

Emerging Technologies and Assistive Communication (W7)

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Wednesday, 6/29/05 -- 1:00 PM
Location: 60-3235

Type: Workshop

This workshop examines the utilization of emerging technologies to reduce the dependency of Deaf or hard of hearing consumers on third-party intermediaries, reduce financial barriers and enable individuals to become more independent in pursuing their educational and career goals.

The ADA heralded a new frontier for Deaf or hard of hearing students attending educational institutions. Since ADA is a civil rights law it does not provide the funding necessary to generate appropriate technology to meet the communication needs of students, nor to ensure there are sufficient interpreters or individuals trained to facilitate access for consumers who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

In this workshop we will examine two issues. (1) Are today's commercially available speech to text systems good enough for real time use in classroom settings? (2) Regardless of how real-time text transcripts are generated, how can text streams be displayed so that students who are deaf or hard of hearing do not have to divide their attention among different output sources of information such as the instructor, a PowerPoint presentation, a computer screen and slides.

To explore the first question, we will discuss, demonstrate, and enable users to compare various speech to text systems. To explore the second question, we will present a video designed to illustrate and educate administrators and service providers about the problem of visual attention-splitting, and demonstrate two systems that can minimize the problem: the Communication Assistant, a heads' up display developed at Georgia Tech Research Institute, and MultiChat, a real time browser-based text streaming and chat system developed at RIT.

