

WeCo

GAAD: Live Demos

Thursday, May 16, 2019

CAPTIONING PROVIDED BY CAPTION ACCESS LLC

<http://www.captionaccess.com/>

For assistance email [support@captionaccess.com](mailto:support@captionaccess.com)

\*\*\* TypeWell transcription provides a meaning-for-meaning representation of spoken conversation to facilitate real-time communication access. This rough-edited copy is provided for reference and is not a verbatim record of the proceedings. \*\*\*

I think we're going to move on and see Maureen.

I'll show you the reading. Some users were learning how to use iPhones.

Participant: Are you liking your phone?

Maureen: So far. I already called 911 once accidentally.

[Laughter]

I'm liking it. I'm liking texting and Siri. Just learning how to do email.

For example, if I'm reading, you don't see very much. I don't know how many words you see on the screen at a time. I see "[Inaudible] extends what." That's all I see. I have to hit the down arrow to get to the next line. You can do gestures with Voiceover. Its operation has been compared more than once to an old-style television.

You get that from reading.

Participant: Do you prefer to read or to have something read to you?

Maureen: It depends on what I'm reading. If I'm reading something that is like an email that's probably getting deleted, I don't care. I'll probably just delete it.

If I'm reading something where I want to take in more of what it says, especially training stuff, I like to read it in braille.

It depends on where I am. The nice thing about braille is it doesn't talk, so on the bus, I don't have something rapping away. It's private.

I have a desktop computer, as well. I use JAWS and braille display. It puts in braille what JAWS is saying. I work for WeCo half time and have my own business doing braille transcription half time. When I have to transcribe document for people, I use JAWS and the braille display. I can make corrections when I put stuff in braille.

I kind of use both of them. I really am a braille fanatic mostly.

Participant: You mentioned that there are two different types of braille. There's a condensed.

Maureen: Right now, it's in contracted braille. If you looked at the word "tuning," you can't probably see this, but it's tun. Where it says -ing, it's only one character under my finger that means -ing.

Tuning dial. Period. Then it says the word, "that." It's never spelled out "that." It's a T with a space. That's "that." There are about 215 contractions. That's contracted braille. That's how books, magazines, or anything you'd normally read is written.

I can also change this to computer braille, which doesn't have -- that's got the word "that" all the way written out. It gets rid of . . .

The period after "dial" is a different shape. When it was contracted, it was dots 2, 5, 6. Now it's dots 4, 6, 6.

Computer braille was made to make embossers that you print braille and stuff with to work better with - it has something to do with how the asking codes work. I don't understand the technical part.

It must have to do with how websites see stuff like when you write something on a form, and you have to write in the computer braille to get the form to work.

Then there's uncontracted braille, which nobody uses unless they're a beginner. They don't know the contractions yet.

[Laughter]

Participant: Is contracted compared to shorthand?

Maureen: Yeah, it is.

In 2016, the United States changed the braille code because there were problems. When people had been using Braille, the internet was never around. There weren't some of the problems getting things to talk to each other with braille. They changed it from what was called literary braille to unified braille in 2016. They took away some contractions and added others. They made some changes in the rules.

They had to do that because there were conflicts. For example, there's a website called Scripture 4 All. It's the number 4. You couldn't tell. If you didn't know any better, you were reading the web address, and you couldn't tell if it was sculpture period all because some characters meant two different things. That caused a conflict. They changed it to make it so that those conflicts went away.

That's been effect for three years now. Most blind people have gotten used to it, but I still get requests from some elderly blind people to put it in literary because they don't know the new contractions yet. My braille business is booming because a lot of the braille transcribers retired and restarted with the new [Inaudible.] They didn't want to learn a new code

Participant: How Long did it take you to get used to the new code?

Maureen: I'm still getting used to it. The difference between the new and old code was -- now there are emphasis markers in a word document. There may be 5 words bolded and another word that's italicized, especially in textbooks. It helps students know what's important, so they underline and bold it. There was not a good way to do that in braille. The [Inaudible] put these emphasis markers in.

As you're reading, you can pay attention to that word because it's bolded. That's a whole bunch of different characters that I think clutters up documents. I imagine sighted people feel that way, too, if there are too many emphasis markers.

Participant: It can be a visual distraction. I know you're using Voiceover and emojis. What do you get on a braille keyboard?

Maureen: I haven't seen one yet. That's a great question.

When I set up my phone with this, they were talking to each other. They since stopped. I don't know why. It says I'm connected to my phone. Let me check.

Internet? Yep.

iPhone, you're already connected.

I don't know why. If I did, I'd go to the emoji keyboard and see what it does on here.

