DARLENE MCLENNAN: Thank you for joining us today. For those who don't know me, my name is Darlene McLennan and I'm the Manager of the Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training, or ADCET for short.

I want to start by letting you know this with webinar is being live captioned. To activate the captions, you can click on the CC button in the tool bar that is located either at the top or the bottom of the screen. We also have captions available in a browser and the team will add that to the chat box now for you to access them there.

I'm on lutruwita, Tasmanian Aboriginal land, and in the spirit of reconciliation, ADCET and I respectfully acknowledge lutruwita nations that ADCET is hosted on and we'd like to pay respect to all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait people and recognise the Aboriginal history and culture of the land, and pay respects to elders past and present, and to the many Aboriginal people that did not make elder status.

Also we want to acknowledge all the countries participating in this meeting and acknowledge the elders and ancestors and their legacy to us and any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participating in the webinar.

We have enabled the chat function, so I encourage you to identify where you are today, on what land you are coming to us from.

Today, the webinar is Accessibility in Office 365 Inclusive isn't Elusive, which is a great title.

It is very exciting to have Andrew Balzer from Microsoft.

In the 90‑minute session, you'll learn about simple and powerful tools that are built into Microsoft Office Suite to help create and access content.

Another few housekeeping details. The webinar is being captioned by Bradley Reporting. The wonderful Aimee is doing that for us and will be recorded and will be available on ADCET in the coming days.

If you have any technical difficulties, you can e‑mail us at admin@adcet.edu.

Andrew is going to talk to us for 70 to 80 minutes. But he will hopefully remember to stop occasionally and we might check the Q&A box so we can engage in the content that he's actually speaking about before he moves on to something else.

We ask that you put the questions into the Q&A. It is easier for us to manage those questions. We have also enabled upvoting so you can upvote your favourite question. If you want to chat with us or everybody else who is joining us today, please use the chat box.

So just to refresh that, the questions you want to ask of Andrew in the Q&A box, but to chat generally amongst yourselves and with all of us, please add that to the chat box, and make sure you choose all panellists and attendees.

I think that is it for the housekeeping. I'll come back at different points to ask questions in the Q&A box, but now it's over to you, Andrew. Thanks so much for your time.

ANDREW BALZER: Fantastic. Thank you, everyone, for attending today's session and having me here. So yes, this is Inclusive Isn't Elusive. And today we are focusing on accessibility within that with AI and Microsoft and Office Windows 365.

Now, it is a lot to take in over 90 minutes, and I appreciate that as a secondary high school teacher myself. But this is designed to be a play and pause event. As you have heard, it is being recorded, so if I am going a little bit too fast ‑‑ and I apologise due to the interest of time ‑‑ you will be able to get a recorded aspect of this and maybe play me at half speed and then pause and go and explore some of the aspects that I'm demonstrating today. But I will do my absolute best to slow down and answer as many questions that I possibly can.

Now, to introduce myself, my name is Andrew Balzer. I'm an Education Success Manager. I am a middle-aged male wearing a blue Microsoft shirt. Hedgehog like spiky brown hair, blue eyes. My contact details are there on screen.

So my role at Microsoft is to upskill users in higher education, at secondary and primary education across ANZ. So that is Australia and New Zealand. That is everything, from using Minecraft to make worlds and spatial learning more accessible, to aiding SLSOs, so student liaison support officers, or teachers, or leadership to transform their school with Office, and that does include accessibility. So my contact details are there on screen.

I may not get to everybody's question today, but I promise you they will be emailed to me and I will find the appropriate answers if we either don't get time or I need to do a bit of homework on some of the questions. Microsoft is a very big space. So don't be afraid to ask those questions.

I'd also like to acknowledge the traditional land on which I'm presenting on today which is the Awabakal land here in sunny Newcastle. I'd like to acknowledge the role of elders past and present and their future importance to Aboriginal Australia.

I have a lovely session agenda here. I'll try and touch base on as many of these topics as possible. I am going to apologise in advance. I am naturally a very fast speaker. So I apologise to your closed captioner right here, right now. But I am very excited to share where we currently are with some of the tools that you have at your disposal around accessibility.

So we'll have a look at everything from the overview of the landscape where Microsoft currently sits, AI and accessibility, which is very exciting. I'm going to do some live demos with Copilot and show you the art of possible. And then touch base on Windows, ease of access and accessibility as a bit of a staple, being Windows the most dominant operating system in the world, accessibility plays a huge role in its design. And then look at accessibility in Office.

Out mission at Microsoft is to empower every person, organisation on the planet to achieve more. I was a secondary high school teacher and I worked with a lot of students with accessible needs, even I myself have accessible needs to an extent. So I'm going to share some of those tools that we use and some of those tools that you have access to, to date, which is really exciting, especially the AI aspect.

So we try to promote independent learning at Microsoft, everything from learning, visual, hearing, mobility, neurodiversity, and mental health. And I'll be basically touching bass on some of the tools to support things like dyslexia and dysgraphia, and low vision, blind, colour blind, but also some of the research we are doing around aspects such as epilepsy and mental health. And it basically can be around the processing of information, that can be as simple as your accessible need that you may need, to everything where it might be a mobility issue or a vision issue that we need to make sure something is more accessible.

Because of that, we have a number of tools. In fact, we would probably have, I would say, and I'm on edge saying this, but maybe some of the most diverse tools because we have some of the most diverse products in Office to support accessible needs. And I'm going to show you a list of resources today and some groundbreaking technology. I'll do that live, technology you can access today which is really cool.

So we are going to have a look at Immersive Reader. I'm sure you've seen Immersive Reader, word prediction, dictate, editor, ease of access. They're the staples within Office to make life a little bit more accessible and easier. And then, of course, really identifying the facts that these are our bread and butter within Office 365. Our CEO, Satya Narayana Nadella, has a son, believe it or not, who has accessible needs, who has a disability. So he is a huge advocate for making sure Microsoft have a huge array of accessibility built throughout Office.

And just to see how much of that learning tools that we are bringing throughout Office, our goal is to fill up what we call the learning tools matrix.

So if you are using a product like OneNote or Outlook to check email, or Microsoft Word, or PowerPoint, or Excel, even Microsoft Edge, there are accessibility tools in there to support your learning needs. So it could be a picture dictionary for students who need that visual representation. It could be colour filters for those that have a visual discrepancy, or maybe mobility issues so dictation that comes into play.

So some additional tools, which I may not get time to speak to, include Microsoft translator. One of my favourite tools, actually, to do group translate conversations. I used to use this all the time in many different academic environments. We have a great app where it splits the phone into two screens when you sit at a table and it translates what you are saying in real-time to the opposite person, including group translate where it can translate into 4 different languages simultaneously.

So if you are bilingual, you speak the languages, it's a great tool there.

Office Lens, which is another great mobile app, that will take any hardcopy material, like this bit of paper, and digitise it and use Immersive Reader, screen readers, dictation, so you can edit those documents. I'll talk about accessibility, automatic alt text using generative AI, and some other aspects of accessibility as well.

So first thing I really want to point out is that all sounds great, Mr Balzer, but what happen if we need help? There's one of you, there's many of us across the nation.

A lot of people don't know this but you have access to the disability answer desk for free, which is a great place to go if you have access or questions around the hardware that you may need to support your environment. So it could be adaptive touch controllers or eye tracking or halo aspects there. Or it could be around the product suite. This will connect you to a real person that is specialised in accessibility that work at Microsoft to answer your questions and solve your needs.

So this will be in the PowerPoint desk. It is the disability answer desk, non‑enterprise.

