

**MINUTES**  
**High Tech Center Training Unit Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**High Tech Center Training Unit – De Anza Community College**  
Friday, January 28, 2005

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Carl Brown	HTCTU, De Anza	HTCTU Director	present
Myra Lerch	Butte College	Region 1	present
Thad Selmants	Sierra College	Region 2	present
Judy Lariviere	Skyline College	Region 3	present
Kathleen Allen	Chabot College	Region 4	present
Laura Ingram	Merced College	Region 5	present
Katrina Ostby	Cuesta College	Region 6	not present
Lyn Clemons	El Camino College	Region 7	not present
Shirley Bowman	Santa Ana College	Region 8	present
Brian Brautigam	Riverside College	Region 9	present
Carl Fielden	Grossmont College	Region 10	present

**STAFF/PRESENTERS**

Peggy Tate	Chancellor's Office	not present
Bob Martinengo	ATPC	not present

**Staff Reports**

The LD Software rewrite is progressing slowly. People involved with the project have other tasks that have called them away for the time being. HTCTU will make another attempt to recruit interested learning disability specialists in helping to complete this project.

Carl Brown reported that the HTCTU funding is fixed at \$943,000 a year but the cost of operating the program continues to slowly increase in order to address the cost of step and COLA within the district. State-funded increases to California community college budgets are not reflected in the HTCTU operating grant. For example, each 2% increase in COLA produces an approximately \$25,000 per year increase in grant operating costs. Within each five-year grant cycle, these cost increases periodically necessitate a reorganization of staffing priorities in order to maintain the program. Beginning July 1, 2005 we will be reducing the position Network Technician to 60%. Unfortunately, this alone will not cover all of the increased costs. Gaeir Dietrich and Sam Ogami's positions will be returned to 11 month contracts instead of 12.

## **AMX Database Update**

Work on the AMX database continues. The programmer is currently working on finishing the back-end coding, tables and scripting content and developing the user interface reported Sean Keegan. By the end of February, 85-90% completion is expected in terms of structure and basic front end functionality. This will allow the beginning of early beta testing. The new AMX database will preserve all the functionality of earlier editions while providing many advanced tools for sharing the workload, job scheduling, student notification, report generation and a variety of other features.

After March 7, 2005, all uploads to the existing AMX database will end. Although we will temporarily discontinue the ability of users to upload new book titles, colleges can still browse the content of the existing database. After March 7, 2005 the content of the original AMX database will be incorporated into the newly emerging AMX database.

Sean will be doing a presentation on Adobe Acrobat Reader 7 at the CVC and CSUN conferences. He is also working with Stacey Kayden to do a presentation on supporting students using different learning technologies including Kurzweil 3000 and Inspiration.

Web accessibility tools AccVerify and AccRepair has been completely changed and updated for 2005 primarily in terms on how users register the product. Some new features are added although the core functionality remains the same. There is no change at all for the Hi-caption software.

AccMonitor technology is completely redone. The new version is now called the AccMonitor Compliant Server and now costs \$10,000 while providing more functionality and utility to web masters. The HTCTU is still getting the upgrade at no cost at least until the license expires in February 2007. Sean will eventually put together an upgraded version of the training manual for the new AccMonitor version to be released in April.

Sean also talked a little about Accessibility Internet Rally (AIR) based in Texas. He is trying to bring the program to California to do a 2-3 day mini conference. This will be a high level web accessibility seminar discussing topics necessary for web masters like Macromedia flash and pdf accessibility.

**Distributed Scanning Network.** Carl explained to the committee that after thorough checking of usage through the AMX database, there were 6-7 colleges who contributed zero books over the last 6 months. In some instances, colleges have been scanning books but have not entered them into the AMX database as previously agreed. If after 3 months of follow up low usage still continues, Carl is considering reallocating the equipment to other colleges where it will be of better use.

## **DAISY Update**

Sam Ogami discussed the two day production tool training given to 6 colleges throughout the state to test the production tool along with hardware and software players.

