

Issue

01

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ILC Tech



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Inside this issue:

Single Message Devices	2
Free AAC Apps	2
New Resources	3
Switch for iPad	3
Country Visits	4
Professional Development	4
Calendar of Events	4

Our Service

The ILC Technology service provides information, advice and training on specialised computer access, technologies to support education and augmentative and alternative communication equipment for people of all ages.

Information regarding assistive and educational technologies is available by appointment.

The ILC Hire Service specialises in the short term hire of equipment to provide you with an opportunity to trial before purchase.

Android

Many people have been enjoying the flexibility that tablet technology has to offer. While many people are familiar with the iPad product not so many people have touched an android tablet.

What is Android?

Android is Google designed operating system – which is like saying Windows can work on lots of different types of computers. This is why many companies are able to create Android tablets. The good news is the customer can really customise what they want on the tablet or the look, weight, accessories or speed of the tablet.

Android Apps to get you started

There is more than one Android marketplace – which means you have even more apps to search through to find quality apps. Be aware that people who place Apps on the Android marketplace don't have them quality approved before they are put on the market. This means you need to install a virus protector on your tablet / smartphone.



Another nice feature of Android App market place is you can download a paid app and trial it for 15 mins and then if you have "buyers remorse" you can hit My Apps page and then tap "REFUND". This option is a one time only offer per app trial.

Its worth noting that Android is also Flash Player compatible which means you can access a wider variety of websites that iPad OS wont be able to do – such as Reading Eggs.

There are also common apps that are found on both the Apple & Android market place.

App Brain – <http://www.appbrain.com/> this is a nifty little way to narrow your search of apps, and will allow you to gain the best options by age group, interest group, region and popularity.

Android Zoom <http://www.androidzoom.com/>

Apps4Android <http://www.apps4android.org/>

Accessibility Apps – (mostly voice over & low vision options) http://eyes-free.googlecode.com/svn/trunk/documentation/android_access/apps.html

There are some of the Android apps that are really functional. The keyboarding apps will allow a selected keyboard to be used across all applications which means if it's set up for word prediction or Swype texting you can use this anytime. The word prediction on Android is very reliable, with the ability for the software to learn your most commonly used words & spelling. There are also some great web / screen reader apps that can be used on an Android tablet. There is also the option to plug in a USB keyboard and download software to plug in a mouse.

Silent Tweets is a smartphone app designed by Australian Communication Exchange (ACE) as a free community broadcasting tool for people who are hearing impaired. It allows users to share information or announcements that might otherwise be broadcast over loudspeakers or radio www.silenttweets.com.au.

If you are interested in looking at an Android Tablet or require further information on suitable apps, please contact the ILC Technology team to arrange an appointment.

Did you know that the Independent Living Centre is on Facebook!

Our Facebook page is frequently being updated with news about ILC, upcoming events and conferences, resources about assistive equipment and technology and much more.

You can follow by searching in Facebook for the "Independent Living Centre WA"



What's new in the world of single message devices?

Do you have a BIGmack in one of your cupboards?

ILC Tech has a range of single message devices on display. These simple devices come in a range of shapes and sizes and have countless numbers of ways they can be used!!!!

Some of the new devices we have on display include:

Big Button Communicator

There are two models available a single message and one with steps and levels. For more information see:

<http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/product/big-button-communicators>



VideoBrix Personal Video Communicator

This device allows you to create a single video message using the inbuilt camera.

<http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/product/videobrix-personal-video-communicator>

Talking Pockets

This device is pocket sized with an easy to push button.

<http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/product/easy-push-talking-pockets>



Other Resources:

101+ ideas for using the BIGmack - <http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/article/101-ideas-for-using-the-bigmack-or-other-single-message-communication-devices-3>

101 Ways to use a sequential message AAC device to access the curriculum — <http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/article/101-ways-to-use-a-sequential-message-aac-device-to-access-the-curriculum-3>

Think creatively about how you might be able to use one of these devices in your school, home or community setting during 2012!!

Free AAC apps for iPad and Android

Looking for a free communication app to try out with individuals with complex communication needs?

Sonoflex (available for iDevices and Android)

Sonoflex is a new AAC app developed by Tobii which has a lite version available for free. The lite version offers users the chance to use the full Sonoflex vocabulary and do some basic editing. The Sonoflex vocabulary includes core words, categories and context categories.

