

A man with a beard and short dark hair, wearing a black jacket, is looking directly at the camera. He is standing on a city street with buildings and a person on a bicycle in the background. The background is slightly out of focus.

“I need new
ways to
create my art
& **creative
technology** is
the answer.”
- JASON

The AT&T NYU #ConnectAbility Challenge:
90 Days. Hundreds of Developers.

Endless possibilities.

APPLY NOW TO HELP JASON HELP MILLIONS OF OTHERS.



Connect Ability Challenge



NYU

Connect Ability Elements Driving Press

- **Four month AT&T technology innovation contest with milestone events:**
 - **Hackathons**
 - **Virtual and in-person collaboration sessions**
 - **Panel discussions with partners and thought-leaders**
- **“Exemplars” positioned client end-users at center of competition**
- **Collaboration with NYU engineering, NYU occupational therapy and RESNA (Rehabilitative Engineering and Accessible Tech Society of North America)**
- **Marked the 25th Anniversary of the ADA**
- **Challenged developers to create solutions using everyday technologies (i.e, smartphones, tablets, wireless and gaming)**
- **Winners announced at Federal Hall, Lower Manhattan on Monday, July 27th**

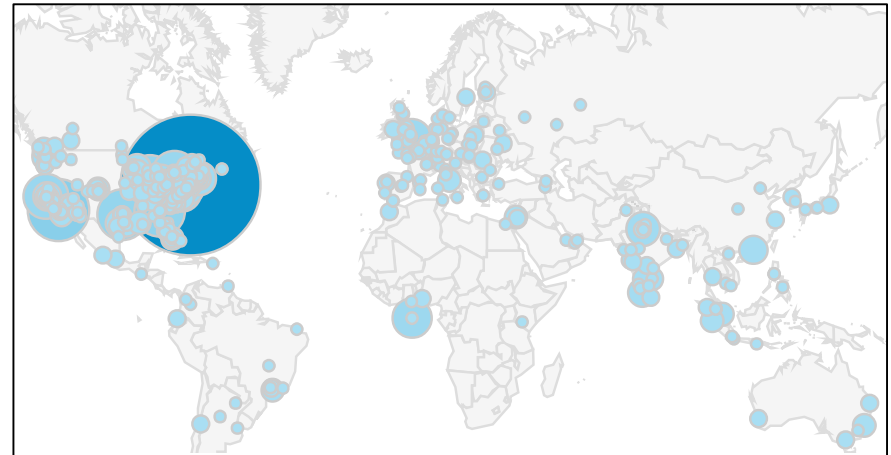




Snapshot

- 263 registrants hailing from 24 countries
- 35 developer teams met exemplars in virtual collaboration sessions
- 30+ people with disabilities volunteered served as exemplars
- 500 developers turned out at information and team formation sessions
- 63 submissions
- AT&T Disability Employee Resource Group hosted webinar attracting hundred of employees nationwide
- #ConnectAbility hashtag earned global support
- 75 original quality stories

Website traffic



- Top referral sources: Twitter, WNYC public radio, Facebook, NYU, Wired and LinkedIn
- Top referring cities: NYC, LA, Dallas, Atlanta, Chicago, Toronto, San Francisco, London and DC



Video of Paul Kotler



CNET » Mobile » AT&T awards \$100K for tech to help people with disabilities

AT&T awards \$100K for tech to help people with disabilities

Twenty-five years after President Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act, AT&T called on developers to use existing technology to create solutions for people with disabilities.

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, AT&T teamed up with New York University's Ability Lab to challenge app developers to use their network and technology to make life easier for people with disabilities.

Together they launched the **Connect Ability Challenge**, designed to spur innovation for people with physical, social, emotional and cognitive disabilities. Winners of the contest, which saw a total of 63 submissions, were announced Monday.

In total, AT&T awarded \$100,000 in cash. That included a \$25,000 grand prize for Kinesic Mouse, software that uses Intel's Real Sense Web camera to detect facial expressions and



Jason DaSilva, a documentary filmmaker who has multiple sclerosis, has been working with developers on Kinesic Mouse, software that allows him to control his PC hands-free by using a 3D camera that detects facial expressions.

