

# Intro to Assistive Technology Assessments

**Presenters:**

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# Objectives

- Who, What, When, Where, Why and How?
- Available technology
- Questions



# What is AT?

## IDEA 2004

Any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of a child with a disability. (20 U.S.C. 1401(1))



# Why test?

To....

- Find a tool that works
- Meet current and future needs
- Increase independence
- Access school work and/or jobs
- Reevaluate
- Address changes in vision and/or environments



# Who Administers?

Assistive Technology Specialist

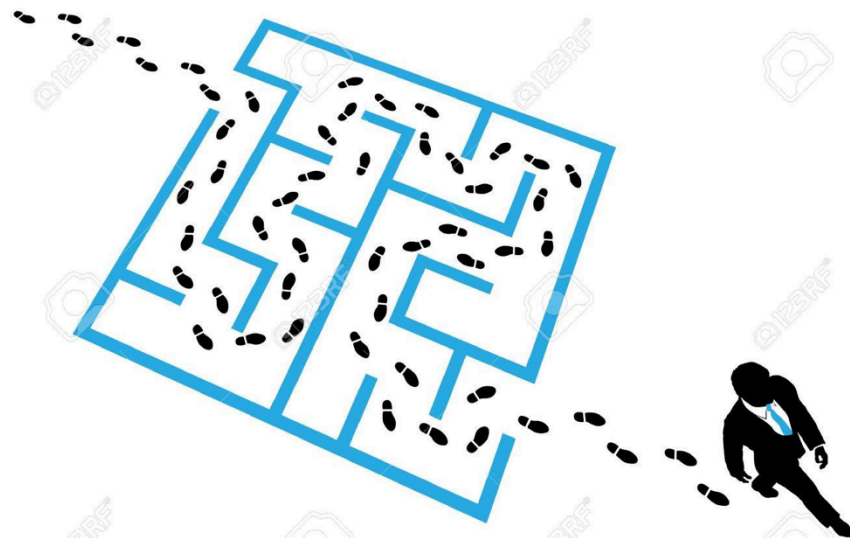
**VS**

Certified Assistive Technology Instructional Specialist  
for People with Visual Impairments, ("CATIS")



# How?

1. Gather background information
2. Observe
3. Direct assessment
4. Collaborate and research
5. Trial use
6. Final decision/ purchasing
7. Training
8. Follow up and ongoing support



# Gather Information

- Current Eye Report
- Functional Vision Assessments (FVA)
- Learning Media Assessments (LMA)
- Low vision clinic reports
- Academics
- Medical



