

Supporting Children and Young People with Assistive Switches

Video Transcript

So, hello everyone and thank you for joining us in our first Thursday Thirty of the year. We're super happy to have Bob Sagoo with us, who's from Pretorian, who most of you may know already. It's not his first Thursday Thirty with us. Bob is the UK and International Sales Manager and is a great advocate of innovation and assistive technology as a whole inclusive technology. So, Bob is going to talk today about supporting people with assistive switches. If you have any questions, please remember, you can write them in the chat. We'll try to answer them at the end of the Thursday Thirty. And so, away you go, Bob. Bob, it's over to you.

Hi guys, I hope you're all well and you've had a great summer and back to the back into the grind in the nicest possible way with regards to the new school term. So, I'm just going to be talking about assistive switches and in particular our range of assistive switch solutions as such, so I'm just going to close my.

So, this is a brief sort of like overview of assistive switch access. I want to switches do again, say switches simple action, like a pressing into something that happens, you know, essentially cause and effect, but help people with varying levels of access need and disability as well with regards to helping them access communication, learning and also devices as such.

Really, it does support individuals with complex needs as well who are unable to use a conventional keyboard, mouse or even a joystick.

And those are the sort of elements of which you can utilise switches to access or which switches can support access. You've got computer software, communication devices, so a battery operated toys and appliances and mains powered appliances. So those are just some of the areas that you can cover.

Next slide, I go into a bit of detail. I apologise for the size of this text. I tried to make it wouldn't for some reason adjust very well. But those are some of the core elements or core activities or scenarios you can utilise switch

access with. So, you've got there for AAC. I won't read the entire list. That's for you to have a look through.

I will return back to AAC later on with regards to assistive switch access. So, there's something really great that we're doing, which I'll talk about at the end of the session. Cause and effect learning, especially in early development. So using switches to activate or control switch-enabled devices.

You've got their sort of bubble machines, but there could be anything that you utilise that's been switched. You can access via switch. Again, you know, if you're familiar with the cause and effect, you know the elements of that of what of how that can benefit an individual, especially in early years, especially with choice making and a great scenario for, yes, a solution for central rooms and environments, as it were. Environmental control, again, it really does develop independence in that respect, especially usually utilising it with. I put iClick, but I'll be totally transparent.

You know, I'd say a majority of mains controllers, I only know of one of the brand, they have switch access built into this, into their devices, so you can use a switch for environmental control in that respect. Computer and tablet access is becoming more and more a key element with regards to switch access because there are, as you were aware, there are lots of different access methods with regards to computer and tablet access. But also, it's how individuals access those solutions. So that scenario. So, for example, you know, it's not just the norm to use a hand, it could be whatever that individual can utilize to activate it, get the switch activation. So, when I'm talking cheek and knee and foot, I'm more, that's more in the realms of what I would say our proximity switch solution, which is ToFFEE, would be able to do, would be a great option for using for access. And again, a lot of individuals using Bluetooth as a wireless or seeking a wireless connection with regards to accessing computer access.

And then you've got in the classroom itself, something that I've been doing a lot with since I was at BETT in earlier this year, was interactive whiteboards. How do individuals access those who aren't able to, as you see in a lot of these imagery and videos. You see individuals selecting,

touching the touch screen on an interactive whiteboard. What about those individuals that can't access that, can't access a touch device themselves? This is where switch access alternative actually really helps support accessing lessons and activities on an interactive whiteboard, making that learning experience, both immersive and inclusive. I saw this the other day and I thought this was a really cool thing, but it goes to accessible science experiments. You know, there again is a really good aspect of learning in a classroom environment where you've got experiments and activities where you can actually utilise switches so for students can actually take part in an experiment. And yes and no, really simple, but a huge factor that comes to learning in a classroom environment. The ability to say yes and no, using multiple switches to indicate yes and no, again, and multiple-choice responses.

It all sort of ties in with regards to switch access. And then just this fun stuff, really, you know, not that any of the other elements I mentioned aren't fun, they are absolutely. I think learning has to be fun in so many different elements, but you've got a controlling switch adapted toys or appliances and so forth, accessible gaming, which is something that we do quite a bit on, and be able to utilise switches in combination with an assistive controller, so you can actually map the control, the different control aspects to a switch activation.

And the music and media, I mean, everybody wants to listen to music or play videos and stuff. We'll try and play a video on YouTube later on in the practical side and not show how easy that is. But, yet again, that's an important element with regards to switch access. So, moving on quickly, these are, I'm sorry, with our assistive switch range. So, you've got

Hopefully these are these, these products are familiar with. These are our smoothie switches. So, there are actually two groups, as it were. We do wired and we do wireless. The wired solution, they come in two sizes. I think the second picture shows us the differential in size. Smaller size is 75 mms, largest size is 125 mms.

