DARREN BRITTEN: All right. Well, we might get started. There's a few more people drifting in. All right. Thank you and welcome, everybody. And thank you for joining us today. My name is Darren Britten and I am the National Assistive Technology Project Officer that's a mouthful with the Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training, ADCET for short. I'm a white man in my early 50s with short blond hair and a more grey than blond beard now and I'm wearing a blue and white striped top over a black shirt and I have blue glasses blue framed glasses. Today's webinar is being live captioned, and to activate those captions you can click the CC button in the tool bar that's either located at the top or bottom of your screen. We also have captions available via a browser, if you prefer to read along, which will now be added into the chat box so you can follow that link.

To start with, I just wish to acknowledge Lutruwita, that's Tasmanian Aboriginal land, on which ADCET is hosted and some of our co-hosts are joining us from today. I'm coming to you from the lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation in Victoria, and in the spirit of reconciliation, ADCET respectfully acknowledges First Nations people, and I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and to the many Aboriginal people that did not make Elder status. I also acknowledge all other countries and lands from participants in this meeting and acknowledge their Elders and their ancestors and their legacy to us, and to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people joining us for this webinar today.

Today's webinar, Building Digital Accessibility Skills Through No Mouse in the House, will be presented by Amelia Dowe, along with Doug McGinn and Adrian Reader, and they'll be sharing details about the No Mouse in the House accessibility challenge held at the University of Tasmania in late 2024. As we promised, there is no adverse things to any rodents in this presentation, so you don't need to look away at any point.

Before we begin, a few more small housekeeping details. This webinar is being live captioned by Sharon, thank you, from Bradley Reporting, and will be recorded, and that recording will be made available on the ADCET website in the next few days. If you have any technical difficulties please email admin@adcet.edu.au and we'll try and resolve them for you.

This presentation will run for around 45 to 50 minutes, and then there will be 10 minutes for questions at the end. Throughout the presentation, please feel free to use the chat box with us and with each other, but also remember to select "everybody" so that everyone can have access to what you have to say.

Amelia will be happy to answer questions at the end. And if you have any questions that you would like to ask, please use the Q&A box, rather than the chat box, so we can keep all the questions in one place. And without any further ado, thank you, and I'll pass over to you, Amelia.

AMELIA DOWE: Thanks so much, Darren. And hello, everybody. It's so nice to see you today, and great to see your messages coming through in the chat. I'm joining from Nipaluna Hobart, Muwinina land, and I'd like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this place and across Tasmania.

So today I'm going to be talking about the No Mouse in the House event, as Darren said, held at our university, University of Tasmania, last year. So No Mouse in the House involves a one-hour challenge to staff to give up their mouse just for that time of their workday. So, yes. I'm also I'm really keen to hear also about similar events at your own institutions and how you might run them. As well as questions at the end for us. We'll be keen to hear from you as well, about what you're up to.

So hello. My name is Amelia Dowe. My pronouns are she/her. I'm an Online Learning Support Officer, but I'm also one of the Co Conveners of the EPHEA Tasmanian Chapter, which is really how we got this event up and going. I'd also like to introduce my Co Presenters, if they want to say hello as well. So Doug McGinn, who is an Accessibility Adviser here.

DOUG MCGINN: Thanks, Amelia. My name is Doug. I'm one of the Accessibility Advisers here at the University of Tasmania. I've been in this role for a long time, but I love the role. It's ever changing. And I'm blind myself and it was just wonderful how this challenge took off, and probably the only thing I'd like to say is we talk about procurement of software, and people sometimes think it's too hard to think about accessibility. Next time a vendor tries to sell you some software at your institution, get them to do the demonstration without using their mouse and that will show how navigable it really is. I'll throw over to Adrian, if that's all right. Thanks, Adrian.

ADRIAN READER: Thanks, Doug. That's a really good suggestion. Get them to navigate without their mouse. So my role at the University is Business Lead for Student Administration. Specifically, I coordinate the timetable for the University. So that's my day job. But I guess out of the many things on my resume, one of them is that I'm a keyboard shortcut nerd, and I love finding efficiencies with these sorts of things and sharing it with others. So Amelia hooked me in to help with the project and here today to run through a bit of that as well.

AMELIA: Excellent. Thank you so much. Fantastic. Okay. So I suppose here's an overview of what we'll cover today. First we'll talk about the aims of the event, a bit of the rationale. Take you through some of the set up. We'll have a mini training session. So as Adrian just said, he's a shortcuts did he say, "shortcuts nerd"? Can I say that? I don't know. Yeah. Excellent. He'll take you through a few things, so we'll spend 10 minutes trying out different things on your keyboard, and then we'll get on to hearing about how the event actually went and then some thoughts for the future.

So first off, why an event. There are lots of ways to learn about digital accessibility. There's so much information out there. So it's quite a big thing to add to people's calendars and put another thing in their busy day. Why would we bother doing that? First of all, we wanted to do something for International Day of People with Disabilities, mark it, celebrate it and show solidarity. Also, really wanted to harness some of the enthusiasm that we were seeing out there. I was hearing lots of people talking about digital accessibility and how much they care about it and how much they want to learn. So I was really confident there was a lot of goodwill out there and eagerness to learn, so I thought let's do something with that.

