

News release



HP Highlights IT Accessibility Leadership at CSUN

HP products, technology platform, web accessibility and partnerships are celebrated at 20th annual International Conference on Technology and Persons with Disabilities

LOS ANGELES, March 14, 2005 – HP today will showcase its leadership in IT accessibility at the 2005 CSUN (California State University at Northridge) International Conference on Technology and Persons with Disabilities, which will be held here March 14-19. An estimated 4,000 people will attend the week-long event, the world's largest comprehensive conference and exhibition on technology and people with disabilities.

HP is committed to making its products and information accessible to everyone including people with disabilities and age-related impairments. HP technology and products are also the preferred platform for assistive technology solutions because of their design and compatibility, and the support offered through HP's Developer and Solution Partner Program.

"We recognize HP as a leader in accessibility of information and technology, providing meaningful access to persons with disabilities," said Mary Ann Cummins Prager, director of CSUN's Center on Disabilities. "HP's sponsorship and support for our conference draw attention to the importance of making technology and information accessible to everyone."

HP's support of CSUN includes sponsorship of the keynote breakfast on March 16 featuring Dr. Albert Cook, one of the foremost authorities on assistive technology and dean of the faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Alberta. HP is also a founding sponsor of the Information Technology Industry Council's new web portal, ACCESS★STAR, which will be demonstrated at CSUN. The portal, running on HP servers, is designed to serve as the premier global resource for information, trends and market requirements for accessible technology and information. HP is also providing guidance to help ensure the portal meets web accessibility standards.

HP products

At CSUN, HP will showcase and demonstrate a number of its products which support Microsoft Windows® accessibility features and are compatible with assistive technology devices and applications. From desktops to printers, HP provides a range of products designed to help meet the needs of those with blindness or low vision, limited manual dexterity, deafness or difficulty hearing, limited speech, limited mobility and other impairments. Examples include printers with touch-sensitive displays for users with low vision and notebooks designed for single-handed operation for people with limited

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manual dexterity. For more information, visit: www.hp.com/accessibility.

Web accessibility

HP is a recognized leader in web accessibility. Users of hp.com can easily access information about HP and HP products, and the site has been recognized as a model by organizations including the e-tailing Group, Inc. and the National Federation of the Blind. HP.com conforms to Worldwide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) guidelines and supports Section 508 web standards. In 2004, the National Federation of the Blind recertified HP as an e-business leader for web accessibility. HP is the only company to earn certification in two consecutive years.

At a CSUN session on Friday, March 18, HP will share best practices and lessons learned from the company's rollout of web accessibility standards.

Assistive technology partners

HP works closely with assistive technology (AT) vendors through the HP Assistive Technology Partner program to ensure that HP products are compatible with specialized AT solutions. Through free membership in HP's Developer and Solution Partner Program, AT partners can use HP technologies and products to create solutions for people with disabilities and age-related impairments. At the company's CSUN booth, HP will demonstrate a record number of AT partner products and solutions that use and harness HP products and technology.

Examples of new innovations being demonstrated are the ViewPlus Pro Ink Attachment, a Braille printer component using HP inkjet technology to create documents that can be read by both sighted and blind readers, and the Dolphin Pocket HAL Screen Reader. The Dolphin Pocket HAL is the first screen reader developed for standard Pocket PC devices, allowing users full screen reader capability with any off-the-shelf HP iPAQ Pocket PC, addressing the needs of people who are blind or have low vision.

"There is a broad market for products that address the needs of people with disabilities and age-related impairments, a market that goes largely unnoticed in mainstream business," said Michael Takemura, director of the Accessibility Program Office at HP. "The World Health Organization reports that 37 million people around the world are blind and another 124 million have low vision. That's just one small part of the significant and growing need that HP and its assistive technology partners are working to address."

At a CSUN session on Thursday, March 17, HP will share best practices for collaboration with assistive technology partners using the HP iPAQ Pocket PC as a platform, presenting jointly with HumanWare Canada and other HP assistive technology partners.

About HP

HP is a technology solutions provider to consumers, businesses and institutions globally. The company's offerings span IT infrastructure, global services, business and home computing, and imaging and printing. For the four fiscal quarters ended Jan. 31, 2005, HP revenue totaled \$81.8 billion. More information about HP (NYSE, Nasdaq: HPQ) is available at www.hp.com.

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