These switches are not flat, they have a curved activation surface. So what that means is that you have an activation, you get a surface activation

through the entire surface of the switch, even right down to the edge. They are a very low profile switch, the being curved, the bottom edge is less than 10 mil away from the base. So, you get an activation even right on the edge of the switch. So really light activation. With the wires and wireless switch, you get a tactile feedback. You hear that engagement and feel sometimes feel that engagement when you activate the switch, which I think is really, really important for a lot of users.

And again, you get, you know, you've got all the colours there, the user colours red, yellow, blue, and green. With regards to the wireless switches, which are the which are make about Simply Works range, our wireless assistive technology range, these don't work off one line of sight, they use off of radio connection, which is 2.4 gigahertz. So, you have a range of up to 10 meters. I can go further than that, but it will go through ceilings and maybe some studded walls, as it were. You have an LED display on the bottom of the device, so you can actually tell it to do whatever you wish it to do. So you could actually for computer access, it can be left click, right click, cursor up, cursor down, cursor left, cursor right. You've also got presets for particular switch-based software. You've got game bed functionality built into the wireless smoothie switches. So, a really great solution, a wireless solution that is not just for cause and effect, but also can be utilised for computer access. So, those two versions of Smoothie make up our sort of like our core range of assistive switches. Moving on, we have a Simply Work switch set, which is a wireless switch set, so you get a receive two, which is that blue dongle.

That will connect to any PC, laptop, MacBook, anything that has a USB-A socket on there, and those two switches will be compared to that particular receiver unit, and then you can use that, like I said, it supports space, space and enter, left and right click.

F7, F8, and the gate pad. You also have the ability to do a left click, right click, sorry, a double click, and you have a range of different settings that you can set these switches to do. But that's a wireless solution for computer access.

We also have a wide solution, which is the Simply Switch interface, which allows you to connect up to two switches. When I'm talking about input for this interface, but also our switch interfaces, which I'll come on to the standard for switch access with regards to the jack is a 3 1/2 mms jack or a plug and our sockets are industry standard. So, all of our products will work not only with our switches, wired switches, it will work with any other wired switch because that is the industry standard. So, if you have a particular type of switch, if you've got, you know, let's say for example, you've got a buddy switch or something like that, that will work with our switch interfaces. There's no need to have to invest in new switches just to make sure they work with our particular product. Our products will be designed from the outset to work with the industry standard sort of 3 1/2 mms jack switches. So yeah, pretty much this does what The Simply Work Switch Set does put in a wide version. So, this will plug into a device and then you plug your wide switches into either port one and two and you've got left and right, F7, F8, space and enter, game pad one and four. You can move between those different settings. So really, straightforward, very easy, and very cost-effective way of getting switch access for computer access using switches. And again, what's really important are the solutions that I talk about today that we need that needs to connect up to a PC or laptop or whatever computer access solution device.

None of these devices require any drivers, which is a really important element. So, you can be used on the closed network in the school. You don't need to download any additional files or drivers to install anything. Everything's in the device. It's just plug and play. And what's also important, whatever you set these two with regards to the modes, if you take it out of the device, go to another PC, plug it in, it retains those devices within, device settings within its memory, motor settings I should say, within its memory. So that's really important. No driver setting, no drivers required, and it retains those modes that you've set.

Those particular switches to it retains them within its internal memory.

Okay, we also do a USB switch, which is something that people don't often mean you are aware of. But yes, we do switches that have a standard 3 and

half mode jack, but we also do a USB switch. And we don't spend a lot of time on product names, so we just call it USB switch. But what's really unique about this particular switch is that you have what's called switch filtering, which allows you to really fine tune this, you know, the switch access to an individual's access needs. For example, if they have tremors or they have low strength, you can actually adjust the switch accordingly. And again, it gives you full access to a PC, laptop, or tablet but a really great solution for individuals that want computer access and via USB. So, USB switches is a great solution for that. And it is also kind of classed as a USB interface as well because it has a lot of settings that you can actually set the device to, similar to how you can do with the The simply works smoothie, wireless switches.

iSwitch, one of my favourite products. So, this is a wireless Bluetooth switch, and it has, so it'll connect to any device that is Bluetooth capability. It has a built-in switch, but also it has two, you can see in the picture, 2 external switch ports, so you can actually connect to two wireless switches, and this way it gets interesting because you can actually programme each of those switches, so you've got the main switch on the iSwitch on top of the iSwitch, and the two of the switches that are plugged into it, you can actually programme each switch to do something different, and that gives you a great access solution for, especially for iOS, where you can actually designate a specific switch to do a particular function and great for switch scanning. So, you could be utilising switch scanning over multiple switches and still retain that wireless connection to the device. So it's a wireless connection to the device, but you can utilise wired switches with iSwitch. So, you have 24 output modes and iOS media shortcuts in there and it has mouse clicks as well. So left click, right click, double click. So, a great all-round solution for accessing wirelessly by Bluetooth, a Bluetooth enabled device.

