Mark Walker 0:18

So, hello, everybody. I'm Mark Walker, I'm your host for the call today, the webinar today. On the screen, you can see hopefully, that you're in the right place how to run an accessible online meeting. And also, if you're looking for slides, because of the dynamic nature of what we're doing, they've been posted onto slideshare. You can download them from SlideShare as a full PowerPoint or a PDF. And you can go to slideshare.net/abilitynet. So I'll mention that again in a moment. But if you wanted slides, for any accessibility reasons, then you can get them from slideshare.net/abilitynet and you'll find this meeting is posted up there as a slide deck, and it's available to download, so you can track the slides if that's helpful for you. We've got over 500 people registered for today's call. So we'll have a few moments just to make sure everybody's joining us. And one thing I want to mention that makes it a lot easier for us to manage the call is that we want you to use the QA and not the chat as much as possible. The chat makes it harder for us to manage monitor. So if you have any questions for us, particularly any questions around the content, please use the q&a box. Now to do that, you'll need to go to your toolbar for zoom and find q&a. And you should be able to say as Trevor just has that he will use the q&a box to ask us questions just makes it one less thing for us to juggle with at the other end. David Hoff is giving us greetings from Boston, Massachusetts. Hello, and others saying hi in that so. So Robin Spinks popped up there somewhere. So saying, hello. Hi, Robin ad. And so, on SlideShare so just asked me about download. I think you have, I don't think you have to be logged in to download slides. I thought it was just available. I certainly set it up to do that. So let's, I'll have to just switch across, you'll lose the subtitles a moment. I'll just check that for you. I thought that was all all done.

Come on. Let's jump out of the slideshow. Just give me two seconds and then we'll start. I think that the link is on SlideShare.

There's the slide, if you go into that event,

you can download, there's a download button underneath the slide deck of the actual slide deck we're talking about. And you can choose to download or you have to be logged in with LinkedIn to do that. It doesn't it doesn't allow you to do it. If you don't log in with LinkedIn, you can do that through LinkedIn or a SlideShare account.

So the people are asking about subtitles will have noticed that they disappeared when I went out with PowerPoint then. And that's because we're using the PowerPoint built in subtitles for this event.

Okay, I think we've got five minutes for people to join. So we've got

over 300 people on ready, so that's great. This makes it one of the most popular sessions we've done recently. So clearly a topic that people are interested in I've got some great people for you to learn from. With me today, Adam from AbilityNet, Ghizzifrom a university West of England, Michael from Microsoft Robin from AbilityNet and Alistair from McNaught Consulting. I've mentioned already if you couldn't ask questions in the q&a box, it makes it a lot easier for us to manage as we go along. And everybody is muted Claire. So Claire was worried about background noise. You won't be able to you might be able to hear my children actually shrieking in the background, but I've got to shut the door.

But as usual, rules apply. We are all on mute. So please use the q&a to ask questions.

And please avoid the chat if you can. Just so that we can use the Q & A to keep tabs on questions. Just checking a few things in there. So the slide deck has been added to the webinar page on our website, which you can then download from Ia think that we saying Sarah, to be able to download it. So if you go to our website and find the webinar link for this event, then you should be able to download it from there. If that's if you don't have a LinkedIn or or SlideShare account.

There seems to be a serious echo on the sound. I think that might be the only you might be the only person getting that Gina no one else is complaining. So you might need to jump off. Your zoom lower banner can be moved. So the thing we have on the top, if you look in the settings in zoom, you can change where the bar appears. Somebody's saying it's covering their subtitle so mine are appearing in the top of the bar, and they disappear when I'm not using them. So that might just be a case of either hovering over them and finding how to move them or it may just be a case of hovering away and waiting for them to move out of the way

So there's a question about all the previous webinars been uploaded to slideshare. Yeah, they're going to be, we're going to go back we've got most of the ones that we got to this week done. And we didn't do last week. So we'll we'll do that. Just finishing off the questions here, right. So let's get going. I'm going to ask you where you're from, so that we can make sure that we manage this for you. So I'm going to launch a poll. And I'm going to ask you two things. One is what what type of organization are you from? Are you from a business, a charity University, that's the type of audience that we've been attracting. We're very interested just to make sure that we understand what your needs may be. And in particular, around the university and HE stuff, there may be certain areas that we want to cover in a bit more detail, particularly given the people we have on the call. And then just an indication just now of how accessible you think your meetings are. We think ours are pretty good. I'll tell you a bit more about what we do in a moment to make them accessible. But I'd be interested to see what you think yours are. So I can see over 200 of you have voted already. So I'll share this with you in a second, give it another few moments, and then I'm sure our panelists will be interested as well to see, you know where to pitch this in terms of content. Just ticking over the 250 mark in terms of responses, so I'm sure, that will give us a good indication. I'm going to share the results with you so that you can see who you've got around you and so the panelists can also see that so we've got 12% from businesses, 26% from charities and 48% from university. So I think we will, where we can talk about HE we're not going to delve in hugely into particular platforms, but I do have a question about that in a minute about the sorts of platforms that you're using. Majority of people aren't sure if how accessible they are, which I guess is waiting up to the, to the to the session. And some, you know, the next high score is that sometimes some of our meetings are accessible. And then one two people saying that they're excellent at it, which is great. Please do use the q&a box to share any Top Tips because we all know that it's a it's an ongoing journey and not a destination as they say. So if you aren't, if you do feel you've really got this sussed, please do share your top tips with us. And we'll pass it on to the organization.

So so just briefly to tell you what we we do, because I think obviously most people are clear what we've suddenly jumped into this online world where so much more interaction is going on online. And we've got three tools that we've been using for some time in AbilityNet, we use zoom, we use Microsoft Teams and we use Slack. Slack is actually used mainly as a initial internal communications tool within one of our teams, the accessibility team. They're primarily using that to, they've got channels running around particular work topics that are also using social network. And there's a couple of things that we are important to us in terms of accessibility and it's I think it's important to say that it's both the front end that's important. So can you actually get in and see stuff? Can you join in with a meeting? Can you watch, can you listen? And can you share notes afterwards, all the other sort of good practice which we'll cover, but equally important for us, particularly when we chose Zoom recently was the back end. And then any colleagues with any accessibility needs can run meetings themselves. That that was one of the reasons we chose Zoom over a couple of other options we had at the time. I think other options have moved on since then, but we've been using it about 18 months. It's also why we swapped away from the one we had before and Microsoft Teams is got some large numbers of accessibility features which Michael is going to talk about in a while. And the back end is important to us so that people can run meetings and be productive in the workplace without needing anyone to come in and help them set up sessions or run meetings or all the other things required. You're watching captions from PowerPoint. And that means the only limitation for us is we can't switch out of PowerPoint when we're on our webinars. We do also have human powered captions that we've used in the past and, and to be honest, the reason we're not using them in the moment is because we're running a lot more webinars than we have. And they cost a lot more money. And we're in lockdown as most people are, and we've got staff on furlough. So we've just decided that will accommodate the PowerPoint sort of constraints, rather than being able to afford to put human captions on our experiences is the human captions are generally much more consistently correct, but equally, that the PowerPoint captions are okay.