And I wanted to offer people company and support. It's one thing to read some information online and try a few things out on your own, but when you're doing something new like this, and I did see someone mentioned in the chat about change and doing something different, something new can be difficult and it can be really helpful and important to have some company while you do that new difficult thing, and to be able to offer support. So if you hit a blockage of some kind, there will be other people there to help you get through that.

Wanted to build some connections as well. Because we tend to I've been at UTAS for nearly seven years now. I feel like I know a lot of people but it's a huge place and so there's lots of other people I know out there who must care about accessibility but I don't know them yet. Actually, it's a really great example that Adrian is here in the first place, because I did know Adrian a little bit but I did not know about his knowledge and skill in this area. So that's been already a really fantastic outcome of running the event in the first place.

I wanted to help people develop some skills as well. I wanted there to be something in it for people, that they could feel like they were building on what they're doing. Yeah. If you're going to spend an hour or maybe more preparing for an event, you want there to be, yeah, something in it for everyone, I suppose.

Finally, I thought maybe there's power in numbers, and if we've got a lot of people out there doing something related to accessibility, then we might be able to surface some accessibility issues out there across our different systems that we either might not have been aware of, or having multiple people discovering or encountering that difficulty might help to bring it up to the surface and maybe we can work towards fixing some of those things.

Right. Okay. So that's why an event, but then why no mouse? There are lots of different topics that we could have chosen, but this is a really practical entry point into digital accessibility. Most people at work, they have their keyboard and mouse. Like, I don't really remember seeing many, if any, workspaces around the university without a keyboard. So it's something that's there for everyone. Really practical. And as Doug was saying, it's a really quick way to see if something is accessible or not to be trying to navigate just with your keyboard.

Yeah, it's a key component of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, the WCAG guidelines. 2.1 is that everything should be keyboard accessible. So by focusing on just this one aspect of it, sort of thinking it's at least raising awareness of those guidelines and giving you a really, sort of, targeted entry point, if people are really keen and want to look more at those guidelines it can be hard to know where to start but, well, here's one place where you can get started.

I should say at this point, I have an enormous amount to learn, which is partially also why I wanted to do this, to deepen my own knowledge and understanding. Yeah. So there are lots of reasons why it's important for anything to be accessible only with keyboard. Maybe visual navigation is not an option, or maybe there are motor impacts for someone as well that means that using a mouse is either not possible or not practical. So a lot of things related to accessibility with a mouse.

But also there are some more things to it. You can help prevent injury. So prevent repetitive strain injury, similar if you're mixing it up and not just using your mouse. You can save time. Some things are just more convenient if you're using the keyboard. And some tasks are more precise if you're using the keyboard rather than the mouse. So if you're editing in certain types of software. It can also be really helpful when your mouse breaks. All else fails, you know how to get around your computer.

Okay. So at this point I did want to throw to firstly Doug and then Adrian and just ask a little bit more. You've shared a bit but, Doug, from your percentage, why is keyboard navigability so important?

DOUG: As I said before, I'm blind, so I do use a screen reader, Jaws, which is probably the most popular screen reader out there, although there are other versions that are catching up. So therefore, I don't see things on the screen that others do. And if it's not something that I'm tabbing to, I won't see it. So quite often there will be an obvious button. An example of that is the HR leave calendar request web page for the UTAS screen. For a while there, the submit button didn't have a tabbable button. So I was sort of swimming around trying to find it. I had to get one of my colleagues. So it can be something very obvious like that. If it doesn't have a shortcut key, then it's useless for me. There are lots of people who, for whatever reason, not just for people who are blind, as Amelia just said, who have other situations that need to use the keyboard.

One of the things that Amelia said there was that it's a way of learning different skills, and I'll be the first one to get in with a shortcut key. Windows L, suddenly you've been called away from your office. You need to lock your screen. So people will click on the Windows. They go up to restart, power, whatever it is, and then they'll go to lock screen. Whereas you can do the same thing by just going Windows and L and bang you're away.

So it's not only precise, it's so much quicker than using your mouse to get to a different state. So for me, a lot of the stuff that I do and Adrian has said this as well it's muscle memory. So I'm actually quicker at getting between different programs than some of my colleagues. Obviously there are lots of things they're quicker at as well than me. So for me, it's efficiency and it's a way for a lot of other people to join in on that as well. Thanks, Amelia.

AMELIA: Thanks so much, Doug. And, Adrian, what about you? Why do you care about it?

ADRIAN: Yeah. It's obviously the efficiency is probably one of the main things for me. I don't have the same variability that Doug has. I'm blessed with being able to grab my mouse and see where that's going and things if I need to, but the efficiency found from using a combination of keystrokes to quickly get something done I've found is excellent.