Participants included alternate media specialists and LD staff. Currently, one class has been offered to the general DSP&S community college. There are already 17 active users and accounts set up for the tool. Registration for the upcoming Daisy training is strong. The tool is currently still in active development trying make continuous improvements to its functionality and speech synthesis. Sam is working with the developer to improve the interface to create a better log-in and tracking system in order to find out how many books have been produced and who is producing them. He also stressed that right now there is a 10mb limit on the size of books which can be uploaded. Sam suggested that before taking the Daisy Tool training, it is essential to take the prerequisite classes, the scanning, OCR, and mp3 workshops.

Sam introduced the new Plectalk desktop unit. It plays our Daisy books not books in RFB&D format. The player costs about \$250 to \$275. Plexor, the maker of Plectalk, is trying to develop the software Daisy player E-Clips reader to make it more versatile. They are also working on the E-Clips writer for small documents.

There is speculation that the next Windows operating system will have a built-in Daisy feature. JAWS has also come out with a Daisy reader in the new JAWS version 6 called the FS Reader. This Daisy playback device developed by Freedom Scientific currently does not read RFB&D books. RFB&D on the other hand has produced a more visual type of training manual on how to use different player devices.

## **Macintosh Accessibility**

Myra Lerch of Butte College raised the issue of targeting AT standardization in labs. Will deviating from the AT standards be a problem resulting to lawsuits? Will it be okay to maintain two sets of standards, Mac and Windows? By having parallel standards, will this place additional burden on students? Myra emphasized that AT should not be tied to a specific program, and that it is best to consider AT products relative to what service they provide. Generally, there are some software applications that are simply inaccessible. Myra decided to email her region asking colleges what AT they are using to provide access in their Mac labs. Results showed Feather River didn't have Mac labs, Shasta only in the music department, Lassen in English and journalism classes. As for Butte community college, as much as they want to move everything to a Windows platform considering standardization and issues of tech support, they also realize that putting in multiple computer platforms can create multiple barriers for students.

According to Sam Ogami, a Mac user himself, Mac has a basic accessibility tool called Zoom, a screen magnifier. Some other features include "mighty mouse", a cursor enhancement tool, access to Kurzweil 3000 Kurzweil 3000 using a compliant scanner and Voice Box, a Text Aloud or text to mp3 program. At CSUN last year, Mac released a

preview of their built-in version of a screen reader called VoiceOver which is integrated with their new Operating System 10.0 Tiger scheduled for release in the first half of 2005.

## **Alternate Media Update**

Gaeir Dietrich talked about the new class Math Accomodation she is presenting with Sean Keegan. This two day training includes both technical and non-technical aspects, the abacus, finger counting, talking calculators, magna boards and programs such as Win Triangle, Dots Plus and Tiger Embosser. There is no one solution for everybody.

Gaeir did a presentation in Boulder, Colorado about the AMX database. Contributors to the database are nationwide. The University of Nevada has contributed 700 books. She is also involved in two national organizations: one called the Open E-book forum, designed to promote an open standard for electronic books which continues to struggle for success. Now they are an organization that promotes and develops electronic book solution for higher education. Another organization in which he participates is called Ahead, a national version of CAPED. As a member of the national e-text committee, this organization is putting together a 2 day e-text institute to help promote national standards and best practices in creating e-text and to get more people to be involved in the AMX database.

Folsom Project is running 14 months behind. The prison is undergoing a major readjustment to its security level and, as a consequence, many of the individuals involved in producing captioned video have been relocated to other institutions. Gaeir strongly recommends that for those people sending in their videos for captioning if possible to have their AV department put them on to mini-DVs and retain the original master on campus for safety.

Two BrailleNotes are currently available for loan.

Conferences that Gaeir will be attending include the California Transcribers and Educators in March, CSUN and Ahead during the summer.

## **Handouts Provided**

Minutes, September 24, 2004  
Access for Macs, email copy  
Graph, Usage for Daisy Generator

Next Meeting: **May 20, 2005**