So what does that mean? I'm going to bring it on screen for you. So what I dragged on screen is the website for the disability answer desk at Microsoft. It has everything from accessibility tips. We are going to talk about this soon, answer your questions with AI.

And this is great if you need help and you are not part of an organisation. We call that enterprise. So at university or you don't own Office. Your school, your organisation hasn't got Office. This is just a generalistic "I need accessible support".

So great website for you to contact our accessibility answer desk. We have a phone number. We have ASL support there as well. We have an email. You can just click it and send your question and they will connect you with the individual that can support you.

If you are from an organisation, a university, a school, and they have purchased Office ‑‑ that means you have access to Word, PowerPoint, Excel ‑‑ we have a disability answer desk enterprise version. Enterprise being you are part of an organisation or you are part of a school that has purchased Office, because you are paying for Office more or less that will redirect you to our enterprise support for customers which is more specific to around using accessibility for work than the general accessibility answer desk.

And of course, in the nature of AI, we also have Ask Microsoft Accessibility, which I have a link in there in the PowerPoint as well. This is a great website because what this will allow you to do is, if I bring this across, is ask artificial intelligence ‑‑ we have an AI bot ‑‑ and there are some sample questions there ‑‑ that will scan all of Microsoft's resources and provide you with accessibility resources on the fly. So you can ask "How do I use voice access in Windows or how do I access dictation in Office, or how do I find accessibility templates to use in my classroom?" This is a great little place to go and it will go through using generative AI and find wonderful things to support you there. So some great humanesque ‑‑ and I say "humanesque" because, yes, it is a phone, you talk to someone on the phone, or it's an email. But a real person, besides the AI bot, will answer some of your questions and try and help you out. That way you can scale right across your organisation. A lot of people don't know that these support sites are here with real humans on the other end, which is really nice.

Now, the last thing I want to talk about before we jump into some AI improvements around accessibility is that we do have an accessibility help and learning page. And a lot of users don't know this one exists either, which is fantastic. You type in where you need help and this is more of a self‑paced static resource. So if you need accessibility support with Windows, Office, Word, Excel, you ask your question in here and it will provide you with a number of resources.

You can see we divide the support into different categories, such as vision, hearing, neurodiversity, learning, mobility, mental health. You can see all the different tools that we actually have for each topic within Microsoft, everything from adaptive hubs and how to support the disability community, how to use a keyboard effectively, how to get support from what I was just mentions, the disability answer desk.

More resources there than what we have time for today.

We'll just pause there just to see if there is any questions. I think that is more or less pretty straightforward. It is a great start knowing that there is this love and support around accessibility help and learning for everyone that is around. Yes, absolutely, a lot of people don't know about the disability answer desk; a lot of people don't know about the accessibility help and learning. They are great places to start.

Now, on that, let's jump into something a little bit different here. In terms of technology, it has only been out for a few months, per se. Microsoft 365 Copilot. You may have heard of it. You may have seen some buzz in the news about AI. The great thing that I am going to show you today is nothing paid in this regard, free access to this tool, and how you use this tool for accessibility.

To do this, I am going to do a live demo around this, but I want to play this lovely video that really showcases the power of Copilot, and how we are using generative AI in accessibility. It is very short.

VIDEO: Hi, I'm Marly Rogers. I work as Microsoft's Disability Policy Advisor. I'm based in the United States in Washington DC. I'm often following hearings policy announcements and happenings in legislative bodies around the world. And public policy words matter a lot. So my notes for these hearings need to be accurate. As a dyslexic note‑taker, this used to mean listening and re‑listening and then checking transcripts. Now, Copilot really is my hearing assistant. I ask for a summary of the hearing and follow up in direct quotes the topics I'm following. This saves me time, helps me review more hearings, and creates high quality notes and citations that I can return to whenever I need them. This is my Copilot. How can yours help you?

ANDREW: That is obviously an information literacy aspect of accessibility of using Copilot. Someone did ask is Microsoft accessibility Copilot questions captioned and logged? The free version of Copilot, there is no data protection. Just be very mindful of what you put into that. That doesn't mean it's all over the internet or anything like that, but if you are paying for Copilot in terms of your organisation, it is locked to your tenant and there is data protection. If you are using consumer Copilot, which I will be showcasing today, there is no data protection per se. So don't get too personal with copying medical results or something like that and asking Copilot for assistance, if that makes sense.

So let's explore Copilot. I'll do some live demos here. I think this is really powerful to see. I'm a huge advocate for seeing live demos, and Copilot can help in so many different ways. I'm going to show how Copilot can recognise anything you take a photo of within your visual environment. You can understand some huge implications there for those that have low vision or those that need more explanation about their visual environment. But also for information processing. So if you can't concentrate or have autism or you might be dyslexic, on how it can help you understand videos, create summaries, how it can help you from mobility aspects, write phrases and emails, and all sort of wonderful, wonderful things. I use Copilot all the time. I'm going to show you how you can use Copilot literally today. So you could walk away from this and go, "Wow, I'm going to check that out."

So Copilot can be found in five places: Copilot@Microsoft.com; in the Edge browser, the Microsoft internet browser. So on screen right now I have a series of different pictures that showcase where Copilot is, with Copilot for mobile circled. That is the one I'll be demonstrating today. I encourage you to download Copilot, which is free, to your mobile phone so you can play with it later. We also are bringing Copilot to Windows for free and we have bing.com/chat. So there's five places you can access Copilot. You don't have to be limited to your phone but obviously the phone has some distinct advantages.

As you navigate the real world, you have an accessible digital assistant in your pocket that can help you understand, summarise, and visualise your environments.

So I am going to give you a live demo of that right now.

We love live demos. So I am going to stream my mobile phone to the computer, just so you can see what I'm doing here. We are going to get fancy as I connect my mobile.

And this is my mobile phone and I have a folder here called Microsoft. This is where I keep Office Lens, which is a very accessible tool to take hardcopies of material and digitise them. Microsoft 365, Microsoft translator. We have a lot of mobile accessibility tools to support users. But you can see here from the Apple store and the Android store, you can download Copilot for free, no cost.

Now, let's actually have a look at how Copilot can be used for accessibility. Now, I have Copilot right here. And obviously if you are not attuned to using your mobile phone or you have a mobility issue, we can use our voice with Copilot. For example, I have a camera icon. You can see at the bottom of the screen here. You are going to see my desk here. If I take a photo of this environment. So I've taken a photo of my peg basket to give you a visual representation. In Copilot, I'm going to speak to it about what I want it to do. So follow my lead.

"Hi Copilot, comma, I have low vision and struggle to see the world around me, full stop, can you please explain this image that I've provided?"

Now, I've used my voice, utilised my voice. I sent it a random photo. Let's face it, it is quite random. It is a picture of a peg, there is a bit of paper, there is a drink bottle sitting on a wooden desk. I've asked Copilot to help me understand what is in that image. I want you to pause and think about how you can use this. Not only can Copilot pick up distinct things within that image, but it can also do some very, very incredible detailed depictions. And I'm going to have Copilot read this out to us. Remember I might have an accessible need here.

COPILOT: Certainly, I'd be happy to describe the image you uploaded. The image depicts a wooden desk with several items arranged on it. Here are the details. Main focus, a grey rectangular basket sits in the centre of the desk. The basket has holes on its sides. Inside the basket there are multiple blue clothes pins neatly arranged. Other items on the desk, to the left of the basket there is some paperwork, possibly documents or notes, and a blue water bottle with a black cap. Behind the basket, there are additional items, what appears to be a book or binder, two cylindrical objects, possibly cups or containers. The desk surface is brown and seems to be made of wood. I hope this description helps you visualise the scene. If you have any other questions or need further details, feel free to ask.

