

# CDP Update

Feature Devices · Tech Tips · Clinical Practice

Fall 2016

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## Communication Device Spotlight

### tobii dynavox I-12<sup>+</sup>; sleek, powerful and has battery to spare!



Consider the I-12+ for clients who require a large screen because of limited vision, extensive vocabulary needs, or because of complex computer needs in addition to face-to-face communication. Because of its flexible access options and computer control capabilities, the I-12+ could also benefit clients who have a progressive condition and who may require more than one access method over time.

The I-12+ is a full-sized, full-powered speech generating device new to the CDP. It can be configured with either Communicator 5 or Compass software, supporting text- or symbol-based communication at any level of complexity. These software options enable clients without direct access to independently do those online tasks we take for granted: send email, use Facebook, do online banking, or create a document.

The I-12+ can be accessed in any number of ways, including the touchscreen, a mouse, joystick, or switches. It also has the option to be configured with built-in eye-tracking technology.



#### Consider the I-12<sup>+</sup> for clients who:

- Require a large screen
- May need more than one access method over time
- May require eye-gaze technology

#### Explore more about the I-12+ here:



<http://www.tobiidynavox.com/seriesplus/>

# Access and Selection Method Spotlight

## Origin Instruments Head Mouse Extreme

The CDP has long favoured the Head Mouse Extreme as an alternate access method. Some of the reasons we love this tool include it's:

- Fast, responsive, and wireless cursor control,
- Efficient and intuitive for computer savvy users,
- Adjustable sensitivity settings (built-in and within the Windows OS),
- Compatible with, wired or wireless switches (if required), or dwell activation
- Adjustable angle mounting options
- USB plug and play
- Low power consumption
- Small, compact size
- Durable

This head mouse allows clients to regain direct access to a device once upper extremity function is no longer an option. As mentioned above, this method can be very intuitive and easy to learn for those clients that are computer savvy. Even those with limited experience on a computer can often learn to use a head mouse efficiently.



Figure 1. Head Mouse Extreme Top Panel

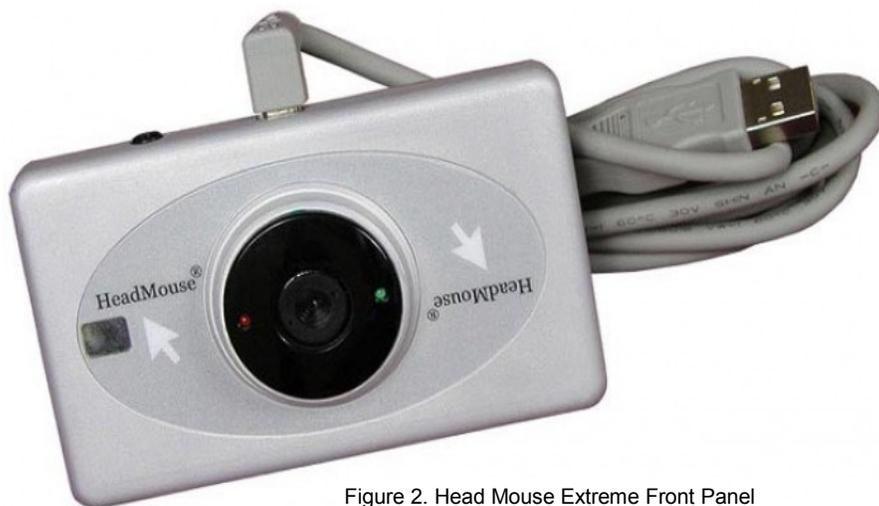


Figure 2. Head Mouse Extreme Front Panel

There are multiple ways to make a selection in the Speech Generating Software and on the desktop. These include: dwell (i.e., select by hovering the cursor on top of an item for a specific period of time); or by using a external switch (wired or wireless) for the mouse functions. Of course, the Head Mouse Extreme can be mounted to all of our Windows Operating System (OS) devices. However, there are NO options for a head mouse, of any sort, to be used with any of the Apple Operating System tablets (i.e. iPad, etc).



Figure 2. Head Mouse Extreme Back Panel

### Consider the Head Mouse Extreme for clients who:

- Have limited, or no upper extremity strength, or volitional movement
- Have retained some head/neck control and movement
- Are computer savvy and/or would like a direct, efficient means to control their SGD/Computer.