But also the role that I'm in now, building the timetable, it involves probably about half a million pieces of data that are entered by mouse clicks in our system. And it opened my eyes to the amount of strain on the wrists of my team who do all that work. And so I was determined to try and find ways around having all of that mouse clicking where the action of using a keyboard is much better for the fingers in many respects. So that's a key thing for me too.

AMELIA: Excellent. Thank you so much. Right. So I'm going to go now to a little bit more information about the event set up itself. And I should have I forgot to mention earlier, Darren was saying that no rodents have been harmed in the course of developing the event or the slides, or anything, or the presentation. I do have a picture here of a cat snuggling up on a keyboard, a computer keyboard and no mouse in sight. Everything is fine. So this is just, yeah, no mouse for this event. There will be many more slides with mice and cats and there might be a dog as well. I had some fun.

Anyway, so the event set up. We wanted to make sure it was really we wanted to help people be prepared and to be able to communicate with people around them, as well as to be able to recruit people for the event through a range of ways.

So we did the usual promotions, so putting things on the staff intranet and sending out emails. I put posts in a whole lot of different Teams networks, Microsoft Teams networks that we've got. But we also worked with our marketing department to develop Zoom backgrounds and email signatures and a template for any documents we were sending out. So the email signatures would take you to some more information about the event and to hopefully sign up to join. And we did have well, I know of at least one person who joined in that way, by seeing someone's Zoom signature, asking more about it and then joining, which is pretty exciting.

But also there's the Zoom backgrounds. I've got it on the next slide. It was also our holding slide when we started. It started a lot of conversations as well. So you could let people know that it was coming up, but also during the event the idea was you could have the Zoom background on and let people know that probably during this hour you might be less efficient than usual and these are the reasons why. We also encouraged people to put out of office email replies on, just to say, I'm participating in this. I might be slower than usual. So we did that.

We had a training session in the lead up as well. Of course, recorded and sent out. But before the training session, we also sent out like an A4 survival guide that you could put on your wall and refer to. And we sent this out before the training session because we wanted the training session to be really practical so people could come along and maybe test things out beforehand so that they can then make the most of the training session and prepare for the session.

Having said that, if people didn't do any of those things, that's still fine. And there were people who came along and just joined the event cold on the day, and that's fine. They still got a lot out of it, I think. That A4 survival guide, we've actually edited it since, because we discovered a lot during the day, and it's now an A3 survival guide. I'm sorry, it's just for Windows though. Mac users have only got the Windows one.

We also had an opt in Teams channel for moral support moral support and technical support during the event. So people could nominate any hour during that day that they were going to do the challenge, so choose a time when they might be able to concentrate on it more. So that Teams channel was pretty busy throughout the day, and we called it the brains trust. Adrian was there. Very supportive throughout the day and a lot of other people as well trying to help each other. I thought it was very important that that was opt in because people don't want more notifications if it's not helpful so, yes, we just left that there.

Okay. So they're all the main things about how we had it set up, I think. On the next slide, I'm just going to show you, you may have seen at the start, this is the Zoom background that Sean McBain in UTAS marketing set up for us. It says "inclusion, equity and diversity". It has a No Mouse in the House cute logo thing, and it's also got the UTAS and EPHEA logos there too. Actually, and then, speaking of which, I do need to talk about the EPHEA support, because actually this event would have been difficult without it. As I said, I'm one of the Co Conveners of the EPHEA Tasmania Chapter. We also have Penny Castellaner, Paula Johnston and Darlene McLennan in our group. We used some of the Chapter funding to support this event and to help promote it, but we used the Chapter funding for prizes, which made it extra fun. We had some very serious and prestigious prizes that were awarded, such as Marathon Mouse Avoider, Accessibility Ally Supreme, Learning Luminary, Application Adventurer, Short cut Sorcerer, and a whole lot of special mentions.

I must say this part of it that was really fun and exciting to give people things but on a personal note it was my low point, which sounds strange, but I felt devastated that I couldn't give everyone a prize. That's the only thing that I felt sad about with this whole event. But I think if that's the low point that's quite good.

DOUG: You mentioned the Teams channel. And I think Adrian would agree, it just went off. And at one stage I had to mute it because it was talking to me in my ear all day. But just the exuberance and fun that people were having. They were getting stuck in certain areas that Adrian would help them out, and then five minutes, thank you, Adrian, now I've done this and this. It was very vibrant, to say the least. A lot of Teams channels are pretty boring, but that one was certainly very enthusiastic and fun to listen to during the day. Thanks, Amelia.

AMELIA: No worries. Thank you. Yeah. It was a really lovely supportive environment, actually. Yeah. And such a nice surprise, because I think when you're setting up an event like this, you're not quite sure how it's going to go or what's going to happen. When we had our first person sign up, we thought, "Ah, that's excellent. We've at least got one person there with us." So, yeah, it was nice to see people get onboard like that.

Okay. So I think we've got training time now with Adrian. I did find a dog picture, because I thought that would work well here. Really cute dog leaning on a computer keyboard. So I think first I'll hand over to Adrian but I'll put these points up. So I think first some global shortcuts to try out and then some Zoom specific ones.

