



# Feature Matching

AT Technology Selection

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## Presenter

- RESNA Certified ATP
- M.S. in Rehabilitation Science and Technology
- Taught undergraduate and graduate level assistive technology courses at East Carolina University
- Developed an online graduate certificate program in AT for East Carolina University



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## Objectives

- Understand why feature matching is important.
- Learn how to determine technology options based on needed features.
- Work through case studies to determine features and search for technology options.

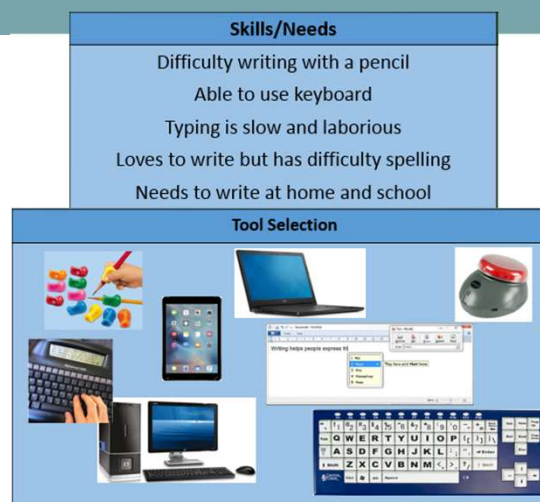


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## What is Feature Matching?

- Process of identifying technology features
- Based on the user's abilities and needs



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## AT Consideration

- Prior to AT consideration, the educational/vocational team must:
  - Clearly identify the unique needs of the user
  - Identify the tasks to be performed in the educational or vocational program



## Review – AT Assessment Process

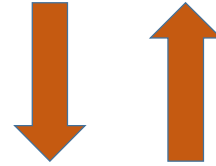
- Select targeted tasks
- Determine environments for each task
- Evaluation/observation of student's needs and abilities
- Match features of AT to those needs and abilities



## Student-Centered Approach

- Process of identifying technology features that would benefit the AT user based on their abilities and needs.
- Teams should first look at:
  - Student/User
    - Strengths
    - Needs
    - Preferences
  - Then look at the features of available technology

Student's Strengths & Capabilities, Needs, Preferences



Features/Characteristics of the Assistive Technology

## Feature Matching Case Study


Practice

## Matching User's Skills/Needs to Features

Skills/Needs	Features Related to Skills/Needs
Difficulty writing with a pencil	Computer-based writing
Able to use keyboard	Standard or alternative
Typing is slow and laborious	Alternate access
Loves to write – difficulty with spelling	Word prediction
Needs write at home and school	Mobile computer options



## Matching Features to Technology

Features Related to Skills/Needs	Tool Selection
Computer-Based Writing	
Alternative Access	
Word Prediction	
Mobile Computer Options	

## Technology Selection

Features Related to Skills/Needs	Tool Selection
Computer-Based Writing	
Alternative Access	
Word Prediction	
Mobile Computer Options	



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## Technology Selection – Step 1

- Narrowed technology down to a few broad options:
  - Laptop
  - iPad
  - Alternate keyboard
  - Word prediction



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## Technology Selection – Step 2

- After brainstorming technology features, start searching for specific technology that matches those features.

Features Related to Skills/Needs
Computer-Based Writing
Alternative Access
Word Prediction
Mobile Computer Options

- Examples:

- Word Prediction
  - Co:Writer
  - WordQ
  - Sooth Sayer
- Alternative Access
  - BigKeys LX Keyboard
  - BigBlu Vision Board
  - Brydge 10.5 Bluetooth keyboard for iPad
  - Laptop using built-in Accessibility features such as voice recognition/dictation



