



**DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION**

Unlocking Work Potential with Assistive Technology

MN STAR Program – Jamis Wehrenberg

Introduction



Background

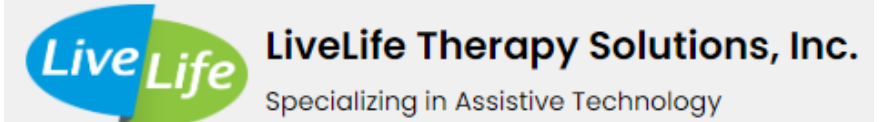
- Over 20+ years of direct experience managing and working with adults in licensed Corporate Foster Care/Day Program settings.
- Became licensed in 2013 for personal in-home adult foster care.
- Degree in Information Technology (IT) Management with 5+ years working in IT field.

Minnesota STAR Program

- System of Technology to Achieve Results (STAR)
- Minnesota's federally funded Assistive Technology Act Program
- Housed within the MN Department of Administration
- Providing services to ALL MINNESOTANS
 - No proof of disability required.
 - There is no cost for the STAR Program services



Contracted Partners



Minnesota STAR Program Services

- Device Demonstrations
- Device Equipment Loans
 - Short-term
 - Open-Ended (limited availability)
- Information and Assistance
- Training

STAR Program Device Demonstrations

- Requested by individual, family member, guardian or professional
- Compare device features
- Demonstrate one or more devices
- Assist with decision making



STAR Program Device Loan

- Short-term device loan (45 days or less)
 - Provides an opportunity to test out the equipment in their own environments.
 - Assist with decision making
 - Professional Development
 - Short-term accommodation
- Open-ended loan



Online Library

<https://mn.at4all.com/>

The screenshot displays the Minnesota Department of Administration Assistive Technology STAR Online Library website. The left sidebar contains the following navigation links: Login or Create Account, Home, ITEMS (Newly Listed Items, Item List), and CONTACT (Contact Us, Participating Programs). The main content area features a search bar at the top with the placeholder text "Enter a keyword or phrase to search." Below the search bar, the "Search Results" section includes filters for Category, Program, Transaction Type, and Zip Code, each with a dropdown menu. A "Search by Website Category" button is located below these filters. The "Sorting" section shows "Item Name A-Z" as the selected sort order. The main content area displays two items for loan: "Ablenet Candy Corn" (3 items, Loan: \$0.00, Available for Loan) and "Ablenet Pony Pal" (#10003, Loan: \$0.00, Available for Loan). Both items are part of the "Minnesota STAR Program" and are located in "St. Paul". Each item has a "Login to place in cart" button. A help icon is visible in the bottom right corner of the main content area.

mn
DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
STAR

Login or Create Account

Home

ITEMS

- Newly Listed Items
- Item List

CONTACT

- Contact Us
- Participating Programs

Search Results

Category: - All Categories -

Program: - All Programs -

Transaction Type: - All Transaction Types -

Zip Code:

> Search by Website Category

Sorting: Item Name A-Z

Ablenet Candy Corn
3 items
Loan: \$0.00
Available for Loan
A compact, wired proximity sensor switch that activates when a body part is within 10-mm of the switch top. Features visual and auditory feedback, and a 1/8-in/3.5-mm mono switch plug.

Minnesota STAR Program
St. Paul

Login to place in cart

Ablenet Pony Pal
#10003
Loan: \$0.00
Available for Loan

Minnesota STAR Program
St. Paul

Login to place in cart

?

Types of Equipment

- Vision
- Hearing
- Speech Communication
- Cognition/Learning
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Computer Related
- Mobility
- Recreation/Leisure



Assistive Technology Device Examples



Technology for Computer Access

Computer Access – Ergonomic Mice



Kensington Trackball

- Can be used with limited arm and hand movement.
- Convenient scroll ring
- 4 programmable buttons
- Cost: Around \$100

RollerMouse Red

- Slide left to right or roll up and down to move cursor.
- No gripping/squeezing
- Using both hands helps divide the burden.
- Cost: Around \$375 for the mouse. Comes with optional arm rest for \$110



