

A blurred background image showing a person's hands interacting with a tablet device. The person is wearing a watch on their left wrist. The overall tone is dark and moody, with a focus on the technology being used.

Technology to Combat Social Isolation

By Kris Thompson

New England Assistive Technology

There is a growing trend that people today prefer electronic communication over traditional phone calls. It's important to provide the tools to those who are socially isolated so they gain access to these forms of communication based on their comfort level.

Fortunately, there are a plethora of smart solutions available for keeping people connected. The ones within this presentation have been very popular and successful.

Smart Phone or Tablet

In today's world of
texting, email, social
media, video chatting and
telehealth, no device can
help people maintain
social connection better
than a smart phone or
tablet.



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Free Smart Phone or Tablet Features

Video Chat

Facetime
Zoom
Skype
.. And more!

Texting

WhatsApp
Facebook-
Messenger
.. And more!

Email

Outlook
Gmail
Yahoo!
.. And more!

Social Media

Facebook
YouTube
Pinterest
.. And more!

Games

Words With-
Friends
Card Games
Board Games
.. And more!

Music Streaming

Pandora
iHeart Radio
Spotify
.. And more!

Other Great Features

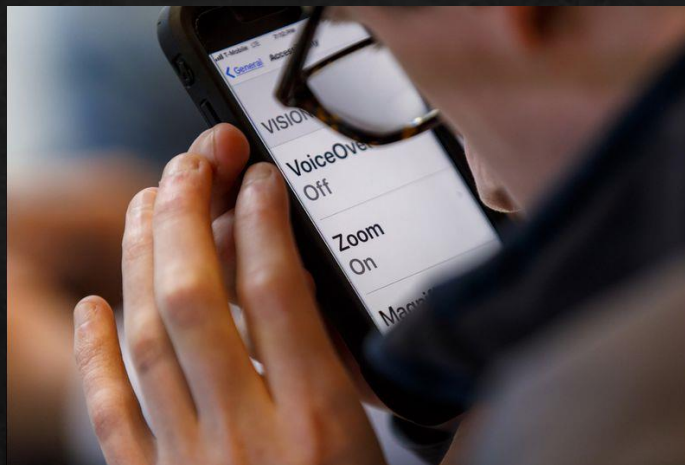
eBooks
Audio Books
Photography
Writing
Blogging
Web Browsing
Reminders
Ride Share-
Services
..And more!

Smart Phones and Tablets Are Very Accessible!



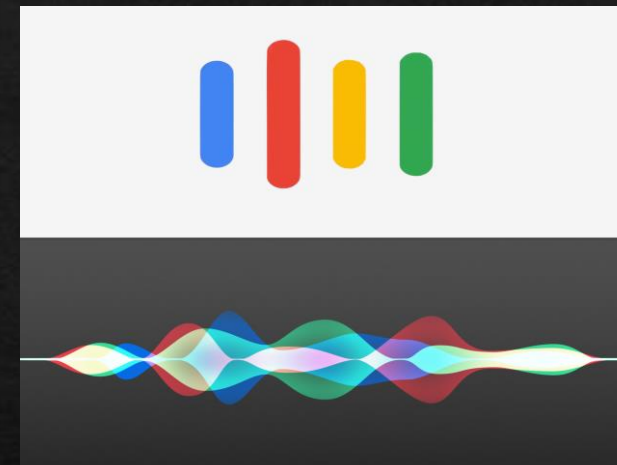
MAGNIFICATION

Great for reading food labels, prescription labels, menus, mail, and newspapers.



SCREEN READING AND ZOOM

Enlarge the screen and get auditory descriptions of each onscreen element



VOICE CONTROL

Google Assistant or Siri allows control of the device by speaking commands.

Smart Phones and Tablets Are Very Accessible!



HEARING

Use with hearing aids, LED flash for alerts, and closed captioning.



DICTATE TEXT

You can use dictation instead of your keyboard to enter text with many apps and features that use the keyboard on your smart phone or tablet.