# Clinician's Corner

## CDAC WANTS TO KNOW YOUR OPINION!!

**The content found below is taken directly out of an email request from Barbara Collier, Reg. CASLPO, F.ISAAC. She is the Executive Director of Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC) and has requested our assistance in distributing this survey. Please see below for further details!**

Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC) is collecting information specifically about communication access barriers for people who have speech and language disabilities, not caused primarily by hearing loss. This information will be used to inform the federal government's new accessibility legislation. People with speech, language and communication disabilities do not typically attend or contribute to government public consultations. In general, their communication access rights are not well known or understood and are frequently omitted in accessibility legislation. This project, funded by the federal government, augments the government's current public consultation process.

To support the communication access needs of people with speech and language disabilities, CDAC is conducting a national survey to document what accessibility means for this group.

We are interested in hearing from people with speech and language disabilities, family members, clinicians, service providers, SLP students, educators, disability advocates and anyone who wants to see improved communication access to services for people with speech and language disabilities.

We are asking if you could encourage your colleagues to participate in this survey and support their clients to contribute. There are pictures and symbols on our website to support people to communicate about the issues and provide input into the survey.

I am attaching an information sheet about the survey.

The information sheet provides links to our website for more information and a print out version of the survey at <http://www.cdacanada.com/projects/federal-accessibility-legislation>

And there is an online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Federallaw>

**If the online survey link doesn't connect, you may need to cut and paste into your browser.**

The deadline is **January 1, 2017**.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

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Canada

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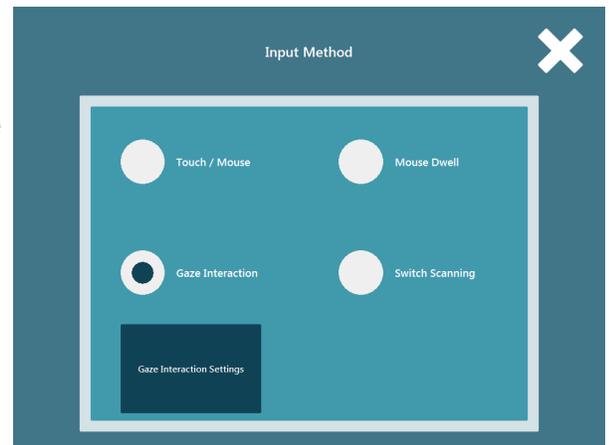
# Education and Resources



**Communicator 5 Software** comes with language content designed to match all AAC needs, from emerging communication to literate adults. The content can be further customized for specific individuals through easy-to-use editing tools. Communicator

allows you to communicate via text or symbols, and generates high quality speech for face-to-face communication. The setup guide, quick menu, and improved editing are only some of the functions that make it easier for caregivers and anyone else that helps the user throughout the day, to keep the user's language up to date. While being specifically designed for the [Tobii DynaVox I-Series+](#), Communicator works on Windows computers running Windows 7 or newer, such as the Microsoft Surface.

**Communicator 5 Supports all access needs:** Regardless of your preferred input method, everyone can use Communicator 5. The software supports direct input via touch screen, which has been significantly improved with Windows 8/10, as well as mouse click, mouse dwell, joystick, single or multiple switches, or head mouse. You can also use eye gaze interaction together with the Tobii DynaVox I-Series+.

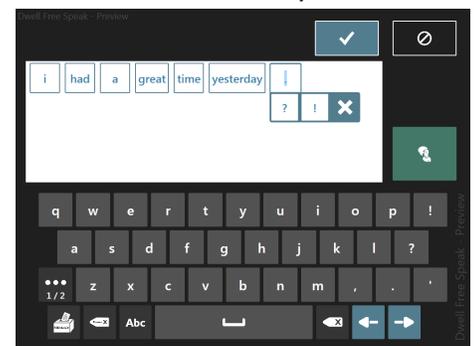


Those requiring feedback before making a selection can use auditory prompts. This is particularly helpful for people with visual difficulties. And, if your personal needs change over the day, it is easy to switch between input methods, for example, using touch input in the morning and gaze interaction in the afternoon.