ANDREW: Absolutely incredible. It will detail anything in your real environment to an extent unlike anything I've ever seen before. What is great about Copilot as well is not only can you take pictures of images, but if there is a document that you struggle to understand, like this International Studies Cultural Project ‑‑ I'll take a photo of that. I might struggle to understand the written text. I might struggle to read that document and need assistance to understand that. Again, I'm going to ask Copilot.

"Hi, Copilot. I'm struggling to understand what this document is. Can you please help me process this?"

Now, the great thing about Copilot, not only can it understand that it is a document, but it can read everything on that document and make it a bit more accessible too. I can ask it to explain it like I am a 5 year‑old child. I may tell it that I have autism and I need to have short, clear, succinct sentences. I can ask it to relate the explanation to real world examples so I can visualise them in my head. It is generative in the sense that it will do almost anything you ask it to do. It is bringing accessibility to a whole new level.

And you will notice here as soon as this generates, it is very fun to explore around its possibilities. There is no tool that I know of in the world where you can put in your pocket and have such authentic digital assistance when it comes to accessibility. So I'm going to have this read aloud to me, but then we'll have to move on. I'll show you some other cool things about Copilot. But you can see here that it is literally breaking up that document in terms of the title, the context, the purpose, literally from a photo. And if I have that read aloud to us just for those that may need it ‑‑ it takes just a second to process, by the way, just so you know.

COPILOT: Certainly, let's break down the document titled International Studies Cultural Project.

Title and context. The document is titled International Studies Cultural Project. It appears to be related to an academic project or assignment.

ANDREW: True.

COPILOT: Purpose of the document, the purpose of this project is to explore and understand culture in the context of international studies.

ANDREW: Also true.

COPILOT: Students are required to research and create a PowerPoint presentation ‑‑

ANDREW: I'm going to pause there. But you can see overall message, it has identified that's it's a map in icons. I can ask Copilot to summarise this for me. I can ask Copilot to add emojis to help me visualise. I can ask how can I change this document to make it more accessible.

Literally, let's do that. "Hi, Copilot. How can I make this document more accessible? Can you please give me some ideas?" It is going to look at that exact document.

COPILOT: Improving document accessibility is essential to ensure that everyone can access and understand the content. Here are some ideas to make your International Studies Cultural Project document more accessible.

Formatting and structure.

ANDREW: Okay. So I'm going to stop you there, Copilot.

As you can see, it is not just generalistic, talking about how to make things. It is talking about this particular document. So you can imagine the power of Copilot.

Now, in the interest of time, I could be here taking photos and explaining how it can identify the coloured pegs and all sorts of wonderful things.

In terms of productivity, however, this is where it really can kick off. So I'm just going to open up a website here.

I'm going to ask Copilot to help me understand what is on this website from an accessibility lens. Maybe I'm watching a YouTube video which I struggle to focus in. I'm struggling to get the main point, the main message.

I could copy that video link and then just open up Copilot again. And I could ask Copilot to summarise this piece of content in 5 points or less. So I might just do that right now. "Copilot, can you summarise this video? I have a short attention span and struggle to understand it."

Now, what I'm going to do there is paste the video link so it understands what I'm referring to. Copilot can summarise it. It can help me articulate it. Look at that. Isn't that incredible? It is summarising this Microsoft accessibility video that we have here. It will go through ‑‑ I copied the YouTube ad before we got to the video, but that is a powerful tool. I could ask it to break the video down into steps. I could ask it what are the latest updates with accessibility in Copilot? So this will be my last demo on Copilot because there is a lot to show in Microsoft, but I really encourage you to take this away and play with it because there's so much that you can use for accessibility. And then I'll pause to answer some questions here.

"Hi, Copilot. What are the latest accessibility updates in respect the Microsoft in the last 3 months?"

You don't have to search the web. Copilot understands what we released in terms of accessibility.

COPILOT: Certainly. Here are some of the accessibility updates from Microsoft in the last three months.

ANDREW: Incredible, right?

COPILOT: Accessibility assistant in Microsoft 365.

ANDREW: Now I'm going to pause Copilot.

COPILOT: In Microsoft 365, a powerful set of tools to help creators produce more accessible ‑‑

ANDREW: Thank you, Copilot. But you can see here in the interests of time, it will go through and it will hyperlink the resources that it is talking about. You can see them with a citations. Look, honestly, your entire world has become far more accessible in the palm of your hand or the pocket of your pants, so to speak, or dress, or whatever you are utilising to carry around Copilot. I use this on a day‑to‑day basis. It is game changing.

And as I stated, no cost. Hundred percent free.

There is a paid version that you use for work. You put Copilot into Word, Excel, all sorts of wonderful things. But there is no limitation to what you can do with Copilot. I'll do one last one. This one is for you, Kylie, who organised this webinar, but you can even use it for work. So you could say, "Hi, Copilot, I'm supposed to be presenting an accessibility presentation tomorrow. However, I'm feeling sick. Can you write me an email in the style of Steve Irwin explaining I won't be able to attend and send my sincere apologies?"

So as you can see, something a little off beat. If you have a mobility issue or maybe you struggle to ‑‑

COPILOT: Asterisk subject, Crikey, change of plans for tomorrow's presentation. Asterisk, asterisk. Gidday, mates, Steve Irwin here. Coming to you from the land Down Under. I hope this email finds you all in good spirits surrounded by wildlife adventure. I've got some news that might make you say blimey. Tomorrow's accessibility presentation, the one where I was supposed to be sharing my passion for all things accessible will have to go on without me. You see, I'm feeling under the weather like a sleepy koala in need of a eucalyptus boost."

ANDREW: Anyway, you get the idea. So if you struggle with literacy, which I did in school, if you struggle in writing emails, or maybe it's a mobility issue that you have, this one tool will open up worlds for you.

So very powerful, extremely catchy, like the sleepy koala in the need of a eucalyptus boost.

Now, questions. I am going to pause there for some questions because ‑‑ yes, many great phrases. I'm going to pause there because I'm sure there's some questions.

DARLENE: There is. Thanks for that, Andrew. I was going to say Steve. Where did I get the word Steve? Now you are confusing me. I'll ask the questions around Copilot.

So there was one in regards to how many times of the free version you can ask Copilot in a day.

ANDREW: So that is a good question. There used to be a day and age where there was limits. And you can probably see down on the bottom here, 1 of 30 responses. That means that you can have 30 back and forth about the same one conversation. So that is the limit in terms of the one topic. So I could go back and say, "I don't like that email, change it to this." I could go back about my document and say, "How could I expand on this point or how can I make this accessible for low vision?"

Copilot will help you. Can you link me to Microsoft resource that will help me achieve that? So you can go back and forth 30 times in the one conversation.

This is the beauty of it. This button down in the bottom left‑hand corner, this is called new conversation. You hit that, you have 30 more back and forth conversations.

You get more with signing in to Copilot, as you can see I've done at the top there. You can use your work account if it is enabled within your tenants. And within most tenants, it is enabled, the free version, which means that anything you put in Copilot is protected.

However, you can also sign in with a consumer account. So that is at hot mail or Outlook, or whatever it may be.

And you can still use it throughout X, Y, Z processes, just without the protection. I don't know in the recent limitation. I don't think there is one, to be honest, "Hey, you've used all your conversations today." So, yeah, if that is the case I'll update. But I'm pretty sure we have expanded that.