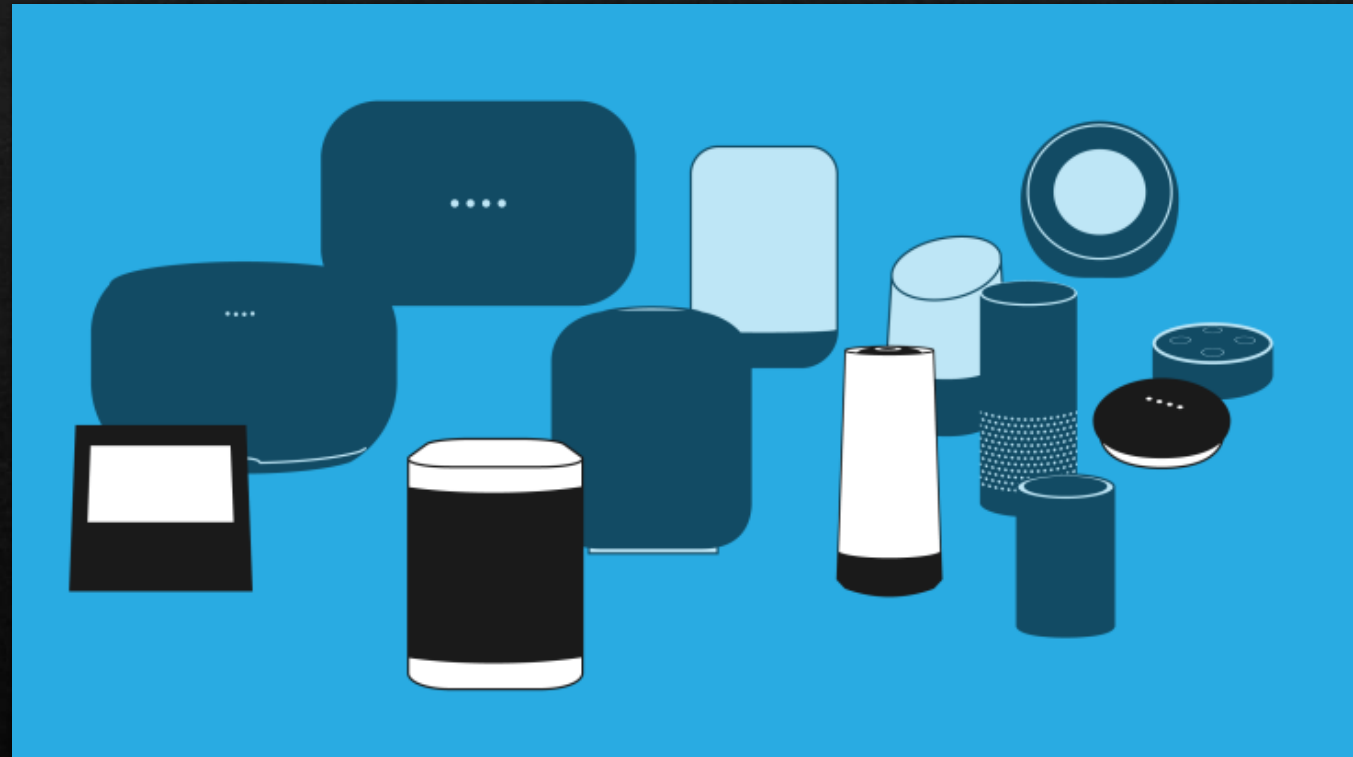


ACCESS TO APPS

Utilize apps for live transcription, Video Relay Service, communication and so much more!

Smart Speakers and Displays

Amazon and Google offer a wide selection of smart speakers and displays that can be controlled by voice commands. They are all valuable for reducing social isolation, but some are more feature rich than others.



Key Features of Amazon Echo and Google Home Devices

- Music playback (Pandora, iHeart Radio, Spotify)
 - Stream Podcasts or Radio Stations
 - Play Audiobooks
 - Reminders
 - Hands free calling
 - Games
 - Hands free messaging
- Book a ride with Uber and Lyft

Amazon Echo Show

There are a number of voice controlled smart devices out there, but the Amazon Echo Show has more features than it's competitors. It comes with a 10" Screen, camera, mic and is voice controlled with Alexa. It's known for the "drop-in" feature which keeps loved ones connected like a hands-free intercom.