Included with Communicator 5 are over 15,000 communication SymbolStix symbols that enable people of all ages to communicate clearly and understandably. Communicator 5 also supports other standard-format communication symbol and picture libraries. You can also import your own photos and pictures from the computer or use the built in camera to take snapshots.

Typing speeds can potentially be increased with the brand new function "dwell-free typing". With it, you do not have to click on individual letters in order to type them. Instead, you simply let your gaze sweep over the letters that form the words you want to write. Then, Communicator 5 knows, with great accuracy, what you want to write. Dwell-free typing lets literate individuals who use eye gaze communicate much more efficiently than ever before.



Communicator software is a Tobii Dynavox product. They have created a [support page](#) that includes specifications, downloads and related links. They have also created a fantastic [YouTube Channel](#) with many inspirational and training videos available. Another unique service that Tobii DynaVox offers is the "[PageSet Central](#)" website. This site offers inspiration and ideas for use with the Communicator, Compass and SymbolMate communication software. Easily search for and download pagesets that have been created by other users, or upload and share the content that you've created (*please be aware of potential personal information on pages, and remove prior to sharing*). This is the central idea of Pageset Central - to give and take!

# Odds and Ends

## Webinars and Online Resources not to be missed!

 **AssistiveWare**® <http://www.assistiveware.com/support> Founders of Proloquo2Go and Proloquo4Text. E-Learning, P2G and P4T Certification, AAC Implementation and more!

**tobii dynamox** <http://www.tobiidynavox.com/support-training/> Approved by ASHA to provide CE hours to SLPS and Audiologists. Extensive library of pre-recorded and live webinars Youtube Channel also available: <https://www.youtube.com/user/TobiiTrainingAT>

 **ATiA** Assistive Technology Industry Association <https://www.atia.org/webinars/webinar-directory-search/> Leader in the world of Assistive Technology, ATIA has a growing library of on demand and live webinars. There is a useful search filter that allows you to specify content you want!



 <https://otswithapps.com/> OTs with Apps & Technology is a wonderful blog that highlights apps and other technology for OTs working with children and adults.

 **isaac** International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication <https://www.isaac-online.org/english/home/> ISAAC's goal is to create worldwide awareness about how AAC can help individuals without speech. ISAAC accomplishes this by sharing information and promoting innovative approaches to research, technology and literacy through AAC. Activities include hosting the ISAAC biennial conference, sponsoring projects, and offering awards and scholarships

 **AAC** Institute <https://aacinstitute.org/> The AAC Institute is a resource for all who are interested in enhancing the communication of people who rely on AAC. AAC Institute promotes the goal of AAC, the AAC Rules of Commitment, and evidence-based AAC clinical practice.

# The New Communication Devices Program Team



## What's New in CDP

### It's fall, and the leaves aren't the only things changing!

Since the last issue of the CDP Update was published, we have had many staffing changes! For those of you haven't already heard, our previous manager, Andrea Meakin had accepted the Chief Allied Health Officer position at Riverview Health Centre in August of 2014. Since then, she has moved to become the Manager on the Stroke and Brain Injury Unit at Riverview. Indira Mike (previously of HSC) accepted the Manager position at DLC and has been with our program since November 2014. Just before we learned that Andrea would be leaving, our program Coordinator, Ben Adaman, informed us that he accepted the position of Senior Allied Health Manager at St. Amant Centre in June of 2014. Our program OT, Stacey McRuer, accepted and transitioned into the CDP Coordinator position in September of 2014. Since that time we have also hired, Amy McDougall as the full time OT, and Aynsley Allen in a newly created, 0.2 FTE Speech-Language Pathology position. Our program Secretary, Lorraine Rose also decided to take on a new challenge, and accepted a position with the Occupational Stress and Injury (OSI) Clinic here at Deer Lodge Centre. To accept the Secretary position, the program was lucky to find a long-term DLC employee, Meline Hollier, who has been with the CDP since February 2016.

**Please update your contact information with the following:**

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**Aynsley Allen, Speech-Language Pathologist**

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**Meline Hollier, Secretary**

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### Did you know?

The CDP website is being updated. We received your feedback, and we want to give you what you need! Please be patient, we will notify everyone as soon as we have new content available!

If you have suggestions or content you would like to see online, *please* let us know!

Contact us: 204-831-3430 or [cdp@wrha.mb.ca](mailto:cdp@wrha.mb.ca)