DARLENE: Another question was around what voice that was. So is that an Android phone you are using?

ANDREW: I'm using an iPhone. And the voice dictation and the voice prompts come from the actual phone device itself. So Android will have X, Y and Z, and iPhone will have X, Y and Z dictation, so it's coming from the phone itself. If you like a different voice, you can use it in a web browser and that will take your computer's voice. I know a lot of users install Australian English. As you can see, this is Copilot on the right‑hand side. The exact same thing but not on my mobile phone. I can do everything I just did right there on a computer.

DARLENE: So for a computer ‑‑ for someone using a screen reader on a computer who is blind, what is the interaction between Copilot and a screen reader?

ANDREW: That is a great, great topic, because I was just reading about that right before we started this session.

We have ‑‑ if I just go to a website and bring you up a reference, if you type in Copilot and screen Readers, we have a website here that is all about using Copilot in Word with a screen reader, for example. We have support documents about using Copilot screen readers, the different types of technologies that we have here. So it is really interesting, because it might be a screen reader, it might be a dictation, it might be some third party that you have on there. We've incorporated accessibility components into the support site around Copilot. So just ask what you'd like Copilot to do with screen reader, or whatever it may be, and there will be a support site to support you.

DARLENE: Excellent. I think that is all the Copilot questions. We will have a few that will come up later, so if you want to keep going. We will come back to questions.

ANDREW: Absolute game‑changer. Really excited to share that with you today, the fact that it can really identify anything in your real world and save you so much time.

A lot of accessibility built into Copilot.

So let's jump into some other aspects of accessibility and Office 365. So I'm going to bring this up. This is our PowerPoint deck, before I went and blown your mind with this amazing pocket accessibility aspect here. We are going to have a look at other aspects that are more baked in, less generative, that's outside of Copilot. So I've added some screen shots of how Copilot works in the PowerPoint deck for those that might need this description, so you can go through this in your own time and explore.

Now, I would like to talk about Windows accessibility. Obviously, we had a look at Copilot, which is on your phone or can be in your browser or built onto your PC. But we have a lot of accessibility tools built into Windows and Windows 11. I have a small video which I'd love to show because Christine Douglas ‑‑ she is from Wyndham College. She is in year 11. We've employed Christine in a traineeship at Microsoft to support us with making accessibility resources from a student perspective but also to assist adult educators.

You can see here Christine working on accessibility posters, making Windows 11 and 10 top tip videos on how you can make this more accessible. And Christine's asked ‑‑ I've asked if I'm able to share a piece of Christine's video so you can see how she builds accessible content using these technologies.

The first thing you notice when I play just a portion of this video for you today ‑‑ I might play the first minute ‑‑ is that she uses an AI voice‑to‑text speech to describe the video for those that need that accessibility support. And she is in year 11. So if she can do it, we all can do it. So this is her short video called The Way You See It.

This won at a short film festival, and I said am I able to share this today, just to show how you built an accessible video with some of the AI capabilities that we have here.

And I'll share how she put the voice to text over the video.

VIDEO: Black and white footage of Christine's hand brushing against long grass fades in, followed by footage of the back of her head.

ANDREW: That is an AI voice that Christine has just typed in.

VIDEO: Hello, everyone. My name is Christine Douglas. I'm 19 years old and a pathway student at Wyndham College in New South Wales.

But what sets me apart from other students is I am legally blind. However, that doesn't stop me from achieving my goals. Recently, I was elected in as school captain and recently won judge's choice for my short documentary called The Way You See It. Black and white footage fades to colour as Christine looks at the camera. Christine walking in a field with a cane with text on the screen that reads "The Way You See It, A short film by Christine Douglas". POV of Christine using her cane in the playground inside buildings and going up and downstairs.

ANDREW: So I am just going to ‑‑

VIDEO: The other thing that sets me apart is that I am the first blind school‑based trainee, so I work at Microsoft as a part of my work experience. But before I talk any more about that, let me start from the very beginning.

ANDREW: I'm going to pause there. Obviously, you notice there is closed captions here on the Zoom call, so I don't have them on here. But Christine has provided an audio description of her video. And she has utilised the Windows tools to do such. We have an AI voice video editor in our new video editing suite called Microsoft Clipchamp, so that's clipchamp.com. It is an AI video editor. It has accessible tools in there. I can't show you that one right now. I can provide you the website. Maybe I can get the moderators to put it in ‑‑ Clipchamp.com ‑‑ because it is not out for education markets yet, which basically means you have to sign in with a consumer account as it stands.

But there are other ways to achieve what Christine has achieved using Windows 10 and 11 and using your voice and putting that into the video. So Christine made a video on that. It is a 15-minute video which I'm not showing today, but I'm putting a link into the PowerPoint slide, where Christine will talk about all the accessibility features that Windows has from her perspective and how it benefits her as someone who is legally blind.

I thought that was a great video to make, solely to hear from somebody that utilises this from a student perspective. So you have access to that if you'd like to watch that after the fact.

I've also included a video from John, who is a designer at Microsoft, who works on the input and accessibility features in Windows 10 and 11. He talks about he's natively baked these into Windows for those that need that. I will leave that in the presentation for you to consume after. Yes, I love examples from students, too.

I think they're very powerful.

So just to talk about Windows 10, 11. I'll keep this brief because then we'll move on to Office, but it is important you understand that Windows is designed with accessibility in mind. And we did basically speak about this last time I was here, but it is one that you should never forget because it is a staple of making sure a device is accessible for users. So if you are using Windows 10, it is called the Ease of Access Centre.

You can see the Ease of Access tool bar in the settings aspect of Windows. So if you type in "ease of access" in the Windows search, it will take you to the Ease of Access Centre.

Windows 11 builds on top of that, if you're using Windows 11. Thank you, Darlene. And it adds more accessible improvements in there, improved voice typing, for example, and improved narration using a bit of AI, improved live captions. So they have the same features. You are not left out if you are using 10 or 11. It is just 11 is a bit more updated being a new Windows subsystem.

So everything from vision to hearing to neurodiversity.

Things like being enable text suggestions, turn off animations. They can trigger seizure type events. Snap order, simplify the screen, dark contrast, different types of colour capabilities that we have there.

We reimagined this in Windows 11. We call it is Accessibility Centre, formerly known as Ease of Access.

This is where you go and personalise everything you need in Windows. So I'll quickly just spend a few minutes talking about that. So it is in the settings aspect of both Windows. So it doesn't matter if you are on 10 or 11, even 7. You go into your settings, and on the left‑hand side, if you are using Windows 11 or 10, you see either Ease of Access, which you saw on the screenshot, or Accessibility.

So what I'm demonstrating right now on screen is the Windows 11 accessibility dashboard. And here we break them up into vision, hearing, interaction. And this is where you can tailor your device. So you can change the text size, for example. You can change the mouse cursor, turn off the visual effects for neurodiversity. When I'm doing big presentations at the front of the room, I'll pick a bold colour for those that might struggle at the back. And use a lot of these accessibility features.

Christine Douglas, who I was just demonstrating, uses magnifier. And you've seen me use magnifier today. That is where I use these shortcuts in Windows, which is the Windows + icon, to quickly Zoom in on things that I'm talking about. So I'm talking about how you can invert the colours. I am using accessibility features.

You saw Christine using some of the voice accessibility features to make her videos more dynamic and more accessible by doing dictation, by doing narration. And if you are someone, like I was using with Copilot, that needs speech to text and text to speech, we have all of that built into Windows 10 and 11, colour filters. There is a lot to unpack here.

