

Covid-19 and the technology that allows us to work from home

A list of what assistive technology providers can offer

Working from home is the “new normal” for many of us now. However, for many disabled people, this means getting used to working with assistive technology in a new environment. To help employers and employees get the best out of the technology they are using, we’ve pulled together this list of what assistive technology and other technology companies are doing and have to offer.

- **Microlink** are supporting a large number of employees working remotely for their clients. They are providing remote assessments, work adjustments, support and training remotely as well onsite where possible. Microlink are happy to extend this provision to any other organisation on an ad hoc basis (microlinkpc.com).
- **Microsoft** – any employee with disabilities in your company can get free help from people trained in disability and adjustments on anything around their technology, including the use of third party assistive technology running on or interacting with Microsoft technology. Contact edad@microsoft.com.
- **Amazon** offer Amazon Chime as their video conferencing software (aws.amazon.com/chime). They also offer Amazon Workspaces: a virtual desktop that lets you set up different profiles for different staff, meaning you can choose what gets installed on top of windows, depending on what apps they already use (aws.amazon.com/workspaces).

From the user perspective, they download the workspaces app on their pc / mac / tablet and it opens a Microsoft or Linux machine which the company can control what

software etc. they can access. If it's just video rather than a meeting, Amazon also have ways to make subtitling easy in AWS, as this blog explains:

aws.amazon.com/blogs/media/aws-media-tech-demo-live-streaming-with-automated-multi-language-subtitling.

- For any **ClaroRead** users moving to different machines, just mail sales@clarosoftware.com referencing Business Disability Forum.
- **MindView** customers can contact them at London@MatchWare.com and they will help to facilitate access.
- **Diversity & Ability** are delivering all their training remotely. Their operations team is on hand between 10am-6pm Monday to Friday on 0800 978 8303 or bookings@diversityandability.com to answer any queries.
- SuperNova by **Dolphin** (a magnification tool and screen reader) have steps in place and a 30-day free trial of their Enterprise Licence (yourdolphin.com/en-gb/products/individuals/supernova-magnifier-screen-reader). This software is also available on a USB licence, where you can run the software from the USB on any Windows device.



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