AMAZON ECHO SHOW DROP IN FEATURE

Use Drop In to open an instant conversation between your devices or with your Alexa contacts.

Use Drop In to:

Have a two-way conversation by connecting to one of your Alexa-enabled devices ("drop in on Grandma").

Drop In to an Amazon Echo device by using the free Alexa app on your smart phone or tablet.

Have a group conversation with all supported Alexa-enabled devices under your Amazon household, which are not set to do not disturb. To start a group conversation ask Alexa to Drop In everywhere.

Note: All supported Alexa-enabled devices under your Amazon household account will connect regardless of their physical location

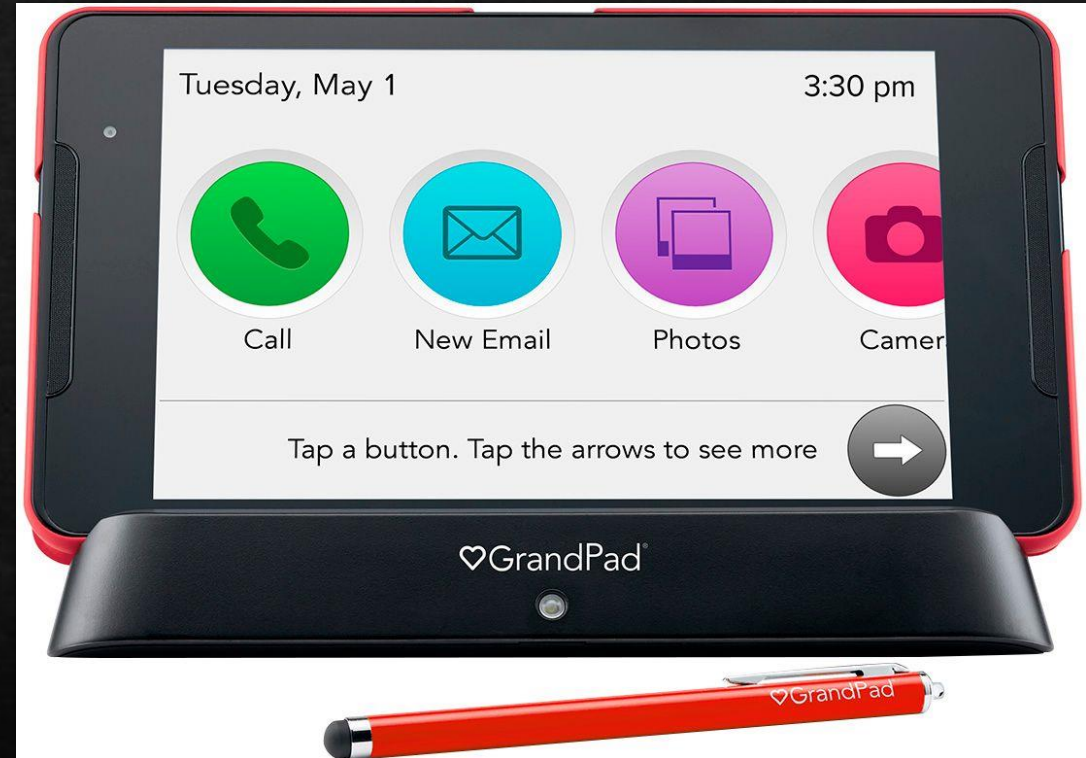


GrandPad

This device comes with features for connecting with loved ones, without the complicated features of other tablets. The large buttons and intuitive interface make the GrandPad a simple tablet for seniors.

The user interface is designed with little to no guesswork involved. Using the stylus, seniors can select onscreen icons and links with pinpoint accuracy.

Primary features include Email, Phone, Camera, Photos, Music, Games, Help, Search and Weather.



Claris Companion Tablet and App for Android

Claris Companion is available as a tablet and is designed for seniors living at home so their family can connect with them socially using email and text messages, photos, and videos, while caregivers can receive alerts and monitor compliance with medications, treatments, and important appointments.

If you have an existing Android tablet, you can download the Claris Companion app to enjoy the simple to use features.

