

Mainstream Tech News

February 2024

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Wireless RERC Updates

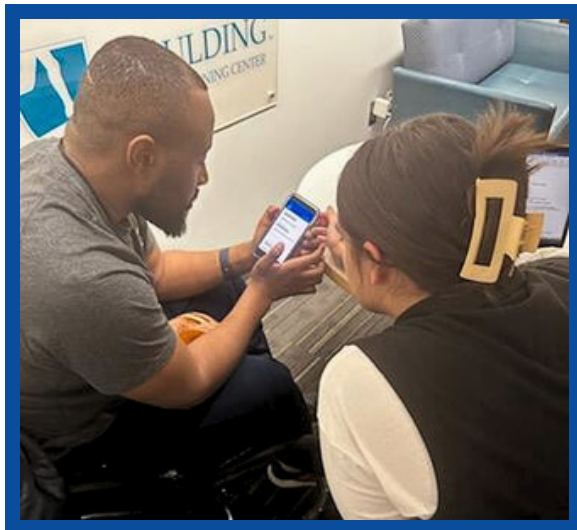


MoDAT Focus Groups & Testing

The Mobile Device Assessment Tool (MoDAT) team conducted two focus groups at the **Ocean State Independent Living Center** in Warwick, RI.

The first session consisted of 10 assistive technology (AT) professionals who provide services to individuals with disabilities, while the second session included seven individuals with diverse disabilities to ensure both providers' and end-users' feedback is included in the development process.

Learn more on our website.





Scoping Review Publication

Dicianno, B., Salh, A., Morris, L., Xiang, Y., & Ding D. (2024). Rehabilitation clinicians' use of mainstream wireless technologies in practice: a scoping review. *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*. doi.org/10.1080/17483107.2024.2316891

Mourning the Loss of Brooke Ellison

The Wireless RERC team mourns the loss of Brooke Ellison, one of our Scientific Advisory Board members, who passed away on February 4. We will miss her passion for research and innovation, as well as her kindness and wisdom. We encourage you to [learn more about her work and advocacy](#).



FCC's Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) In-Person Meeting

Lindsey Morris represented the Wireless RERC at the FCC's DAC quarterly meeting in Washington, DC. The meeting included accessible emergency communication discussions, AI in live video captioning best practices, and more. You can stay informed about FCC news related to accessibility with [AccessInfo Announcements](#). For more, [read our full recap](#).

ATiA 2024 Conference Recap

Explore the key highlights from Paola Esquivel as she [recaps her ATiA 2024 experience](#).

Tech News



Recent Smart Tech Releases

Apple's recently launched [Vision Pro augmented reality \(AR\) headset](#) is in its early stages but holds significant potential in gaming and healthcare.

Samsung's new wearable, the [Galaxy Ring](#), aligns with the company's vision for a future of ambient sensing, home-centered health monitoring.

Amazon's first smart home control panel, the [Echo Hub](#), is designed to simplify connecting and managing your devices with Alexa.





Rufus: Amazon's AI Shopping Expert

Rufus, gradually rolling out in the Amazon Shopping app, is an AI assistant trained to answer questions, compare products, and more based on conversations. **Watch a brief demo to learn more.**



SmartThings Map View

Map View simplifies device management, offering users a real-world layout of their entire home and devices. You can personalize it even further by adding customizable AI characters.

Android Reading Mode Expansion

Google's text-to-speech **Reading Mode** now covers Gmail and social media apps, enabling users to listen to emails and social posts by holding volume keys, using an accessibility button or the Quick Settings Tile, and more. Users are also given the option to help improve Reading Mode by providing thumbs-up/down feedback.



Smart Energy Management

The **Home Connectivity Alliance (HCA)**, including LG, Samsung, and Frigidaire, aims to cut electricity usage with their Energy Management Interface, which lets smart appliances connect to the grid to adjust energy consumption based on demand, potentially saving consumers money and benefiting the environment.



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