Participant: Thank you for showing me to spell my name. Nice to meet you.

Maureen: Any questions?

Welcome. Thank you for coming.

Participant: It's fascinating to see. I'm glad I got to see it.

Maureen: Thank you. You're welcome.

We have the folks from Zoom here in the room. We've been in here for 5 or 10 minutes with you. They saw a little bit about typing the name.

Could you show them anything we may have missed earlier in your presentation?

Maureen: Yeah. One of the things I did in the first half is I showed people the desktop. I'll turn this on. The desktop has file manager, a word processor, Note Pad, email, media, all those things.

I went to the word processor. That's where I was when Kelly wrote her name.

This is what a blank document looks like. There's the first one.

It's pretty much like you can save it as a Doc file. You can important and save to your desktop and [Inaudible.]

I showed them that. I showed them the website. It's asking me if I want to save this. I'm telling it no.

Do they see a website?

I don't think so.

Maureen: I was trying to go to . . .

I couldn't get it to open Caring Bridge. I don't know why.

It's also taking a really long time to load tonight. I think it's using the internet from my phone, and there's not many bars. I think that's part of the problem. I'm not sure how well it's . . .

[Inaudible] means you're telling me you're connected. Do something besides loading.

It did go there this time, which is good.

If you see the [Inaudible] folks, tell them that their site doesn't work.

Participant: I used to work there.

Maureen: OK.

Participant: [Inaudible.]

Maureen: Yeah. It would open before.

When at a website, it takes it to the top of the page. The first thing I'd look for is headings. There's a command for that.

It says, "start your free website." Start a site. That sounds like an ad. Maybe not.

Save time with one update is the next heading.

Benefits.

You can go jump through. I can also look for links. It says. . . . [Background noise; speaker inaudible]

Donate.

About us.

[Inaudible]

A lot of times, I'll either go through headings or links, or I'd do a find and look for the word "skip." That's how I start often. It's not found.

I wish the guys from . . .

Skip to content.

Apparently, there isn't one here. It's not finding that word.

I love when sites have that. For example, I don't know how much you see on the screen, but all I see is personal health on this line. Personal health. Journeys of any condition, Caring Bridge. Link. Google.

It could take a really long time to read down a site before you get to where the content is. I love the skip place.

Participant: [Inaudible]

Maureen: Yeah.

Participant: The keyboard itself is sending you tactile feedback of braille?

Maureen: It's braille. You should come see it.

For example, right here is the word "we." Then there's a space. There's an H, which is the word "have." There are 215 instructions in braille. We have detected that . . . JavaScript is currently disabled. You need to have that on. I don't know how that works.

Caring Bridges West. Best viewed with Java script. That's a problem with braille and Java script. There's a conflict. Sometimes sites don't work as well with one a bunch of Java.

We have a question from the folks at Zoom.

Question: What is the biggest challenge you find people make in coding websites that effects using braille?

Maureen: What affects using braille - - there's a problem with a lot of Java. That's the only thing I can think of that is a problem specifically with braille, but the other things that affect braille are the same things that affect using speech.

For example, I was telling the group before that, in this building, I can't get on their WiFi because to get to the part that you have to agree to the terms, there's a check box. Normally, if there's a check box, you hit the space bar to check it. When it's checked, you can feel the letter X in braille in the check box. It's not coded right. It won't work. I can't ever agree to the terms because I can't check the check box. So, I tried to get on -- I asked Industrious if there's another. They said to get on the T3 guest WiFi. I can't agree to their terms because you have to watch a video first. I can't watch a video on this.

I got lost in what I was saying.

Some of the problems -- if you're using speech and can't get a check box to check, you'll have problems.

At a desktop, you can watch the video. I could there get it to work.

Usually, the things that affect braille are the same bad things that would affect any speech. If I'm in a search box and I do a down arrow on this, and I don't see search button, I don't know how to do the search.

Or, if you're jumping from form field to form field in braille, you go like this basically. Or like this.

If I'm doing that and the form isn't labeled right -- I might get on the edit box, but I don't know what it's for. If it's labeled right, it will say first name in braille. Then there's a mark next to it, so you know that's a form. The cursor automatically goes there. You can write your first name. If it's labeled right, you see the empty space. It's the same errors that cause general inaccessibility that come up with braille.



Thank you.

Maureen: Welcome.

I always feel like I'm just in wonder when I come to these things having no background in any technology. Then I'm just wowed watching your braille laptop there and seeing it change was just almost mesmerizing.

Maureen: Yeah.

Thank you again.

Maureen: You're welcome.