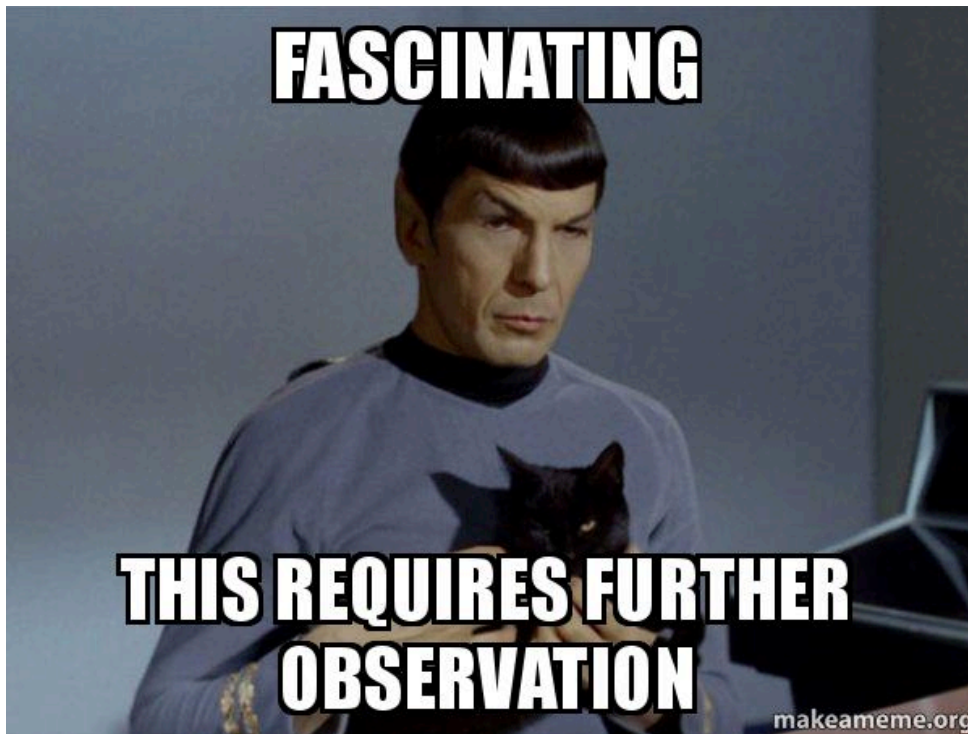
# Interviews

- Likes/ dislikes
- Goals
- Strengths and challenges
- Tasks
- Accessing information
- Current/ past tools



# Observation & Direct Testing

- Student
- Environment
- Tools
- Research & Collaboration



# Factors: Student

- Student's abilities and challenges
- Vision
- Goals
- Age/ grade
- Additional disabilities
- Reading speed
- Willingness to use tools
- Responsibility
- Transition



# Factors: Environment

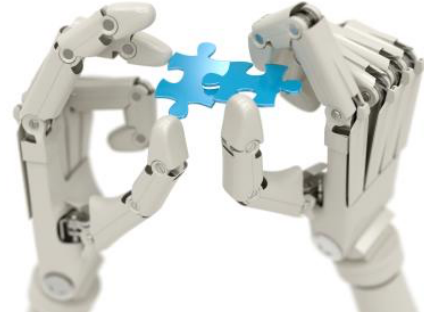
- Tasks
- Lighting
- Positioning
- Power sources
- Network connection
- Space
- Safety
- Tech support
- Collaboration of team
- Time
- Location



# Factors: Tools

- Price
- Portability
- Simplicity
- Functions
- Power type/ battery life
- Storage

- Durability
- Longevity
- Tech support
- Connection type
- Accessories
- Warranties