I haven't made a great job of showing the slides beforehand. One of the reasons is we usually have a longer run into these events we've picked up a whole load of events are running well frequently. And so the slides changed about 30 to 40 minutes ago, and I didn't get chance to share them properly. But that's a top tip that we always use now. We always record everything, and we always post it on YouTube. And when you put it onto YouTube, you can have captions using the transcripts. We are using otter.ai to use to get transcripts at the moment, you can connect it into Zoom. Its first 600 minutes of free each month. I think that's a an app. You can use otter.ai to get live transcripts as well as captions as well. Although we noticed when we used it the other day that it gets progressively worse at interpreting it's obviously something to do with the capability of the live use of it. So there are various options, this happened to be ours. And you'll hear about some more as we go through.

So the running order is we're going to look at. We've just looked at billing at meetings and webinars, a little bit about culture and kit and what you need to think about for doing accessible online meetings. That will be Adam, Ghizzi's going to talk to us about the advantages and drawbacks of online meetings. And some of the, you know, some of the obstacles, which may be in the way of taking advantage of online meetings. Michael's going to give us a whistlestop tour of Microsoft Teams and accessibility, there's loads of stuff in there that you can follow up on and we'll be giving you links about how to do that. And then we'll have questions and answers. We're expecting to be done by two o'clock, we can run on if we need to beyond that, but that's the timing that we've given ourselves. So please do ask questions I'm going to be hosting. So I'm clicking through the slides and I'm going to jump over now just to see what's coming in on the Q&A and we'll try and keep up to date there. With what we're doing some just pointed out that the poll results weren't visible. I'm hoping you've seen them. I'm just going to turn them off now. And we're going to get on with things.

So firstly, over to you, Adam, if you could introduce yourself and tell us a bit about accessible online meetings. Oh, sorry. I've just remembered I dropped another one in this as we got two or three questions, saying that people wouldn't attend Zoom because meetings because they're not secure. I just wanted to say we've got several this morning, see, which is why you haven't seen this, Adam. It is possible to run secure events on Zoom. There's no reason to not attend or use Zoom, but there are some top tips on what to do. In particular, the this is a webinar so it's quite different to a meeting anyway. You can't hijack this. We're in control of who can speak and what they can say and the slides that are appearing. What was happening on meetings, I think is that people were making them a bit too public. And then they were getting Zoom bombed. That was a particular issue. And we found several articles which reassured us which you may find interesting and useful, particularly if you're IT people are telling you not to attend, which we heard about on some people this morning. You know, the way we're running this as secure as far as we're concerned, and shouldn't be a security issue for you or your end for attending an event like this. So just wanted to underline that, that we have thought about that. And that we want to make sure you feel comfortable with it. And then a final poll, a second poll. Sorry, I'm just going to pull up another one. Sorry Adam I forgot I dropped this one. All right. We're interested in what platforms you're using for your meetings. And there is a distinction between webinars and meetings, we can discuss that. There are different tools that people will be using, and if you can use the Q&A to tell us what you're using. And somebody here has mentioned service will not allow us to use zoom as it doesn't meet their GDPR unfortunately as I say I think this is if you're missing out and stuff it's worth pushing back a bit because we've investigated and we feel very comfortable with that and the same with Teams. Teams had some questions about it let me see here we go there's an HE one here Virtual Classroom which worth noting there Ghizzi and Alistair

Blackboard Collaborate I know you're gonna mention something to do with that Ghizzi. Hangouts and Google meet. Google Duo, Hangouts as captionings as somebody points out Panopto, Skype for Business a fair number of mentions for Skype for Business. I think Skype for Business and Teams is there in transition between the two but Teams is the is essentially going to take over from Skype for Business as I understand it, I'm sure Michael will mention that. The issue for us joining would be getting our public sector members to join zoom if the perception of it's unsafe, I agree about the perception. We've been checking that out. We've been using it for some time. And so I do think it's important to try and get that message over. It's why I dropped that slide actually, I don't want people to think that we're not aware of it, or not considering it, and that we've checked it and we feel comfortable. And again, just to make the point, the reason that we can say that about zoom is because we're in a webinar, there are safe ways to run webinars and safe ways to run meetings. And if you look them up on the zoom site, zoom.us slash security has got some very clear guidelines on how to run a secure meeting and what to do and what not to do, how to make it secure. Cool, so I'm going to end the poll. The majority of people on this here are using zoom or teams that might reflect it might be a self fulfilling prophecy. On the fact that we said that's what we were going to talk about, you decided to come here. But I do think that the most popular platforms I'm seeing that people are using, and I'm clearly for that reason we're going to major on that, when relevant during this session. So sorry, I didn't get back to you. Just to start, if you could introduce yourself a bit about some of the core questions that people need to think about.

Adam Tweed 17:24

Yep. Hi, everyone. I'm Adam Tweed. I'm the service development manager at ability net. And I'm going to be just kind of taking a very high level overview of some kind of key tips and tricks that you might want to think about when you're hosting online meetings and webinars. So a question often asked of accessibility professionals is what is the most accessible platform? In fact, it's a question accessibility professionals ask the accessibility professionals we go to when we don't have the answers. That's people like Alistair who's on this webinar as well. And when we did ask Alistair which platform he recommend, he told us, it depends. It's not what you've got. It's what you do with it. The truth is a platform can be incredibly accessible in design, but it's down to the people who use it. And the organizational culture within within which exists that make it accessible. It's a whole, often greater than the sum of its parts. And that's what the yin and the yang is used here to represent the balance rather than the opposing forces, the people and the technology, the kit and the culture. It's a time like no other at the moment, in less than a month, our physical worlds have shrunk to the boundaries of our houses, and yet our online presences are expanding. Even those of us who are used to working from home find ourselves in uncharted territory. We're facing barriers many of us have never had to consider and what will undoubtedly lead to a permanent shift in our working and teaching practices. If we can get this right, and work to build the cultural considerations as we build our knowledge and culture. foot with how to use the tools. this difficult time may yield some real positives. We still talk about accessibility in terms of disability. And I wonder how many people didn't consider this webinar because it's supporting disabled people. And we don't have any disabled people where I work. It's all too common a phrase and yet, the simple answer is you do. Whether that be that 70% of disabilities are non apparent, or one in 10 people who have a neuro diverse condition and may not identify as disabled, or the one in four people who experience mental health problems. And that's a number I suspect has probably jumped quite steeply recently. And then what about temporary and situational disabilities? Now I'm very conscious that there's a disabled community out there who are rolling their eyes at the moment and saying, oh, now you get it. And now you found a use for the non disabled world. You're all on board and you're looking forward to these fantastic new tools and how you can get to grips with it. Disabled people don't Want special treatment? They want choice. And when you start looking at accessibility as the ability to work according to personal preference, that's where the cultural shift comes from. Now, although my argument is that cultural and technical should go hand in hand, I've separated the two in terms of tips. So if I just start with the cultural slide, first, yeah. So, my first point is culturally, don't be afraid to try. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. This is one of the most crucial and difficult cultural barriers to overcome. We get so worried about getting things wrong, we avoid anything risky, and yet that first step needs to have an element of risk. The second point is create a culture of polite correction, or as my manager refers to it, loving correction. Addressing the awkwardness of knowing you should have said something but you've left it too long now. It's like the neighbor whose name you forgotten and now you just make an awkward kind of hello and disappear quickly in Excel Ability terms, it's about developing the kind of culture where everyone feels able to say to the colleague who is saying things like, as you can see here when they deliver a presentation, actually, no, actually, would you mind talking us all through that? It's not about having somebody have to put up their hand and say, I can't see that. Next point is ask your audience what they need, but also manage expectations. And this was lifted from a blog that Alistair wrote that I think is going to go into in a little more detail. But you can say things like you'll provide the PowerPoint deck in advance, but you can't provide an embedded VSL video. and managing expectations also goes to adding value for someone was being mindful not to impact the experience of somebody else. You're not gonna please all the people all the time. I thought a great example of this was last week we ran a zoom webinar.

