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Technology Can Bridge the Career Gap for Individuals with Disabilities

The right technology can feel like magic when you use it. What technology is doing for people with disabilities is even more magical, especially when it comes to one's career.

CPRF points to studies indicating that employment rates for those with disabilities are much lower than national averages. Thankfully, technology can help level the playing field for those with an impairment and gives more people the opportunity to find and perform a job they love. Here are three ways people with disabilities can put technology to work and help them advance their careers.

Let Your Smartphone Be Your Guide

Smartphones can be a great tool for anyone looking for a job. There are apps to find jobs, update your resume, and even ones that can help you brush up on your interview skills. The most important thing is to make sure you have a reliable and updated smartphone. Not only will you have access to the latest and greatest career-focused apps, but it will be easier for you to connect with potential employers via voice or video chat.

If you need to upgrade your phone, check out the iPhone XS Max. Verizon points out it's a faster model that has a dual-camera system and more than 13 hours of usage time, and there is ultra-speedy face recognition to make accessing your phone quick and easy. If you prefer Android, check out the new Pixel 4. It includes a voice-to-text feature that offers real-time transcription.

Working Remotely is Easier Than Ever

According to Small Business Trends, almost four million Americans now work from home. For those with disabilities that make it difficult to leave the house, the popularity of remote working offers the opportunity for a well-paid career. Work-from-home jobs range from customer service to programming to transcription, project management, graphic design and more.

The key to any great work-from-home job, though, is having the tech to do it. You'll need a good laptop or desktop system and a fast internet connection. These are vital for connecting with employers, coworkers, and clients. Depending on your specific needs, there are many affordable tech solutions that can increase accessibility at home. For instance, some people find tablets easier to handle than laptops. Many tablets are as powerful as desktop systems now so you won't be sacrificing computer power for portability and accessibility.

Overcoming Impairments with Tailored Tech

There is a lot of technology available to help people overcome certain impairments. This means they don't have to be limited in their careers. Instead, apps tailored to specific needs can mean being able to do the same job as their peers.

For instance, those who have a hearing impairment can benefit from live transcription apps. Those with sight impairment can benefit from screen readers that help them understand what's on their computer screen. And those with communication impairments can send a text, an email, or type out their message on a tablet to share with others. This way their communication isn't limited to what they can say, only what they can type.

Those with learning disabilities can benefit from apps that help increase their communication and social skills, such as learning to improve eye contact. Those skills can make it easier for those with impairments to find and successfully keep a job.

Having a disability doesn't have to keep someone from having a job they love. Using the technology available can enable people to work comfortably and live happier, more independent lives. Check out what's available through smartphones, tablets, and online resources to level the playing field no matter what your needs might be.

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