

2010 TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

University Annual Learning & Teaching Conference Follow-up Event

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Abstract Template

Investigation of Smartphones as assistive technology

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Abstract:

The aim of the workshop is to consider some of the issues and outcomes that arose from a JISC TechDis HEAT project considering how a disabled student who is technologically aware can use modern devices to both overcome their disability but also better engage in learning than with the assistive technology currently provided; and perhaps provide either a more cost effective solution, or one that is more usable by the students than the orthodox forms of supportive technology such as a laptop.

The workshop will include demonstrations of some of the devices used – including a Nokia N96 smartphone with keyboard and memory card, a Nokia N810 Internet Tablet and an Apple iPhone. We had available computers for software development, including Windows PC and Apple MacBooks supplied from other funding sources.

We will consider some of the issues around how the devices supplied worked with the University Eduroam wireless network and the different types of Virtual Learning Environment in use on different courses, including Bridge, Blackboard and Sharepoint.