Computer Access – Ergonomic Mice (Continued)



Evoluent Vertical Mouse

- Supports neutral positioning
- Configure buttons to your specification
- Right or left-handed options
- Cost: Around \$90



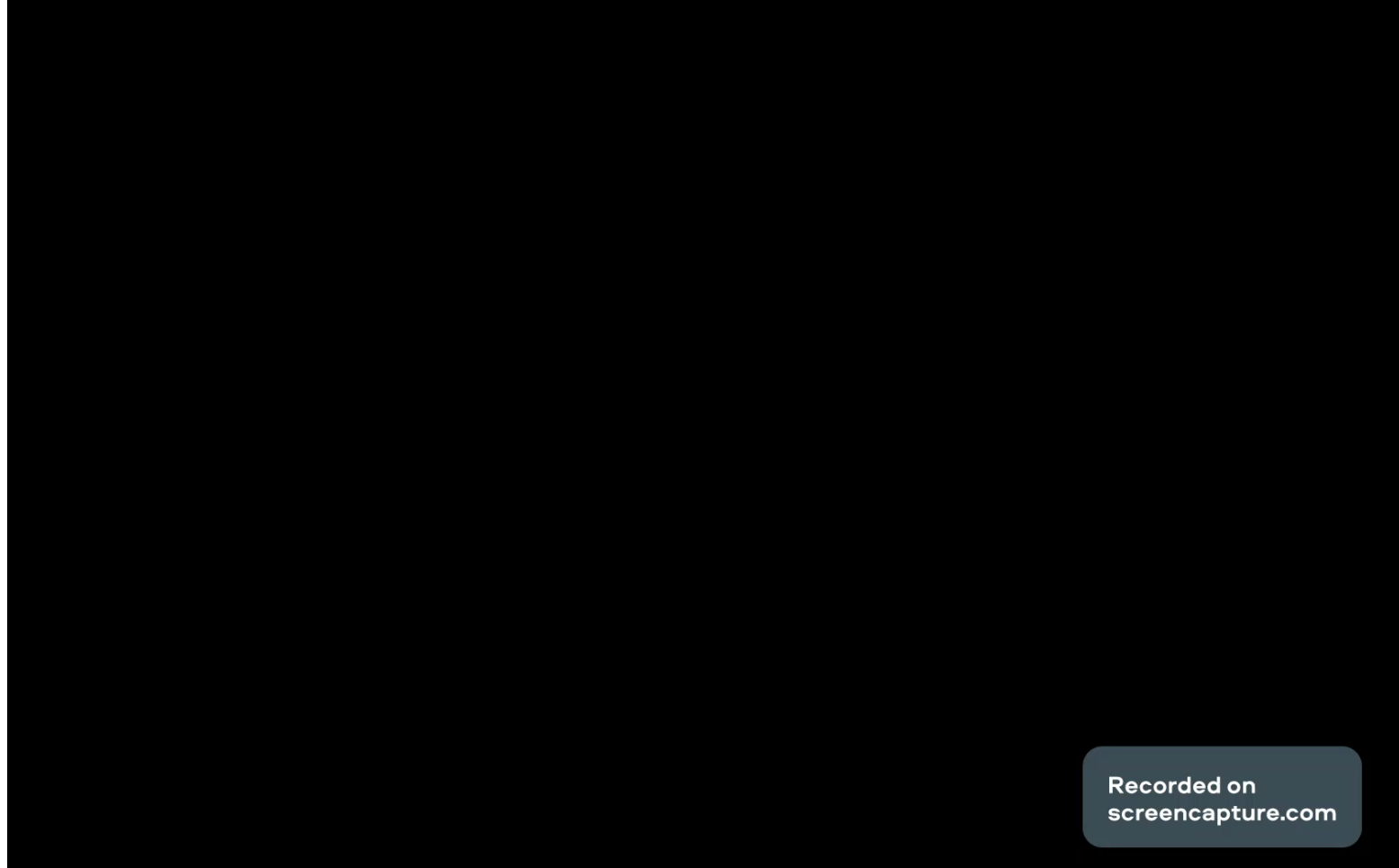
BJOY Chin Mouse

- Center rest to move cursor directionally
- Clicking done with chin. Left/right click buttons.
- Cost: Around \$750

Hands-Free Mousing

Smyle Mouse

- Uses a built-in camera to track head movement and transposes that movement onto the computer screen
- Use facial gestures (like smiling) to click
- Completely handsfree mousing.
- Cost: Around \$260/year or \$700 for a lifetime license.