ADRIAN: That's the plan. Yeah. Thank you. So we've got around seven or eight minutes. When we did our training it was an hour. We were trying to obviously equip people to put the mouse away and actually really be able to do what they had to do in their hour, and a couple of very brave souls went for the day or tried for the day to go without their mouse. But we'll just have a quick touch on a couple of things.

So if you're not new to shortcuts, you're probably already familiar with tab and shift tab as a means of navigation. And these are global, in that you can use them in the Windows environment, but many software environments, and because of the guidelines that have come in, that people will utilise for web publishing, you can use them in that environment as well. So what we might do is if you currently are in Zoom and your Zoom is active, if you use the shortcut control shift Y, that will open up the what's it called reaction pane. And so once you've gone control shift Y, the reaction pane should pop up. Or if it doesn't work for you, feel free to click the react button if you've got that there. Thank you, David. David was very helpful during the event, Apple shortcuts, providing those when we needed them because I'm not familiar.

You can tab and shift tab through those different reaction options. And I can see from the reactions popping up people have found that. When you tab a new shift tab, it will go forwards and backwards through those options, and you'll find the space bar and probably the enter key will allow you to add a reaction. You can get the feeling there without having to reach for the mouse, you can easily navigate that little pop-up window.

The other thing, if we go to the next shortcut, alt tab, this starts to get into a more global Windows environment. If you hold the alt key and press the tab button, you'll find don't let go of the alt, keep the old alt down. You can then use tab, or use shift tab, to cycle through your active windows that you've got open in your Windows environment. If you need to get to an email you had open somewhere, or another program you've got running, with that alt key held down you can be going tab or shift tab forwards and backwards through that list to get to those. Thank you, David. Another Apple option there in the chat.

So those sort of global navigations can be really helpful. Alt tab I find really helpful because if you just go alt tab once, it will go back to the last thing you had active. It's smart enough not to go to the first thing in the list but the most recent one. If we pop up to the next one I'm just conscious of driving through this quickly so we get more done Windows and full stop will open up an emoji screen. If you do that right now, you'll probably open up an emoji screen in your Windows environment. It will probably come in the corner of your task bar.

The other thing you can do is if you've got your chat panel in this webinar open and active, so if you've got typed message here, you can probably certainly with my profile here it works you can go Windows full stop, and then you can use your arrow keys to locate an emoji you want to pop in. And you can select the emoji and you may then have to hit escape to get rid of that panel and then hit enter in order to send your emoji. I can see a few emojis popping up now that have come in through the chat. So Windows full stop is that emoji option and you can probably use that in most Windows text typing environments, like in Word or in email. So that's a helpful thing. If you like your emojis.

And the last one on this screen, if we pop this one up, is alt and space bar. So alt and space bar, if you use that, I do find now that this is a little bit different depending on what part of your screen is active. If you're in a Windows environment, you might find that alt space is now giving you a Copilot shortcut. So those who have had a Windows upgrade and included Copilot, I've found the shortcut as a starting point for that in some instances. But aside from that, generally alt and space bar should give you control for the window that you're in, and it will let you move, minimise, resize, maximise or close the window that you're in. So that's worth keeping an eye on that. As new things come in, sometimes keyboard shortcuts can change.

Let's just jump into the Zoom ones. We've obviously been using some Zoom ones already and we can't use all of these in the webinar context, but just to talk through them. And we use the Zoom ones in our presentation because we were in a Zoom meeting and it was a collaborative Zoom meeting so everyone could unmute, show their video and discuss. So muting and unmuting is alt A, A being for audio and stopping and starting your video is alt V obviously V for video.

The other one with your audio, if trying to get to alt A and the talk and unmute and talk and then alt A again, if that's all a little bit tricky, if you simply hold space bar it will unmute you temporarily while you speak and you release space bar and you go back on to mute. So that's a really helpful shortcut. We didn't add it in, actually. We should have added in that one.

I mentioned before, when you're in the chat and you use that Windows and full stop, it can open the emojis and you can type those in. We've got here the shortcut for opening chat, which is alt H. If you want to navigate and go into the chat space and type in there, the easiest thing for many obviously is grab the mouse and click where it says, "type message here". But when you're in the Zoom space actively, if you're tabbing it will go around through the menu options that you've got. So you can go tab a few times to get yourself into the chat space. But also, if you go alt H to close the chat, and alt H again to open the chat, by default the chat area is activated. So sometimes going alt H twice is quicker than going tab, tab, tab, tab.

You'll find out these sorts of things if you really start to play with them and practising navigation, you'll find that that muscle memory that Doug spoke about will kick in and you'll start to learn a combination of keys to see what will take you where.

Sam mentioned earlier about experiencing discomfort and going through that process to understand how it might be for other people. The beautiful thing about the discomfort of trying these new things actually is improving your skillset, being able to navigate more quickly. So, yep, that's an excellent thing.

