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SPEAKERS

Lis Malone, Rob Mineault, Steve Barclay, Carrie Morales, Ryan Fleury

 Rob Mineault 00:14

Hey and welcome to another episode of AT Banter,

 Ryan Fleury 00:19

Banter, banter.

 Rob Mineault 00:22

Hey, this is of course the podcast where we talk with advocates and members of the disability community to educate and inspire better conversation about disability. Hey, my name is Rob Mineault and joining me today, she gets top billing because off mic she was taking a beating, Ms Lis Malone.

 Lis Malone 00:45

I was like the freaking AT Banter speed bump.

 Rob Mineault 00:49

Yeah, you kind of were for Ryan.

 Lis Malone 00:51

Tonight I'm road kill.

R

Ryan Fleury 00:55

Well, I wouldn't go that far.

R

Rob Mineault 00:57

Yeah, just wounding. Road wounded. Uh, hey, look who else it is. It's it's the bully himself. Mr. Ryan Fleury,

R

Ryan Fleury 01:07

I am not a bully.

L

Lis Malone 01:10

Oh, you're the abuser in chief.

R

Ryan Fleury 01:16

Wow, wow,

R

Rob Mineault 01:18

Wow. Okay, things are getting ugly.

R

Ryan Fleury 01:20

I get to edit this show before Rob sees it.

R

Rob Mineault 01:26

I wish that was the case. No. Hey, how are you guys?

L

Lis Malone 01:31

Okay, yeah.

R

Ryan Fleury 01:33

— Ducky.

 R Rob Mineault 01:34

How's the summer? Summer's almost over.

 R Ryan Fleury 01:38

Isn't that sad?

 L Lis Malone 01:40

Summer's over? What are you talking about?

 R Ryan Fleury 01:44

Yeah, we're almost in August. Once, hell, once October comes, Halloween hits, it snows, it rains. Here, winters, here, Christmas around the corner. Then just life's over.

 L Lis Malone 01:53

I don't know, another solid month and a half does not seem like almost to me, but I guess that's so damn hot here.

 R Rob Mineault 02:00

Well, that and plus, when you have to worry about like things like hurricanes, or you don't even know what kind of weather system is around the corner down there, it's probably kind of stressful. You probably can't wait for this summer to be over.

 L Lis Malone 02:11

Start stocking up now people.

 R Ryan Fleury 02:14

Oh, we don't even know she's in hurricane alley. She She just says that she could be in, I don't know, Idaho,

 L Lis Malone 02:26

Okay, there slugger.

R Rob Mineault 02:31

I mean, all right, what did you do to Ryan trade some emails or something that I wasn't aware of?

L Lis Malone 02:38

Can we, like, feed him some Oreos or pop tarts or something because he's in a mood.

R Ryan Fleury 02:44

Are you a potato farmer?

L Lis Malone 02:45

Does he need like, sugar or something?

R Ryan Fleury 02:48

I've got a can of iced tea right here in front of me. I'm getting my sugar.

R Rob Mineault 02:54

Yeah, well, I don't know anyways, yeah, no news? Somebody got any news? Anything to rant about before we start the show?

L Lis Malone 03:06

Well, let's just round it up with, I guess Hulk Hogan passing,

R Rob Mineault 03:12

Yeah, that's true. Actually, it's a good point.

R Ryan Fleury 03:14

And Malcolm Jamal Warner, and Ozzy. Do you think they happen in threes?

 Rob Mineault 03:24

Yeah, yeah. I know. Hulk Hogan, that was a shock. I didn't kind of miss that because, you know, I always feel bad for celebrities that die on the weekends, because they kind of get, they kind of get lost in the mix.

 Lis Malone 03:35

They lose the news cycle.

 Rob Mineault 03:37

They don't, they do, no, like, I'm not even kidding, like it's just, it's, yeah, it's, it's tough when you die on a Saturday, because no one's paying attention.

 Ryan Fleury 03:47

Chuck Mangione died as well.

 Rob Mineault 03:49

Wait, I didn't even hear that one.

 Ryan Fleury 03:51

Yeah. He passed away as well.

 Rob Mineault 03:54

He was a trumpet player in, like, I don't know, the 70s and 80s. was a band geek. I was, I was a, I was a Chuck Mangione guy. He was my hero. Well, not really, but...

 Ryan Fleury 04:10

Yeah, it's been a sad month.

 Rob Mineault 04:13

Yeah, a lot of, a lot of old people dying.

L

Lis Malone 04:16

Yeah. Well, so wait, wait, so what's the takeaway? Die on a Tuesday?