So I'm going to pause there just in case you have any questions around the Windows 10 or 11 accessibility centre. I must say, the narration is absolutely fantastic. This is the new narration home.

DIGITAL READER: This is narration home where you can get help.

ANDREW: I will exit that because I'm competing with narration. You can see we've re‑designed how narration works. And we have Australian English. So even though I call it the Sandra Sully, sounds like I grew up watching that type of news, there are Australian voices in natural language packs which you can download which is enhanced by AI to sounds more natural. Now, I haven't installed them because I love to show just what it looks like out of the box. They are free to add those natural voices. As you can see here, it says "add natural voices". Click add and you can add some lovely natural voices in there. But we kept the legacy voices in case you like that. Some people don't like to know things are too real that aren't real, if that makes sense. So we do have those legacy voices in there.

This has everything from mobility, neurodiversity, hearing, interaction. That can be coupled with hardware, too. Halos, eye tracking, all those extra peripherals that you can put in here. Now, I'll pause and just make sure there is no ‑‑ someone asked is Clipchamp consumer free? Yes, it is. There will be an app version in future of Clipchamp. Clipchamp is a web‑based video editor. So it doesn't matter what device you are using, which is a win‑win for everyone.

DARLENE: I think the question in regards to a Mac version, could it also be with Copilot. Is that across also?

ANDREW: Yes, so it is a website. So it caters for different devices, Copilot.Microsoft.com. Or you just install Edge, which is the internet browser, which I'll bring up on screen for those that need a visual representation which is an internet browser which I'm going to talk about right now as we go into Office.

DARLENE: Just one of the other questions was regarding the Microsoft tools around design aspects. Are there plans to include tools that assess the accessibility of user designs and style choices for colour blind individuals? I don't know if that Ease of Access will address that or is there more coming?

ANDREW: Great question. We actually have on our Microsoft support website for accessibility ‑‑ if I bring this up under accessibility ‑‑ as you can see, I've got a lot of accessibility links here ‑‑ but we actually have templates that have been pre‑designed for accessibility in mind, which is really great. You can find them on the accessibility help and learning. If you just look for accessibility templates, it will take you to accessible templates that have been pre‑designed for the correct font, correct colour schemes, that have been verified by those that need ‑‑ I think it's the web content accessibility guidelines, the WCAG, that you can download and use.

But we also are bringing some AI in the designer features which are rolling out, more or less, very soon in terms of making that content more accessible, which is always a hard one as it's such a creative aspect. But I've seen some of the stuff we are doing there. Just like Copilot, blows my mind.

Now, we are going to get to Edge right now and Office because I need to talk about accessibility checker and some of the accessibility tools that are in Office away from Windows. So you saw some great tools in Windows 10, Windows 11. They are all baked into the operating system itself. Closed captions, narration, voice typing. But you will notice using Microsoft Edge, which is this browser ‑‑ and this will be my segue into Office ‑‑ this is the most accessible browser I've ever seen, in the sense that if you look at these websites right here ‑‑ so I'm on innovative tools for accessible learning, which is a Microsoft website ‑‑ you will notice that the top ‑‑ I'm going to circle these. What I'm doing on screen now is circling a button which will activate screen reading ability in a browser. And then the second circle I am circling will activate Immersive Reader for those that need it within the majority of websites.

So, for example, if I would like this page read aloud to me, I can hit this lovely little read aloud page or control shift U.

DIGITAL READER: Accessibility tools for inclusive learning. Faster learning environment where all students and teachers feel included and have the tools and resources they need to succeed.

ANDREW: That voice is getting very natural. I must say, the voices ‑‑ there's 136 different types of dialects and voices. So if you speak New Zealand, for example, you can actually change that to have an English Indian tinge, or English New Zealand tinge, to it. English Ireland. Let's change it to New Zealand, for example, and hit play.

DIGITAL READER: Succeed. Innovative tools for accessible learning.

Immersive Reader. Help all students improve reading comprehension, stay engaged and build confidences while supporting students with learning differences and new language learners.

ANDREW: And then we can change that to a British tinge or an Indian tinge. So there's different types of dialect of the same language, but in addition to voice to speech, text to speech, we also have next to read aloud Immersive Reader which I'm sure you are all in love with and know how Immersive Reader works. It takes away the distractions of a page and allows you to customise that page to become more accessible. So everything from page themes, to the spacing of text, all the ads and clutter disappears, change the column style. We have students that say the headaches go away when they select lilac, or those students that might need, or you might be a staff member that has a particular overlay of glasses. Or use a sheet over a bit of paper that you need to photocopy.

We also have reading preferences where you can turn online to focus 1, 3 or 5 lines at a page, and we can translate the entire page into many languages of choice.

So I've just translated this page into Dutch which is really powerful. So we have lots and lots of accessibility needs within Immersive Reader. Probably one of my favourite tools that I use on a day‑to‑day basis just to consume information. This works on the majority of websites, and it is identifiable with the Immersive Reader in the URL.

Now, Immersive Reader also works across Office 365. So you don't have to be on a website per se. You could be in a Word document. And the first thing you'll notice with my Word document is that I have dark mode on. That is an accessibility feature that we've built into the web version of Word and the desktop versions of Word.

I don't like that tan at 6 am in the morning when I start to work, that white negative space.

But you will notice we have Immersive Reader built into Office. So you will find it in Word, Whiteboard, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Teams, OneNote, and the majority of Office 365 tools, we have Immersive Reader built in. And some other great features such as reading view. You can change the reading view of a document, for example, or you can enable Immersive Reader and combine different colour schemes while you are working within that said document.

So I've just turned on a very clean reading view, as you can see here, and the first thing you'll notice is accessibility mode. What is accessibility mode? It may pique your interest. If I click on accessibility mode, that is going to take me to a very particular area within Word where it gets rid of all the distractions, and all of my tools are designed around accessibility. So everything from zooming in, zooming out, read aloud, drawing tools, print mode. I can even turn on Immersive Reader in here. It is all of the distractions are gone. It is contrast with document with the white to negative space. And then I can change this back to edit mode from accessibility mode.

We do have Accessibility Checker, just like Immersive Reader, built across Office as well. You'll see this not only accessibility section, but also check accessibility. And that will look at this particular Word document and bring up any accessibility issues found, whether it is images that you have that you don't have alt text, whether it is structure of shapes. I'm going bring up a PowerPoint in a moment and show you how it will pull me up on a number of things, because I added a bunch of slides at the last moment for Kylie, right before I submitted it. So I haven't made them quite accessible, which I promise you I will by the time you get them. But it will be a great demo to show you the things I need to do when bringing up Accessibility Checker, including alternative text ‑‑ generative alternative text.

So I'm going to show you how the AI can create alt text descriptions. But while we are here, I'm going to show you cool things, very cool things around dictation.

You have seen and heard a lot of dictation and voice narration today. I think you'll find that you will use it a lot more once you see how well dictation works.

So I'm going to give you a live demo. I love my live demos. I think seeing is believing with dictation. And we've recently bought a dictation company, I think it was last year, and dictation is quite incredible in terms of accessibility now, and especially those that have mobility issues. I'm sorry, closed captioner. I am attempting to slow down a little bit in my sentences for you.

So let's turn on dictation. I'm just going to stop dictation there and make sure my spoken language is English Australia. We've done a lot of work with the US team to make sure things are localised here in Australia.

I am going to set my microphone, as you can see, testing, testing. And I'll leave off sensitive phrases. That's a profanities filter. I'm not going to say any profanities today. I'll also turn off auto punctuation, so you can hear me edit my document as I go through this live today.