Zoom, as we've heard is a reasonably accessible platform as far as we're concerned. But as Robin explained to us all the other day The chat tends to be read out on a screen reader and can't be selectively muted. Chat is a great feature for people to interact with without being placed on the spot. Ask questions without feeling that spotlight. But for Robin, when presenting to a large, engaged audience, it's an almost constant stream of distracting conversation. So his solution, which was entirely cultural, was just to ask people not to post in the chat during the bits where he's speaking. And then my final point on this slide is providing content in advance. If you want to tap into the skill set of a workforce, this is a straightforward and easy win. It's not always practical in terms of people sticking to deadlines, as we've heard today, things do run over. But generally allowing people to have content in advance allows them to prepare enables people to participate. Brides, no, no.

It provides

a buffer against technical difficulties

allows people to focus on a speaker. So the value of a meeting or a webinar should be when in what a speaker is saying. And if this isn't the case, then maybe you might want to question whether delivering the session is worthwhile. And yes, I did just look and see if there was a drop in the participant numbers on that one. Then moving to the Technical Center shift on the slide. Use captions. Do I need to be deaf or hard of hearing to find subtitles useful? What if I'm looking after children? Do I abandon the meetings as I yell at them for to be quiet for the fifth time or do I just read the subtitles? I have a situational hearing impairment and accessible content will assist me with this. And the cultural shift just requires someone to click a button to start the subtitles. You can even toggle it to display the subtitles by default, so it becomes opt out rather than opt in. So that's a nudge that tends to work very well with humans. In fact, my subtitles need to be in the same language as I'm speaking No, PowerPoint has an add in, that can translate a speaker into over 60 different languages and these can be followed along on the individuals device. I could be delivering a presentation in English and have people following along in the language of their choice on their smartphones or their tablets. I have a friend who works for an international aid organization who's used this feature to speak with an international team of doctors of doctors out in Africa. She said it wasn't perfect. It was having the odd pockets of laughter around the room as a different word was misheard in a different language and translated to something amusing on the screen. But the technology was good enough to give the briefing. It was an accessible personal choice. Next point is usual camera. It's really uncomfortable until it's commonplace. You might feel a bit self conscious, but for many people, it's a key element of connecting with others. Figures vary hugely, but I've seen studies that say anywhere between 55 to 93% of communication is non verbal. Now it's not essential. It's often the studies are more to do with how we communicate on an emotional level rather than conveying information as we do in webinars. But facial expressions give cues to engagement levels. They're also great ways to see people trying to participate who'd normally be drowned out in a phone call. And it's also a great flag for technical difficulties when somebody starts pointing and gesturing at their faces. Next point is to use a headset or decent microphone. Clear audio is key. It's key to allowing people to hear you obviously, but it's also key if you're using things like subtitling and use the mute feature as well. We've all had that feedback screech, the heavy breather, the slurp of coffee or the background conversation that's difficult to ignore as the person on the train who's having a phone call. Some people are able to filter out this distraction, but for others it can be a really significant barrier to thinking straight or delivering content. Then consider the tools for participation as well. extroverts speak to think, introverts think to speak. And it's common in face to face meetings for introverts to remain quiet. Now online meetings may provide individuals with greater comfort in terms of location, but also formats to express themselves. So you've got the chat pane the inbuilt q&a, imply in platforms such as Google Slides, you've got an inbuilt anonymous q&a that you can use. We've also use slider to allow people to post questions and to upvote them for answering. So that becomes quite a nice kind of collaborative piece with an audience and mentor meter as well as a great visual tool for gathering feedback that may help audience members or meeting attendees to contribute in a way that they simply wouldn't be able to do face to face. But again, that's visual and it's not going to suit everybody. It needs you to consider that content and explain what people are saying. And that's my bit and I think it gives the next or back to mark

Mark Walker 27:00

Yes, I will let me I'm just going to pick up a little a couple of questions that have come in there, Adam.

First one was about BSL. And I must must admit, I know we talked about this in notability. And at some time ago, but we it's mainly a reason, of course that we haven't added BSL. I'm sure that means we're excluding some people, whether you've come across anything or any of the other panelists have done anything around BSL about include, and also one of the questions is what what was what does BSL stand for? And so the British Sign Language, and of course, using video means it is possible to include it. But I don't know whether you've got any thoughts or experience of doing that or anyone else on the call.

Adam Tweed 27:39

There are services that will it like a dial in, you can get a BSL interpreter, if you're running online meetings. There are also people who are saying that there are AI and kind of avatar based BSL, but that's something to be very careful of because obviously there is far more to BSL than just The gesturing of hands, there's facial expressions and that sort of thing that we're not at a point where any kind of automation would be able to duplicate at a reasonable enough level. Okay.

Mark Walker 28:11

And I want to just look at another couple of questions here. You said, speak, to think and to speak, I guess, if you could clarify what you mean by that, um,

Adam Tweed 28:23

that quite often extroverts will form their thoughts as they are speaking. So they'll they'll go through a train of thought, as they are talking out loud and putting thoughts together. introverts like myself and being put on the spot with a question like that is in panic mode. And I would need time typically to kind of process what's being said, and then say, Well, what I wanted so form the thought in my head and then speak it as opposed to forming the thoughts as I was talking them through out loud

Mark Walker 28:55

to mention a couple of technical things that we've said in passing that just to reiterate, We're using PowerPoint, ai driven captions, they do contain errors, and we do tidy those up in the transcript. To get the transcript, we use a piece of software called ATA ay ay. and that we found is very accurate and you can connect it to zoom and it will go and look at the recording of the zoom session and produce a transcript for you. And that gives you the chance to then quickly and easily go through and edit out somebody the other day was talking about Motor Neurone Disease. But unfortunately, that turned into motor urine disease. Very simple example. So that's, most robots are going to get caught out by that sort of stuff. So yes, we do tidy up and it is helpful, I think, because there's often a lack of clarity. Sometimes people talking on top of each other can confuse it as well.