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## Technology Resources

Finding Technology Options

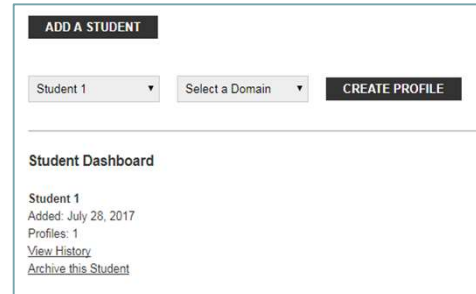
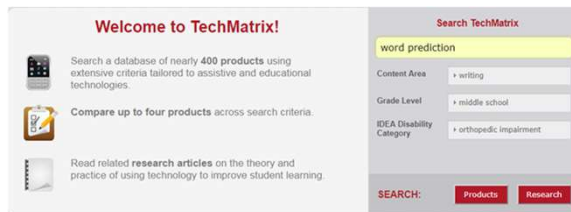


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## Features = Technology 1

- Find specific technology options that match the features identified:
  - [TechMatrix](#)
  - [Student Inventory for Technology Supports \(SIFTS\)](#)
  - [Local AT Tech Act office](#)

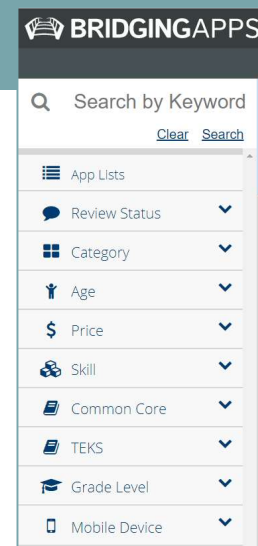
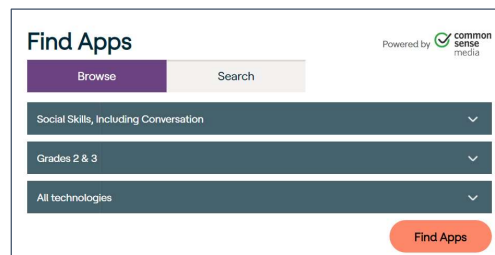


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## Features = Technology 2


- Find specific technology options that match the features identified:
  - [Understood.org](#)
  - [Bridging Apps](#)
  - Trusted vendor



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## Feature Matching Guide

Student Name: [Click here to enter text.](#)


Date of AT Evaluation: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Team Members Conducting Feature Matching: [Click here to enter text.](#)


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Example: Area of Need = Writing; Skills/Needs = Love to write but difficulty spelling; Features Related to Skills/Needs = Word Prediction

Area of Need	Skills/ Needs	Features Related to Skills/Needs
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<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
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## Feature Matching Guide

Copy the Features Related to Skills/Needs and Brainstorm Specific Technology that matches those features.

Example: Feature = Word Prediction; Tool Selection = Research possible word prediction programs

Area of Need	Features Related to Skills/Needs	Specific Tool Selection
<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
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## Feature Matching Review

- Feature matching is?
- Feature matching is not?



## Resources

"Assistive Technology Internet Modules." *Assistive Technology Internet Modules | Welcome*, OCAI, [www.atinternetmodules.org/](http://www.atinternetmodules.org/).

"Feature Match Comparison Chart." *Oklahoma Assistive Technology Center*, 2013, [coe.uoregon.edu/cds/files/2016/09/FeatureMatchComparisonChart.pdf](http://coe.uoregon.edu/cds/files/2016/09/FeatureMatchComparisonChart.pdf).

Fonner, Kelly, and Kirk Behnke. "Feature Match What Is It?" *KPR*, Koester Performance Research, 4 Oct. 2018, [kpronline.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Feature-Match-What%E2%80%99s-That-Handout-Fonner-Behnke.pdf](http://kpronline.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Feature-Match-What%E2%80%99s-That-Handout-Fonner-Behnke.pdf).

"Student Inventory for Technology Supports: Home." *Student Inventory for Technology Supports | Home*, OCAI, 5 June 2020, [sifts.ocali.org/](http://sifts.ocali.org/).

# Questions



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## Any Questions after Webinar

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