Now, I'm showing you this because I use this on my phone, as you could see with Copilot, I use this when writing emails, when writing documents. Dictation is built into Office and if you haven't utilised it recently, I highly recommend you give it another go. I'm on the web version. So it doesn't matter what device you are using, it doesn't matter what OS you're using. This is just using the website version of Word.

You can see here it's got all of the things I can do with my voice on the right‑hand side the moment you turn on dictation. So I can have a look at all the different punctuation phrases I can say or the editing phrases I can say. But I'll give you a live demo here. So let's turn on dictation.

"Hello everybody, comma. My name is Andrew, and this is an example of how we have improved dictation, full stop. Now, I am generally a fast speaker, so I find that dictation keeps up with everything I'm saying really, really well, full stop. New paragraph. Now, you'll notice dictation takes a second to process in the cloud because it is powered by artificial intelligence, full stop. Delete the last sentence. As you saw just then, I'm making this up on the spot and I made a mistake, so I deleted the last sentence with my voice, full stop. Bold. Now I have literally started to change the formatting and the font of my document by using my voice, full stop. Start list."

And you get the idea. That performed that really well. You can see it made one mistake. That was more or less my fault because I was speaking and stumbling because I was making it up as I went through. But there is a lot of great things that you can do here using dictation throughout Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and it does it really, really well, everything from changing italics and bold and new paragraphs. I use that quite a lot.

Yes, I am using the Aptos font. This is preferred for ease of reading. Yes, correct. That is my default font of choice for accessibility. Great improvements we have there. Dictation, just like Immersive Reader, is built throughout Office.

I will jump over to PowerPoint. From Word we will jump over to PowerPoint here. As you can see, this is the presentation that I am sharing with you today in desktop version of PowerPoint now. I've jumped from the web to the desktop, solely because I want to show you the accessibility checker, accessibility options, display the alt text plane that we have here. This is a big PowerPoint. There's 57 slides in here. As I bring up my accessibility checker, I'm going to click "check accessibility". So what I'm demonstrating right now on screen is a PowerPoint presentation with some accessibility options such as inspect without colour, grammar, font colour and, of course, the review accessibility aspect of my document.

So on the right‑hand side, you can see I have a number of errors. So I have missing object description for those that may have a screen reader or may have a visual accessible need. Missing some slide titles, some audio or video subtitles and some reading. That is pretty good for a 57 PowerPoint slide. Trust me, this can be quite an extensive list but I did clean this up prior to sending and I've added a bunch of things since then.

I could click on the image that it is identifying that I may be missing something from. And you'll notice we have an alternative text button. This is allowing you to enter your own description. So I can click alt text. And you can see here the generative alternative text has described that for me. A person sitting in front of the computer. I can add more details, obviously, but we are powering alternative text with generative AI moving forward, just so you know. Not quite out yet, but I'm making the call right now here. So you can click this "generate an alternative text for me", and it will put down here, just in case it is wrong for the time being, description automatically generated "a person in a headset talking on the phone", which might not be completely accurate for what it is saying. So I'd go through and not approve the alternative text. Or maybe it's a decorative piece, like this. I would mark that as decorative and that would solve that accessibility issue.

I understand some people have to head off. Don't worry, the recording is here. I'll pause there in case you have any questions around dictation, around accessibility checker in Word, around Immersive Reader. It could be is this available in mobile? How many languages?

DARLENE: With the Immersive Reader, some people were struggling to find it in the Microsoft Edge tool bar? Is that more if your Microsoft Edge is with your organisation, has it turned off, or is it not available in all?

ANDREW: Good question. I'll point this out: Immersive Reader right here is a little symbol with a book and a speaker. It works for the majority of websites. If I click on a website that doesn't support Immersive Reader, just due to the design of the website, it might have a lot of embedded things, you'll notice this one supports Zoom, voice to speech, and Immersive Reader. There are the symbols popping up. If I go to a website that doesn't support Immersive Reader ‑‑ I'm just flicking through some of these ‑‑ okay, this one here does not support Immersive Reader, hence the symbol has disappeared.

I'm guessing that could be the issue. However, if you highlight the text on screen ‑‑ this is a nice workaround ‑‑ you can see here highlight, right click in Edge, you have "open section in Immersive Reader".

So it is our way to get around people that make tricky websites.

DARLENE: Also some people have added in the chat that function F9 also brings it up, too, so that's great. Another question was around the dictation tool working in other apps like Excel, PowerPoint, or is it only in Word at the moment?

ANDREW: No, no, it is just like Immersive Reader and Accessibility Checker. It is across Office 365. In saying that, if you are not using Office, Windows has it built in as well. So if you are using a third-party application, Google Docs, or whatever it may be, you can turn it on via that Accessibility Centre or Ease of Access Centre in Windows.

DARLENE: Brilliant. Somebody else said they often view work documents as Adobe PDF files. If I use Adobe reader extension on Edge, can I use Microsoft Immersive Reader on these PDFs?

ANDREW: Yes, I believe so. We have a brand new ‑‑ I love these questions here ‑‑ we actually have a brand-new PDF reader built into Edge which is fantastic. I'll just check to see if it is rolled out. If it's not, you don't know this. It might be rolling out. So if I click on the new PDF reader in Edge, you can see here "open PDF reader in Edge. Markup, highlight, take notes." I believe we are bringing Immersive Reader. We've got read aloud. You should very soon see Immersive Reader button in your PDF documents if they are loaded in Edge. That is just the requirement. You open them up in Edge, not via Adobe, if that makes sense.

DARLENE: Excellent. That's great. Another question was around that accessibility, because you've done the Accessibility Checker. So the flags that come up. I wonder if later versions might be able to flag text size that doesn't meet accessibility recommendations, or where a slide might have a text box instead of a text placeholder or may not be adhering to the guidelines.

ANDREW: That's a great question. The answer is yes. We had a conversation internally about how ‑‑ the technology behind Copilot, as you saw, is light years ahead because it is generative AI, so it can understand the environment, understand the pictures. The limitation that we have at the moment with Accessibility Checker, is it is not AI driven yet. And when I say "yet", I can confirm it will be. As you saw ‑‑ and let's be honest ‑‑ it identified this individual of speaking on the phone sitting in a chair.

And I can understand why generative aspect ‑‑ which isn't powered by Copilot ‑‑ would get that from this, even though not exactly accurate. Our new iteration would be powered by GPT will do a much better job, just like how I took a photo of the basket of pegs and it could pick individual colours up to the tee.

DARLENE: Excellent. That's great. Amber has asked where can we find a list of formatting commands for dictation, bold, start list, heading? I know you showed something on the side bar, but it was very fast and for those users it may be difficult to ‑‑

ANDREW: When you start dictation, you see a little question mark here. But there is a website, which I'm happy to send a link after the fact, which will take you to a list of all the commands. Like if I click "read article in browser", all the commands that you can do plus a video ‑‑ I'll put that into the chat now for you ‑‑ about using dictation in Word for the web. And remember it does work in other Office applications here. So you can see this will have every command that you can do for dictation. So you can practise.

Someone asked, "How do you know how to say new list and bold and new paragraph and delete the last word from that sentence?" This. Practice makes perfect.

DARLENE: And one other question. So we are doing really well with the questions at the moment. Does the dictate train itself as it is going?

ANDREW: Yes. That is part of the agreements that you have within Office that it will use the voice input from dictation to make dictation better. It is part of the licences that go with dictation. If the tenant has agreed to turn that on. But I've noticed leaps and bounds from last year to this year, and from this year to ‑‑ I think the majority of time that I've spent today doing dictation, it has made one single mistake, which is fantastic.