Alistair McNaught 29:52

It's also worth noting that Another approach is when you've recorded it, upload it as a YouTube video, YouTube We'll do the auto captions and you can then download a transcript from the auto captions in YouTube, it's a very quick way of working,

Mark Walker 30:07

we actually are slightly more Rolls Royce version is we upload the transcript, which it then uses for captions, because otherwise it has the same problems that we experienced in this one, if you see what I mean. So we transcribe the recording, and upload it with it with the video to YouTube, it takes the transcription and uses those for the captions. So it's a slightly reverse engineering on the on the other way around. So it does both ways. Yeah. I have another question. People have mentioned, piece of software that I hadn't come across jitsi meet. And I just wondered whether that was an education related thing or whether that's, has anybody else come across that as a piece of webinar software? I haven't, we're not going to be able to go exhaustively into everything. I can see other names on here that we will talk about, I just wondered if it was something in particular in the education sector. Cool. So um, thank you. Thanks for that, Adam. And and I think it's important to bear in mind that, you know, what we're saying here is there may be two tapes and specific ideas for particular pieces of software. But I think the approach that people take is always going to be the most important starting point rather than which platform and I on and how do I get the captions to appear? Thinking about how you connect with people and make your work accessible. It's very important, culturally and not just in terms of the technology. So can you introduce yourself and tell us a bit about the advantages of online meetings as far as you're concerned in terms of accessibility and some of the drawbacks they bring?

Ghizzi Dunlop 31:31

Great. Hi all. I'm Ghizzi. I'm a learning technologist at the University of West of England. And I'm a serial participant and sometimes presenter creator in online meetings, webinars, web conferences, as well as obviously as part of my job online learning. I'm also hearing impaired dyslexic with erland syndrome have carpal tunnel and a permanent spine injury. So as you can probably tell, I'm quite old, if active and so on. Where are we in a digital world? Okay, so let me see.

Apologies since we've lost where I'm at. So

the power of the web is in its universality accessed by everyone, regardless of disability is an essential aspect of said by Tim berners Lee, inventor of the web in the 1990s.

I seem to have lost my slide access here. So I can say I'm so sorry. Please bear with me.

So, accessibility is essential for all of us to function in our digital lives. Pursuing accessibility though, as I say it is an act of enlightened self interest. Access to information and communications technologies, including the web is defined as a basic human right in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. However, in the COVID crisis We have all acquired multiple disabilities on top of our existing ones. And we need to continue to pursue accessibility through universality. In designing our meetings, our webinars, our online teaching and business interactions to be inclusive. Our online meetings, webinars, conferences, teaching and learning accessible to all. Not generally, in my area in the education sector, we've mostly shifted to teaching online very rapidly. But this has been the very opposite of the kind of planned migration that we would consider best practice by digital delivery experts. In our rush to ensure that students could continue their studies It is likely that the needs of some students and staff specific learning needs disabilities and external factors have at best been put aside if not forgotten. So access to facilities on campus to support and now inaccessible for example, supernova enabled screens in the library. Add to this that most staff students, workers and businesses will now be disabled by situational and or temporary factors due to the pandemic. So the next phase of the pivot to online will be unpicking where the mitigations and alternatives need to be put in place to ensure that every student can continue their education during the lockdown. This is going to require all of us to focus and work together on addressing the inevitable barriers created in the first emergency responses to the pandemic. This shift is also a factor in aggravating the stress, anxiety and general mental health burden of living in the reality of the pandemic and lockdown. Many are reporting experiencing exhaustion, stress and confusion resulting from a surfeit of online meetings, webinars, conferences, learning and teaching. I've had reports of people doing eight to 14 hours a day for some who are both studying and working for example, Virtual Media In conferences and learning are actually very demanding multitasking. They're made more complex and exacting in this situation without the usual subconscious cues that we read in our everyday office or classroom or lab working environments. And without the mini breaks built into those forms of interaction. It's also exposing inequality of access experienced by many, such as tech solutions available. Households competing for priority access to power outlets, connectivity, physical space and time. Added to this, we all need to remember, many will be ill, or caring for family members or for children at home. Many will be grieving, and many will be volunteering in key roles. So we cannot assume that our learning session or meeting is anyone's priority in this situation.

So I need Hopkins, who's director of AI media has pointed out that COVID-19 is to some extent leveling the playing field between disabled and non disabled employees. As workers must find a way of accessing content remotely, attending meetings and having their voice heard virtually, and again digital solutions come to the fore and provide a way of keeping business going. The same could be said for some aspects of teaching and learning. However, there is a real danger of the recent gains in focus on digital accessible practice being lost to the rush for the second wave pivotal online teaching and learning to online assessment and an uncertain September start to the new academic year. Not all participants will have the same access requirements as each other. ie not all deaf or all blind students have the same experiences as web post, whether a chair or a lecturer you need to communicate with participants in advance so that they understand the specifics of their requirements and experiences. provide them with appropriate support. I'd like to highlight some of the positive benefits, though to online interaction for accessibility as well as some of the possible drawbacks. Whilst platforms and tools have variable accessibility standards and functions, in my experience, the common issue is the lack of focus on how it's used. That's what causes the greatest number of access issues. So benefits equal access to speak voice or question is so important in a learning environment, by a text by an audio via video, live in advance of the session or post session. This all requires pre planning of your sessions and facilitators or bodies. This allows diverse participants to be supported by personal preference and choice and modes of engagement. It also allows you as hosts to manage equal access to contribute and question and fostering an inclusive culture. with the aim of extending and perpetuating into hopefully, future face to face events, a synchronicity. Giving flexibility allows pre submission of questions, agendas, scripts or lesson plans, resources and allows chairs presenters lecturers sharing minutes, agendas, actions, presentations and notes in advance and post session links, resources and extended reading. Everyone benefits from this and it is fundamental to just plain and simple good practice, agility, the ability to respond to requests and queries and search across the web live and doing that collaboratively. Beware though, that too much of this can create really complex sessions which can be very confusing and distracting or bewildering and difficult to keep up with. This can have impacts on access for motor impairment, impairments, neuro diverse vision, hearing impaired, inexperienced online users and those on mobiles. Capture as has been said, are crucial, and a captioner or a Palin typist, audio description and sign in picture BSL interpreters. All of these are important, but not always possible. auto captions at the very least, are essential functions. Many more of us will need to use this as an accessibility issue for audio setups in our home working environments, noisy environments and very large busy meetings. From a personal accessibility viewpoint, I have to say I find teams meetings far more efficient and productive than the face to face meetings. I have to attend a university. I can use the captions I can track the conversations who's speaking, and yes, it's not 100% accurate and it does provide amusing errors but it really helps me keep on top of it and keep track of it. Blackboard Collaborate is a tool that we use in he quite a lot in in my university. It does Do auto captioning but it does have a designated role for a captioner or human caption or in live events. And these are much more accurate than auto captions, as has been said, generally about 99% compared to autos 50 to 70%, that that tends to drop with specialist Mexicans and accidents and poor audio quality and background noise, however, has been said it's an expensive, highly skilled job, and it's something at the university that would only really be done for a specific participants need. However, collaborate has a benefit in that it can record the chat, as well as recording the video of the live webinar session.

