Screen Readers and Beyond
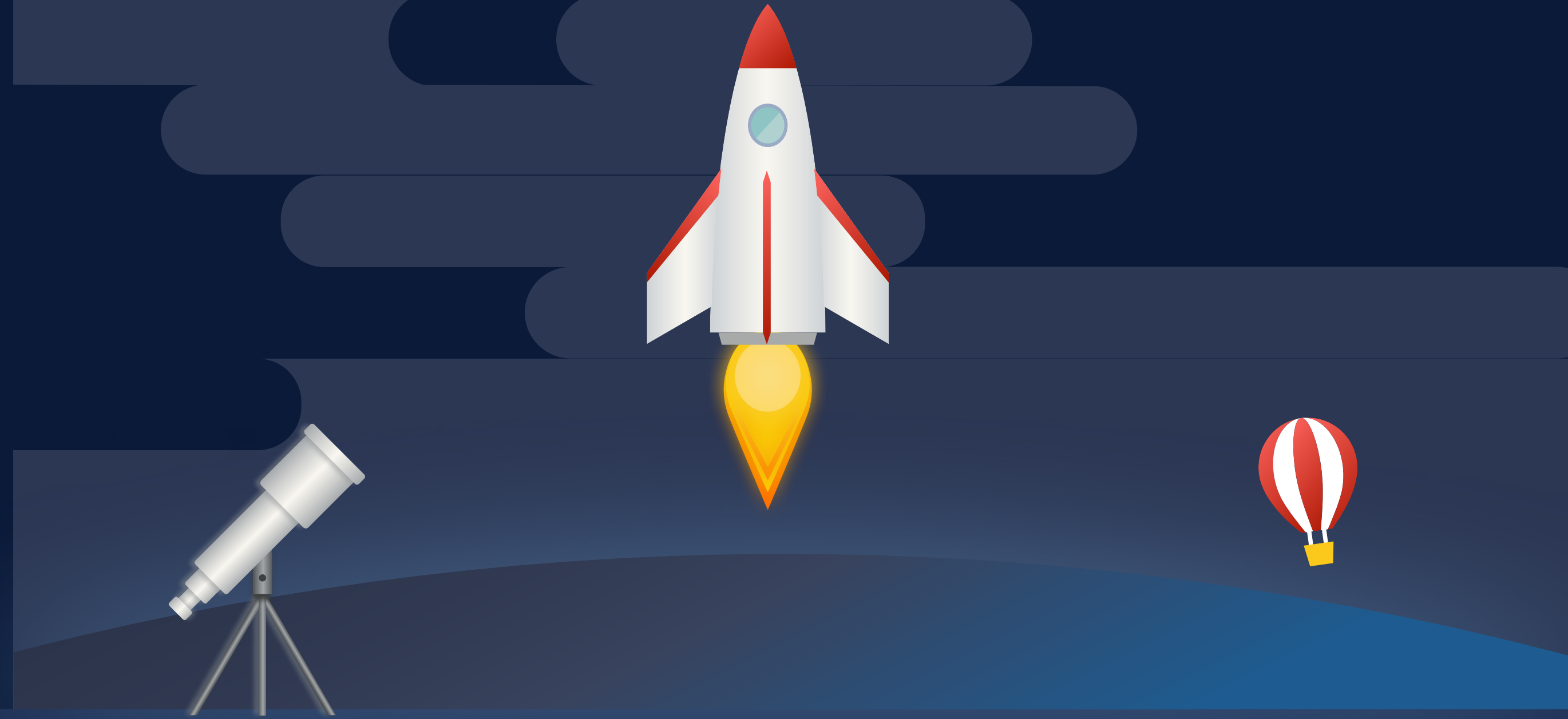
A Guide to Assistive Technology for Digital Access

#01

Defining Assistive Technology

What Is Assistive Technology

Assistive technology is any device, software, or equipment used to maintain or enhance the functional capabilities of people with disabilities.

The U.S. Federal Definition of Assistive Technology

The term "assistive technology device" means any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a child with a disability.