DARLENE: So it's changing and getting better and better all the time. We've got 20 minutes to go, Andrew, so we have actually wiped all the questions. But I'll keep an eye on the chat and let you know if there's more questions coming in. But at the moment 20 minutes to go.

ANDREW: Great. Fantastic. Well, with your 20 minutes, I'm going to try to give you more value for time and pause at the last 10 minutes to share some resources with you that I've provided in the PowerPoint deck so you can go away and explore all of this in your own time.

So Edge and extensions. Immersive Reader is an extension. Edge is designed to be immersive out of the box. So Read Aloud, Zoom, Immersive Reader ‑‑ they don't exist in any other browser because they have to be some kind of third party add‑on, even Google Chrome. It is built into Edge accessibility in mind. And it gets better and better. We even have numeracy accessibility in there. That is a good tidbit right there.

While I'm here, I'd love to show some more accessibility features that are specific to certain tools. For example, a lot of users use PowerPoint. You can do dictation in PowerPoint. So I can show you exactly, I mean what I mean. You don't have to speak English. You can dictate in Chinese or you can dictate in French if you speak it ‑‑ you might be bilingual. I'll change mine to English Australian.

But you also can go to view and you can turn on Immersive Reader. So dictation, Immersive Reader. What I love about PowerPoint, it has some specific tools. For example, if you are doing a presentation at the front of the room, you might know a cultural audience that is attending your session or they might need a visual aid. So I can change my spoken language and my subtitle language. Say for example, we have some Dutch lovely students coming in or some parents coming in.

I am here speaking English in the front of the room. I've clicked "always use subtitles". If I click "play from current slide" ‑‑ I'm using the web version of PowerPoint now ‑‑ you'll notice as I continue to speak the subtitles in Dutch will start appearing down the bottom of the PowerPoint. And there's many, many languages. I believe over 100 of different types of subtitles that you can have to provide more accessible cultural linguistics with your presentation.

So this is my presentation ‑‑ real presentation, by the way, that you are seeing on screen around the solar system that I would use in my high school classes for those that need a visual description. And down the bottom of this are subtitles of my language that I'm speaking in English are coming through in Dutch or Chinese or Indonesian, or whatever you need.

Another great accessibility feature ‑‑ it is great. It does it really well. Another great feature I'd love to show ‑‑ and if you have a mobile phone, I really encourage you to grab it right now, because I am going to explain how this is an accessibility feature. I will put a link into the chat if you don't have access to a mobile phone right now but I love showing you this feature. It is called Present Live. It is different from just doing a PowerPoint presentation. It is a very special accessibility tool within PowerPoint.

And I'm going to change my audio settings, subtitle language English, my phone is on, all that.

Now, if I press "present live", what that will do is bring up a QR code for you to scan or a link for me to share into the chat. And I want you to visualise what this need is for. I was doing a parent‑teacher interview at school in 2018. And the student had Italian grandparents, elderly, low vision, hard of hearing. English was not their native language. So I enabled PowerPoint live. This beams the presentation to any device in the room just by using a QR code. I'll copy this right here and put it in the chat. Not only does it beam the presentation to everybody's device, iPads, Macs, browsers, mobiles, but it translates the presentation to their device.

There is my video playing. And you'll notice there is a button for you ‑‑ I have to wait for myself to stop speaking in the PowerPoint. That is enough. And what you'll notice is that ‑‑ sorry, I took the QR code away, so there is a link in there ‑‑ is that it is beaming the presentation to your device. And you'll notice a little English section down there. I'll open this up in a browser for those that might want to see what it looks like from an attendee perspective, but it is providing a transcript in their native language of the presentation.

And by changing the transcript language ‑‑ maybe that person wants it in French ‑‑ that presentation is beamed to their device for low vision, gets translated for cultural differences that we have their ‑‑ you can see the presentation is beaming in ‑‑ and they can go back and pinch and zoom and look at the graph and the details, maybe they are sitting at the back of the hall.

So to my point, the Italian grandparents loved it. They had their device. They could sit at the back of the room. They could see the details. We just handed them an iPad. They could read it in Italian. Listen to me in English. Absolutely fantastic.

Now, you don't have to turn on the transcript on the right‑hand side, but it divides it up into slides. It divides it up into a transcript. And you'll notice these reactions down the bottom appear when I'm presenting on my PowerPoint because it emails me a summary of everyone's reactions and what slides you've liked. Less around the accessibility aspect, but more around the feedback side.

So I did want to show you that because there is so many use cases from a visual and an auditory aspect that you can take this using PowerPoint live. Again free. Everyone has it. It is one of those hidden secrets. Unless you know what it is, it is very easy to miss.

I lost where I put my PowerPoint presentation, so I'm trying to end it but I don't know where I put it.

So we'll just move on. Feel free to not watch the PowerPoint presentation because Mr Balzer has it open in one of his many, many windows. So I can turn off the captions. I can end the presentation for you all.

I can turn on the camera and beam a camera to their device if they are sitting in a big hall or a room.

So not only do you have many subtitle opportunities, but you have Present Live, which will beam your voice, translate your voice, provide a copy to the attendee so they can pinch and zoom, go back and read the important aspects that you may have skipped over. It is amazing.

It's been there for a while, but you don't know what you don't know.

Sorry, guys. We are running out of time. I do apologise.

But there are just a few things I'm going to do lip service on in the last two minutes and then we will spend the last 10 minutes talking about resources. That's very important.

I've concentrated on the showstopper of Copilot, which you have access to for free, Immersive Reader, Power Point, Accessibility Checker, subtitles, Present Live. There is so much more that we have throughout Office 365, and I'll demonstrate ‑‑ this is Clipchamp, by the way, which again you don't know this, you don't have access to it yet but watch that space ‑‑ but you will have access in Office to make things more accessible. Especially the disability support desk where you can get real live support from really people is a great benefit.

But I also wanted to shout out to Microsoft Translator which is a great tool as well. So I'm going to bring this up over here. Copilot will translate everything for you.

But Microsoft Translator is a great app which is 100 percent free. You download it. I'm going to bring this across for you. So anyone watching right now, I'm bringing a website that has Microsoft Translator on it.

And basically allows you to enter a conversation code, enter a username, select your language, and select speech recognition region. And that basically allows live translation to ‑‑ say if you have 30 different people speaking 30 different languages, you can see here we have plenty of languages, I mean a lot of languages, all participating in the same space. Yeah, absolutely.

So in the last demo that we'll do here, I am going to encourage you to go to translator@microsoft.com in the chat. I'm going to create a new conversation. And provide a join code in the chat for those that would like to join, and that join code is XGAEL. So you just enter your five-letter conversation code in there which I will do right now. And enter username. I will be Mr B. My language is ‑‑ let's not go for English. Let's go Filipino, Republic of Philippines. Click join. And I have it open on my mobile phone.

So what you will see, the language that you have chosen will actually appear here as I speak. So we normally will hang this around our neck with a lanyard, just your mobile phone, and anyone can join the conversation and have it translated to their language of choice. The great thing about Translator, as you can see the little microphone button there, you can speak your native language and it translates that to everyone else to their language of choice. It is one of those great, free, accessibility tools that you have access to that really does make an amazing experience to break down cultural barriers, to provide more language options and communication options.

