

Point-and-Chat™: *New from Saltillo and Point-and-Read*

Instant Messaging for AAC Users

"If you can say it, ... you can send it."

This slide presentation is adapted from a presentation given at Closing the Gap 2008 by Ben Slotznick and Dave Hershberger, BSEE (President of Saltillo Corporation). NCTI is currently funding a usability study being conducted with Jeff Higginbotham, PhD.

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What is Point-and-Chat™?

Point-and-Chat™ is Instant Message software with a built-in screen-reader, designed specifically for users of communications devices who have difficulty reading.

- Turns output from an AAC-type interface into an IM message that is easy to send
- Reads incoming IM messages out loud
- Makes starting Instant Message conversations easy with picture based buddy lists and conversation tabs

The Internet – a new challenge

AAC users who cannot use IM (or email) will be increasingly isolated.

- Most young people use IM
- IM (and email) are replacing telephone and face-to-face communications for many people
- IM (along with email) forms the back-bone of social networks and other online communities

Who is using IM?

- 73% of all American adults use the Internet and 88% of Americans aged 12-29 use it
- 62% of online young adults (18-27) use IM
- 50% of online young adults use IM as much as or more than E-mail

Statistics from the Pew Internet & American Life project:

<http://www.pewinternet.org>

The Advantages of IM Communication for AAC Users

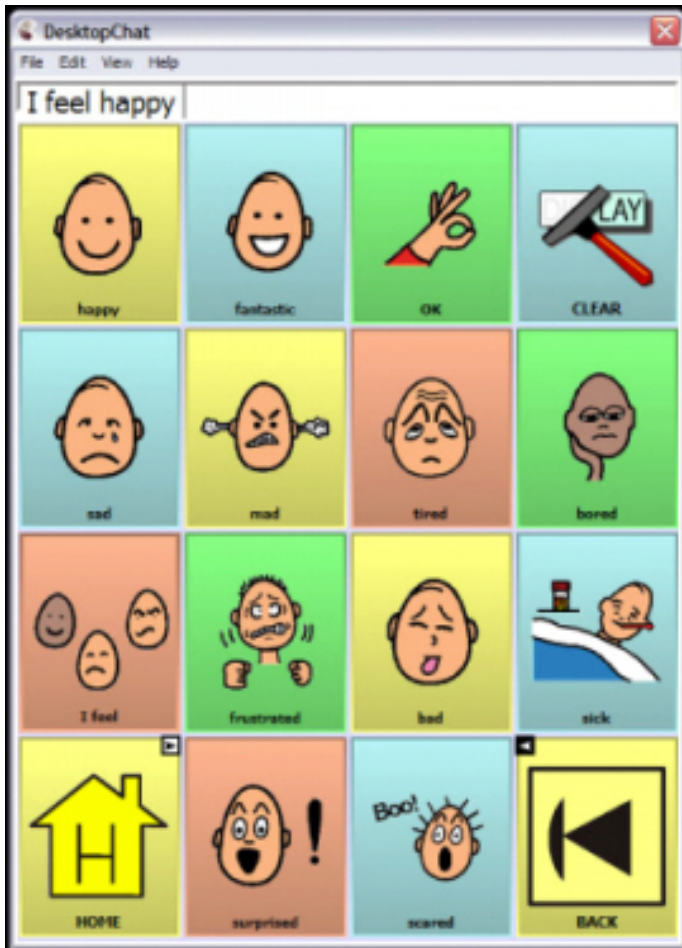
IM helps AAC users converse as equals

- IM text messages look the same from all senders
- IM encourages time saving shortcuts
- The rhythm of IM conversation encourages non-instantaneous response
- Certain technological barriers are eliminated in text messaging

Point-and-Chat™ is easy to learn

- Create text messages using Saltillo's popular Desktop Chat® for AAC users
- Send these messages as Instant Messages using just a few picture-based buttons
- People who have difficulty reading, can have the computer read messages aloud using simple Point-and-Read® technologies

Desktop Chat[®]



- Click on (or activate) picture buttons to create text messages that the computer will speak out loud
- The buttons can be configured to individual needs

Using Point-and-Chat™ to send an instant message

- Create a message using Desktop Chat®
- The message goes directly to the Point-and-Chat™ text editing box



Using Point-and-Chat™ to send an instant message

- If you are happy with the message, you can send it by clicking the SEND button.
- If you don't like the message, you can erase it with the ERASE button, and create a new one



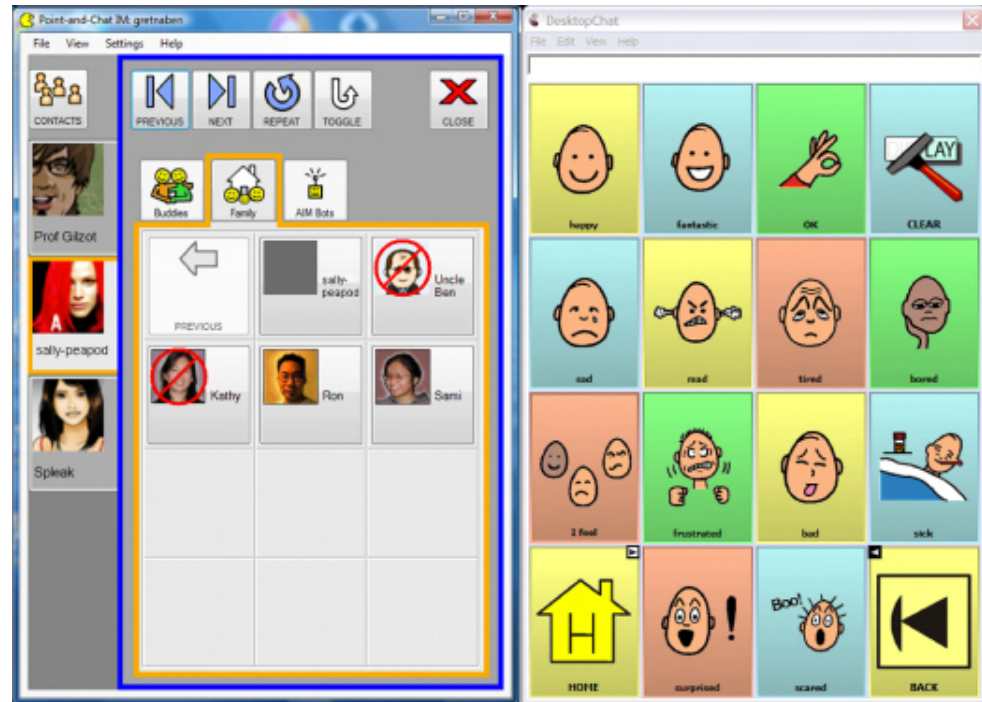
Using Point-and-Chat™ to receive an instant message

- An incoming message will automatically appear in the Point-and-Chat™ message box.
- You can choose to have the message read automatically when it arrives



Using Point-and-Chat™ to start an IM conversation – the Buddy List.

- To start a new IM conversation, click the CONTACTS button
- The screen will show pictures of your friends
- Click on one of the CONTACTS' pictures
- This will open up a new conversation tab



For more information on Point-and-Chat™

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If you can say it, ... you can send it, with Point-and-Chat™