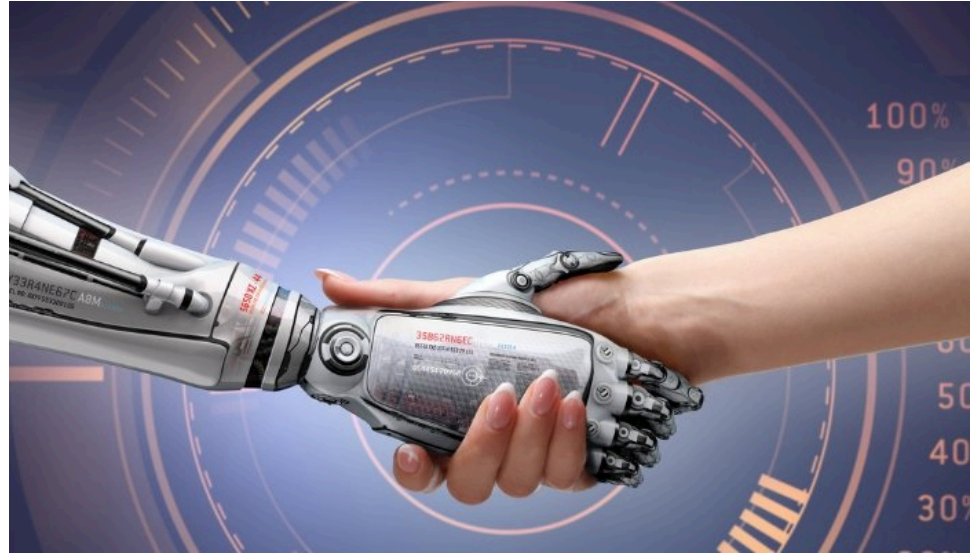


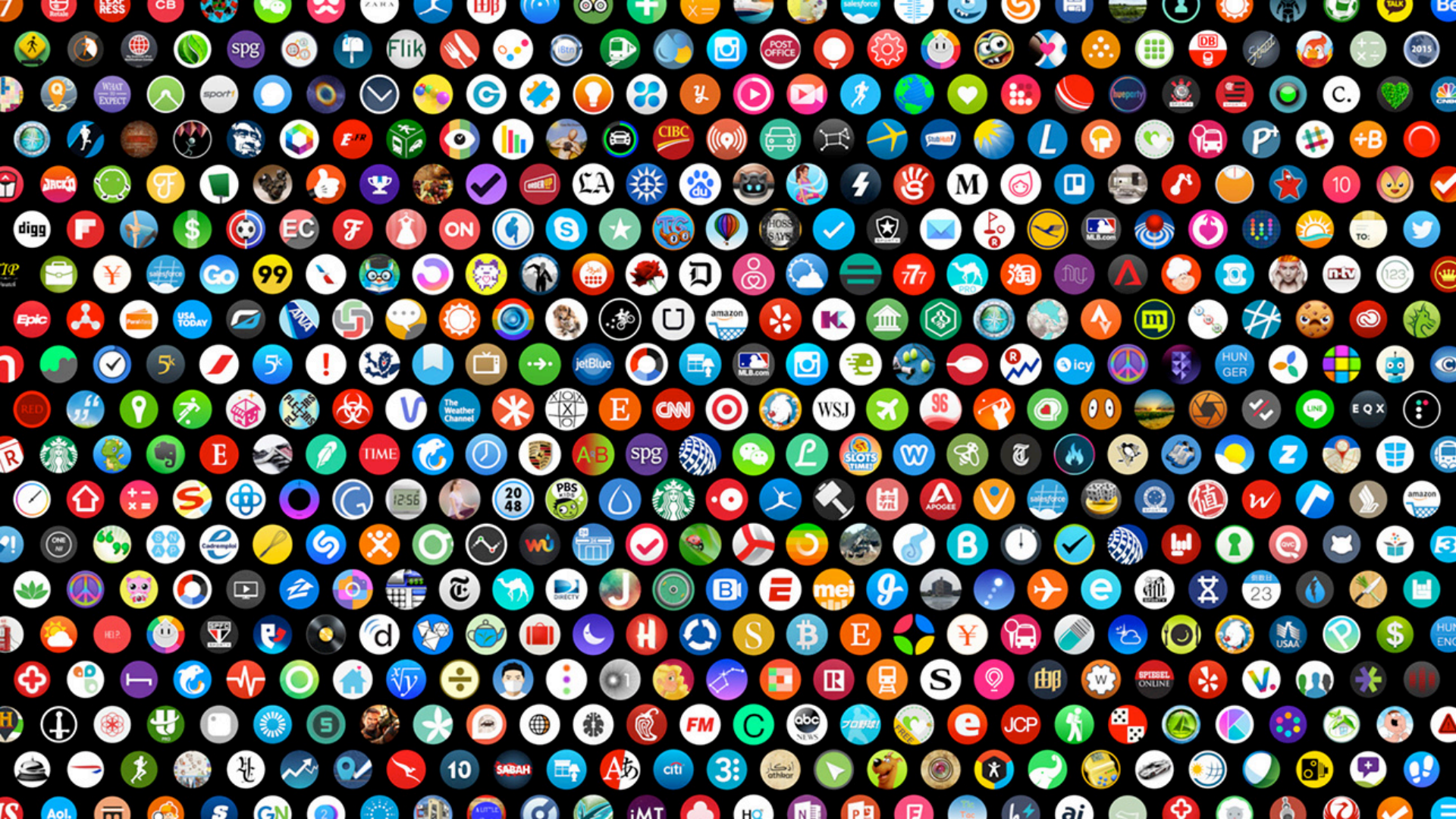
# Toolbox



# High Tech

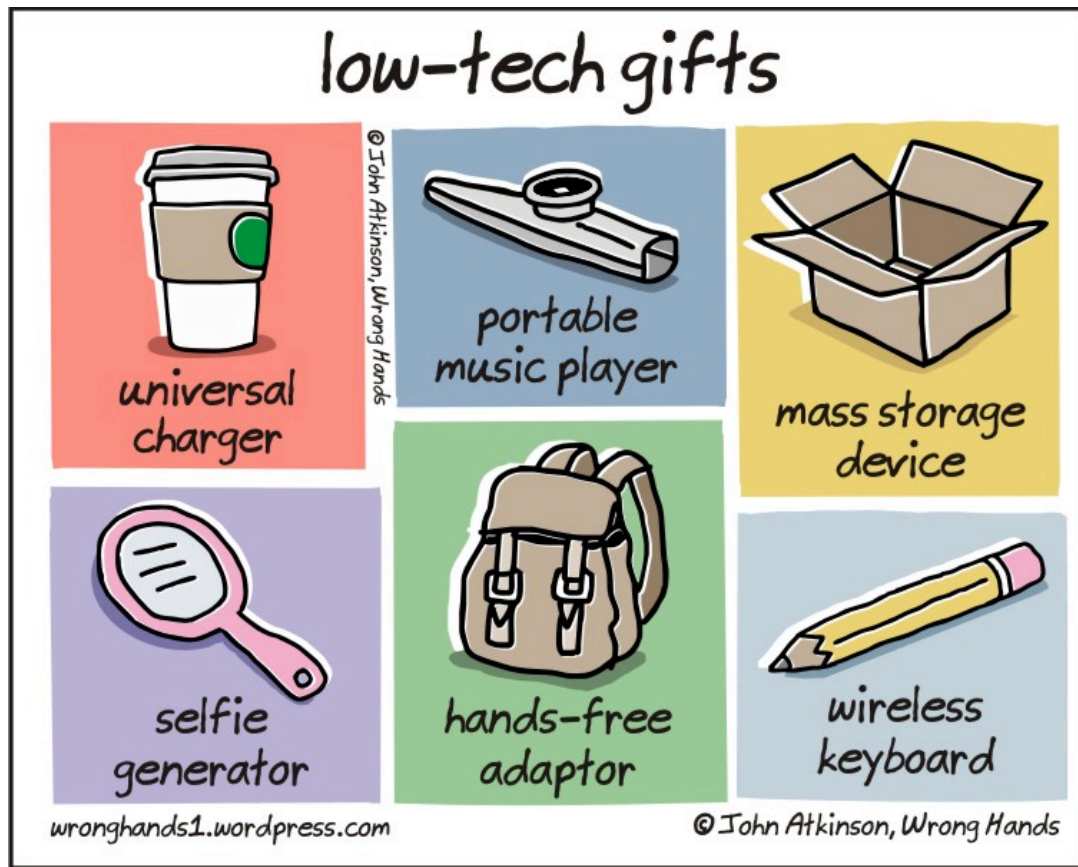
- Computer
- Software
  - Magnifiers
  - Screen readers
- Apps
- Electronic Video Magnifiers
- Multifunctional
- Stand alone
- OCR
- Portable