You may be asking can it speak it out? Yes. Can you change the zoom and colour schemes? Yes. Can you save a transcript of this conversation? Yes. And you are probably noticing how accurate does it translate this there as well. I see a few people have joined here at the top. So you get the idea. We've got Sam who is speaking ‑‑ I've set my language to be Filipino, so I don't know what that says. But if I had that in English, I'm sure I could understand what Sam is saying.

Great group translation tool. Four languages it is translate simultaneously which is really cool. So I can see the participants in here, those that have joined.

And some really cool extra options are in the mobile phone on how that works. You can also type as well.

Okay.

I've got to stop it there, guys. I'll be here all day showing you all the tools that we have throughout Office 365. And I'm sure you have some questions.

So let's jump back to our PowerPoints. And I'm just going to bring it to our resources. It's been a lot of fun being here with you today. Hopefully, you've picked up some great tools. So you will get a copy of this PowerPoint. What I'm demonstrating now on screen is 6 videos on accessibility stories that we have. Just like Christine in Microsoft. I love these videos. Andrew, for example, I really relate to. My name is Andrew. I struggled to read as well when I was young. He uses learning tools, he uses Immersive Reader.

Justin uses dictation to write documents in Word.

Veronica is low vision just like Christine who has created the perfect website using Microsoft Sway, which is another product you have access to for free.

University lecturer who believes in exciting time to be a blind person with seeing AI. So there is a lot of great videos there, personal case studies and stories that we have.

Is Copilot only available from Edge? No, you can go to Copilot.Microsoft.com but you can install it on your phone, or bring it to the side of Edge using the button which is only available on Edge, the Copilot button.

I believe there is plug‑ins coming too for other browsers.

We have an accessibility learning webinar series. So if you are interested in learning more about accessibility and you want to attend live workshops, you can sign up for accessibility webinar sessions. And you can check out the completed accessibility webinar sessions that we have here. So we've developed quite the YouTube playlist on how to use accessibility. So narration, Microsoft Teams for Inclusive Education, remote work with sign language, remote work with inclusive collaboration, live captions.

These are great. Like they're very detailed, by the way. They go for about an hour each. If you are looking for that deep dive and you are a visual learner like I am, maybe you might use Copilot in combination.

We have a do‑it‑yourself. So if you are a keen aesthetic learner with Microsoft, like I am, I like hands‑on and find out where Immersive Reader is and press read aloud all the time, we have these hands‑on sessions. They are much smaller. Like "how do I use keyboard shortcuts" or "how do I change my screen size" or "how do I turn on closed captions"? Plenty of visual aids for you.

And we also have the Accessibility at a Glance series. And they are a number of videos which you have access to which is a different set of accessibility videos. I'm showing you all this because everyone has different needs. Some people are visual, some people like deep dives, some people like the short, sharp, just show me how to do it, I'll sort the rest out. So there is a number of different resources we have here.

Love this one. Someone asked this. Immersive Reader, PDF. We have PDF accessibility training. Even though PDFs effectively aren't our product, we recognise a lot of users use PDFs in the industry. So we have PDF accessibility training videos as well. And they can bring up how to use accessibility in PDF, how to use bookmarks and headings and all sorts of wonderful things.

We have Office Accessibility, which I have been talking about today. We have our Office Accessibility Centre, our accessibility capabilities in Office, our templates I mentioned earlier today, and our Office Accessibility video training series. More resources than we have time for in a year. These are great. Like making your content more accessibility, how do you get started, how do you create accessible emails, how to create accessible PowerPoints, Word documents? And these are videos specific to those products which are really great. Really recommend watching them.

Windows 10. I have a list of Windows 10 accessibility options to help you if you're a Windows 10 user. And I have some information around AI for accessibility. Some of the projects we are working around epilepsy, neurodiversity, which aren't quite fully out yet but it is good to watch that space if you invest in Microsoft as your platform.

The learning tool flyer that you saw at the start is here.

Our playlist that we have there. And I'm just doing a shout out to Be My Eyes, which is one of our partners, that I'm sure you've heard of, that provides visual accessibility aids. But they are introducing Be My AI. Very similar to what I demonstrated with Copilot, specific to those that have low vision visual needs, they are doing a beta test right now. August, I should say, which is pretty close. If you are interested in signing up to Be My AI. If you have a relationship or maybe you have utilised Be My Eyes before.

Thank you, everyone. Look at that. Just on time. Thank you for having me. I do apologise if, you know, we went a little bit too fast or a little bit too slow. I apologise to the closed captioner. I think I did quite good at slowing myself down. But I'd like to thank you for having me and taking your time out of your day to learn about where we are and what we are doing in accessibility. I hope this presentation is useful for you, after the fact the video will be useful, and you walked away today knowing you could make different elements of Office, Windows, Copilot to help you in a more accessible world. So thank you so much. Appreciate you having me. Thank you, Kylie and the team, for putting this together and inviting me back. Really appreciate it.

DARLENE: Excellent. So yes, we will be putting the links up on the website that have gone in the chat so if people didn't get a chance to pull them out of the chat, they will be made available.

Just a couple of questions. Is there any work being done on the Nepalese language, bringing that into the suite of translator, et cetera. Do you know?

ANDREW: Good question. I get asked questions all the time. I can tell you this: the great thing about accessibility at Microsoft, we are based in Sydney. So we are not going international for these. And I feed those language requests to the team. They put it on a bit of a waiting list, because they have to incorporate it through the language model, but I'm happy to feed that through and find out a timeline because sometimes they are already there being processed, and see if it's coming by August or end of year. So happy to get a list. Maybe if you email the coordinators, they can compose a list and I can go and check.

DARLENE: Other one was around the transcript from the ‑‑ can transcripts from Present Live be saved, like from the PowerPoints?

ANDREW: From translate live ‑‑ from PowerPoint Live, that is on the roadmap coming out. That is a big request. Originally, we didn't think users wanted to keep it. Some teachers voiced they didn't want the transcript to go in anyone's hands. So what we decided is to allow the presenter to pick a toggle to enable the ability for the transcript to be able to be downloaded or not. And that's the compromise we came to.

DARLENE: It is quite challenging when that is brought up.

And so someone was talking about translate in a noisy environment. Like how good is translation in noisy environments?

ANDREW: I love these questions. I feel like I have all the answers today. It is either that or you're asking the right question. I'm going to put a news article up, maybe after the fact, about how we are using noise cancelation for one of our learning accelerators. It is called Reading Progress. We are bringing AI noise cancelation to dictation and to our learning accelerators which is students using dictation. So it can identify your voice in a crowd. It was designed for classrooms with 30 kids in a room. That is rolling out between now and the end of the year, I think they said, in certain languages. But it will identify your voice that you are speaking to and the AI will attempt to cancel any other voices. So you don't have words popping up all over the place. So that is real exciting.

I think it does a very good job right now if you test it. Not perfect. This next step will really improve how that works.

DARLENE: All right. We had a meeting yesterday and Microsoft Teams and the presenter's audio was terrible. So all of us had to turn her sound down. But the automatic translation got pretty much word perfect. So you realize how far we are coming.

So Andrew, thank you so much. It is amazing. Great questions from everybody. Thank you all for participating. And I think it is one of those videos that people will watch over and over again and probably spend a couple of weeks going into all the resources.

Thank you for your time and for Microsoft sharing the knowledge so freely with us. We have a couple of webinars coming up in the future. The team will put the links into the chat.

Also we're asking for people to do a survey. We will put into the emails that get sent out. If you could fill out that survey, we'd really appreciate it.

So thank you, everybody, and thank you to Aimee for captioning. Absolutely wonderful job, as always.

Take care everybody. Have a great Wednesday.