

Friend or Foe?

Accessibility, Technology, and People

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John Slatin, UT Austin Accessibility Institute



- Many people have functional limitations (middle-age hearing loss, hand tremor, etc.) but do not call themselves disabled.
- When designing, whether physical or digital, remember those people! The audience is bigger than the "obvious" one.

John's experiences past 15 months

- Has driven home that we are talking about real people with real needs who need access to information in life-critical situations
- John takes 15-16 medications every day but cannot identify these himself
- MD Anderson website with schedule and tools for communicating with medical team has on-line forms that are not keyboard operable
- Hospital floor with 52 rooms, 4 nursing stations, 4 pods of 13 rooms. No landmarks he could use to navigate independently

Communication Access Real-Time Translation (CART)

- **Remote CART**
 - Trained operator is at a remote location
 - Voice transmitted via connection such as a telephone, cellphone, or computer microphone
 - Operator transcribes in real time
 - Transcript is transmitted back via modem, Internet, or other data connection

Tonight's Speakers

- Jim Allan, Texas School for the Blind
- Glenda Sims, Knowbility and The University of Texas Team Web
- Randall Horwiz, IBM Human Ability & Accessibility Center
- Thea Eaton, Snert Studios

Regrets from:

- Mike Squillace, IBM Human Ability & Accessibility Center
- Sharron Rush, Knowbility