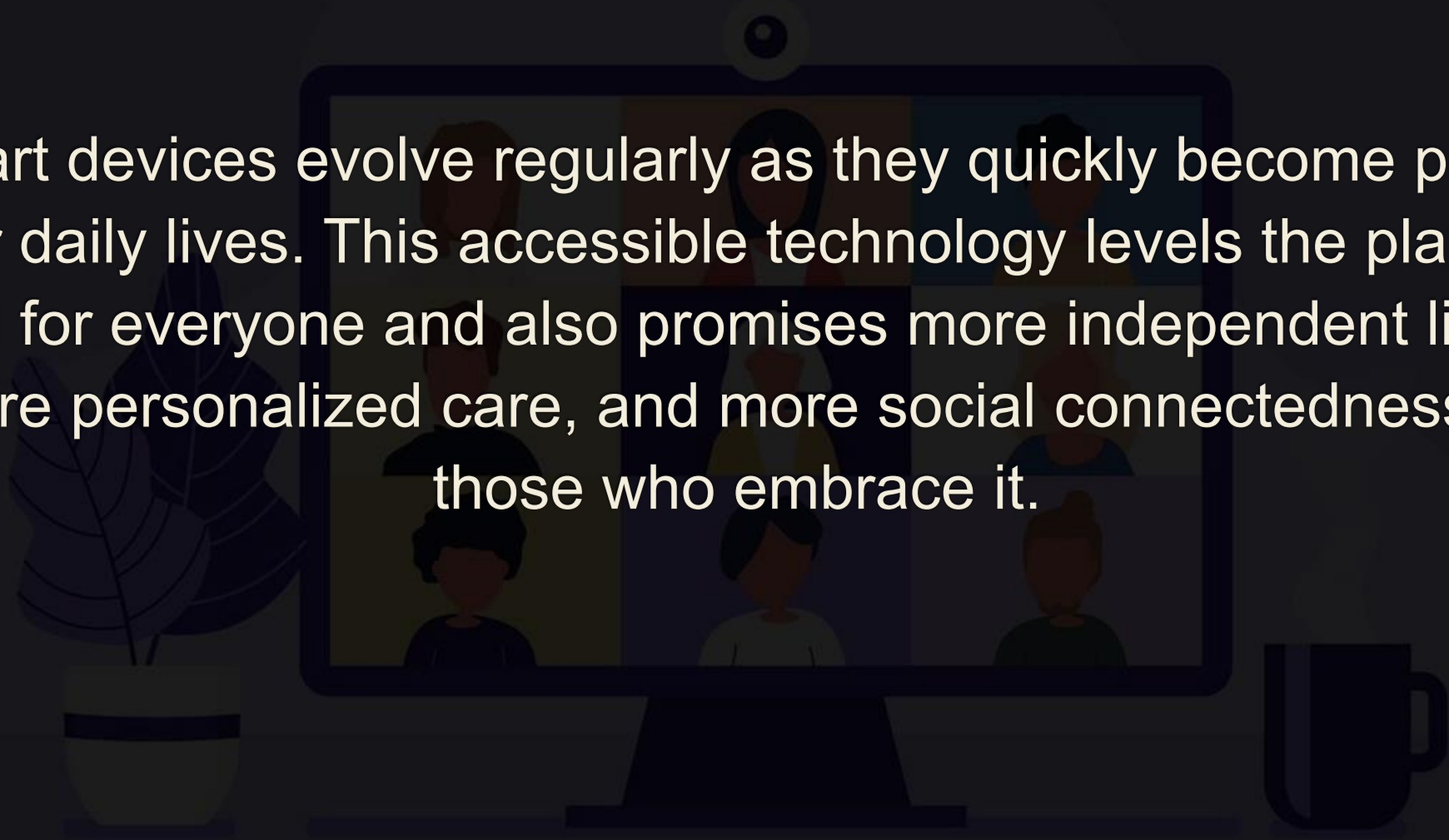


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Smart devices evolve regularly as they quickly become part of our daily lives. This accessible technology levels the playing field for everyone and also promises more independent living, more personalized care, and more social connectedness for those who embrace it.



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Thank you!