CNET/Marguerite Reardon



DAILY NEWS

Hamill: Visionaries working to change disabled lives serve as reminder of Dad's wooden cross



BY DENIS HAMILL

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Thursday, July 9, 2015, 6:53 AM

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CHRISTIE M. FARRIELLA/FOR NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Jason DaSilva, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, is among the judges of the AT&T/NYU Connect Ability Challenge.

RELATED STORIES

[AT&T, NYU launch challenge to develop tech for disabled](#)

[Pete Frates still fighting: 'No tears ... ALS — bring it on'](#)

[Disabled British journalist walks with](#)

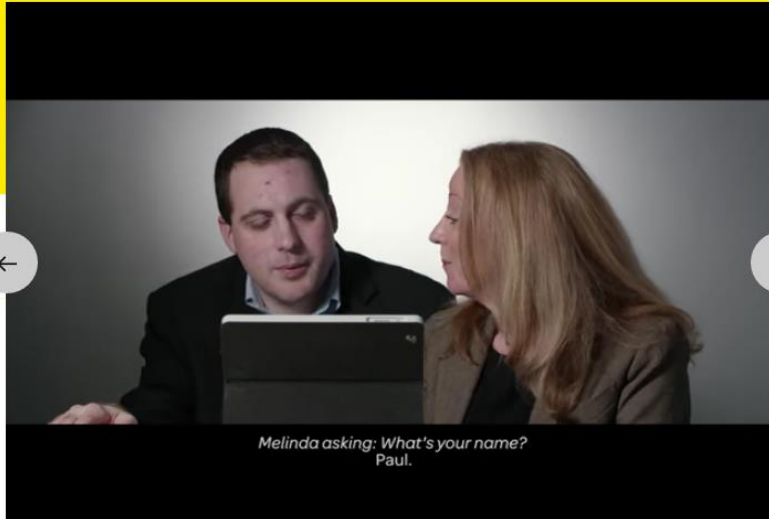
A quarter-century after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, modern technology is bringing startling new improvements to the future of the handicapped.

Maybe because I was raised the son of an amputee, I was intrigued by the AT&T/NYU Connect Ability Challenge, a \$100,000 contest to get technology developers to come up with ways for the disabled to live easier and more fulfilling lives.



AT&T's Challenge To Developers: Inventive Apps For The Disabled

AT&T is offering \$100,000 to help develop technology specifically aimed at aiding those with disabilities.



04 / 04



REBECCA GREENFIELD | 04.06.15 | 6:06 AM

"When I go into a building—especially a new building—it's one of the most stressful experiences of my life," said Gus Chalkias. "I have no idea the layout, I have no idea where I'm supposed to go."

Chalkias is blind. Google Maps can get him to his desired location, but once inside, he's lost. There are times, he says, when he doesn't know where he is at the end of the day.

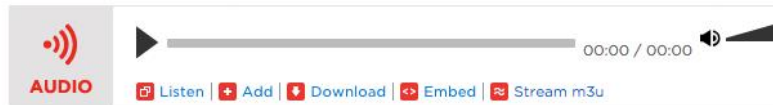
As of now, all the apps, devices, and wearables out there don't meet Chalkias's needs. That's why he has volunteered to work as one of four exemplars for AT&T's latest app challenge, which is offering up \$100,000 for technology



The Brian Lehrer Show

Hacking Accessibility


Thursday, April 09, 2015



Xian Horn uses ski poles to move around the city. (The Connectivity Challenge)

WNYC reporter [Ilya Marritz](#), [Xian Horn](#), blogger, writer and activist with cerebral palsy, and [Konstandinos Chalkias](#), legally blind assistive technology instructor at Baruch College's [Computer Center For Visually Impaired People](#) talk about [the Connect Ability Challenge](#) that seeks to spur development of software and wearable technology to solve problems encountered by those with disabilities and about some low-tech hacks that make a difference in the lives.



Connect Ability Challenge 

ADA Celebration &
Winners Announcement

July 27, 2015





Connect Ability

#ConnectAbility

<http://connectability.devpost.com/>