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What can Google do for you and your clients?

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Learning Outcomes

- As a result of this course, participants will be able to:
  - List Google Chrome extensions that individuals with disabilities can use to access websites with greater ease.
  - List Google Chrome Apps that individuals with disabilities can use to be more productive and efficient with computer use in everyday occupations.
  - Evaluate features of the extensions and apps, based on evidence-based considerations, in order to make appropriate recommendations to clients.
Google Chrome (& Chromebooks)

- **Google Chrome**
  - **Chrome OS**
    - Operating System
    - Google Chrome Web Browser is primary user interface
      - Primarily runs web apps
    - Cloud based
      - Apps and User Data reside in the cloud
  - **Chrome Browser**
    - Freeware web browser

- **Chromebooks**
  - Laptop that runs on the Chrome OS
    - There are desktop and integrated versions also
  - Android Apps are available on Chromebooks via Google Play
    - Chromebook Plus and Pro have Play Store pre-installed

Google Docs

- **Google Docs**
  - Free web based word processing app
  - Part of a suite of web based office software offered by Google
    - Google Slides, Google Sheets, Google Forms, Google Drawings
  - Compatible with Microsoft Word file format
  - Create and Edit Files
  - Can collaborate with others in “real time”
  - Accessed through Web Apps, Mobile Apps, Google Drive
Extensions versus Apps versus Add-ons

- **Google Chrome Extensions**
  - Plug-ins that change the functionality of the Chrome Web Browser
    - Improve user’s interface (i.e. enlarge font, remove pictures, etc.)
    - Block ads
    - Improve security
    - Allow accessibility
  - Browser Toolbars often are used for offering multiple extensions

- Or individual extensions can appear on the Standard Toolbar

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Extensions versus Apps versus Add-ons

- **Google Chrome Apps**
  - Standalone apps like on your phone
  - Run in their own window on Google Chrome browser
  - Obtained from the Chrome Web Store
    - Packaged Apps
      - Offline capable
      - Can interact with hardware devices
      - Can save to offline (computer) storage
      - Examples: Google Keep, Hangouts
    - Hosted Apps
      - URL that opens in a new tab to a website that hosts the app
      - Examples: Gmail, Google Docs, Google Drive
Extensions versus Apps versus Add-ons

- But…Support for those not using Chromebooks (the Chrome OS) is being phased out
  - Those using the apps on Mac or other OS will be affected
  - As of December 5, 2017…
    - Chrome Apps (both hosted and packaged) have been removed from the Chrome Web Store search feature
    - Existing apps will continue to work and be updated, for now
    - Eventually will be non-functional for non Chrome OS users (on or about March 12, 2018)
  - Google has developed some options for users…
    - i.e. instead of Google Drive, use Back up and Sync or Drive File Stream or can also access it from Smartphone app or the web
    - i.e. to access Google Docs, can access from the web or from the Smartphone app
    - i.e. Hangouts is now an extension for the Chrome Browser

Extensions versus Apps versus Add-ons

- **Google Docs Add-ons**
  - Used to enhance the Google Docs app
  - Not dependent upon the Chrome browser
    - May be able to use the add-on if using another browser (add-on dependent)
  - Work exclusively with the Google Docs app
    - Speech to Text
    - Spell checkers
    - Graphic Organizers
    - Bibliography Creators
    - And many more…
Writing Assists

- Word Prediction Extensions offer...
  - Writing on websites, blogs, and Google Drive
  - Word Prediction (with many settings)
  - Topic Dictionaries
  - Speech Recognition
- Example:
  - Co:Writer Universal
Writing Assists

- Grammar and Spell Checker Extensions offer…
  - Detection of incorrectly spelled words
  - Detects correctly spelled words used incorrectly in context
  - Detects grammatical errors (subject-verb agreement, verb tense, etc.)
  - Some even detect plagiarism
- Examples:
  - Ginger
  - Google Dictionary
  - Grammarly

Reading Assists

- Reading Assist Extensions offer…
  - Text to Speech
  - Removal of distractions like images so that only text remains
- Examples:
  - Read and Write for Google Chrome
  - ClaroRead Chrome
  - Mercury Reader
  - Speak It
  - Read Aloud
Vision Assists

- Vision Assist Extensions offer:
  - Change of contrast in webpages
  - Enhancement of color for those with color blindness
  - Screen reading of menus and items on webpages
  - Increase of size of fonts, pictures, and entire webpages

- Examples
  - ChromeVox
  - High Contrast
  - Alpha Text
  - Zoom

Study Skills Assist

- Study Skills Extensions offer:
  - The ability to annotate .pdf documents
  - Collaboration with others on research and other projects
  - Organization of annotated documents
  - Example:
    - Scrible
2 Apps to Consider...

- These apps offer...
  - built in word processors to allow users to share documents in the cloud (Google docs)
  - The ability to work offline= are not browser dependent
  - Function as writing assists for Word Prediction

- Co:Writer Universal
  - Is also offered as an extension for Chrome

- WordQ
Google Doc Add-ons

- Spell and Grammar Checker
  - Verity Spell
- Speech Recognition
  - Soundwriter
- Graphic Organizers
  - MindMeister
  - LucidChart Diagrams
- Bibliography Creator
  - EasyBib
- Study Skills
  - TextHelp Study Skills
Choosing the Best Option

- HAAT Model (Human Activity Assistive Technology Model) (Cook and Hussey, 2002)
  - analyzes the interaction of someone (a person with a disability) doing something (an activity) with the use of assistive technology somewhere (within a context)

![Diagram of HAAT Model]

- Human (Intrinsic Enabler)
  - take into consideration the person’s skills and abilities

- Activity
  - Break activities down into smaller tasks
    - need to know what these are
    - determines points at which an individual may need assistance

- The AT (extrinsic enabler)
  - Look at the features of the AT to see what it offers

- Context
  - where the activity is being performed
    - setting (environment)
    - Social, cultural, physical contexts considered
For example...

- Example:
  - Bobby, a middle school student has dyslexia so he has difficulty with reading and writing without spelling errors
    - Human: skills-ability to speak, speaks clearly, can use hands to type on keyboard and manipulate mouse, good visual acuity
    - Activities: Reading & Writing
    - Assistive Technology: Read & Write Extension
    - Context/environment: School
      - Required to do this as part of his education

Your Turn...

- Human
  - Tony
  - 60 year old
  - Has age related macular degeneration

- Activity
  - needs to write reports

- Context/Environment
  - Required to do this as part of his WORK

- AT Options
  - Google Apps?
  - Google Extension
  - Google Doc Add-ons?
Your Turn…

- **Human**
  - Carissa
  - 7 year old elementary student
  - Distracted by pictures and graphics on the computer screen

- **Activity**
  - needs to collaborate on internet activities

- **Context/Environment**
  - Required to do this as part of her SCHOOL

**AT Options**

- Google Apps?
- Google Extension
- Google Doc Add-ons?

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Research…


- Chromebook devices and Google apps and extensions in American education has expanded in the past 5 years and has changed the way that libraries provide research opportunities to the students.


- Ideas for ensuring personalized instruction benefits to all children in elementary and secondary schools
- Inexpensive devices, like Chromebook, have a positive impact on instruction in elementary and secondary schools
Research…

  - Google Chromebooks and apps improve student learning, collaboration, and innovation.

  - Google Chromebooks and apps have great benefits to students when used for online assessments

Any Questions?

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