This is one of the new products that we launched last year and earlier this year, which is essentially iSwitch but in a smaller compact form. So this is iSwitch 50, 50 because it's a 50 mil switch. Difference being with this, it does not have any external switch ports. So if you need to plug additional switches into an iSwitch, you need to stick with the iSwitch. If you have no

need to use external switch ports, then I switch 50 is a great solution, and ideally for individuals who prefer a smaller switch, but also in situations where you've got a limited amount of space to actually place the switch. So, for example, if it's mounted, you see the two mounting ports on, you can mount the I switch, you know, on a wheelchair, on a seating system, in any sort of configuration. It's a flat switch as opposed to a curved switch, so it's a low force switch that we never, I don't, and off the top of my head,

What the force is, as far as like Newton metres or whatever you that that the the the measurement is to for load, but it is a low force switch and so it retains all the functionality of iSwitch bar, the switch input switch port, so you got about 24 different output modes covering and some of them are listed there as to what you can you can as great for I say both iSwitch 50 great for iOS, for iPad for iPhone, because the media settings are there are pieces in there, which I'll show you later on in a live sort of presentation, but a great compact solution for Bluetooth solution for computer and tablet access.

This is on my top list of our favourite products, our proximity switch. So, ToFFEE Wired has been out for, it'll be a year in December, I think it is. So, this is a proximity switch that uses light as opposed to, you know, touchscreen technologies, which which is used in most switches. This is a switch and a switch interface all in one. So you've got the proximity element, which is a no touch, no press sort of solution for switch access. Great for individuals that may use different body parts rather than the hand to get that activation. It's certainly less fatiguing because there's a need to actually physically press the switch.

But you also have a lot of functionality built into the wired version. So this is a standard 3 1/2 mil switch output. So anywhere you would use a normal, a normal, a wired switch, you can utilise ToFFEE in exactly the same way. But you have output modes, you have a direct latched.

A one shot which is like a single click, you have double click, you have that built into the device, you have range settings from zero up to 500 mill, and you have 9 preset settings within that range settings. It's a really great access solution that is all incorporating switching, switching switch and

switching the faces with different modes. So it's a really great access solution.

Along so that we have ToFFEE Bluetooth. This is geared towards computer access, purely computer access. So if you think of iSwitch and iSwitch 50, ToFFEE Bluetooth is basically doing the same thing, but in the form of a proximity switch. So we ought to do straight away looking at you know, obviously types of computers, but AAC devices, AAC apps, where maybe an individual is struggling with a switch, a physical switch, and they need a less fatiguing solution, a touch-free solution. Maybe it's placed around their head, it could be around near the hands, their elbows, the knees.

This is where ToFFEE Bluetooth really comes into its own. It is the only solution out there that is a proximity switch which is Bluetooth. There is no other solution out there that is similar or replicates what ToFFEE Bluetooth can do. So a great solution for computer access.

And Savvy Switch is the last of the newest short products, which is a, again, a 50mm wired switch. Again, it's a low force switch because it's a flat top switch, as it were. Again, low profile. And what's also a feature that's in Savvy, which is in all the other switches, so if I go back to Toffee, ToFFEE wide and iSwitch 50 is when you order it, you have the option that you get four different decals, red, yellow, green and blue. So you don't need to order a ToFFEE in red or a ToFFEE with a yellow or a green. You get these decals which are removable, so you can actually change the colour yourself. I'll lay claim that was my idea. Well, no, the removable elements was my idea. The idea of having decals or something, we discussed in the concept stage. So rather than having multiple switches, you can have just, okay, I want to change the colour of this switch to yellow. You can do that very easily. Just if you even don't want to remove the die colour, you can put another one, a different colour on top of that. So, no removing lids, no, you know, tops or anything like that. You've just got these stickers. And again, if you need more, these something you can actually order you know, separately from us as such. So, a great little solution for, again, for challenging environments where there's very limited space. So that's a really great solution. And that's Savvy Switch.

