The iPod Touch in the Special Needs Classroom

Apple Distinguished Educators

Accessibility Features of the iPod Touch and iPhone

Note: Accessibility features are included only on iPod touch models with 32GB or more released after Fall 209 and iPhone 3Gs

Getting Started

There are two ways to turn accessibility features on or off on the iPod touch or iPhone:

- on your iPod touch or iPhone, choose Settings, General, Accessibility and then use the On/Off switches to turn accessibility features on or off.
- in iTunes, select the iPod touch or iPhone in the sidebar, then in the Summary pane click on Configure Universal Access in the Options section and select the desired accessibilty features.

VoiceOver

VoiceOver is the screen reader built into the iPod touch and iPhone 3Gs. When VoiceOver is turned on, you will use a special set of gestures to interact with your iPod touch or iPhone 3Gs.

Navigation

- Drag finger over the screen: speak items under your finger.
- Tap: speak item.
- Flick right or left: select the next or previous item.
- Double-tap anywhere on the screen: open the selected item.
- Three-finger flick right or left: Go to next or previous screen (or page in Safari).
- Three-finger tap: speak which screen or page is visible.

Reading

- Two-finger tap: stop speaking the current item.
- Two-finger flick up: Read all from top of the screen.
- Two-finger flick down: Read all from the current position.
- Three-finger flick up or down: scroll one page at time.

Device Functions

- Three-finger double-tap: mute/unmute VoiceOver.
- Three-finger triple-tap: turn the display on and off.
- Triple-click Home button: turn VoiceOver off and on (this feature needs to be set up in the Settings).
- Press Unlock button and double-tap: unlock iPod touch or iPhone.

- Double-tap and hold: allows you to use a standard gesture while VoiceOver is running.

Using the Rotor

The rotor is an invisible dial that changes the results of up and down flick gestures when VoiceOver is turned on.

- Rotate two fingers on the iPod touch or iPhone screen: "turn" the invisible dial to choose from the available settings.
- Flick up or down: select the next/previous option for each setting (such as read by character or by word for text, or go to to the next heading, link, or form element on a web page).

Entering and Editing Text

While you are on a text box, double-tap to display the insertion point and bring up the onscreen keyboard. You can then perform the following actions:

- To type: drag you finger around the keyboard to select a key, and, while holding the key with one finger, tap the screen with another finger to enter the character.
- To move the insertion point: flick up or down to move the insertion point forward or backward in the text.
- To select text: use the rotor to choose edit, then flick up or down to choose between the Select and Select All functions and double tap. Pinch to increase or decrease the selection.
- To cut, copy, or paste: select text (see above) and use the rotor to choose Edit, then flick up or down to choose Cut, Copy, or Paste and double-tap.
- To undo: Shake the iPod touch or iPhone, flick left or right to choose the action to undo, then double- tap.

Zoom

 In addition to the pinch gesture which allows zooming on any part of the screen, the Zoom feature can be used to magnifiy the entire screen:

- Three-finger double-tap: zooms in and out (the default setting is to zoom up to 200%).
- Three-finger tap and drag up or down: change the magnification.
- Three-finger drag while zoomed in: move around the screen.

Other Accessibility Features

- **White on Black:** inverts the colors on the screen so that it is easier to read.
- **Mono Audio:** combines the sound of the left and right channels of stereo audio into a mono signal played on both sides. This enables someone with a hearing impairment in one ear to hear the entire sound signal with the other ear.
- **Speak Auto-text:** speaks the text corrections and suggestions iPod touch makes when you're typing.