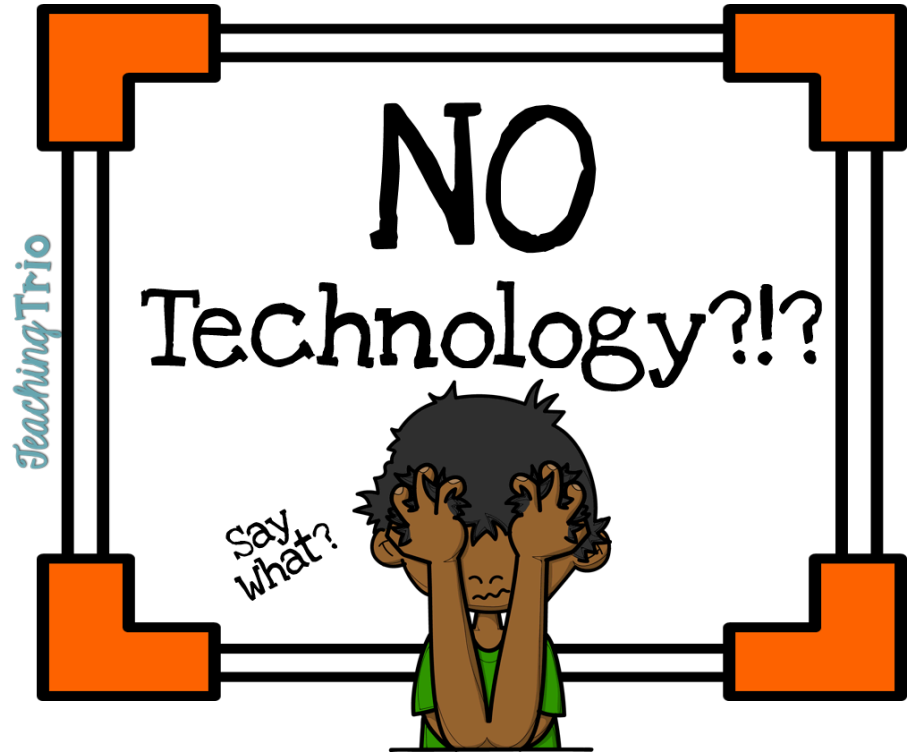
# Low Tech

- Lamps
- Reading stands
- Highlighters
- Bold line paper
- Stickers
- Puffy paint
- Optical aids



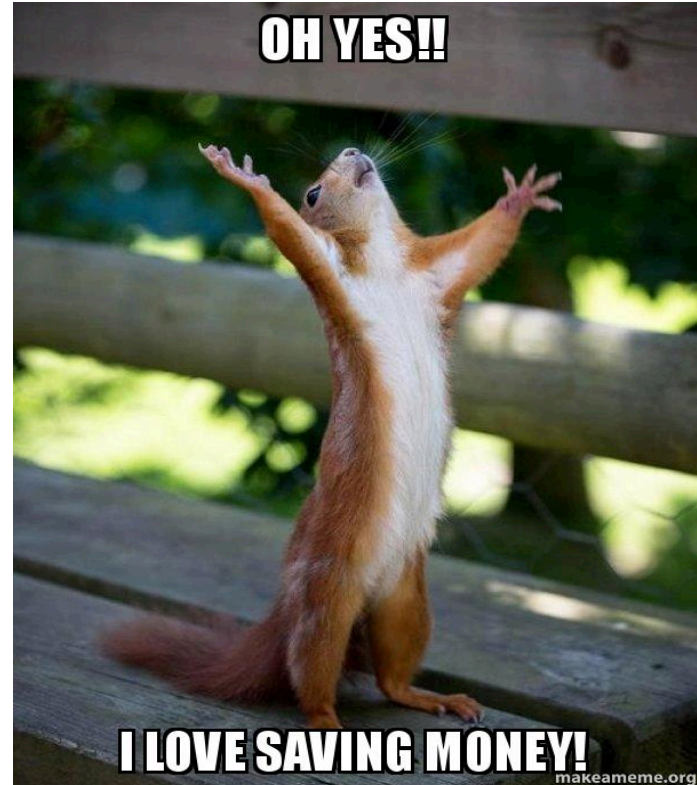
# No Tech

- Positioning
- Advocating
- Change of environment



# Saving Time and Money

- Researching
- Repurposing tools
- Environmental changes
- Buying used or trade ins
- Comparison shopping
- Trial period
- Care and maintenance



**TOOLBOX HAS 5000 TOOLS**

19

**ONLY EVER USE 10**

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# Funding

- MCB/ Rehab services
- Lions club
- Medicaid
- Quota
- Fundraisers
- Trading programs
- Community resources (libraries)
- Scholarships
- Grants
- Self
- Family





# Resources

- Path to Technology:  
<http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/blog/assistive-technology-assessment>
- <http://www.perkinselearning.org/technology/blog/technology-assessment-tips-tools-and-resources>
- Georgia AT Project:  
<http://www.gpat.org/Georgia-Project-for-Assistive-Technology/Pages/default.aspx>
- TVI website:  
<https://www.teachingvisuallyimpaired.com/assistive-technology-assessment.html>

**THAT CONCLUDES OUR  
PRESENTATION**

**ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?**



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