Mice for Tremors

AdMouse

- Built-in keyguard to prevent accidental clicking
- Bright colors with easy symbols. Also good for low vision.
- Cost: Around \$310



SteadyMouse

- Software filters out tremors
- Works with any mouse
- Ignores accidental clicks
- Cost: Around \$43 for current version or \$127 for a lifetime license.

Keyboards For Low Vision



Clevy and BOOGIIO Keyboards

- Both keyboards are designed for low vision users.
- Larger keys with high contrast or color make it easier to navigate the keyboard
- Cost: Around \$150 for Clevy. Around \$20 for BOOGIIO Keyboard



Adapted Keyboards and Aides



Matais Half Keyboard

- Used for one-handed typing.
- Condenses full keyboard in half.
- Uses laptop-style keys for familiar feel.
- Cost: Around \$595



Typing Sticks



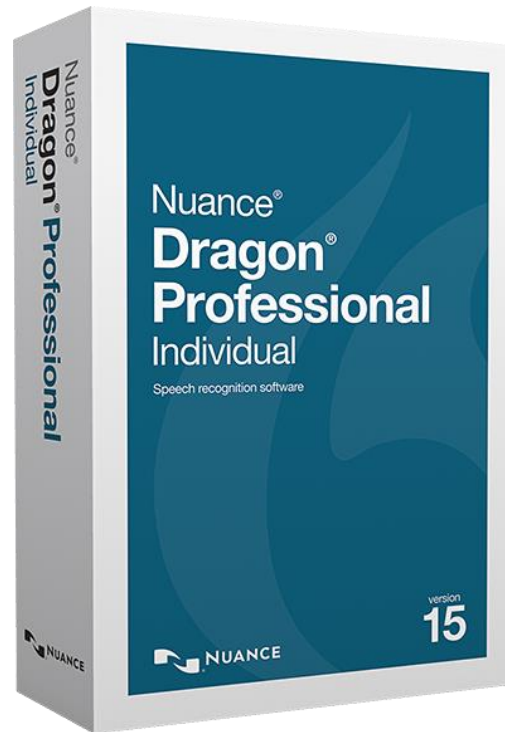
Keyguards

- Adds a ridge to recess the keyboard keys to prevent accidental clicking
- Cost: Prices vary depending on model and size.

Hands-Free Keyboarding

Dragon Professional

- Speech recognition program that converts speech into text.
- Completely handsfree typing.
- Built in handsfree mousing commands
- Cost: Around \$700 (Professional version), \$300 (Home version)



Other Program with Dictation:

- Office 365 Dictation (Subscription based)
 - Office suite only (i.e. PowerPoint, Word, OneNote, Outlook)
- Voice Access (Free)– Windows Accessibility and Android
- Voice Control (Free - Built into most apple devices)– Mac iOS

GlassOuse Handsfree Mouse



GlassOuse

- Worn like a pair of glasses
- Infrared sensor bar across the top tracks head movement and transposes it onto the screen
- To select things uses a bite switch, puff switch, or regular switch. Have multiple switch options.
- Available across all platforms: Android, iOS, Mac and Windows
- Price: Around \$600

Jabberwocky App

Jabberwocky App

- Uses front facing camera of mobile device to track head movement to move the cursor around the screen
- Click by using facial gestures such as winking or opening mouth
- Shake head “No” (back and forth) to disable/enable.
- Available only for Android
- Price: Free