[20 U.S.C. Chapter 33, Section 1401 (25)]

Types of Assistive Technology

Low-Tech

- *Not Electronic or Battery Operated*
- *Free or Low Cost*
- *Zero to Some Training*

Mid-Tech

- Maybe Electronic or Battery Operated
- Inexpensive
- Some Training

High-Tech

- Electronic / Digital
- Expensive
- Requires Training

Categories of Assistive Technology

- Mobility, Seating, and Positioning
- Vehicle Modifications and Transportation
- Vision
- Speech Communication
- Daily Living

- Computers (Software and Hardware)
- Learning Cognition and Developmental
- Recreation and Leisure Devices
- Hearing
- Environmental Adaptations

Access to Assistive Technology

Not all people with disabilities have equal access to technology and assistive technology.
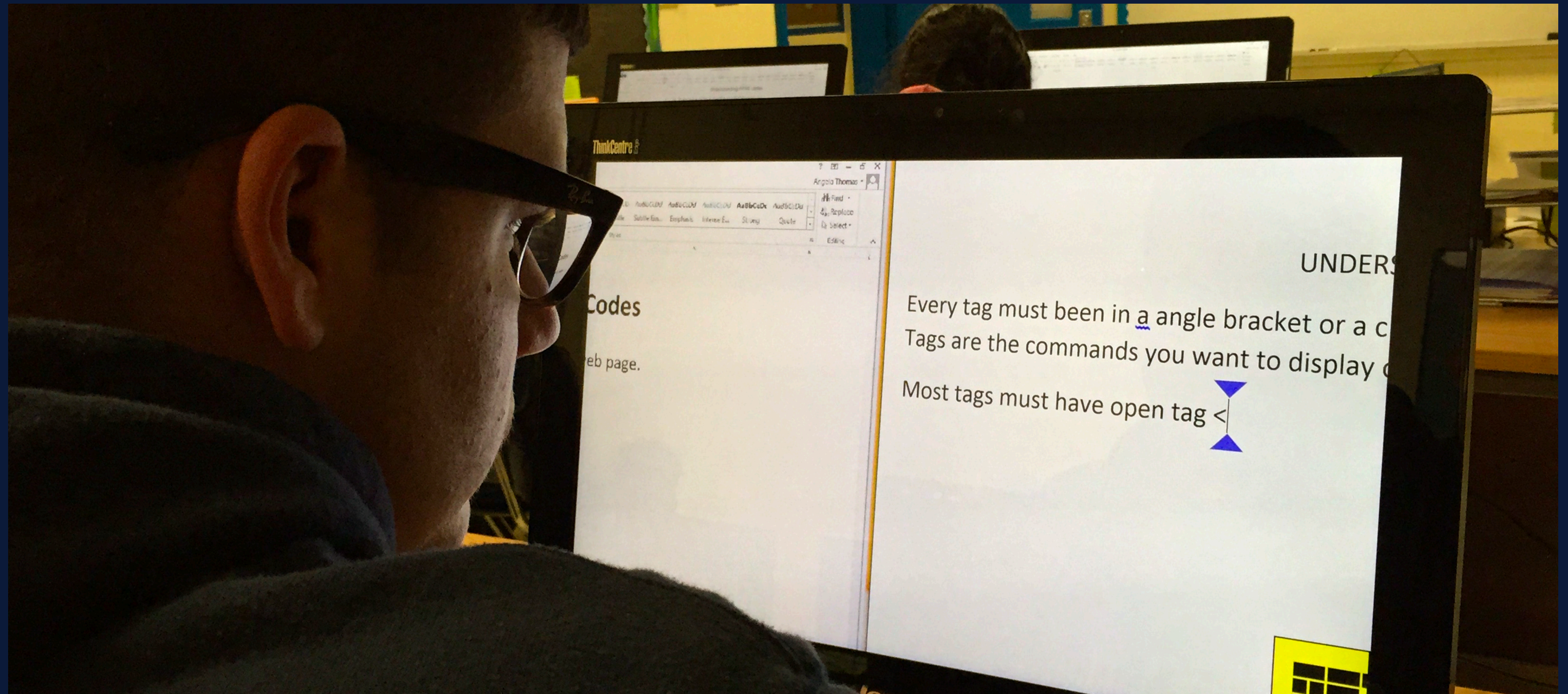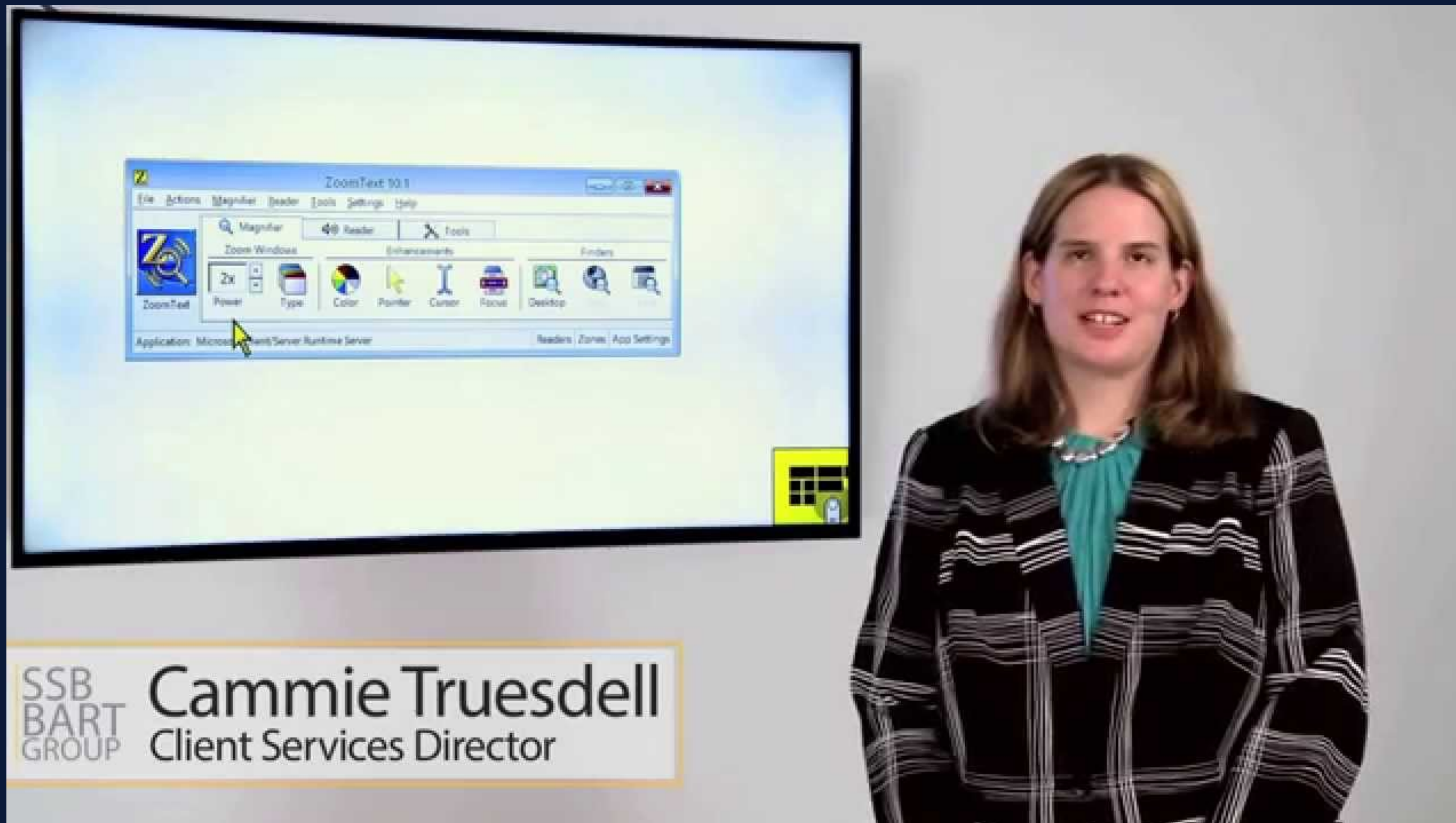
#02

