Vision Technology - Making the Right Choice

Module 1

The Braille Plus 18
Making the Right Choice

• Overview of decision guide process
• Introduction to the Braille Plus 18
• Instructional Links and Support
• Braille Plus 18 Differential Properties
• Develop Decision Guide
Braille Plus 18 Top

Cursor Pad
Select
Search
Menu
S1
Microphone
Key Lock
Cursor Keys
Braille Cells
Back

Home
S2
Speaker
Microphone
LEDs
Braille Input Keys
Shift
Space
Alt
Braille Plus 18 Front Edge
Braille Plus 18 Right Side

- Microphone Jack
- Earphone/Video Jack
- Volume
- Record
- Camera
Features

• Android Operating System
• Refreshable Braille Display
• Camera
• GPS
• Word Processor with Braille Conversion
• Wi-Fi and is 3G capable
• Calendar
Android Operating System

- Access to hundreds of thousands of apps
- Allows for development of new apps to aid the blind user (check the ViA app from the Braille Institute for ones they have reviewed)
- Android is a touch based OS and can initially be confusing
- Because it is an open system not all Android apps appear and behave the same
GPS - Nearby Explorer

• User guide [http://tech.aph.org/ne_doc.htm](http://tech.aph.org/ne_doc.htm)
• Map data is on the device so no need for Wi-Fi
• Provides distance and direction for “off road” locations such as a parking lot
• Guidance setting displays the next maneuver
• Geo Beam provides feedback when pointed in the direction of a point of interest
• No additional charge for Nearby Explorer
Email

• Must already have an online email account such as gmail
• May set up more than one email account
• Can send or receive using Exchange, POP3 or IMAP protocols
• Navigation through mailboxes and messages is simple, using up and down arrow keys and the select key
Word Processor

• The following formats are supported
  – Text (txt)
  – Formatted Braille (brf)
  – Unformatted Braille (brl)
  – Rich Text (rtf)
  – Microsoft Word (both doc and docx)

• To convert to braille choose it from the menu

• The word processor translates text using the setting in the Speech and Braille dialog
OCR - Look

- Uses built-in camera and flash
- Recognizes typed text but not handwriting
- Can convert to both text and braille formats
- Tips for using Look
  - Turn on the flash
  - Select Flash Torch Mode from settings
  - Default button is OCR Picture – use this one
  - Hold 12 inches from paper and press Select
  - It clicks when in focus then says “Recognizing Text” followed by “Done”
Useful Links


• Training resources
  – 3 Minute Overview Video
    http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28_BvyQR8XA
  – Audio Introduction
    http://tech.aph.org/plus_data/plus_intro.mp3
  – Power Up and Shut Down Video
    http://tech.aph.org/plus_data/plus_power.mov
Useful Links (cont.)

– Setting the Time and Date Video
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivByPiGmaPU

– Connect to a TV
  http://tech.aph.org/plus_data/plus_tv.mov

– Updating the Braille Plus 18
  http://tech.aph.org/plus_data/plus_update.mov

• To join the support listserv send a blank email to plus-subscribe@tech.aph.org
Group Activities

• Create list of differential properties

• Create decision guide

• Create priority guide (if time permits)
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