Wayne Wilsdon KDAC 2021 Transcript

**SUMMARY KEYWORDS**

nvda, Wayne, piece, software, book, retrain, sound quality's, learning, accessible, Kent, library, mind, screen reader, buzz, deteriorated, tiny, write, work, important, bookshare

**SPEAKERS**

Wayne Wilsdon, Ben Watson, Julie Johnson

**Wayne Wilsdon** 00:00

Yeah, hi there. My name's Wayne, good afternoon. I'm...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 00:06

I'm sight impaired, and I've been sight impaired only for ten years, though before that, I was a driving instructor, and since my health had deteriorated I, you know, enjoyed and

**Wayne Wilsdon** 00:38

really wanted to get back out into employment, but needed to retrain, so I joined Kent University.

**Wayne Wilsdon** 00:56

And I'm actually doing a Higher Education Access Course with hope then to go on to do a degree and maybe a Master's in Psychology.

**Wayne Wilsdon** 01:16

So [what I'm going?] to talk to you about today is two pieces of software that I've actually been shown since joining Kent University, or the University of Kent.

**Wayne Wilsdon** 01:37

 I think it's important to say that I've never used anything like these, so it was completely new to me when I...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 01:52

When I was shown them.

**Wayne Wilsdon** 01:54

The first piece of software is something called NVDA, which is free, and it's a screen reader...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 02:07

Yes?

**Ben Watson 02:07**

Wayne?

**Ben Watson 02:08**

Wayne, really sorry to butt in.

**Ben Watson 02:10**

The sound quality's a tiny bit...

**Ben Watson 02:12**

A tiny bit choppy. I don't know if it's a, sort of, internet related thing.

**Ben Watson 02:15**

So I wonder, would you mind...?

**Ben Watson 02:18**

Shall we just try turning off your camera? Because that might help the Internet...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 02:22

Yeah.

**Ben Watson 02:22**

...And we can hear you?

**Ben Watson 02:23**

It's just that it's sort of breaking up every now and again.

**Wayne Wilsdon** 02:26

Can you do that, Ben?

**Ben Watson 02:30**

Can we...?

**Wayne Wilsdon** 02:30

Or do I need to do that?

**Ben Watson 02:32**

Can we...?

**Wayne Wilsdon** 02:36

Because...

**Ben Watson 02:36**

I mean, I haven't got...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 02:37

Don't know why...

**Ben Watson 02:49**

 Try again...

**Ben Watson 02:49**

Oh, can you just move a tiny bit closer to your laptop, maybe, or can you just bring it in...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 02:55

Is that any better?

**Ben Watson 02:57**

 I think so. Yeah. That certainly...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 02:59

Is that better?

**Ben Watson 03:00**

That's a lot better, actually. That's a lot better.

**Wayne Wilsdon** 03:02

Right.

**Ben Watson 03:02**

Sorry, Wayne, thank [you], please carry on. Thank you.

**Wayne Wilsdon** 03:04

No, yeah. Okay. So the first piece of software is...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 03:08

This program called NVDA, which is a screen reader.

**Wayne Wilsdon** 03:15

And it does what it says, it reads books on the screen, or...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 03:22

Or what you're asking it to read, but it...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 03:28

But it also allows me to...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 03:32

To write my own essays, and when I'm doing this, if I...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 03:38

If I make a spelling mistake or something, it will...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 03:43

It will buzz when you press the spacebar after the word you've just written. And if that buzzes, you know that you've spelt that word incorrectly.

**Wayne Wilsdon** 03:58

This piece of software is very useful, and has save[d] me lots and lots of time, bearing in mind that before I was shown this software, I was having to wait for carers to be around to...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 04:24

To help me to read pieces of work, so that's...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 04:33

You know, that's given me somewhat a lot of independence and saved me many, many hours of time.

**Wayne Wilsdon** 04:52

With NVDA as well, being that it's a free piece of software, I think that's absolutely brilliant, because when you look at some other pieces of software, they are

**Wayne Wilsdon** 05:06

exceptionally or massively expensive, which I would never have been able to afford. The other piece, or the other program I'd like you...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 05:21

That I'd like to talk to you about is the Royal National Institution for the Blind Bookshare. And really, this...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 05:35

This is a library of...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 05:38

Again, it's free, and it is a library of many thousands and thousands of books. If you go onto the site, you type...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 05:54

Type in the book that you're...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 05:58

That you're looking for, and this doesn't necessarily have to be a work book, either. There are books on there for leisure.

**Wayne Wilsdon** 06:10

I'm not sure, [I'll have to?] check with the tech guys, but I think they do sorts of magazines and things as well. I'm not sure on that.

**Wayne Wilsdon** 06:22

But there's also a web reader on there that...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 06:28

That will read the books to you, but if you don't get on with the RNIB Web Reader, you could use the NVDA, which...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 06:44

Which will read it to you. If...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 06:50

If by chance there's a book that you're not able to find, you can always email, and they will try their hardest to get that book for you, and get it added to the library.

**Wayne Wilsdon** 07:13

So what...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 07:15

What I'd like to sort of say, or what I'd like to finish with about these two programs is that without these programs, people like myself just wouldn't be able to do the

**Wayne Wilsdon** 07:39

things that we should be able to do.

**Wayne Wilsdon** 07:44

Now, being a mature student, it's something that's really important to me.

**Wayne Wilsdon** 07:54

I don't want to be having to sit indoors with the same four walls to kind of entertain me, bearing in mind I can't even watch the paint dry(!)

**Wayne Wilsdon** 08:10

But I'd like to get back out and get back into work, and retraining was the only way that I could do this.

**Wayne Wilsdon** 08:25

And of course, this meant learning how to use computers again. So I think as more things are made accessible, the...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 08:41

The easier it will become and the more people will be able to do.

**Wayne Wilsdon** 08:52

I think I can't really say any more than that, other than I...

**Wayne Wilsdon** 08:57

You know, I hope that everybody sort of heard what I'm saying.

**Julie Johnson 09:06**

Thank you, Wayne.

**Ben Watson 09:07**

That's absolutely brilliant, Wayne, and I think your...

**Ben Watson 09:10**

Your, your perspective is so, kind of, valuable, because you...

**Ben Watson 09:13**

You're kind of coming back to education, which is a challenge in itself, and then...

**Ben Watson 09:18**

And then kind of learning new ways of learning is also, you know, also tricky, but I think, yeah, your message is that if people make stuff accessible, it gives everybody the

**Ben Watson 09:29**

opportunity to do whatever they want with the freedom that they want.

**Ben Watson 09:32**

And I think that's...

**Ben Watson 09:33**

That's just spot on. So, brilliant, thank you.

**Wayne Wilsdon** 09:37

No, thank you.