Assistive Technology for Digital Access

Alternative Input Devices

Switch Control

Screen Magnification Software
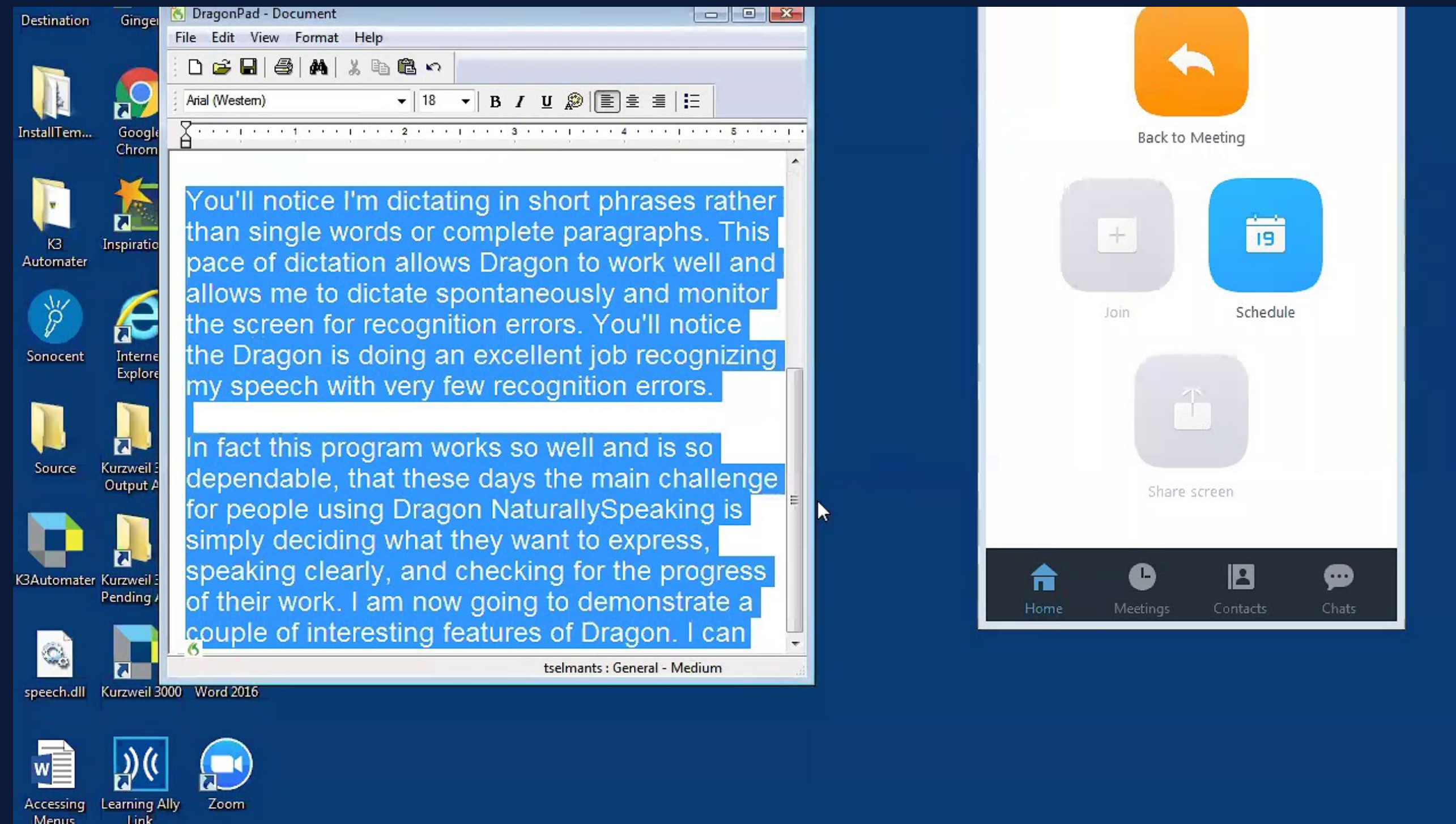
ZoomText

Text-to-Speech Software

Natural Reader

Speech Input Software

Dragon Naturally Speaking

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Devices

Message Banking

Screen Readers

The Starry Night
Vincent van Gogh   1889

View in Augmented Reality   View in Street View

× You are currently on a link. To click this link, press Caps Lock-Space.

