SynapseAdaptive

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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# NEW TECHNOLOGY KEEPS INJURED AND DISABLED WORKERS ON THE JOB

A Total Access Port (TAP) that works with all types of computers, developed through an ongoing collaboration with Stanford University and Synapse Adaptive of San Rafael, California, is enabling injured and disabled workers to return to their jobs with full productivity.

The technology at the core of the Synapse TAP Workstation makes every input device, computer and software application immediately compatible and accessible to workers unable to use a keyboard or mouse.

Research for the Synapse TAP has been supported in part by funding from the National Science Foundation, U.S. Bureau of the Census and the General Services Administration.

When disability or injury threatens the livelihood of a worker, Synapse TAP universal access technology provides successful return-to-work solutions. Serious physical limitation no longer means a loss of productivity, self-esteem or gainful employment. By using powerful speech recognition and alternative pointing technologies such as head trackers, disabled users can operate any computer or software application without performance penalty.

Employers are able to retain valuable staff members and the sizeable investment they have made in their training. A recently concluded time study at the U.S. Census National Processing Center showed that Synapse TAP Workstation users were able to achieve higher levels of productivity than non-TAP users. (1)

By providing hands-free access to all computer platforms and applications, Synapse TAP Workstations enable employers to fully comply with Section 508 and ADA requirements.

Synapse TAP technology is comprised of a small microprocessor controlled translator that takes input from speech recognition or other input devices and converts it into the format required to operate all keyboard and mouse functions on any computer.

TAP installations have returned disabled users to work at the US Census, the National Security Agency, NASA, Wells Fargo Bank, Sun Microsystems, Sony, San Francisco Chronicle, Bank of America, Autodesk, Lockheed, Intel, IBM, New York Times, Boeing, Apple Computer, Pacific Bell, DEC and Stanford University.

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While Synapse's fully integrated voice-activated technology can improve productivity among able-bodied as well as injured and disabled workers, TAP Workstations are proving to be lifesavers for the growing numbers of people who once faced unemployment due to repetitive stress disorders.

"The Synapse TAP Workstation helped me to continue working and saved my livelihood," said Saida Solis, a Bay Area business analyst. (2)

"Synapse Adaptive has virtually saved my job in the engineering field," · "In many cases I am even more efficient than I used to be," writes Anthony Cascio, Senior Production Engineer at Lam Research. (3)

"My Synapse TAP Workstation enables me to perform as fast or faster in some cases than my co-workers. I believe Synapse TAP Workstations are the wave of the future. Synapse was a lifeline in the midst of a steady stream of dead-end, disappointing experiences," said technical writer Gary Hayes. (4)

"Finally, my hands and arms are relatively pain-free," said Unix software engineer Mike Yagi. "Without Synapse, I would not be working today. I am able to design, code, test and document software as well and as fast or faster than before the injury. The system has been flexible enough to allow me to change jobs. Thank you, Synapse, for enabling me to return to work and be productive again." (5)

"I lost the use of my hands from a severe repetitive strain injury. Because of my Synapse TAP Workstation, I have been able to progress in my career as a programmer and project manager," said Mary Shea of Wells Fargo Bank. (6)

After a long battle with bilateral tendonitis, Sabrina Enyeart, Assistant Director of Admissions at the University of California said, "I would like to see the Synapse TAP system used as a preventive measure so that computer users will not develop hand and arm injuries." (7)

Clearly Synapse TAP universal access technology will continue to play an important role in supporting the productivity of our computer-dependent workforce.

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