

# Centre for Bioscience HE in FE

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## TechDis – Resources for Accessibility

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# Activity Conclusions

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- Ambiguous instructions can be difficult to follow.
- Instructions and details should be tested to ensure they work as expected.
- Students with a disability may not be able to react in the expected manner. Students with a cognitive disability may react in an unexpected way – everyone's instinct and interpretation will differ.



# The JISC TechDis Advisory Service

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- TechDis provides advice and guidance on technology and disability to promote an accessible and inclusive experience for students and staff.
- TechDis is a **JISC** funded advisory service (Joint Information Systems Committee) providing:
  - Advice to funding bodies and policy makers.
  - Guidance to strategic partners and intermediaries.
  - Advice for management, front line & specialist staff.
  - Effective resources for practitioners.



# TechDis Resources

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- Helpdesk
- Website ([www.techdis.ac.uk](http://www.techdis.ac.uk)), including:
  - Accessibility Essentials and Staff Packs
  - Guides and 'How To's on Inclusive Technologies
  - Articles and Papers e.g. E-Assessment, m-Learning
  - Case Studies e.g. HEAT Scheme
    - T3, ScreenRuler, Breeze (Completed Round 1 Projects)
    - Round 2 – Mobile phone to stream info to VI students, producing and using video resources in Biosciences
    - [www.techdis.ac.uk/getheatscheme](http://www.techdis.ac.uk/getheatscheme)



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# So... the Technologies you can use [easily] to develop Inclusive Learning

Please note – wherever you are on the spectrum from ‘technically savvy’ to ‘a bit nervous of trying new things’, you should find something that works for you (hopefully!)



# Instant Presenter

The screenshot shows the Instant Presenter web interface in a Mozilla Firefox browser window. The browser title is "http://present.instantpresenter.com - 'Accessible and engaging learning' Presenter Control - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar shows "Audience URL: http://www.instantpresenter.com/techdisonline18".

The interface has a top navigation bar with "Presentation", "Attendees", "Text Chat", and "Help". Below this are tabs for "Slides", "Screen Share", "Polls", and "Video Conference".

The main content area displays a presentation slide titled "Benefits of structured documents". The slide text includes:

- Format like this..
- Planning for heat wave emergencies in Britain
- Groups at risk
- There are certain groups that are particularly at risk during a heatwave. These include:
  - \* older people, especially those over 75 years old and/or living on their own or in care home;
  - \* people suffering from mental ill health, those with dementia, and those who need help from other people to manage day-to-day activities;
  - \* people who are bedbound;
  - \* people taking certain types of medication; and
  - \* babies and young children, especially those under four years old.
- To get automatic hyperlinked summaries like this....
- See Benevolent Bill staff pack for details.

The slide footer features the "JISC TechDis" logo and the slogan "Unlocking Potential" with a padlock icon. Below the slide are "Slide Controls" including "Load Content...", "Show Whiteboard", "Show Pointer", "Use Keyboard", and "Preview Slides".

On the left side, there is a video feed of the presenter, a "Presentation Control" panel with "Start Session" and "Settings" buttons, and an "Attendees" panel showing "Feedback: I'm fine" and "TechDis Presenter".

At the bottom, there is a "Text Chat" area with a "Type here to chat..." input and a "Send to: Everyone" dropdown, and an "Audio Chat" panel with "Enable Audio Chat" button.

The bottom status bar shows "Users Connected: 1" and "Transferring data from present.instantpresenter.com...".



# Audacity

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- Simple route into making podcasts
- Good introductory tutorial at <http://blog.podblaze.com/public/blog/139564>
- Can add introductory music etc simply to make a professional sounding podcast.
- Have been used as 'backup' for lectures, for additional material for listening in 'dead time' e.g. on buses, and for adding supporting material e.g. describing current news items of relevance to the curriculum



# Camstudio (with subtitles via MovieMaker)

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- Choose images to be used.
- Open Camstudio, define 'recordable' area, move cursor, add commentary.
- Volunteer required to demonstrate!
- Save avi file.
- Open file in Windows MovieMaker
- Add subtitles.
- Et voila!





# WINK

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- Produces more flexible presentations, with image selection, flexible audio and captioning, subtitling and so on.
- Demo about to go live at [http://www.techdis.ac.uk/index.php?p=2\\_2\\_3\\_11\\_1](http://www.techdis.ac.uk/index.php?p=2_2_3_11_1)
- Here's a taster!



# DSpeech

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- Allows electronic text to be converted into 'automatic' podcasts using a computerised voice.
- Computerised voices aren't for everyone!
- But they do add a degree of flexibility for those who do not like or have difficulty with reading, or who want to listen whilst doing other things.
- Another of Alistair's Demos is available at [http://www.techdis.ac.uk/index.php?p=2\\_2\\_3\\_1\\_1\\_1](http://www.techdis.ac.uk/index.php?p=2_2_3_1_1_1)



# LetMeType

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- Word prediction and spell checking facility.
- You can import glossaries of technical terms, and it will learn words as you type.
- More at [http://www.techdis.ac.uk/index.php?p=2\\_2\\_3\\_11\\_1](http://www.techdis.ac.uk/index.php?p=2_2_3_11_1)
- A demo, this time by Sally!



# Conclusions

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- Everybody can add value to some learners
- We shouldn't be afraid of adding value differently for different learners
- It is not always appropriate for every student to experience the same thing as long as there are equivalent alternatives
- Let's use the drive for an inclusive teaching experience as a reason for increasing creativity and adding value to all



# External Support

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- TechDis [www.techdis.ac.uk](http://www.techdis.ac.uk)
- Academy Subject Network  
[www.heacademy.ac.uk](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk)
- Netskills [www.netskills.ac.uk](http://www.netskills.ac.uk)
- ALT/CMALT [www.alt.ac.uk/cmalt](http://www.alt.ac.uk/cmalt)
- AbilityNet [www.abilitynet.org.uk](http://www.abilitynet.org.uk)
- SEDA [www.seda.ac.uk](http://www.seda.ac.uk)



Simulations: not the real thing, but they  
give some idea of what it's like

- [www.techdis.ac.uk/simdis](http://www.techdis.ac.uk/simdis)
- [www.webaim.org/simulations/...](http://www.webaim.org/simulations/...)
  - [...screenreader.php](#)
  - [...lowvision.php](#)
  - [...cognitive.php](#)



# Contact Details

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