MoMA
MoMA The Museum of Modern Art
New York, United States

Van Gogh's night sky is a field of roiling energy. Below the exploding stars, the village is a place of quiet order. Connecting earth and sky is the flamelike cypress, a tree traditionally associated with graveyards and mourning. But death was not ominous for van Gogh. "Looking at the stars always makes me dream," he said, "Why, I ask myself, shouldn't the shining dots of the sky be as accessible as the black dots on the map of France? Just as we take the train to get to Tarascon or Rouen, we take death to reach a star."

be the large white star just left of center in The Starry Night. The hamlet, on the other hand, is invented, and the church spire evokes van Gogh's native land, the Netherlands. The painting, like its daytime companion, The Olive Trees, is rooted in imagination and memory. Leaving behind the Impressionist doctrine of truth to nature in favor of restless feeling and intense color, as in this highly charged picture, van Gogh made his work a touchstone for all subsequent Expressionist painting.

Not All Screen Reader Users Are Blind
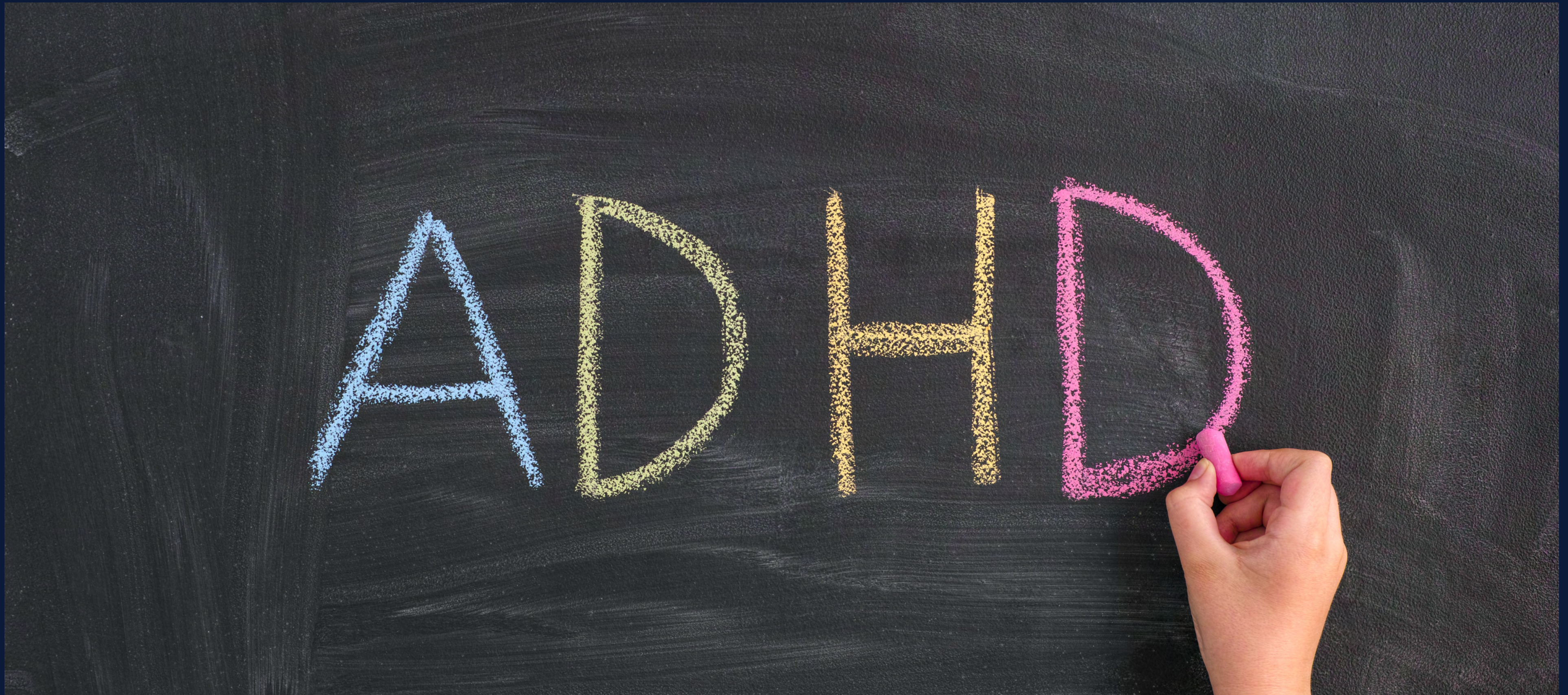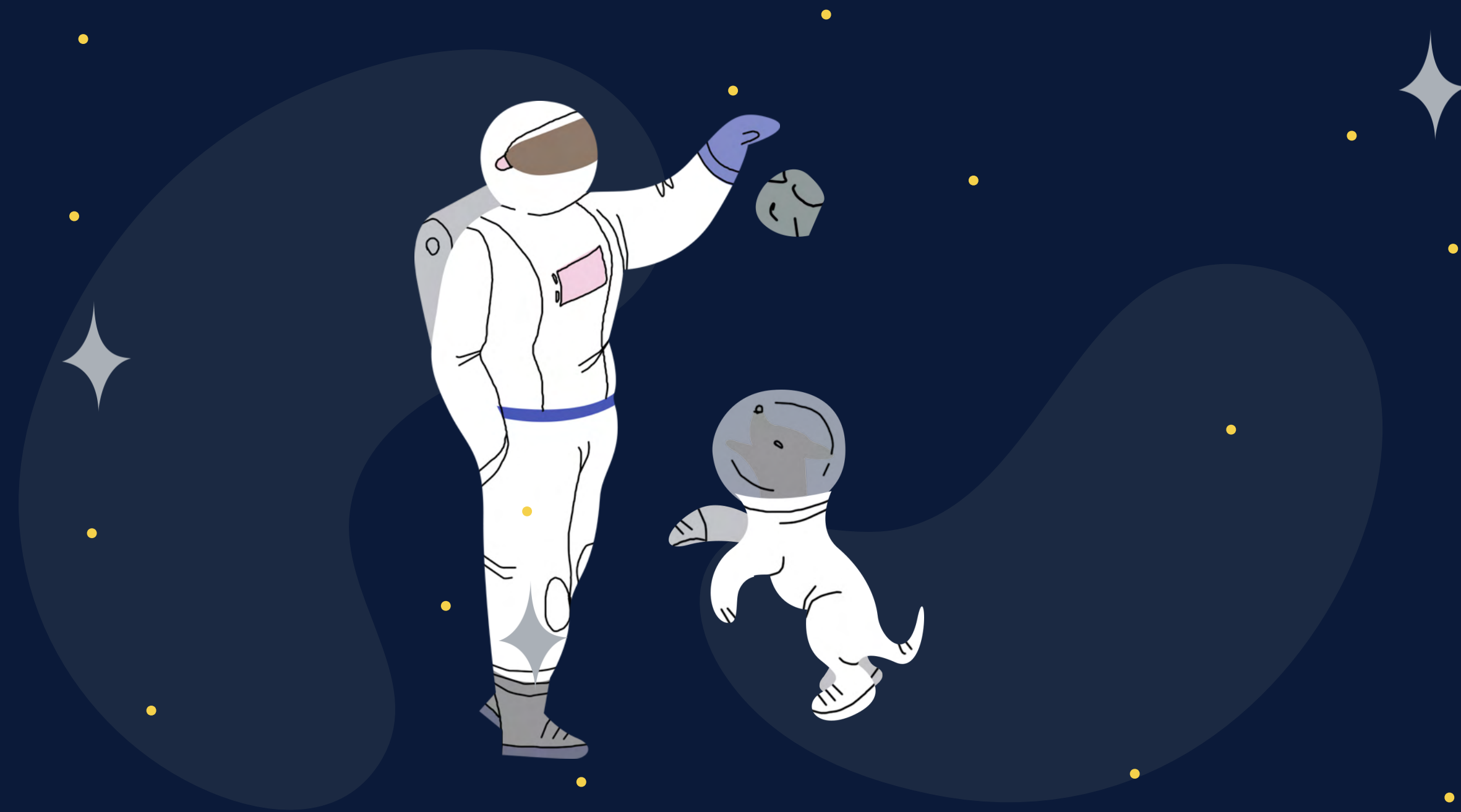
Screen Reader Price Comparison