R

Rob Mineault 04:21

Yeah, exactly. Tuesday is probably the best.

L

Lis Malone 04:23

Yeah, no, Tuesday is a good day because a lot of Mondays are holidays, so you want to die on a Tuesday.

R

Rob Mineault 04:28

Yes, that's true. And it's not like, near the end of the week when people are, like, just fed up with everything and they're not paying attention.

L

Lis Malone 04:35

Yeah, no, so they're gonna go, great water cooler talk. There you go.

R

Rob Mineault 04:40

There you go, yeah. So yeah. Just a little tip from AT Banter to all the celebrities out there, aim for the Tuesday and the big news. Ozzy got it right. So much, yeah, yeah. I mean Hulk Hogan leaving behind an amazing legacy of what, ripping a shirt off.

R

Ryan Fleury 05:11

T shirts everywhere.

R

Rob Mineault 05:14

Yeah. So I wonder how old of a guy was. He didn't seem that old.

R

Ryan Fleury 05:18

71 I think he was.

L

Lis Malone 05:21

Oh, wow, geez, man.

R

Ryan Fleury 05:24

Yeah, we're losing a generation of people that we grew up with in the 70s and 80s.

R

Rob Mineault 05:28

Yeah I guess, oh, I guess they're all hitting 70s. That is danger area.

L

Lis Malone 05:37

Yeah, we're right behind them. We're next in line.

R

Ryan Fleury 05:43

Thanks. Lis.

R

Rob Mineault 05:48

Okay, well, good night everybody.

R

Ryan Fleury 05:52

How to follow that up? Geez, that should be pretty easy.

R

Rob Mineault 05:55

Yeah, really, I'm feeling faint, I might have a stroke at any moment here.

L

Lis Malone 06:02

Thank goodness it's Tuesday.

R

Rob Mineault 06:06

Yeah, there you go.

R

Ryan Fleury 06:07

We should cancel the show.

R

Rob Mineault 06:11

Yeah, there you go.

L

Lis Malone 06:12

Maybe, well, listen, it's because we're adulting too much.

R

Rob Mineault 06:20

Live life. Carpe Diem, everybody that's, that's the lesson to take away. Momento Mori, Carpe Diem, all of the, all of those Latin phrases. What are you doing listening to this podcast. Go out, live life. Enjoy it, because Hulk Hogan can't anymore.

L

Lis Malone 06:41

There you go. So rest in peace. RIP.

R

Rob Mineault 06:46

Okay, anyways, show.

R

Rob Mineault 06:51

Hey, Ryan?

R

Rob Mineault 06:52

Yeah, Rob?

R

Rob Mineault 06:54

What the heck are we doing today?

R

Ryan Fleury 06:56

Today we have joining us again from Carrie On Accessibility, Carrie Morales, Carrie, welcome back to The Gong Show.

 Carrie Morales 07:07

Hello. Hello everybody. What have I gotten myself into?

 Rob Mineault 07:11

I know I'm sorry. I don't know what's wrong with us today.

 Ryan Fleury 07:16

It's so good to have you back with us.

 Carrie Morales 07:18

Yeah, glad to be back. I didn't remember I was here before, but I do now.

 Rob Mineault 07:24

Now it's all coming back to you, right?

 Ryan Fleury 07:27

I'm having nightmares about it. She says,

 Rob Mineault 07:31

Not THAT show again.

 Ryan Fleury 07:33

That's what brought it back. It's like, Oh no, it's the cowbell show.

 Rob Mineault 07:38

Not the cowbell people, oh no, God damn it. Well, listen, we're really thrilled that you clicked on, accept, to the invitation before really understanding what you had gotten yourself into. No, it's great to have you back. We are excited. For those people in our audience that maybe

missed your previous appearance, let's start with just giving us a brief overview of yourself and and what you do over there as a content creator on Carrie On Accessibility.

 Carrie Morales 08:11

Absolutely. So I am a YouTuber. I create content on accessibility, assistive technology, all different types of apps and just anything to do with blindness and visual impairment, really, I don't know how in depth you want me to go.

 Rob Mineault 08:32

No, no, that's all good, yes and quick, no, no, for sure. And what? Yeah, that was really quick. Um, let me see. Well, where do we where do we want to start, I guess, um, what are some things that you have found that you've been talking a lot about, say, over the past year that have has really sort of popped out to you in terms of the assistive technology field?

