




Health Innovation Week 20–25 Oct 2017
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#eh2030 eHealth Ireland  Building a Better Health Service  Seirbhís Sláinte Nícos Feará & Forbairt

Diversity and inclusion are concepts that we are finally becoming more familiar with and more aware of in Ireland today. Two students from Scoil Mhuire Aughnagarron National School in Longford came up with an innovative way to aid the inclusion of the hearing impaired in the following ways

- Make everyday tasks such as shopping more convenient and less intimidating
- Make services such as hospitals and schools more accessible
- Improve social and business interactions between the hearing and the hearing impaired



The Problem

Our classroom research showed that there is currently very little progress in making the world around us a more accessible place for the hearing impaired. In fact, personal discussions with members of the deaf community show that hearing impairment can be one of the most isolating conditions as it prevents people from interacting with those around them. Tasks which we would regard to be simple and require little planning can take significant planning for the hearing impaired and can have disastrous consequences if the plan does not stay on track. Eg: a shopping trip with small children

The Solution

Two 6th class students, Kathlyn McGuire and Michaela O Reilly came up with an app idea for use on smart phones. This app would use 8 smart features to make everyday tasks, as well as social and business functions and events, a lot easier for the hearing impaired. It would guarantee inclusion in a way that is usable and accessible for all. The key features of the app are as follows

- 1: Sign-speech/speech-sign: The basis of this app would be to allow deaf and hearing people to communicate over the phone. When calling, you could choose to translate sign to speech or speech to sign. Text could be used when a person does not know sign. The app would use your phone's microphone and camera to make calls



SignAp logo as designed by class

2: Choose Language:The app would have the option of lots of languages so it could be used all over the world, we hope as many people as possible could benefit from this app

3: Vibration Alert:Technology could be used to connect the doorbell, baby monitor, smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm to your app. When any of these alarms are triggered the app would vibrate to alert the user and a message would appear on the phone to show what in the house needs attention



4: Panic Alarm:This app would have a panic button installed. When pressed it would connect with whatever emergency services are needed. The user could simply select the necessary service and the phone would automatically connect to that service. Google maps would show the user's location. An alarm would ring from the phone because deaf people are unable to call for help

5: Sign Games:These games make sign enjoyable. People could learn sign by playing games. They could earn points by matching words with their signs. We would hope that with development more languages and games could be added to this feature.

6: Locator:This would make it easier for deaf people to bring their children out in public. You could place a fob in your child's pocket; if your child was lost they could alert your phone using the fob or vice versa. The app would use google maps to show your child's location.

7: Dance Vibrations:This would help deaf people to socialise easily. The app would receive the music that is being played and vibrate a beat for the user to dance to

8: Recorder & Translator:This could be used at work or social events. You could use your phone to record speeches and talks. The app would then convert the speech into text or sign for the person to read or watch. The app could also do this in reverse if the user wanted to communicate using sign. It would deliver the speech using text/audio

DIGITAL NATIVES COMPETITION

Awards presented to the finalists on the 23rd of October

The poster is blue and features the text 'WE WANT YOU!' in large yellow letters. It includes the eHealth Digital Natives Competition logo, a list of prizes including a virtual reality day, and contact information for the competition. The bottom of the poster has logos for sponsors like Microsoft and eHealth.

Are you a budding artist, scientist, inventor, experimenter or tech guru?



WE WANT YOU!

We are looking for the next generation of innovators and BIG thinkers to show us the impact technological advancement will have on healthcare by 2030.

Show your ideas and remember to think BIG!

Prizes:

€10,000 worth of prizes to be won

Win a Virtual Reality Day for your school

Shortlisted schools will attend the eHealth Innovation Showcase Dublin Castle on October 24th, 2017

Send your entries to:

Send to: eHealth Digital Natives, 3rd Floor, 24 Arden Quay, Dublin 1 D01 W029
Email: digitalnatives@ehealth.ie

For inquiries, more information, and to see how you can win, visit www.eh2030.com

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The Benefits

We feel that the benefits of this technology would be immeasurable in making all aspects of life easier and more accessible for the hearing impaired. It would make it easier to use services, to navigate tricky situations and open up communication between the hearing and the hearing impaired in social and business settings



SignAp home screen design

Next Steps

Speaking to experts in the field of IT confirmed for us that the technology that would be needed for this app is within easy reach and the majority of it is already being used, if albeit in a different form/function, on other apps in the market.

We would really hope that a company who is in a position to do so would take on this app idea and make it or something similar, available to the hearing impaired and make the world a more inclusive place. We would also hope that this app would be made available free of charge to those who most need it.

We also feel that there is scope that some of the ideas in this app could be adapted and used, not only for the hearing impaired, but for those visiting a foreign country or interacting with people who speak another language