<http://www.tobii.com/assistive-technology/global/products/software/sono-flex/>



Scene and Heard

Scene and Heard has recently released a lite version available for free. This app allows the user to create visual scenes and hybrid visual scenes. <http://www.tboxapps.com/features.html>

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New Resources on the ILC Tech Website!

The ILC Tech Team has recently made available a range of resources on the ILC Tech website.

Resources include:

- “Getting Started: Useful iDevice Apps” Which includes a list of our favourite apps, ipad cases and switches
- Handouts from recent presentations “iPads Apps in Special Education”, “10 Tips for your Technology Toolbox” and “Best Practice in AAC”

<http://www.ilc.com.au/pages/ilc-technology>

Throughout the year we will be updating and adding resources and presentations regularly, so keep an eye on what's new!

Switch for iPad

Many people are asking if it's possible to access an iPad with a switch. Currently there are a several switch interfaces that will operate specific applications on the iPad.

Currently there is no way to operate the iDevices using a switch interface. Each individual application designer needs to create the access for a switch to operate their app. This means, there are a range of switch interfaces which will operate across a range of specific applications.

In some cases the designer has created the app that makes the entire screen a large “switch” which means the user can touch anywhere on the screen to gain a cause & effect response.

The other consideration is not only being able to access the iDevice by an external switch, it is whether the user can also access this with a scanning option. Again the developers of the individual app are required to write this feature in their software application for scanning to operate. An example of this is Predictable App, which has a scan & switch accessible feature.

<http://itunes.apple.com/au/app/predictable/id404445007?mt=8>

Switch Interfaces

- Therapy Box
- AbleNet Blue2 Bluetooth Switch
- RJ Cooper Bluetooth Super Switch
- It-Click iPad Switch Interface

Switch Accessible Apps

- Sounding Board
- Tap Speak Series
- Tap to Talk
- Predictable
- A couple of the Inclusive Technology iPad Apps.



ILC Technology in Nedlands has a couple of the switch interfaces and access to the switch accessible apps for people to have a look at before considering whether this is the option for them. Please contact the ILC to make an appointment to view these products and access our **Getting Started Useful iDevices Apps List:** <http://www.ilc.com.au/pages/ilc-technology>

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Professional Development

ILC Tech can provide professional development on a range of topics including:

- Assistive Technology in the classroom
- Communication Aids and Technology
- Using Visual Supports
- Training for Communication Partners
- Aided Language Stimulation
- Literacy Support Tools
- Boardmaker—all versions
- Software specific training
- Special Education Apps for iPod/ iPad

In addition, we can provide customised training or support for your organisation or school. Please contact us to discuss your specific training requirements.

2012 ILC Tech Country Visits

The Independent Living Centre will on the road again for country visits from the 1st July onwards. We are funded to provide a limited number of appointments in the country each year. Please contact Jessica (jessica.rigden@ilc.com.au or 9381 0600) to express your interest in ILC Tech coming to your town.

ILC Workshops Semester 1 2012

Proloquo2Go Workshop (2hrs)	20th Feb / 2nd May
Introduction to Boardmaker V6 (2hrs)	28th Feb / 11th May
Text Help Read & Write Gold V10 (3hrs)	24th Feb
IPad in Special Education , Accessories & Mounting Showcase (3hrs)	29th March
Boardmaker Plus & Boardmaker with Speaking Dynamically Pro (3hrs)	11th May
Introduction to Clicker 5 (3hrs)	12th June

Registration Flyers & details have been attached separately.

Calendar of Events

Event Title	Date/ Place	More Information
Variety Motor Mouth Camp Volunteers wanted!	11th—15th April 2012 Point Walter	A camp for children who use communication aids and devices. Email kelly.moore@ilc.com.au for more information
AGOSCI National Tour Talking the Talk: Let's Get Interactive, Caroline Musselwhite INTERNATIONAL AAC EXPERT	Registrations now OPEN!!!!!!!!!! 24th August 2012 The Niche Conference Room, next to ILC	Caroline has 25 years experience working with children with disabilities and complex communication needs. http://www.agosci.org.au/nt2012.htm