 Carrie Morales 09:02

I think it's been over a year, and recently, it's all been all about a i, and that doesn't stand for Apple intelligence. That's artificial intelligence. There's BMI, AI access AI. There's Envision AI, which is different from ally. And then there's Gemini, Chat-GPT, Claude, Perplexity. There's wearables that are coming out. There's the Ray Ban meta smart glasses. There's the Echovision smart glasses by Agiga that is soon to come out. There are other companies that are working on AI wearables. It's it's just so much AI.

 Rob Mineault 09:53

So do you find that as an assistive technology channel and content creator, are you almost feeling flooded by the amount of of product and and new engines that are coming out?

 Carrie Morales 10:09

In a sense, yes. I was actually speaking to a friend just earlier because we were talking about what, which AI does better with what thing and which one we'd prefer to use for what task. And I'm like, well, you know, be my AI has the Siri shortcuts. That's great access AI. You can give it a whole bunch of pictures at once, and you can have it verified. And like, well, I wouldn't put ally in the mix, just my opinion, there's also Gemini live video, which is amazing. I actually that's my go to. It's really great for you can use it on both Android and iOS, you just go to Live Mode, you turn on your video. You can have it read to you. You can have describe things. I mean, I just walked into a restaurant, took out my phone and pointed it at the menu and actually flipped through some of it. I'm like, okay, what's on this page? And you can have it read just the headings, like get a sense of the different categories, and then you can have it read each item, just like the different types of items, and summarize it. And then you can ask it, well, what's on X item and everything? And it does really well. Then again, there are times where it hallucinates and gets it wrong. But I actually find that searching or asking it information usually

is less accurate than having it look at something and interpret it and to read things. I find that it actually does a lot better with that. So that's really interesting. That's my go to. I'm really excited about the EchoVision. I do have a pair or two pairs of the Meta Ray-Bans. I use them frequently when I go out. There are things that, oh, I don't know if we want to, how much you want to get into it. They're great because it's hands free, but they have a lot of limitations.

 Rob Mineault 10:10

Sure, yeah, actually, let, let's actually do a little bit of a deep dive, because we've been hoping to kind of talk to somebody who is really like using them a lot. So just for the just for our audience, can you kind of give us a little bit of a brief overview of of what they are first of all, and then we can sort of dive into what they can do.

 Carrie Morales 12:13

Sure, absolutely. So the Meta glasses, well, they're really the Ray-Ban Meta smart glasses, and they connect to your phone. They need internet, which you have to set up the experiences all on your phone, iOS or Android. You do have to have a meta account, which I do find frustrating, to have to tie it to that everything is relatively accessible, especially now, there have been a lot of accessibility improvements. There have been changes to the app as well that you know, changes can be hard, but you can use the meta glasses to connect your phone audio so you can listen as if they were Bluetooth speakers. They're open ear, and it has a camera. It has it sit on the left side. I believe when you're wearing them, I can't actually remember maybe they're on the right. I think they're on the left, though, and has a button that you can use to a touch pad on the side, increase, decrease volume, Play, Pause media. You can use voice control to and or say "hey Meta" and ask it questions, both general questions, sending messages, calling people, or asking it to describe something. It used to be that you have to say, "hey, Meta, look and describe, Hey Meta, look and tell me. And you'd have to start out with look. Now it tries to intelligently figure out if you want to take a picture. If it's unsure, it will ask you, do you want to take a picture? And then you can say yes or no, but you can have it read. You can have it describe what's in front of you. You can have it does not it still doesn't do too well with describing people. There's a new detailed description option, which supposed to provide more description, particularly for people who are blind or visually impaired. You can also just have it - there's a button - you can have it take pictures or videos that have nothing to do with the AI, and they will be added to your your camera roll on the app, and you can download them if you want. Yeah, it's a pretty powerful tool. One standout feature that a lot of mind and low vision users may really like is the ability to call Be My Eyes using the Meta glasses. I use it. You can use it to call a volunteer. I've only used it a few times, because honestly, for me personally, I prefer to interface with an AI than have to have to talk to a human, if I can help it. I mean, I'd rather speak to a human as a friend, right, but not necessarily a stranger to help me out with something.

 Ryan Fleury 16:22

Do you find Carrie with the Meta glasses that you can ask it follow up questions without doing the keyword or Hey word again, like with chatgpt or Gemini? Can you can interrupt it and ask it something else?