And we have Grasp switch as well. And we're talking about assistive switches. So, this is a solution that was out in the market for a long time and then disappeared. And then there was just a demand. We need this solution back. We brought it back into play and it is available from us. So, it has a very long cable, but it's essentially you can squeeze it. You can pinch it, push it sideways, you'll get an activation. A great low force solution. It can be mounted or I found individuals just hold it in the hands against the chest and just squeeze it. But it's a great solution for switch activation and yeah, it's one that's available from us, so a nice long cable, so you can use it in a variety of different different ways.

Briefly, just going to cover switch interfaces, so I know time's pressing on. Applicator, essentially what this does, everything iSwitch can do, Applicator can do, but also, but it's more for wired switches, whereas iSwitch has got everything built into one switch. Applicator, you can plug up to four different switches, into Applicator with and those four switches can do for entirely different things when connected by Bluetooth to a tablet or Bluetooth enabled tablet or computer. Great for switch scanning. So, if you've got lots of switches, wired switches, and you want to use them with a Bluetooth enabled device, Applicator is a great solution for doing that.

Its bigger brother is Applicator Max. What this does, this was a very much a niche product. This allows you to connect up to four different devices using the four switches or the switches you already have connected to the Applicator Max. Those 4 devices that you can also set the switches to do something entirely different on all four devices. That's one scenario. You can also use it for single device access on multiple apps. So you can use it for one device if you're accessing multiple apps on one device, but you want those switches to actions or switches to be something entirely different for each specific app, you can do that as well.

So single device, multiple app access, or multiple device access, up to four devices using switches. So, Applicator Max is a great solution for that. If you're just actually one device, I say Applicator is the best way, but Applicator Max caters for that for those individuals that want that kind of access. Send and Send 6, basically what that does, part of our simply

works range and it turns any simply works receiver, that's a switch, a joystick, a trap ball, keyboard, it turns it into a, sorry, it allows you to access a um...It allows a wired switch, yeah, right? It allows a wired switch to be part of the simple works range or to work wirelessly. So if you've got, like for example, a grasp switch and you want to use it with an iClick for example, but you want to use it wirelessly in the sense of not being physically plugged into the iClick, you need Send and you plug it into the send.

That would pair it to the iClick and allow you to utilise that that that wire switch within the Simply Works ecosystem. The Six and Six just has the ability to connect more switches into it, 6 switches, but you can also use those as a mouse. So one to four could be left, right, up and down, and then you have another switch that's plugged in for left click or select. So, you know, Send 6 is a great solution for the computer access.

Control and Control Pro, simply what that does is allows you to control a switch enabled device wirelessly via a Simply Works smoothie switch. You can connect up to 6 switches to one Control and Control Pro. The difference between the two control is single channel, Control Pro has two end channels, and it has two outputs, but also has a cooperative mode, which the Pro doesn't.

Twin Slat is essentially, look at what you can do with control. This is like the wired switch version. So rather than using a wireless switch, you use a wired switch, you plug it into the input and the output is a device that you're controlling. What's really cool in this, and I'll try and show you this if we have the time, is great for cooperative activities and great in the classroom sort of setting as it were. But yeah, it's a really great solution for wired switches, utilising them with a switch enabled appliance or toy.

Any questions? That was a really rapid, quick, quick sort of like thing. If there are any questions, great. If you do have anything, scan the QR code there. You can send me an e-mail, Pretorian at Pretorianuk.com, or you can visit the website at www.pretorianuk.com and have a look at the range.

One last thing before I jump on the videos, I told something about AAC. I'm doing an event on Thursday the 15th of October. It's on Eventbrite, and it's completely live, free and live. And we'll be covering ToFFEE Bluetooth,

ToFFEE Wired, i69 is 50, but on AAC devices, how you can utilise those devices, those solutions to access AAC devices, and I'm really privileged that I'll have presentations from Smartbox, Tobii Dynavox, PRC, who are Liberator in the UK, and Readapt. So, we're going to have three of the main companies that do AAC devices doing a slot where they're going to be talking about how those solutions work with their AAC devices. Also, Readapt will be coming along as well, and they'll be talking about mounting, which is incredibly important, how to mount switches and what ways to mount switches so you can ensure that access is great. So the QR code there will take you to the Eventbrite page. But I'm doing 3 sessions, 8 o'clock.

8am, 12pm and 6pm. They're for different time zones, but if there is a session that you want to drop on, by all means just sign up to whichever one suits you best. And yeah, great solution. 15th of October, and that's a Thursday. So I think that's me done.

So, I'm going to stop sharing that and I don't know if I've got quick time; if I have, I will quickly.

Bob, go for it. We don't have any questions. People, I'm sure, got your QR code. I've got it.

