# Creative Assistive Technology Solutions

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## Goal

* To spark your imagination and creativity when implementing high-tech, low-tech, and no-tech accommodation solutions

## A perspective of accommodation

* Accommodations are new physical, cognitive, and neurological habits that an individual develops

## 1. Alternative way to select text

### About the employee

* Employee is a financial analyst who is returning to work after LTD
* Disabling conditions are anxiety and mouse injuries

### Difficulties

* Precision mousing aggravates both conditions, especially selecting cells in Excel and selecting text in Word

### Solution

* There are methods for selecting text in Excel and Word that totally eliminate the need for precise mousing
* These methods are poorly-documented and most people don’t know them
* These methods are performed via keyboard
* The accommodation I recommended was coaching on keyboard access

### Outcomes

* She no longer needed to use the mouse when selecting in Excel and Word
* The new methods are faster, more accurate, and more reliable than mousing

### Cost

* $400 for coaching

## 2. Injured health club employee

### About the employee

* He works in a health club
* He has a shoulder injury that limit how far and how easily he can reach
* His job involves removing heavy towels from a front-loading industrial drier

### Solution

* A laundry rake constructed out of a meat hook, vinyl tubing, and Sugru (silicon glue)

### Cost

* Materials: $25
* Labour: $100

## 3. Alternative way to drag the mouse

### About the employee

* Administrator with limited arm mobility
* Uses a joystick mouse

### Difficulties

* Dragging windows from one monitor to the other
* She finds dragging to be physically and cognitively demanding
* Many drag operations fail
* A single drag-and-drop operation can take five minutes

### Solution

* A macro (software shortcut) that is activated by a hotkey
* Pressing the hotkey automatically moves the current window from one monitor to the other in fraction of a second

### Details

* The macro was scripted using Macro Express, which costs less than $70
* Time to create the macro: 30 minutes

### Outcome

* This macro has been in daily use since for 15 years
* Based on saving 20 to 30 minutes per day, the estimated productivity gain is $45,000

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