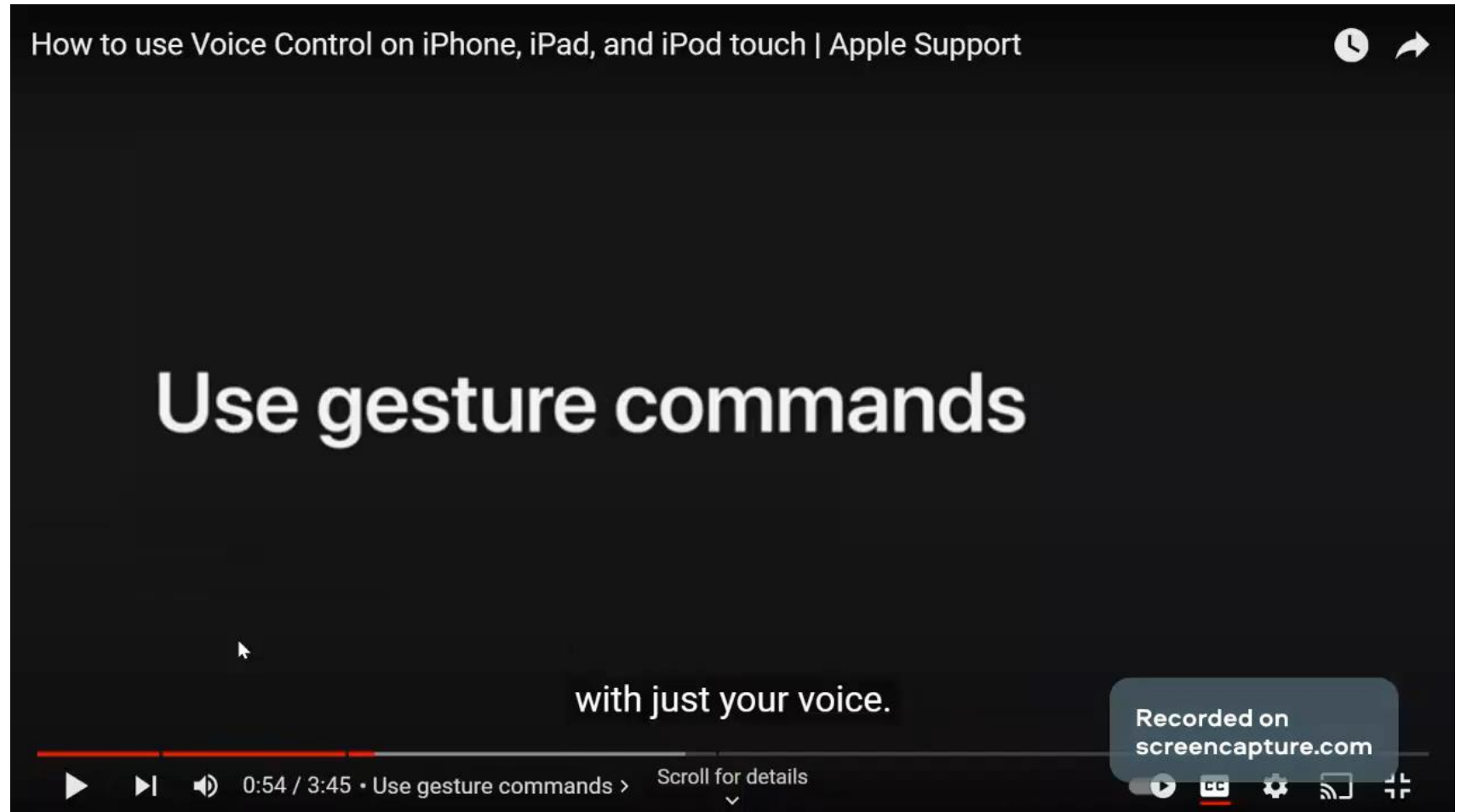
Jabberwocky



iOS Voice Control

Voice Control

- Completely hands-free navigation by using voice commands.
- Built into the iOS platform of most Apple devices iOS version 13 or higher.
- Intuitive to use and mostly accurate.
- Available only for iOS devices
- Androids equivalent is Voice Access
- Price: Free





