Technology for Inclusion

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Technology for Inclusion: ASL avatars

- A thought experiment
- Challenges of the Deaf community in the U.S.
- The ASL Avatar Project at DePaul University
- Inclusion
A thought experiment
Stressful, life-critical activities
Some Challenges of the Deaf community in the U.S.
An invisible, underserved population

- Inadequate access to health care

- High school graduates underprepared in math, science and reading

- Underemployment
It’s not simply about sound …

American Sign Language (ASL)

- A natural language in its own right
- Not simply gesture
- Not fingerspelling
- Grammar is radically different from English.
It’s not simply about sound …

Deaf community

• Uses ASL as its first language.
• English is a second language.
  — Exclusion: Spoken English
  — Exclusion: *Written* English
The ASL Avatar Project at DePaul University

asl.cs.depaul.edu
Goal

- Greater inclusivity via better access to English
Process overview

English text
Applications

Used for

• Working with deaf clients
• Interpreter Training
• Deaf education
Achievements and awards

• An airport security prototype presented at a TSA-sponsored conference on disabilities

• *Speech Technology*: Most Innovative Solutions Award

• Illinois Volunteer Service Award
Inclusion
How is the ASL Avatar Project inclusive?

- Project goals
- Multiple disciplines
- Environment
- Leadership
Accomplishments

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To see a demo or learn more about the project, visit

http://asl.cs.depaul.edu
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