Recording for review makes meeting interactions much more accessible for all as we concentrate on the meeting. We're not relying on short term memory, nor on scribbling down indecipherable notes in my case or missing half of what is said or demonstrated or shown accessible platforms and tools. Most of the bigger platforms address some accessibility issues and have a range of features and it's changing all the time. Microsoft Teams Blackboard Collaborate Ultra zoom etc. are very popular in education. inclusive practice, many of us with accessibility requirements have been working remotely on and off for some time. And actually, this can feel quite isolating WebEx interactions actually give us the opportunity to be much more inclusive, and much more human. Video closeup of faces is speaking, this is a big one for me and for everybody who has trouble tracking audio. It's essential for many of us and many on the neuro diverse spectrum also benefit it can help us with focus processing information, emotional engagement. Ideally, participants could manage what when and how they receive and interact with this session. flipped learning an old, old educational Love, reserve your online time and meetings for real learning work offline or through working documents, discussion boards, wikis, and chat systems before you all contribute to a brief online meeting, it's much less stressful, much less vulnerable to technological issues. And in much less bandwidth demanding and tech demanding on your remote students. audio quality is really crucial. It's superior participants can use a headset, headphones, reduce computer noise, distraction and background noise. And we can't do that in a face to face meeting so it's a definite advantage of online.

Okay, so

that's the benefits when it comes to the drawbacks. Technological inequality.

Sorry, can you still hear me

Yep, lovely. Yep, lovely sorry, I just accidentally hit my mute button on the headset, drawbacks technological technology inequality or can't speak now, not everyone will have access to a computer or a decent sized and capable tablet, headsets, microphones, apps and software, broadband or Wi Fi needs to bear that in mind and think about that when designing your interactions, digital skills during our accessibility training workshops, the biggest single hurdle to overcome has actually been the enormous range of digital skills levels amongst staff. And I know from my teaching is it's the same with students. Large meetings, definitely are drawback there is unwieldy and difficult in face to face, as they are sorry, on the platform as they are in face to face. So some platforms have a limit to the numbers that can participate. So we've got to read big audience in this one, but collaborate. As I understand it, it's 250. So we wouldn't all have been able to attend the meeting. in teaching, we tend to use mute all mic and video by the speaker for big sessions and have very set rules for interaction in the chat with scaffolded. Pre in and post session resources. Where we have a student unable to use chat, we generally try to work one on one with them and do some research and how best to substitute for that, whether that's alternative document formats for the recordings or another process. In collaborate, you can actually use breakout rooms to create smaller groups to carry out smaller meetings working on a problem and then feedback to the whole meeting afterwards, which we find very useful in teaching. So assistive technology compatibility with platform tools is fairly frequent issue and some are not very navigable, like keyboard Which I would consider a really basic requirement for staff and students with visual impairments using screen reader, Jaws, and Microsoft Teams which we use it up. Freedom Scientific, the creators of jaws have just released some support material for teams with an audio walk through all the various keyboard shortcuts, there's generally a bit of hassle for screen reader users with any platform that involves sharing screens, but teams does seem to come out best on this. So I've put the link into my notes. It takes time and repeated sessions for people to get familiar enough with online meetings to be as efficient as face to face and it's happening, but it's taking time for staff and students to get overall familiar with it. We're fortunate in that we have a long history of providing online learning and distance learning. So some of our faculty have actually been pretty quick to make this transition but other areas are slower and it's taking more time, potential service and networks overloads and current situation is something we're all tracking. So Microsoft did themselves some make some tweaks to the 365 platform to maintain levels of service under the increased demand and announced that back on the 24th of March, and other service providers and platforms have similarly made statements to the same effect. So where you can use other means or at least minimize bandwidth use where necessary do so. In accessible content, please please use Microsoft's accessibility checker, and Blackboard ally if you have access to Blackboard although Blackboard have now released a COVID-19 open and public access version for that screen real estate being too busy sometimes there's too much content or too many interactions or the platform layout itself is busy and not responsive on mobile devices which is a big issue for us. As many of our students only have access online through their mobiles now that they're locked down at home, and the big one audio and interactions poor quality, audio, audio, audio, always the first consideration.

So tips for accessible online meetings, as referred to before, as guidance in his 2016 blog for Jessica on the three P's plan, present and post follow up. Prior to the session, agree an agenda or lesson plan rules of engagement so crucial to smooth running. Always do this have a no risk practice session. If it's one of a series of sessions that you're going to see in teaching always give them the chance to have a fun and playful session just to get familiar with the platform. Focus on the audio quality in and out it is the most important set up the face so that it's well lit and I recognize that this is really difficult for us from home at the moment. None of us are in an ideal situation in terms of setup. But it's so important that we can read your expressions engage with your humanity and feel included. Not to mention lip read or face read, hide any screen clutter and blow the background if you can, or check what's in view behind you. Most tools now allow you to check before agreeing to switch on the webcam. Use the notes in PowerPoint, this is essential to have access to the notes. People don't want to be taking notes they want to listen to what you use accessible documents. Really important to use Blackboard allies opened up access to their tool which you can now use no matter whether you have Blackboard or not. And I've put a link to that in the notes for you. It allows you to convert your documents into formats that might work better with your particular assistive technologies, your mobile your study tools or your just your personal preference. There are also open access resources and papers for teaching and learning. And textbooks like open Stax offerings. Many students have lost their jobs in the crisis and have little or no supporting income. So there's a series of webinars being hosted on this by the OEE or OCR for COVID panel, and the links to all of these are inside notes. Keep your slides simple and shares open unlocked editable files so that users can adapt to their preferences. And buddy up it helps to make to manage sessions and be responsive to questions and issues and always have a backup plan. All sorts could go wrong technical issues last minute cancellations, even an oversubscribed meeting. Ask your participants for input ideas for feedback about what worked What didn't and give them the choice to do this anonymously. and record the meeting. Where appropriate have been having information Once in the precession commerce and again before you start recording, Blackboard Collaborate, you can allow participants to be anonymized in the setup of the session, so that those that get anxious about contributing can be freed from worry. So they're all things to consider. things not to do. Don't use inaccessible documents, and that includes things that are behind paywalls that are locked or encrypted. Keep alerts and email and Skype open. Don't do that. Keep them closed. And please don't do this as personal. Please, please don't swivel or rocking the seat in camera view. My boss makes me nauseous every time we have an online meeting. And don't require participants to sign up to or download apps or tools or web apps, especially if it requires disclosing personal data, or use of specific operating systems or device types or doesn't support keyboard controls for navigation. Sorry about the blips and blips there. But that's sort of me. Thank you.

