







The Role of Security With Accommodations

- Do assistive technologies pose security threats?
- What is the interaction between assistive technologies and the security of the testing environment?
- Will test-takers with accommodations always be treated as the exception with security protocols?

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Assistive Technologies

- Any method used to provide test takers with an equal opportunity to successfully test
 - Software solutions: text-to-speech, voice recognition, graphic magnification
 - Physical devices: keyboards, trackballs/mouse, large monitors
 - Human assistance: readers/recorders or scribes
 - Comfort accommodations: table risers, adjustable desks, noise/distraction reducers
- Accommodations from each type often provided to the same test taker

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Assistive Technologies - Software

- JAWS
 - Text-to-speech, reads all text and location tags on screen
 - Most often supports test takers with vision impairment
 - Challenges to delivery
 - Test Taker - familiarity with features available, most likely requires use of a headset
 - Deliverer - affects testing environment for others, limited to tests without advanced question types

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Assistive Technologies - Software

- Dragon
 - Voice recognition, converts speech to text and verbal commands to computer actions
 - Most often supports test takers with learning disabilities or those with limited upper body mobility
 - Challenges to delivery
 - Test Taker - familiarity with features available
 - Deliverer - QA intensive as each test is unique

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Assistive Technologies - Software

- ZoomText
 - Enlarges or highlights screen text and graphics with no reduction of clarity
 - Most often supports test takers with vision impairment or learning disabilities
 - Challenges to delivery
 - Test Taker - some frequently used functionality often not available

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Technology and Tests

- What does the test taker need the technology to do?
- Will that actually happen with your test?
- What is your test measuring, and will the technology interfere?
- If the technology won't work with your test, what can you do about it?

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What is the Technology Supposed to Do?

Examples:

- Screen magnification (ZoomText, MAGic)
- Speech recognition (Dragon Naturally Speaking)
- Screen reader (JAWS, Window-Eyes)
- [Example video](#)

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Will It Work with Your Test?

Maybe, and maybe not.

Examples:

- The obvious: If your test is on paper, it needs work before it can serve as computer input.
- For security reasons, many computer testing platforms lock out other applications.
- Many PDFs can't be "read" by screen readers.
- Try reading a "click & drag" item aloud!

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How Do You Click If You Can't See the Cursor?

Example: Four events in American history are listed below. Click on each and drag them into chronological order, ending with the most recent.

- War of 1812
- Constitutional Convention
- Boston Tea Party
- End of Revolutionary War

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How Do You Click If You Can't See the Cursor? (continued)

Example: Each of the two beakers below contains a different unidentified liquid. Click on Beaker 1 and drag it to "pour" its contents into Beaker 2.



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What Are You Measuring . . .

. . . and how does the requested technology affect it?
Examples:

- How important are your graphics? Are they decorative or are they crucial to the items?
- In reading test, are you measuring decoding ability or comprehension?
 - Which of the following rhymes with "weight"?
(a) sight, (b) height, (c) plate
 - What if the test taker uses a screen reader?

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If It Won't Work, What Do You Do?

- If the requested technology is compatible with what you're measuring, but it won't work with your system
- If the requested technology is NOT compatible with what you're measuring

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The Future and How To Prepare

- What research is being for future assistive technologies?
- What are the rising challenges in the field?
- Planning/budgeting for costs associated with accommodations since costs cannot be passed along to the test-taker

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Speaker Contact Information

Marlene Dunham, Program Director Professional Examination Service

mdunham@proexam.org

Ruth C. Loew, Ph.D., Assistant Director
Office of Disability Policy, ETS

rloew@ETS.ORG

Joseph Maher, Director

Global Testing Accommodations, Prometric

Joseph.maher@prometric.com

Sara Cowling, Client Services Manager

Client Services and Sales, Prometric

Sara.cowling@prometric.com

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