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AAC and Computer Access: A Usability Study

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Improving Interface Performance Efficiency between AAC/IT Systems is one of the AAC-RERC projects. The purpose of this project is to make it easier for people to use their AAC devices to operate their computer.



Over the course of this project, the team will conduct three basic activities. The first will be an online survey of user needs. The survey is intended to learn about the experiences of people who use AAC and computers and to find out what is important to them. The second activity is "usability testing" of typical AAC and computer setup. Usability is a measure of how easily a thing can be used. Usability testing is used to identify specific problems caused by the design of software or hardware. Finally, the team will be developing and testing fixes to the problems uncovered by the usability testing. All stages involve the active participation of people who use augmentative communication.

Currently, we are looking for people who use AAC and also use computers (either together or separately) to participate in a short [online survey](#) about their experiences with computers and AAC. Through this survey, we hope to identify interface problems faced by people who use their AAC device to operate a computer. We ask about your experience with using your AAC device to operate your computer, how you connect to the internet, how you enter text and control mouse functions, and who provides technical assistance when there's a problem. The information you provide will guide our work and enhance the development of techniques to improve access to computers through augmentative communication devices.

More about this project and the online survey are available at <http://www.aac-rerc.com/pages/projects/r3-aac-survey.htm> or you can contact me directly at 919-684-3540 or via email at kevin.caves@duke.edu

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