Mark Walker 51:05

That's fantastic. Thank you dizzy, and we've got lots of questions and stuff coming in. But interestingly, very few of them are to do directly with what you're saying, because I think it was so clear, it's probably really obvious, actually. And one very obvious one is that your notes will be shared. And obviously, we're ready for most, as you said, in terms of prep. And I that will be available as part of what we share afterwards. And I'm just going to pick a couple of things up here.

You mentioned the black board is that spelt Blackboard or black ba UD that somebody just asked that? To clarify the span?

Ghizzi Dunlop 51:44

It's Blackboard bl a ck Bo, a rd Blackboard. It's one of the biggest Blackboard ally. It's one of the biggest fearly platforms platform's lots of higher education institutions in the country. You It, but as part of Blackboard, they have bought a separate company called ally that produces it does a lot of what the Accessibility Checker does. So it will check a document with a automated algorithm to identify certain types of accessibility issues. But what it will also do is offer the user or the student or the staff member the opportunity to download that same file in an alternative format. So for instance, you could have as a tutor uploaded a Word document, and student could think I don't want that I can't read that. They can then choose to download it as an mp3 file, which is quite a popular one because people like to listen to it on on the bus on the way into university or, but for a lot of us, it's essential alternative and it can do that in a number of different from a number of different file formats, to a number of different file formats. The thing to remember is if the original Don't listen to accessible, then the alternative format one won't be either. So you still have to practice good accessibility in writing of the original document. Yeah, that makes sense.

Mark Walker 53:11

There's a note here about downloads, I just wanted to confirm something you say don't ask students to download, but they will need to download zoom, you don't actually need to download zoom. And it's one of the reasons we chose it. Interestingly, from our point of view is because we have a lot of clients in the corporate sector that couldn't join our webinars because they needed to have a download. We were using GoToMeeting before WebEx has the same requirement. Yeah, can be joined zoom through the web. And I think that I think I know lots of other platforms have that facility as well. So you do lose a little bit of functionality and interaction sometimes depending on what you're doing in the in the event. Walls works with the web, for example. But that's just to clarify from our point of view, and using zoom it was one of the things that we chose it for is it's lightweight, easy to access, and you don't need to do a download. Cool, so I'm gonna move on. Speaking of Microsoft, wouldn't it be great if somebody from Microsoft was here to talk to us about accessibility? This is really introduced Michael, from Microsoft. Michael, can you tell us about your role? And then tell us a bit more about teams and how to use teams in an accessible way?

You're muted as well.

Michael Vermeersch 54:22

Yeah, yeah. I sorry, I saw two microphones and now clicked on the right one. So So what I do on Microsoft made maybe two things here that could be relevant on the on the one hand, I'm the chair of the employee, Uri, employee resource group of employees with disabilities that myself UK, which kind of makes me somewhat linked with what this actually means. This the impact of this meeting off this webinar so great session so far, I find I feel like I don't have to put everything add anything anymore. I could just leave but that's not why you asked me here I suppose. And, and another part of my life. I'm the services lead for accessibility. So, so much of the services, so I'm there to lead for accessibility on that level. So what I'm trying to make sure is that when we do our products, when we deliver our services that is, reaches everybody in the population, not just 80%. But everybody so making sure that we include people with disabilities and and both our technology and how we deliver our services to this mighty bought my day to day role. And we mentioned teams already a couple of times, so I just just crack on with a couple of slides that I have now. So no introduction slide here for teams. We talked about teams. I'm just going to highlight a couple of features in teams. Do I control of the slides now. Okay, cool. So we will see a couple of features and teams. As you may know, it's a it's a collaborative interface where you can collaborate where you can chat, we can talk when you do video conferencing, where you can share your desktop where you can share applications, all of that kind of stuff. And, and as search, it's for us now the go to tool to all collaborate while we're working from home. And that's how we were already collaborating on Microsoft, when we are in office sitting next to each other or wherever we are in customer base or in a coffee shop or what have you. But there are some features there. And this continues more features which is inspired by the people with disabilities working for us. So they that they say hey, we would like to have this and this and this whenever This Immersive Reader, which used which came up at the time, amongst our portfolio as a hack, were specifically targeted towards people with dyslexia. But basically, what it also does is that ultimately, and yes, yeah, I don't have a, why do I need to click to move this a little bit forward? an animation? There I see it. Yes. So when you are in teams, for example, and you see somebody chatting, some text coming up, you can open up for yourself and most of reader and we'll provide an interface which might be for some of us more easier to read. It focuses on the text, it can highlight as well. You could read aloud it if you want it. So, in fact, some of us use read alouds just to to check what they wrote to check whether the printed notation is is okay. Personally, I use read alouds too if I've been confronted with too much text too much learning to do, at some point I just like or let's just just read it out to me. So I get a different way of input so so as somebody already said, Here, it's about choice doesn't necessarily link to a disability doesn't necessarily link to people when you're divergent. It's something it's it's often about choice and to allow you to be as productive as as can be the same time you must have read or also has an inbuilt Pictionary. So if if, if the language is not your first language, you can see a big picture of what a particular word means. So, some exotic words or concepts, then standardized picture will come up try explaining you and a pictogram what it means so no particular dictionary needed there as well. So just moving on, and the bottom right, you see that there also can be focus a mess, it really can also give you focus. So you don't see the full text. Another feature and teams.

We talked about captions. And somebody asked about, can you turn captions on or off and, you know, I get it. For some people, captions can be distracting. In teams, it's a personal choice. You can switch on without anybody without having to ask anybody you can switch on for your personal use, whether you have captions or not. So this is self empowerment and nobody needs to know whether you are using captions or not. So that that's inbuilt. That's going to be released very soon. Not everybody has this yet. I know that was a question. Another thing that you can actually do and that makes your meetings also more Or accessible and actually give them some longevity as well. Because not always everybody can attend the meeting, especially now that we work from home, that child might just be a bit too loud. And apart from using captured, you actually have to get up actually, it's actually much worse when they're really quiet when they're really quiet, then you need to worry. So you have to get up and kind of see what, what what your child has been up to. At that point. If you can also record that's even a better accessibility feature because people can then watch back at their own ease. And again, that's inbuilt there as well. When you're recorded, it will upload it to streams and make a transcript, which then again, will generate those captions but you can edit the transcript and play it back. So, so for later on,

and I'm clicked for the next slide. They are

Many people probably remember this. This gentleman were I think he was a somebody. He wasn't quite there a ball, I think he was deployments reporting on how the situation was in the country that he was speaking about. And then in the background, one of his children was joyfully walking through and doing all kinds of stuff. And then that seemed to show that the person was actually having a real life, which I think, you know, this is diversity. We do have real lives. But, you know, we did introduce blurting and the ability to change the background of the speaker as well. Now, you Why is this important for people who are afraid of hearing loss, it makes them easier to focus on the speaker and they can focus more Easily on lip reading of the speaker that has actually featured that was recommended by one of our engineers who was deaf that she said can we can we add that to the features? Again the bottom right drawing shows a bit on how that happens. Also at the other thing about the be mentioned about your boss swiveling too much on his chair, again that will reduce the impact of background stuff happening. So, again, you can focus on the person giving the presentation. At one point you We also had a question about sign language feature that is there for some of us already will be ubiquitous at some point. If you have somebody doing sign language during the session, you can obtain that video and have that present all the time in the forefront while you're looking at the speaker or the or the material being presented in teams as well, which is kind of a neat feature when you want that.

