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CONNECT special

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Editor's Desk

Dear friends,

It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light.

-Aristotle

Happy Reading,

Regards

Bhavna Botta

http://www.connectspecial.in/

Inclusive Designs

Earbud Assistive Listening Case

AudioTelligence has announced a new product concept that, for the first time, integrates assistive listening technology into an earbud charging case.

In what would be a world-first combination of hearing technology with earbud charging, the concept addresses the challenges faced by many people with hearing impairment in social situations where conventional hearing aids may fall short. With a sleek and modern design, the charging case has been designed to better align with the form factor of popular wireless earbud cases.

AudioTelligence said that the case has been designed to be both user-friendly and appealing because it hopes that the discreet and modern design will encourage wider adoption of hearing technology integrated into consumer products.

Picture shows two men ,one with an ear bud,sitting across a table and chatting over coffee.

click to watch the video

Users will no longer need additional hardware or accessories: help with hearing better becomes available in a device that they already carry with them. With this practical solution to a common problem, AudioTelligence said that it wants to ‘revolutionize’ the assistive technology market.

This concept capitalizes on the growing popularity of TWS earbuds as cutting-edge consumer accessories and takes advantage of the blurring lines between consumer tech and professional hearing devices.

Powered by AudoTelligence's, the assistive listening devices within the earbud charging case use blind source separation (BSS) to process audio signals from multiple microphones. This technology separates each source of sound with a consistent spatial location into its own distinct channel of audio. The result - a remarkable capability for individuals with hearing loss to seamlessly follow the conversation.

https://audiotelligence.com/resources/the-revolutionary-earbud-assistive-listening-case/

Ava

Ava converts speech to text but adds a unique feature: it does so even in a group discussion, having the ability to identify speech from a specific person and display their name. It’s especially useful in a group conversation where the individual with hearing loss finds it difficult to communicate.

Use Ava to transcribe or live caption voice to text for classrooms, business meetings, doctor’s appointments, shopping, events, and more. Ava's speech-to-text app makes transcribing any live

communication easy for friends, family,and organizations to be inclusive, accessible!Download Ava on your phone to instantly transcribe voice-to-text from up to a meter away. Teach Ava to improve and learn your vocabulary as it transcribes voice to text by tapping on words to correct them or adding your own custom vocabulary.

The app has a free version that only lets you caption up to five hours per month but with terrible accuracy.

https://apps.apple.com/us/app/ava-transcribe-voice-to-text/id1030067058

TapSOS

TapSOS is an award-winning app that helps deaf people communicate with emergency services without having to utter a word. Instead of having to converse with speech, users tap options on the screen to select what they intend to say,and the system interprets it for the receiver, helping them send appropriate them.

After the app's launch, users found new ways to use the service, such as for people having difficulties breathing or people held hostage. TapSOS provides an excellent service in connecting in emergencies.

https://tapsos.com/about-tapsos/

Innovative Ideas

AI travel bag

Japanese researchers and companies have joined forces to develop an innovative guidance robot called the "AI Suitcase" to help visually impaired travellers navigate their surroundings with ease.

Picture shows, Chieko Asakawa, inventor of the AI Suitcase, in Anaheim, California. The travel bag has an AI device mounted on the handle.

The groundbreaking assistive technology recently underwent its first overseas public trial, garnering significant interest and sparking discussions about its future practical applications.

The artificial intelligence suitcase was conceived by Chieko Asakawa, a top engineer at IBM Corp. and the current director of the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, or Miraikan, in Tokyo. Four companies, including Kyoto-based Omron Corp., are collaborating on development.

The AI Suitcase offers features that surpass those of traditional smartphone guidance systems, providing enhanced safety and environmental awareness. By staying one step ahead of the user, the self-propelled suitcase ensures seamless navigation, while its integrated sensors assess the surroundings.

Asakawa and her development team have conducted a series of tests of the technology at locations including Miraikan and Coredo Muromachi, a busy commercial facility in Tokyo's Nihombashi. Their decision to conduct public overseas trials stems from a sense of urgency to make the technology viable not only in Japan but also internationally.

"It is important to have people from all over the world understand the technology, so we go out and listen to what they have to say," she said.

Many opinions were shared during the trial, ranging from how individuals with diverse physiques can utilize the guidance technology to its operation in crowded spaces.

"There is still a lot of work to be done," Asakawa said.

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