C

Carrie Morales 16:33

So there's two modes. If you say hey meta and you ask a question, there's a toggle where it will make a sound after it finishes responding to your first prompt and it will wait for you to answer and ask a follow up question. Now I turned that toggle off because I got really frustrated at it, not understanding that I'm not speaking to it anymore. Because there's a lot of people in my environment, and then, like my son and just my family that will be speaking to me. And, you know, the AI is constantly, "I'm sorry I didn't understand", like, No, I'm not speaking to you. So I did turn that off. You can also have it set to touching and holding the touchpad. And you can, that's another way to activate the AI, and you can ask a follow up question that way. However there seems to be some type of time limit if you don't ask right away, or if it doesn't find it relevant to your previous question, it treats it like a completely new question, so it doesn't always get the context. Okay? So it's a hit or miss. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. Oh, one more thing is that there's a live AI mode where you can treat it like the Chat-GPT and Gemini live sessions, and that one you can interrupt. I don't like using the live AI actually, first, it drains the battery like no tomorrow. And second, if you're using it for an accessibility need, if you want it to look at things, a lot of other AI video AI chat interfaces like Gemini, it will actually take a short video clip while you're asking the question, whereas the on the Meta Ray-Bans, it will only take one snapshot, and so it doesn't get as much context.

R

Ryan Fleury 19:07

And I guess, you know, with the release of the Oakley Meta glasses, they've sort of addressed some of that battery issue. I believe it has up to eight hours of battery life now.

C

Carrie Morales 19:19

I so there's also the fact that the Oakley is landscape, which is great, would be helpful, especially when moving around with them, on navigating, having descriptions like that, however. Oh, and the resolution. The resolution is also improved, right? However, I wanted to pre order it, I wanted to order it, and then I saw it, and I will just look so ridiculous in those glasses, because they are how they're white frames, they're round. They're very round. Reminds me of bug eyes. And then they're like orange or gold lenses. And I'm just like, I don't think I can. It's all about fashion.

R

Ryan Fleury 20:22

Gotta look good.

C

Carrie Morales 20:25

It's a very bold statement, and I don't think I can pull it off. I don't think a lot of people are super thrilled about it. There is a black version, but I haven't been able to find anywhere that it's available.

R

Ryan Fleury 20:44

Well, and that could all change this Fall too, because I believe Meta is having an event, probably September, October timeframe anyway, too, right? So things could change by then.

C

Carrie Morales 20:54

Yes. So I'm kind of hoping that they just have a follow up for the Metas or the Ray Bans, because that seems to me a better, a more universal fashion that most people are accustomed to, that look decent in, you know, that kind of thing. So yeah.

L

Lis Malone 21:13

And not everybody wants to walk around with look at me, I'm wearing, you know, of technology on my face. People just want to have them and they it's built in, not screaming for attention. Like, yeah, hey, hey, ladies, you want to ask me about my Meta?

C

Carrie Morales 21:33

I don't know if they look super techy. They just look like, hey, look at me period. And I'm just like, don't look at me. Please don't look at me.

R

Rob Mineault 21:47

Well, you know, it's such an interesting product because I don't, I can't remember any piece of mainstream technology that has felt so much like an assistive technology tool like, and completely by accident. It's not like Meta went out of their way, like, let's create your really great piece of assistive technology that the the blind and low vision community can really use. They just created these things, and it is all sort of just, you know, happy happenstance, really, that they do work so, so amazingly, you know, from the fact that, you know there is this AI component that that can describe what's around you and read, read text around you, to the fact that their hands free. So, of course, you know when you're when you have a cane, or you have a cane and a dog like that, that hands free experience is is invaluable. So it's, I don't know, it just it really strikes me as funny at how they they've created this really amazing piece of of assistive technology that's priced at a point that that is is affordable when you compare it against all other assistive technology, and we just have this really great product.

C

Carrie Morales 23:09

I think that it was a happy accident. However, there are things that are extremely frustrating with the Metas. Yes, it is super helpful. I want to establish that I know there's a lot of people who love their Meta glasses. I mean, I sure do. I wear them quite frequently. I find that I wear them most when I'm out of the house, which isn't super often, but when I when I do go out, I'm like, oh, where's my Meta glasses? Are they charged? I gotta take them with me, because I

have a child. I have like, things that I'm holding. I'm just like, you know, you have your cane, and, like you said, there's so many things that we take with us, and we have to be aware of. It's just great to have, like this tool just that's hands free. But at the same time, I'm walking around going, "Hey, Meta, what's that? Hey, Meta, what's that? Hey, Meta, what's that? Hey Meta", over and over and over and over again, and I'm just like, oh my goodness, it's like a little fatiguing, because maybe I'm also really curious about everything, and I want to read everything. I want to know as much as I can when I am shopping, and I'm just like, okay, read that thing, read that thing, read that it's like, so repetitive. And I'm just like, why? I wish there was a way that I could just, like, point to something and like, click a button, or even just like, point to something and have it read, you know, that would be super helpful. One thing that I've done with with Gemini is like. Yeah, okay. Next like, I will give it a prompt right, read X, Y or Z, and I'm like, Okay, next, next, next, like, and I'll try to get away with as few words as I possibly can. But again, it's, it's doesn't have as of now, like a hands free way of accessing it. So there's always a pro and a con with how things are right now, right? That's one reason why I'm really excited about, you know, the Echovisions, and hopefully, I cross my fingers and hope that it lives up to its promise.