So that's a bit about that. Just ticking Another question I talked about

recording now. And this was mentioned as well. This you do you have a collaborative platform where you can chat where you can have video. They can share pictures have the caption or answer, but at one point it is about collaboration as well on electronic digital documents. And by all means, if you want to have sinned accessible experience, then make it truly accessible. Use the Accessibility Checker which is throughout the platform in Word Excel, Powerpoint OneNote outlook Vizio. do use the Accessibility Checker it makes it really easy to use, make it really easy to become a subject matter expert on an accessibility tells you what needs changing tells While it's changing, if and when you're interested and also helps you very rapidly to fix things. So so by make that digital material that official documents accessible. Also, when you leave the meeting, when you produce those collaboratively reproduce those documents, you do not know where the documents going to end up. So that could be somebody who's colorblind could be somebody with loss of vision, you do want to have your content accessible, you want you want your content to be read, right. So So, so think of that there are people who just want to work differently out there in the world, make sure that you are fully you reach 100% of the population.

Mark Walker 1:04:50

I took the liberty of just showing people what I did when I checked the accessibility on this, you know, this this presentation we have, because we run that all the time. So that was why they And that's good. Did I?

Michael Vermeersch 1:05:01

Did I leave one behind?

Mark Walker 1:05:03

No, no, this was no, I added this one in. Okay, just before you come to your useful links, I just think it's useful to highlight this. I think the accessibility checker, we discovered this on a session you and I were on a couple of weeks ago, I think is a little known feature and you notice turning it on and leaving it always on, there's just so many things that come to the surface when you do that, that people will learn from and I think it was worth just reiterating valuable that that tool is to help people learn about accessibility, as well as just making sure your documents are accessible. So, you know, we're big advocates of people using that tool does a commonplace thing and everything that they're doing, I'm sorry, and then this is by no means not useful. So

Michael Vermeersch 1:05:44

just in case that you say like Wow, so much information. How do I take it all in.

This is a slide I quickly made with a number of links on there, you will have a very interesting blog on remote working with lots of other input therefrom lady with hearing loss of an interpreter for sign language. So lots of information there to follow up blogs, because we do know that this webinar is now really of interest looking at the numbers here is amazing. We're going to come out with a blog on education soon and this context and this complex I mean, not just general education, and there's a there's going to be a blog soon around accessible meetings as well. So big meetings, big session meetings, like virtual events, that's what I mean. If you're generally interested in accessibility features, there's a link there as well. There's our main site with lots of guides if you just want you know, bite size two minute videos, there's a link here at the end which shows you where you can rapidly get access with captions also on little videos two minutes sighs to rapidly get you up to speed also, you know, just Give to your, your employee base and say, Hey, if you quickly want to do some good practice it, here's here's an idea they want.

Mark Walker 1:07:09

Great, thank you. Um, you may or may not know the answer to this, which language is the translator works in and whether it includes Welsh?

Michael Vermeersch 1:07:17

Yes. Well, should I check it?

It does take I don't know all the languages. I could open up PowerPoint and just go enumerate them. But that would be quite boring, wouldn't it? But it does do Welsh.

Mark Walker 1:07:29

Yeah. Well, I mean, as I say, I think that they are in there. And the other thing, I've just noticed a few people in here. I'm going to mention it now just because we're slightly over running if we continue to dig any deeper, but people on the QA are putting in helpful pointers about what teams checker does and all sorts of stuff. I, you know, we're very conscious that lots of people on the court clearly know a lot about accessibility one here is just saying that I'm just gonna pick an example of what we're looking for from the past. Participants we can the alley checker. So Accessibility Checker doesn't pick up where heading styles haven't been used, unlike alley, which I guess is the blackboard one. So if you've got tips like that we can share those afterwards. So rather than go through them in detail now, I think the point we're making with teams is that it's got captions in it and other things, it's clearly got some other things that don't work as well. One of them in here is being able to focus on one screen, which is the pin thing that Mike Michael is mentioning. And so we will share all those links afterwards, and potentially move in to do something a bit more detailed in the future, around those questions that have come up and we haven't been able to do so. Well.

Michael Vermeersch 1:08:41

It's a good point that the person is making their, if that's your, I mean, on the one hand, the Accessibility Checker is to make sure that the the person producing the digital content is accessible. Kind of what you say there is a really good point, but that would be could potentially make the person completely having to rewrite the document as well. And things like that. taking more of style and that kind of stuff. We are looking somewhat into that on making sure that the order is good, for example, in presentation PowerPoint, but what if you really want to do this? Check out the accessible templates. So whenever you create a new document, for example, PowerPoint, and things like that, type in accessible, choosing the template and you will get an accessible template, same thing with words. So on that sense, you would already have the styling features in there. So and that's for, I would say to people who actually know what they're talking about great points.

Mark Walker 1:09:41

Right, thank you. And equally, I know I do want to emphasize that one of the reasons we're asking you to use these q&a box is not because not only because it reads everything out on the chat box if you're using a screen reader, but also we can keep track of the stuff we haven't answered just as much as the stuff you have. And we can give that a go and if you are posting Please do copy questions across to the QA before the end just so that we don't lose that that we do track the chat. But we really are interested in sharing answers as well. So. So I've just I'm just going to pick a couple of things up. There's a couple of platforms we haven't mentioned. If you've got questions about platforms that we haven't mentioned, now's the time to put them in the q&a. We'll see how many can get through. But here's a good question. How accessible is Google Classroom? I'm going to ask is your Allister to see whether they've got any direct experience of using that?

Alistair McNaught 1:10:31

I haven't got direct experiences Alistair here. The thing that I do know is that there's a I've got a link that will pop in the text chat pane. Now, yeah, pop in the text chat pane or the question and answer, whichever is the best place. There's some really good accessibility slideshows that Google have done that goes through the accessibility of lots of their different products and hardware, as well as software so I'll pop that link in there. It consists of lots of elements Google generally are trying to take accessibility just as seriously as Microsoft is, for example, I think every big providers realizing they have to. I'll put that link in now. And that will give you some ideas at any rate.

