- Dragon Professional
- iOS Dictation
- Windows 10
- G-Suite Dictation Support
- Microsoft Office 365 Dictation Support

### **3) Note taking**

- Sonocent Audio Notetaker
- Apple Pencil
- Digital Ink – OneNote
- Google Keep

### **4) Alternative Mind mapping**

- Inspiration 9
- MindJet Manager
- Lucidchart
- MURAL**Mind Maps**

### **5) Word processing & Collaboration**

- Office 365
- Google G-Suite
- Zoom
- Microsoft Teams
- Scanning Pens (Many will also provide text to speech functionality)

## **6) Password Assistance**

- 1Password X
- Apple FaceID & Biometric Fingerprint scanner
- Voice authentication
- Apple Keychain
- Chrome Password Vault

## **7) Digital Assistant**

- Amazon Alexa
- Google Assistant
- Apple Siri
- TBI / Home Automation

## **8) Dictaphone**

- Olympus DS-2600
- Olympus DM-7700
- Olympus VP-10
- Olympus VN-541PC
- Olympus WS-852
- Olympus VN-541PC
- Philips DVT1300 – Includes Dragon Naturally Speaking Update Recorder Edition

## **9) Headphones/ Microphone**

- Andrea headphone that include dual ear and mic are often most suitable (Andrea EDU-225M)
- Jabra Evolve 65
- Plantronics Audio 400 DSP
- Samson go mic (For better voice pickup)
- Plantronics Savi W440

## **10) Meditation & Mindfulness Apps**

- Headspace
- Calm

## **11) BONUS Dyslexia Support**

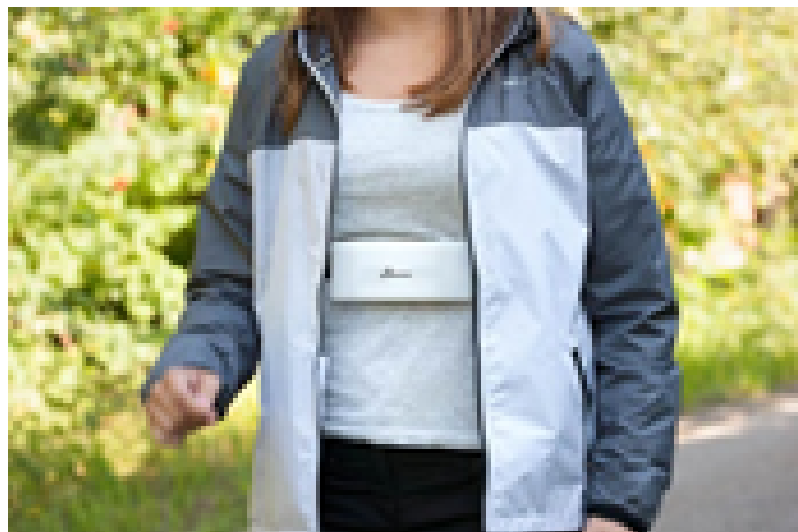
- iDyslexic
- WelcoMe app by Neatebox
- WeCanAccess

## **Innovative Tech developments to keep an eye on -**

**Guidesense** is a new assistive wearable from the VTT Technical Research Center of Finland. The device, which is designed to aid visually impaired people with mobility in day-to-day life, can sense objects and obstacles in the surrounding environment and relay those obstacles to its user through the use of both haptic and audio feedback.

Guidesense is worn around one's waist. The fanny pack-sized device contains millimeter wave radar sensors that are capable of detecting even minute objects in front of the wearer. If it senses that the wearer is approaching a nearby obstacle, vibrating motors inside the device will buzz an alert.

Guidesense's developers ran the device through a short test with 25 visually impaired people, and 80 percent of those people felt that the device improved their confidence in independent mobility and orientation.





## **The Brain Power Autism System Has Gamified Life Skills Training**

The Brain Power Autism System is leveraging aspects of augmented reality and artificial intelligence to encourage those with autism to make eye contact and better recognize the emotions of others.

Through the implementation of a google-made wearable, the company has effectively gamified the teaching of practical life skills. The device is a simple unobtrusive pair of glasses that are equipped with Brain Power's 3D motion sensing technology. The glasses task the wearer to make eye contact with their peers, rewarding the user with a numerical point system, every time they make and hold eye contact. In addition, the glasses enable the wearer to unlock various gold stars and cartoon figures for accurately guessing a peer's emotions.

This immersive and entertaining device has shown significant results among the autistic community through providing the user with immersive assistive experience and education

## **The 'Fusion' Camera Incorporates the Functionality of a Smartphone**

The 'Fusion' Camera is the design work of Louis Berger and offers a bevy of functionalities that make it a suitable piece of equipment for those who are avid photographers as well as those who have visual impairments.

This is thanks to the screen on the camera that is capable of providing a tactile experience for users to touch and interact with to capture moments in a way that is familiar to them and that doesn't require sight to be experienced.

The 'Fusion' Camera also boasts a smart lens for easy and fast hardware upgrades, a pressure-sensitive button control system and a modern user interface that can be adaptive to different uses. The camera is chromatically designed in several colors to make it a stylish yet versatile solution for shutterbugs.

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