Right, am I am I still full screen or is it a little screen now? Am I right?

You are full screen, you are, you are spotlighted.

Right, so you should be able to see a little devices there. I'll just get a click off that.

Okay.

Semple up.

Okay, cool. So I will set this up on my phone. So I've got my phone that should be paired to a number of different devices. So I've got my phone paired to. Put that on.

The. And it's only my ToFFEE.

That's connected.

And I switched with the one, two, three, go.

So. Alright, well.

Oh. So you should see, Miss Rachel, I'm sorry. Allee, you know about this. Miss Rachel is, yeah, yeah, he's smiling at you. So that's, I have a daughter who's just over a year old, so that is what plays in our house all the time. So I have appicated paired to this by Bluetooth with a Savage switch plugged into it. And I have it on play pause.

So, just move that there.

I have the proximity switch toffee set for play balls as well, so if I just it's a bit like that.

And every so I've got the ice which I think is paired.

It takes you back to skip back, so it'll start play from the beginning again, but just really simple. You can connect up a number of different Bluetooth devices, Bluetooth access solutions, switch access solutions to one device, and you have to set up for different things. I've got it set for play pause, it could be play pause, skip back, whatever you wish.

So, that's ToFFEE.

And what we also have is this product here called Twin Slap, which is what I talked about earlier on. I'm just going to plug it into here.

So, if I plug in, let's say, a ToFFEE switch into here.

So, if I go...Unplugged off yet, put two switches in here.

It's really cool. So I've got two wired switches plugged in.

And I set this to cooperative mode.

which is mode 4. So this is connected to this disco ball. I've got two switches here.

So, if I hit one, nothing happens, but that one, I think I hit both together.

I've got a great activity, but also if I go to 5.

On. So, latching. And one of the modes which is really cool to show you, if you also have a cooperative time mode as well, so I can set the time accordingly. What I really like is we've also put an on-off mode. So when it's in cooperative, it's working with two switches, that's on. I can't switch it off with that switch. The other switch switches it off. On.

Off. So some really great, just a quick, very quick overview, but just how effective a system switches can be and the different activities and scenarios you can utilise with switches, whether it's a toFFEE switch or a contact-free switch solution, or one of our wired solutions, which are

a conventional physical switch, there is just so much you can do. And also if you've got switches, and I guess in the school environment, I know the team at Heron Academy have jumped on to this, they have an abundance of switches I know, I went through them for them just before the summer break. You can access things like the applicator, you can look at TwinSlat.

which I think is you guys have already got now. You can utilise your existing inventory of wide switches, but in a more creative way than simply just direct a direct mode or activation. So what I wanted to highlight to you today in a very

roof ways, there are, you know, there are so many different scenarios that you can utilise with the system switches and so many different areas, computer access, cause and effect, appliance control, environmental control, as I would say, AAC as well. So there are so many different areas that you can access.

I implore you, please jump on to that session on the 15th of October. There'll be more details coming through on that and seek out advice from the likes to CENMAC and also because they're a wealth of knowledge and experience and they can, you know, I'm sure they'll partake on what, you know, is an effective

you know, use of switches. So I'm hoping today has just whetted that appetite and got you thinking as to how you can use, you know, assisted switches in a varying different and cool ways and scenarios.

Of course. That was that was really, really, really interesting. And yeah, love, love the Bluetooth and the new function, the new switch. But also, I really want to, I'm going to solve it just to confirm, October the 15th. But if you want to give us the link or send it to Annabel, we can share to everyone.

Tell you what, it's what I've done. Yeah, what I've done.

I will put it in the chat. You did put the QR code, but I managed to grab it, but I think we need to share it with all our colleagues because especially our speech and language teachers will be interested in the use of switch with AAC. And I'm thinking it was for our OT. I mean.

Yeah, it should be. Yeah.

I'd be just.

So, there's a QR code. I, what I have done, because I know there was a request made earlier today about, and again, my I'm hoping that this, there was a request that it could this could this presentation be

Yeah. Suitable for an individual that has dyslexia. I've tried to do the best I can. Again, it's, I've sent that through. So I think that's gone through to, to Annabel. I know Kathryn's got a copy. Please, this should be that if any, yeah. Cool.

That's fine. Well, I've got the link. I've got it on my phone, so I'll share it. I'll share it around. Bob, thanks a lot. We went over the 30 minutes. I'm going to be in trouble with Annabel, but that was worth it. Hope you get better. See you on the 15th of October. And everybody, thanks for joining Thursday Thirty.

Yeah, and um...

No worries.

Yeah.

Have a beautiful end of the day. Bye bye.

Bye now, bye bye.

Thank you.