And the last one on this list, which we hadn't touched on, is alt Q. Don't do it because you'll leave the meeting. But maybe at the end you can try that one out. And thank you. There's been a few mentions in the chat about other keyboard shortcuts. There are so many. But Darren Britten, I love the one you're talking about there, having multiple monitors, you can Windows shift and left or right to switch the monitor that something's on. So there are so many. It's so much fun. But that's a touch on what we looked at.

AMELIA: Amazing. Thank you so much. I'm actually going to bring this slide back up right at the end to remind you how to leave the webinar if you want to with your shortcuts. So, yes, excellent.

All right. Let's move on to hearing about how the event actually went. We've heard a little bit already. We had four teams and 35 individuals sign up. So people could do it with their work team or a group of whoever, or on their own. I was so excited when some teams signed up with some really great names as well. And from a wide range of work areas and roles. So there were some of our colleagues who work in student facing roles but there were some people who I'd never met before and never heard of, including in some roles that are not at all related to accessibility or student support or anything. For example, we had some colleagues from the policy area join, which was just wonderful.

We had 20 people in our Teams channel, the opt in Teams channel, and afterwards 21 responses to the post event survey. It's a little bit hard to know exactly how many people did join and participate on the day, because I do know from talking to people there were people who joined and did the thing, but they didn't fill in the form and they didn't join the channel or that sort of thing. So anyway, some really great, great amount of engagement.

So I've got an example of some quotes from the feedback on the next couple of slides. So this first one, this is part of their feedback, "Thank you for organising this brilliant exercise. Living a limited version of the barriers that a person who could not use a mouse experiences was very effective in highlighting just how important accessible design is and how much of a barrier a single inaccessible feature presents to someone who relies on a feature being universally accessible".

And one more piece of written feedback, "Big thank you to the team that organised this. It was such a fun and difficult at times challenge, and I feel like I've really been awakened both to the important causes, but also to the potential of improving my digital literacy and efficiency. The group chat/brains trust was such a lovely vibe and I really appreciated how helpful everyone was, especially Adrian, big shout out for fixing my task bar dilemmas". Excellent.

So we also have a couple of people here today joining who I was going to chat to and ask verbally their experiences. So David Quinn who is an educational technologist, and Mac user, and Beale Gurney who is a user experience designer.

DAVID QUINN: Thanks for having us.

AMELIA: Thank you so much. You do have the option of turning the camera on if you want to, but that's just up to you.

DAVID: Honestly, I don't think anyone needs to see this. I've got a face for radio, that's for sure.

AMELIA: Yes. Well, whatever is good for you is good for everyone. So a couple of questions. How did you go on the day?

DAVID: I just wanted to check, is Beale also there?

BEALE GURNEY: I am. I thought I'd let you go first.

DAVID: How did we go on the day? Yeah, it was a challenge, because so much of the as was shown, I'm a Mac user, and a lot of the pre work we'd done was with a lot of PC or Windows shortcuts. So in a lot of cases, it was doing a fair amount of research yourself to find out what the equivalent is on a Mac and whether it even does it. But in a lot of cases, yes, it does. It's just invariably a few more keys that need holding down. So for some reason, it suddenly becomes add a shift or F control, or whatever, to the same key stroke. But, yeah, the actual hour of itself was, yeah, it was good. It was a feeling of challenge but not overwhelming challenge.

AMELIA: Nice. I'm sorry about all those Mac resources not

DAVID: No, no. It's okay. We work in an institution that is, for the most part, PC based.

AMELIA: That's true.

DAVID: But I do know that there's a lot of people out there that do use it. So I like to be the voice of the annoying Mac user who is saying, "Please help."

AMELIA: Thank you. That's good. Beale, how about you? How did you go on the day?

BEALE: Yeah, sure. Sorry, I don't think I can turn my camera on, but I really loved it. I have tried to educate myself and tried to experience kind of accessibility events as much as possible. But actually, I think what's really nice about the Mouse in the House is that it really does kind of bring value to people at all points in their journey, either in kind of their accessibility learning, which never really should end, or in their journey about, you know, like Adrian was talking about, using shortcuts, there's always more to learn. And I think time boxing it was a really nice aspect too. You're really immersing yourself for that time, and really an hour out of, I don't know, hopefully it's a more than one time thing, but an hour out of let's say your year, then if you just go, "Right. Okay. I'm not necessarily going to do this forever, but hopefully you'll get the benefits forever." But if you actually time box and say, that's just that time, then you can really kind of set yourself that task and really focus on it. And I think the choice like you were talking about, Amelia, I think the choice of the keyboard access as the focus was a really nice one because (a) it's really easy to overdo it when you're passionate about it and try to cover too much, and that's a really nice contained, functional aspect. But I think it's also an interesting paradox, because learning to just use the keyboard is really helpful, like everyone's been saying about learning those shortcuts and making a lot of tasks more efficient, but also maybe more friendly for your wrists and whatever. So it's actually there are lots of benefits for everyone. But it's also a really quick insight into just how frustrating things can be. How many barriers can be put up at the same time. So it's kind of that interesting paradox.