JAWS

*$95/year or $1000 Perpetual
($1500)*
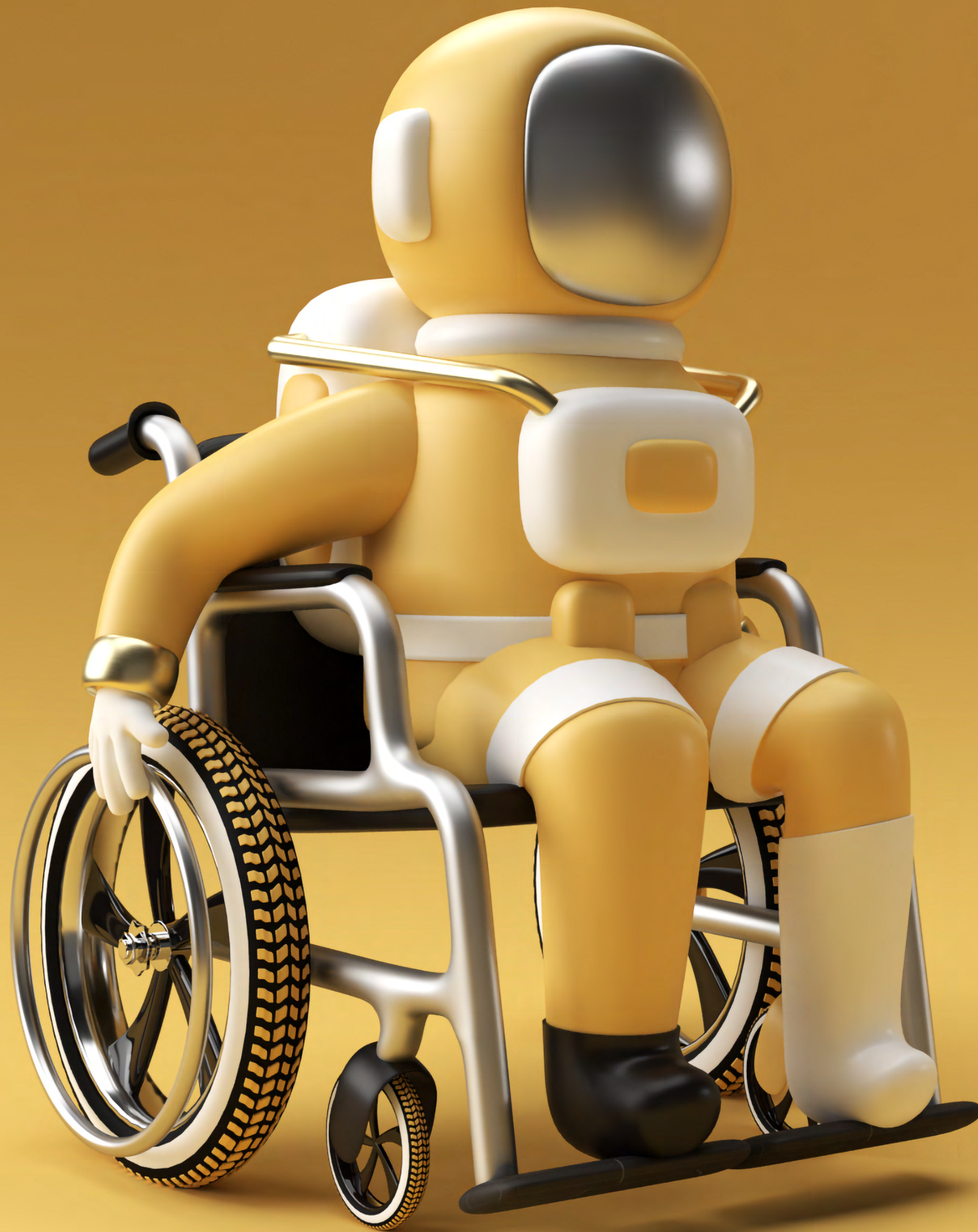
VoiceOver

Built into macOS
($2,099)

NDVA

$0 (donations are
accepted)
($1500)

#03 Final Thoughts

Make No Assumptions

Crystal Preston-Watson

Senior Digital Accessibility Analyst

Salesforce

@ScopicEngineer

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