

Dear wireless industry colleagues:

Welcome to the Fall issue of the Wireless Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center’s Industry Newsletter, our quarterly update on some of the WiRERC’s research and development projects. Remember, these are just a few highlights from a selection of our ongoing research. Please let me know if you would like additional information on these, or other projects undertaken by the Wireless RERC.

Survey Responses Reach 1400

Our Survey of User Needs (SUN) continues to gather unique insight into the large and growing community of wireless customers with disabilities. The SUN database now includes about 1400 responses, and our findings are cited in both industry and mainstream media.

We’re making special efforts to reach populations which are currently under-represented in our database, especially customers within the Hispanic and Asian communities. The SUN was recently made available in Spanish, and recent focus groups have addressed some of the multi-cultural aspects of wireless access.



In addition to our first report on SUN findings, [SUN Report](#), we supply SUN data on request to support industry managers in reaching customers of all ages and abilities. If the data you need is not available in our database, we have the ability to gather additional data through our Consumer Advisory Network of more than 800.

Connecting Industry and Consumers: MyWirelessReview.com



Our online consumer/ industry forum, mywirelessreview.com, went live on February 25. Since then we’ve addressed a variety of issues important to customers with disabilities, from input and display methods to customer satisfaction to product releases. Customers with disabilities who contribute to our forums include guest bloggers who follow and comment on a variety of wireless trends and new technologies.

We also link with and contribute to other industry and consumer online groups, sharing findings from our user research and engaging in discussions important to universal design of wireless products and services.

Feel free to visit us anytime and learn more about issues important to your customers of all ages and abilities. We welcome your input to this forum as well - visit us at:

www.mywirelessreview.com

State of Technology Conference:
September 21-23, 2009

Save the dates of September 21, 22 & 23, 2009 to attend the Wireless RERC's State of Technology Conference on Wireless Emergency Communications. This international event will bring together stakeholders for discussions on advances in wireless communications and disability research and to share knowledge about the current and future potential for wireless technologies to assist persons with disabilities before, during and after a crisis. Sample topics will include, emergency alerting systems based on federal rulemakings, technologies to assist with emergency egress, and accessible communications in shelters and other public environments. The target audience is the wireless industry, emergency communications manufacturers, emergency management and public safety officials and researchers working on accessibility issues surrounding wireless communications

Our past SOT in 2004 had 74 speakers, more than 200 attendees, and more than a dozen exhibitors which included domestic and international representatives from government, regulatory agencies, state legislators, consulates, advocacy groups, other RERC's, and wireless manufacturers, designers, and carriers. Fully one quarter of the attendees had a self-identified disability.

We welcome all representatives from the wireless industry to attend, and/or take part in a panel discussion. We are actively seeking topic submissions for guest panel speakers. Inquires can be directed to:

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Conference Coordinator
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Advanced Auditory Interfaces

Bruce Walker has published the Technical Report regarding his Auditory Menus research. The goal of this long-term research project is to develop guidelines for advanced auditory menus, with an emphasis on mobile devices. The report summarizes their findings to date and the state of the art of auditory menus.

The report can be found here:
[Auditory Interfaces Tech Report](#)

Demoable auditory interfaces have been built on a variety of platforms such as Java, Flash, FlashLite and J2ME that reside on top of a mobile device's OS. Future development will consist of actually implementing the auditory menu interfaces on the device's native OS. Exploratory research is occurring via Symbian S60, as well as RIM's Java Development Environment.

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