Technology for Academic and Vocational Skills

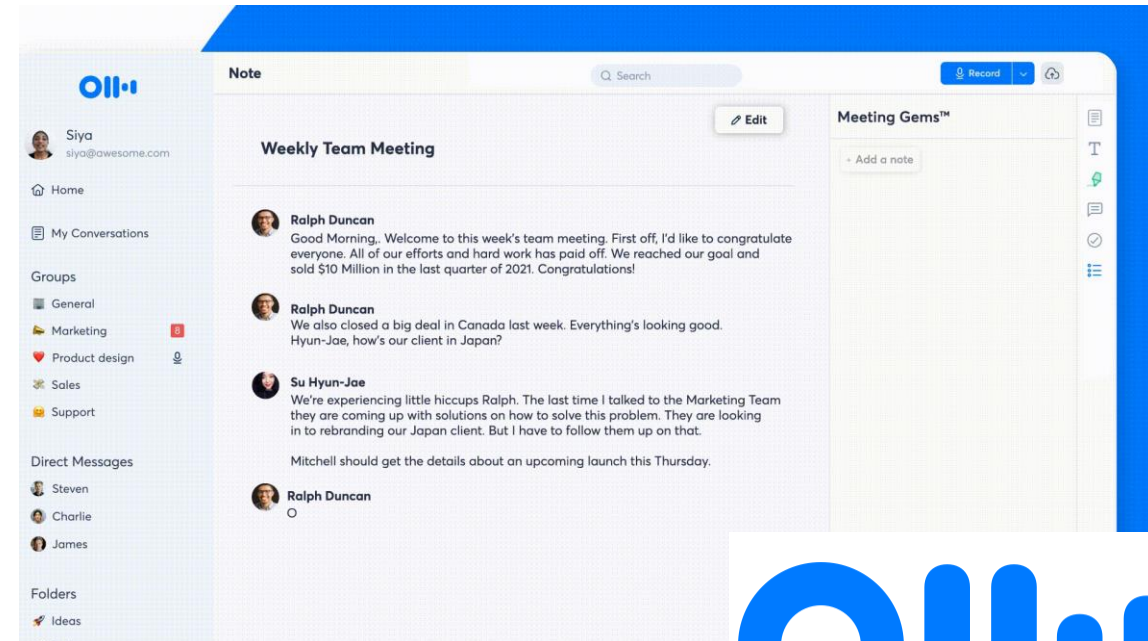
Note Taking

Echo II Livescribe Pen

- Sync's handwritten notes with recorded audio
- Use the pen and press on the writing and will play back the audio.
- Focus on what the person is saying, not taking immaculate notes
- Price: Around \$120

Otter Notes App

- Real-time transcription app
- Cloud-based so compatible across all device platforms.
- Breaks meeting into keywords for easier reference later.
- Price: Free for 300 min/month.