Mark Walker 1:11:18

Right, thank you.

Then I also did find out what jitsi is, I think it's called jitsi, isn't it? Where is it? And he mentioned it. Before that there's an open of one of the platforms we hadn't heard of before. It turns out that's an open source platform that we can refer you to. Not fully accessible at the moment it says but people are working on the accessibility features of it. There was a question about whether you do need to download the zoom app before you join this meeting. I thought you didn't. I will check again and see whether we may be configured in a way to prevent that system. I don't know. Really good point. I'm blindly assuming that we had it set up that way. We may I want to check the wrong box very much down to how it's set up. I'm just picking a few other things in here. And if you've had any last questions, please do drop them in. Setting up a meeting in zoom had to involve blind people with no smartphone or webcam. You can use the audio for zoom only. I mean, you don't have to have a video where another thing that hasn't been mentioned, actually we do this in terms of presentations, we're very conscious that we always explain what's on the screen. Even as much as you say you can see here, it's still necessary to say what you're actually showing people for those people who can't see whether or not they're dialed in perhaps, or just due due to their vision. impairment. So that's just good practice in terms of presentations, and equally important on meetings, of course. Anything else in here, Michael, can you just confirm which version of Office Do you have to have teams with the captions it on mine it tells me that it's not available in all countries or something like that I'm not hundred percent sure what the messaging is but

is it can you just confirm which where it's currently I have a live caption

Michael Vermeersch 1:13:16

so I don't say I can tell you which version I'm running I'm not sure which version

Mark Walker 1:13:22

of Office 365 but I don't know what

Michael Vermeersch 1:13:23

Yeah. But that's that's not necessarily everywhere yet. Let me try to find what version I'm running.

Mark Walker 1:13:44

So I think we can we'll put we'll we'll answer that afterwards because I think it's there's probably a standard message somewhere on the web. The website I believe it was territory Lila as in it was brought into the UK at one point

Michael Vermeersch 1:13:55

I got Yeah, I've got so

Mark Walker 1:13:56

many dependent what your license was 0365 obviously If you have a full license then that should you would expect that to be working clearly. That's what we've got. So

Michael Vermeersch 1:14:06

it's

Mark Walker 1:14:08

cool. I think I'm gonna I just want to move on to a poll. I'm just gonna find out how useful you found today, please.

This is um,

the cheering that one I'm going to put up the how useful it is. We hope that you found today useful. We sometimes have some loose edges around the ends of our webinars. We typically take six weeks to prepare our webinars and we've been doing this one since Monday, I think. So I firstly want to say thank you to everybody who's presented because it's been incredible, sort of Matt, detailing, resources shared and also just point out to people that we will continue to develop these resources, the live webinars. We've got a series called ability net live and But that's where we're bringing together I stuck around COVID-19 in particular, because whereas before we were running free webinars once a month, most, most of the time, we're now putting them in weekly. We're doing our best to respond to questions that people are asking us. And this was a really important one, accessible online meetings leapt out last time we ran a session. And we will continue to ask people and do what we can to respond. And you can look online now ability net or DK slash live and you'll see a program of webinars coming up, which I sure will continue to add to. The other thing that I wanted to mention is we have training some of this is paid for but we are making the introduction to accessibility free. So you can go to our website and book a place on our next training course called introduction to accessibility, and that's free. The difference between a webinar and training is that it's delivered by a trainer, it's structured, it's got learning outcomes, it's not got panelists in the way this has and there's a maximum of The people we are adding to it. So that is a limited offer. I think it's 30 people. And it's available for free. It was just put online yesterday. So if you are interested in an introduction to accessibility, then go and have a look at that now. We're also doing how to do your own accessibility testing and how to understand accessibility. Look at ability natural decay slash training, you find a sign up there for our courses. I wanted to drop in some good news, because we had a meeting this morning earlier, we're definitely going to head with the technical awards. If you haven't looked at that before. This is our awards that we run, to celebrate the ways that tech is being used to help make the world a better place. I know there are loads of examples in the current emergency where people are sort of getting together and doing some great stuff, loads of 3d printing things I've seen, for example, we'll be announcing details of that. It will start in May, the nominations will open in May, but but that's just good news. I think I just wanted to share some good news and finally ability that is it. clarity. So, in terms of what would you know, as everybody is at the difficult times of going through if you are able to help us and support us, please do donate. Some of our court services are paid for paid for services are all still operational, you can still use us for accessibility testing and the accessibility services that we offer are still available. And we do we do generally work remotely anyway. So it hasn't made a huge difference to our teams in terms of day to day work, but it has having an impact on our income, and particularly our income that supports our free services. So if you've enjoyed it today and thought it was useful, have anything that you can spare to keep it ability now go and then slash donate there's various ways you can give us your support. So huge thank you to Adam gizzi, Alastair, and Michael and Robin for supporting the event today. Use thank you to you for joining we're going to record we're going to share the recording sometimes afternoon you should see up online by tomorrow. Sometime. We We'll share the q&a, we've got the notes, all the other materials and resources you've heard about will be out there on the internet within the next 24 hours. So please do

check up on that information as it comes out. And please do feel free to share it, of course.

Everyone.

Alistair McNaught 1:18:17

Can I just add in also for those who are from specifically educational context, rather than some of these other contexts, I've just put some information in the chat pane because I'm running a webinar on inclusive webinars for education training foundation tomorrow, with a very strong emphasis on education, rather than the whole world that we've been looking at today.

Mark Walker 1:18:39

Cool. Could you drop down to the q&a? So hopefully, it's unlisted just so that we don't lose it? Because then we can go into the answers for the question. Yeah, thank you.

Right, and I guess you've shared some stuff there about COVID as well. I can't see what that link is actually just as Oh, he Are you

Ghizzi Dunlop 1:18:58

that's Sorry that some open educational resources in the EU, they're running a series of webinars, specifically related to education challenges and use of open access for teaching and learning. And the one before was the blackboard ally open resource so people who don't have Blackboard can use ally to generate alternative format documents with that.

Mark Walker 1:19:23

Okay, brilliant. Right. And thank you, Michael. huge thank you to Microsoft. Obviously Microsoft has loads of interest in, in sort of sharing knowledge around accessibility checker, but I would flip it back to our community as well and say, let's make sure people are using features that are into those in those mainstream tools and share that out as much as you can. Cool. Thank you, everyone. Thank you for joining us, and we look forward to seeing you soon. Take care. Hi, thanks.

Alistair McNaught 1:19:57

Couldn't Put it in the question and answer session because Cuz I think I can only answer.

Ghizzi Dunlop 1:20:03

Yes. Yeah, I had the same thing.

Mark Walker 1:20:05

Sorry about that.

Alistair McNaught 1:20:06

So I've got it in the in the text chat. Yeah, actually it is in the chat.

Transcribed by https://otter.ai