But what I really liked about how it was facilitated by yourself, Amelia, and the rest of the team, is what everyone has been talking about, about that sense of fun, that real sense of community, which was obviously in the chat and yeah, I really sensed that kind of sharing of knowledge and people really enjoying learning about it. And the resources, the really bite sized resources that were provided so that people could get enough knowledge if they chose to engage with it beforehand, or if they just engaged with it on the day so that they could just kind of get a start.

And the preparation, kind of the sharing, the marketing stuff that was done so that we could have, like, an email footer, or whatever, so we could share what we were going to do, but in some ways, more importantly what we could do on the day, having those Zoom backgrounds and the suggestion of the messages to let people know we might take longer than usual. I think that really gave us a sense where we weren't so stressed about appearing maybe disengaged in a meeting because we couldn't unmute fast enough or something. Yeah, that kind of it took the pressure off a little bit. It took the stress off a little bit. I really did feel the pressure, even though in the meeting I was in during the time, I really did feel the pressure to unmute, even though I'd warned the people, it was on my background. So I think that planning that was there was a really important aspect. Yeah. That's all I can think of off the top of my head but, yeah, it was a really great event. Thank you.

AMELIA: Amazing. Thank you. Sorry, yes, Doug.

DOUG: Do you mind if I just say something? It's interesting, guys, because as far as the disability awareness raising exercise, I'm blind. I represent Blind Citizens Australia on a few committees. We've been asked with regard to a promotion that's happening where people want to blindfold themselves and go for a walk down the street. I find that's not a great thing to do, because it's like putting someone in a wheelchair for half an hour to see what it's like in a wheelchair because you get up after. It doesn't give you the proper experience. But Beale and David both just said, "I was doing something and I became frustrated because I couldn't do something on the computer."

I think this is a far better disability awareness raising exercise to give people an idea of the frustrations of something when it's inaccessible. And both of you said it and I just wanted to raise it. Thanks, Amelia.

DAVID: I think it's a really good point also in that it very quickly shows you what your limitations are and therefore how difficult it must be. Because I use shortcuts a lot. I do video editing, and so a lot of my time is using shortcuts. I'm used to that. But then the moment I tried to use it in a different piece of software, I was like, where's my highlight? Where's the thing I'm meant to be looking at? Looking at a web page I was like I don't know where I'm meant to be on the page if I'm working from the keyboard. And it sort of highlighted a whole bunch of other accessibility things that went along with it, which I thought was, yeah, really, really useful.

BEALE: I'm the same. I spend my time with one hand on the mouse and my left hand on the bottom left of the keyboard. But when you take away the right hand, it really changes things.

AMELIA: Yeah. It's amazing how much you rely on those different things. I was feeling really confident. I was like, yeah, it's going to be fine. The closer we got to it the more I realised that, actually, I know very little. We've got just a couple more minutes. I've got one more question for each of you. You've shared a bit about your main learnings, but I'm wondering if anything has changed; if you've changed anything since the event, or anything else you'd like to share that you've learnt?

DAVID: Beale, would you like to go first?

BEALE: It's hard to remember. I'm always trying to learn new shortcuts. I guess most of the shortcuts I've been using have been the ones in Zoom because it does feel clumsy to be able to have to find a button, and Zoom tends to be inconsistent, depending on what kind of meeting you're in or what mode you're in. It's a real advantage to be able to unmute quickly or turn your video on or off and access the chat/react without having to fumble.

AMELIA: Yes, nice, thank you. Same actually. What about you, David? Anything in particular?

DAVID: Yeah. I took away a lot from this, because I work in short courses which uses a completely different LMS from our usual one at work at UTAS. Suddenly looking at it from an accessibility perspective, there were a bunch of things where I went, "Hang on, that doesn't work particularly well." When you're trying to navigate around just based on headings, or the movement within the page, suddenly I realised that a lot of what we do and a lot of what we actually do in an effort to be more accessible, things like including accordions of drop downs of transcripts of videos, and so forth. If the accordion doesn't operate via a keyboard interface, then it's completely useless. So I then thought, well, let's start looking broader at those kinds of things and asked a lot of people in that team, who are a lot smarter than me, why are these things not working. And things like aria labels in your HTML and code are really important because they are actually how you navigate around a page if you are using these keyboard shortcuts.

So, yeah, out of this experience I mean, accessibility is a huge part of what we do all the time. We're really trying to find the ways to make things the most universally accessible, but this one was a really good one to go, "Actually, keyboard navigation is really important and we should be making sure that all of our stuff works that way", and, yeah, it has led to changes. It's led to actual differences in how we code parts of our pages, so yeah.

AMELIA: That's so exciting. That's really quite amazing because and I can see what you mean by saying like it was a way to learn more things with other elements of accessibility like the aria things in the HTML code as well.

DAVID: They're not a thing I'd run across. I knew that they existed. I didn't know what they did. And then when you finally do see it and you realise also things like the heading structures in your pages, how important that is if you're trying to navigate via keyboard. If you keep jumping around the heading structure, you go from heading 1 to heading 4 to heading 1 to heading 3, it makes it really hard to navigate. So things like that really made it clear that there's a reason why these things are recommended. You know, that WCAG has their recommendations or their standards, so yeah. It was really useful.