Reading Printed Material

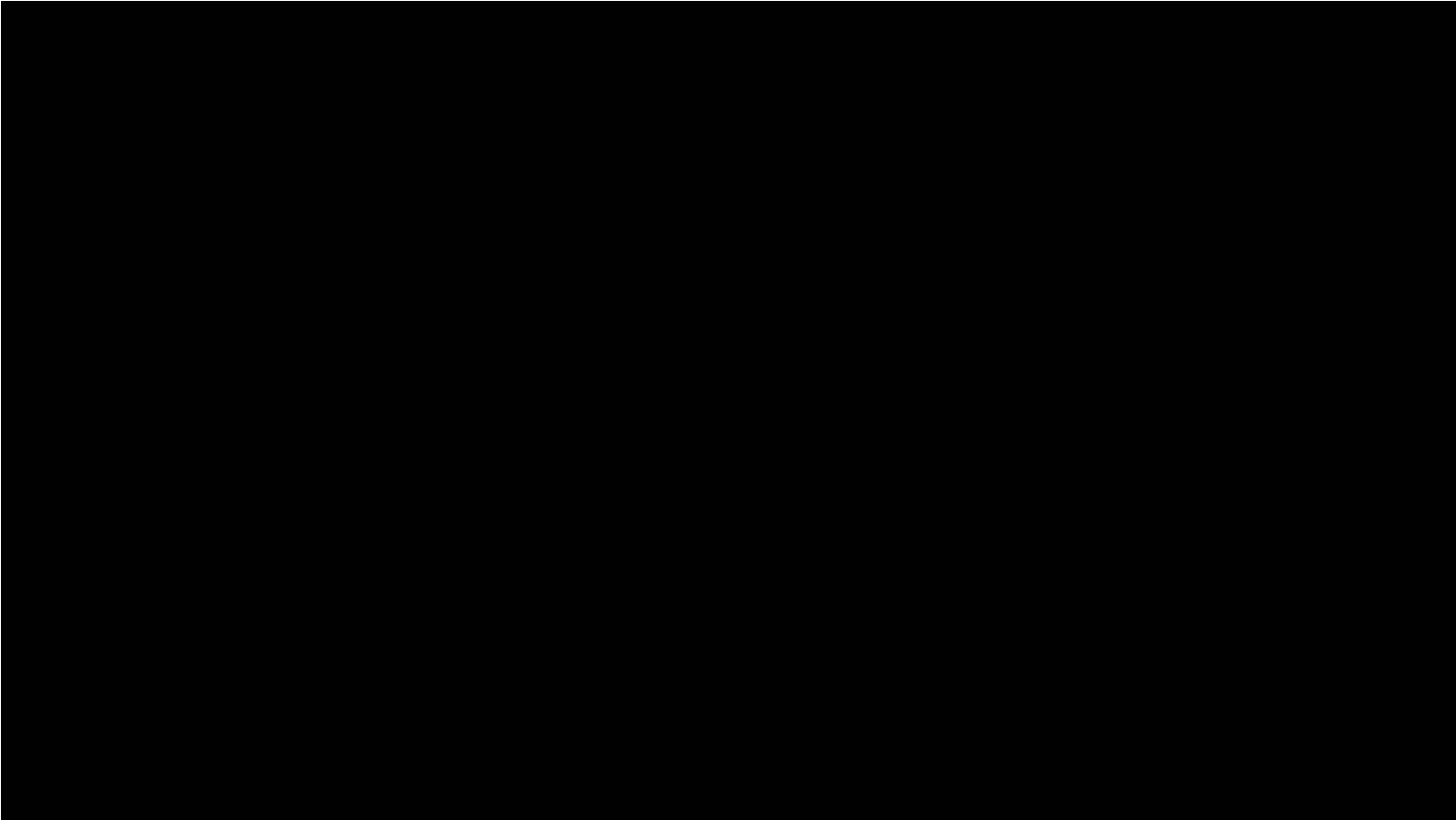


C-Pen Reader 3

- Originally designed for those with Dyslexia.
- Scans text on paper and reads it out loud.
- Built in dictionary
- Reads in other languages
- Record voice memos
- Bluetooth pairs to headphones to give privacy when reading.
- Price: \$380



Reading Printed Material



Google Notebook LM App

- Lets you upload your own documents—like PDFs, Google Docs/Slides, web URLs, and transcripts—and then ask questions or generate summaries grounded in those exact sources
- supports a variety of helpful outputs: summaries, study guides, timelines, briefing docs, mind maps, FAQs, and even interactive audio or video-style overviews—like podcast-style conversations or narrated slide summaries.
- Available in both Android and iOS.
- Basic version is free.

OrCam MyEye



OrCam MyEye

- Magnetic clasp onto glasses
- Simply point to what you want the device to scan.
- Reads text, facial recognition, currency reader, bar code scanner, color identifier
- Price: \$4,250
- Microsoft Seeing AI App is equivalent and is free.



Voiceitt App

Voiceitt App

- Uses artificial intelligence to make difficult speech easy to understand for others.
- Uses a person's natural speech to control Alexa for environmental controls
- Available as a web app and can be used across all platforms.
- Price: 30-day free trial. \$50/month or \$500 yearly.



Contact us

- MN STAR Program Main Website- www.mn.gov/star/
- MN STAR Program Device Library- <https://mn.at4all.com/>
- Email- star.program@state.mn.us
- Telephone- 651-201-2640