AMELIA: That's so great. So, yeah. Thank you so much. Yeah. So I think we're coming towards the end. And some future thoughts maybe do it again. Quite a lot of our feedback in the surveys suggested we do it again, so I think we should. I'd like to more thoroughly capture some of the accessibility trouble spots, like David was mentioning, and I'm sure there's a lot more. And there were things that incidentally we were coming up with. We did ask people to share it in the form, but maybe there are better ways to capture that and potentially turn that into some kind of action.

Maybe we can expand to other topics. There were some great suggestions like no sound to be found. And this is a really good point for me to say that I didn't come up with the No Mouse in the House wording. That was from ADCET, I think, from a thing a little while ago. So, yeah, full credit there. And it would be great to have a way to recognise this sort of formally as professional development because a lot of learning goes on. It is skills development in accessibility and digital capabilities, that kind of thing. And to also find out more about what other people are doing beyond our institution, because I know there's got to be a lot of cool stuff happening. And, yes. And that's what we'd like to hear about.

So I think now we're up to questions, which means we're hopefully on time. We are on time. Excellent. So our questions well, you know, I'm guessing there are questions for us and that Darren will let us know, but also we have questions for you. What's happening at your institution to build digital accessibility skills and awareness? And hopefully I'm not flooded with too many questions going either way. Do you have a favourite shortcut to share?

DARREN: Thank you very much, Amelia, and thank you, Doug, thank you, Adrian, David and Beale to begin with your expertise there as well, I suppose, that's come into play and your experiences with it. Look, I think it's a lovely way into accessibility, and I think Doug had mentioned that. It's something people take away the skills from. It's not just a, experience it once and now I'm not blindfolded again, so what does it matter? I've learnt a couple of things but will I still be using those in one- or two-weeks’ time, or even six months' time?

But I think the willingness for people to as your teams’ group has shown, to keep using those keyboard shortcuts and finding out more. I'd be interested because there's no direct questions sitting there in chat as well. You're talking about collating some of that information. So from the where did people experience those barriers, has there been any feedback back to any of the web design teams or back to the application managers or those kind of things, or was the frustration kept within teams?

AMELIA: There was one particular thing that came through that I have been sitting on and just trying to work out what to do with it next because it happened in December, and so sometimes things take a little while to keep going. So the answer is not as such at this point, apart from what David was talking about to be changing the way they've been coding their short courses. Yeah.

Wait, no. I did remember something else. Because recently there's been a call out for feedback on our CRM system, to ask for feedback from everyone. And it went out to some of the student facing teams and I know that someone who joined No Mouse in the House was one of the people who we asked for feedback. They already have ready to go some of the accessibility issues that came up through No Mouse in the House trying to navigate that system. So that was really exciting. In some ways, it's almost like a proactive yeah, you've got your information there ready to go when there is a good opportunity.

DOUG: Amelia, it should be said some of us did stay with Office products, Outlook, kept to the easier things, whereas some of the participants went straight into the student management systems and things like that which were harder to navigate. So good on them. I think that was reflected in some of your awards that you gave out, Amelia, those that tried in some of the more difficult I shouldn't say difficult, the less common products, yes. Thanks.

AMELIA: Yeah. Well, they are more difficult because some of those ones are less accessible. And there's a reason why a lot of us sort of stuck with the Microsoft tools and Zoom as well, they're the things we use most often but a lot of yeah, it's a bit better set up.

DOUG: Yeah.

AMELIA: Application and adventure was that award.

DARREN: I love the different awards. Given the interest, is there certainly appetite to run this again but using some of the champions you now have with keyboard shortcuts and that to help facilitate that wider?

AMELIA: That's what I'm really hoping, yeah. Yeah. I think so. I think there is appetite to do it again but I suppose we just have to see exactly, yeah, how we go about doing that. Yeah. I was thinking it would be nice if you've got like different levels, like level 1. Maybe you come back and do it again, level 2 or something. I'm not sure.

DARREN: Everyone can become accessibility testers, to some degree, or problem finders, I should say.

AMELIA: Yeah.

DARREN: Look, there's a question there from Rhonda. What LMS do you use and how easy was that to navigate, keyboard only?

AMELIA: So we use D2L Bright Space. It's not too bad. We call it MYLO we call it MYLO here, My Learning Online. Navigating it in student mode is pretty good, but then you're really dependent on those third-party products that are embedded in it and we've got a whole lot of ones that are, like Padlet and H5P and a whole lot, so it really does depend on that. Yes. Yeah. Also from an editing perspective. Editing the D2L stuff was not as easy. There were some things you just can't do, or I found I couldn't do. Maybe some people have different things to add to that who were there. Yeah. And a few of our different systems, no good.

DARREN: Excellent. A few people posting their favourite keyboard shortcuts. So please keep putting those into the chat because we will collect all of those as well and we can some of those up with the webinar recording as well.

I'll just mention one of mine and maybe some others are able to share as well. One of my favourites, which has just saved me so much time and I didn't know this keyboard shortcut existed, even though I'm a huge fan of them and reducing duplication, and I know many is just control k, which brings up the option to define hyperlinks. Normally you have to right click, find the menu, find the right thing, et cetera, that's there. How do I put a link in and put a meaningful descriptive bit rather than putting in the full URL. Control k works in most dialogue Windows although it doesn't work in this webinar in Zoom. It does in some other Zoom, it does in chat, it does in Teams channels as well, rather than putting full URLs in. It's just such a time saver. So I would just be interested to see one that stood out for you, Amelia. Doug, you've probably got your own, being a screen reader as well. And I suppose that importance of keyboard shortcuts. I mean, something isn't keyboard accessible, what does that mean for the screen reader?

AMELIA: I suppose I love control K as well. One of the ones I've started using really regular since this one is I don't think it's the standard one, but it's the one I use now, is control enter to send emails in Outlook. I feel like it's so much time and effort. You've been typing anyway and then to switch to mouse and then find the send button. I mean, you've got to be careful and double read your stuff really well because you can send it too quickly, but that's been really good. Yeah. Doug, did you have anything else?

DOUG: I just wanted to say we've talked around Zoom a little bit. We haven't talked around Teams as much. Most blind people love Zoom, and I can hear Andrew Downy in the background here. Teams I find harder to navigate. It seems to be a little bit more array alike. And sometimes the shortcut commands are not intuitive, and so it's a little bit harder to use. I'm sure there are shortcut keys for everything but it's just not as intuitive, I find, and it's busier. The screen itself is a lot busier to try and work out what you need to do next. Yep. So that's sort of a that was more of a downer rather than a good thing to finish on, sorry, Darren.

DARREN: No, no, that's all right. But just with that, the importance, I suppose, of having that structure, we were talking about because a lot of the keyboard commands, especially in the online environments around navigating, finding that structure. Without that structure being there and the keyboard navigation, I would assume well, I know the answer to this but I'm asking you that does not play very well with the screen reader, does it? You just don't have access to information without that structure?

DOUG: A lot of the Teams files, I have actually done a reflective view within files explorer where you can just back space to go up and return to go down. Within Teams, I'm trying to learn the shortcut keys of how to go up and down in files. I can see where they are but it's harder. It just takes a bit. Like I said, it's just not as intuitive. There's a lot of doubling up with Microsoft products and other products with regard to the shortcut keys. Yep. Thanks, Darren.

DARREN: Sorry, go ahead, Amelia.

AMELIA: I was just going to say I think it's that thing, because as part of this we were more regularly navigating Zoom and Teams, and going back and forth, and having to have a different set of shortcuts in mind for these different ones. It's given me a better awareness to the type of information well, what people might be going through when they're adjusting to new systems, because I'm often well, part of my job is involved with orientation and online orientation, in particular. So it's difficult for everyone, coming and learning all our new systems, and then it just gives extra insight into all of the other things that might be happening for some people. And so I'm thinking, yeah, about how else we might approach that, as in like extra information, providing shortcuts, I don't know, extra practice time. Yeah, we'll see.

DARREN: And providing educators with some courses, new applications, new programs students need to use. For a lot of students, particularly new students coming to our institutions, it's their first experience with some of these large monolithic software’s that we use, and LMS's and a lot of students haven't experience H5P and a whole range of different things before, so giving a brief list of just a couple of shortcuts of how they can quickly navigate some of these things can just help people in terms of getting oriented around bits of pieces because you start talking about the structure of this, et cetera.

Can everybody just join me in thanking Amelia, Doug, Adrian, David and Beale for their input and for this session too. You can do that with the keyboard short cut, which you will probably remember, the control shift Y for the reaction. We can see the reactions coming up on screen. Absolutely lovely. Thank you, all.

And thank you also to our Captioner Sharon for providing the captions today. That's it for this webinar. An email will be sent out when the recording is available in the ADCET website. So please feel free to share this with your colleagues and keep the discussion going around accessible keyboard navigation. We ask you to also complete a short survey, if you have time, on this webinar, and sign up for our newsletter. Links to these will be added to the chat box. Please save the date. We've got a couple of upcoming webinars. One on Inclusive Assessment Design from access to participation, ADHD and artificial intelligence, strategic tools and academic practices for students with ADHD which are coming up soon.

We also have registrations open for our universal design for learning Symposium in June. So details for those will be provided in the chat box. So we just have a minute or so but I'll just say thank you. Anything else to add, Amelia or Doug?

DOUG: No. Thanks very much, Darren.

AMELIA: No. Just thank you so much. I may have put this Zoom slide up a little prematurely, but if you do want to leave the meeting with your shortcuts, it's alt Q. Thank you.

DARREN: That's what I was hoping you would say because that's there. Beautiful. Thank you, everybody, for your attendance today. Thank you for the great chat that was in there and all the suggestions and links, et cetera, that people have posted. It's absolutely wonderful. What a great community. Thank you very much.