R

Rob Mineault 25:42

So could you, could, could you describe the Echovision and kind of explain to the audience a little bit about about what it is and sort of what, or what I guess, will do when it's once it's released.

C

Carrie Morales 25:55

So the Echovision are by a company called Agiga I do have two separate interviews with them on my channel if you want to go check that out. They have, well, they had a webinar earlier today, actually. That'll probably be they did record that. It'll probably be up on their website sometime. But it is similar to the Meta Ray-Bans, except that it's specifically created with the blind and low vision community in mind. So it has a way to charge the glasses at the same time as use. It also has a charging case, just like the Meta Ray Bans, so you kind of have the best of both worlds. You have that little cradle that case, and if you're using the the certain features, then you can still, it won't die on you. As long as you have some type of battery. It has a AI right that you can just push one button and it will describe things for you. Yes, you can also ask through voice prompts, but the button will also is an alternative, instead of having to speak to it, you know, you can just press it once and it will describe something you can ask follow up questions. It has an live mode where you can move around, and it will update and tell you what's new in in like what you're looking at, you can even ask it in the live AI session - the CEO demoed it earlier today. Is like, Are there any chairs? And, you know, this is just a quick version of, I don't remember what the AI said, but like, No, this is, there's no doesn't look like there's any chairs here. And she turned her head, and it still looks like there's no chairs in this direction. And she turned her head, oh, there's a sofa. I would encourage people to, like, watch the demo, because it definitely said a lot more than that. I'm just shortening it. And so that was, to me, really, really impressive. It even has a book mode that uses OCR. And this one, I'm like, you know, there was one person that said, oh, you know, it's probably not something you'd sit down and read Wheel of Time with. And I'm like, That's what I want to do. I want to try to read like, you know, long book with it, and just sit there and have it read to me, and it will tell you, once it's done with a page, like, go ahead and if you want to scan the next page or

whatever it is. And so it can also connect to your phone and have phone audio, so you still have that functionality. You can call Be My Eyes and AIRA with it. So I believe those are the I believe those are the features that it will ship with. And, you know, it's their plan to continue developing. It's also at a great price point. It was on sale for pre orders. It started pre orders last year, but right now, I think it's 599 which is more expensive than the Meta Ray-Bans, but it's nowhere, even close to a lot of other assistive technology pricing out there.

 Rob Mineault 29:39

Have they talked about like, when they're when the release is going to be?

 Carrie Morales 29:43

So I believe they're starting to ship for pre orders, for those who first pre orders in early in September.

 Rob Mineault 29:52

I think this is going to be a really interesting field, because I really feel there's a lot of companies out there that are working on wearables. I think that for the first time, for many years, since we first saw the first iteration of like, the Google Glass that failed spectacularly, this is like the first time that we're actually seeing a lot of companies that are really engaging with this idea of the technology.

 Carrie Morales 30:27

Absolutely, and it's honestly really exciting. It's an exciting time. I mean, if we're going to be blind or low vision, at least we can be blind or low vision at this time.

 Ryan Fleury 30:39

Yeah. And I definitely think with wearables too there's been some rumors and rumblings about, you know, Apple releasing a Vision Pro Light or Vision Pro Air. But we all kind of know who are in the blindness community, what Apple intelligence is like. And then, of course, Google announced, I think, what was it, Google XR next year? So that could be game changing. There's also talk that OpenAI is releasing a hardware device. Don't know what that is yet. So this landscape is changing pretty rapidly, and I I guess there's still a place for an at company to design, develop and sell a dedicated device, but we run into the same thing we ran into with other products like Celeste and and others that were designed for the blindness market. At some point, run out of money or stop development, and then, then what do you do? Right? So it's kind of planned obsolescence.

 Carrie Morales 31:40

I can certainly see that. I think I can see both sides. There's really exciting things going on in the mainstream industry. I don't know how I feel really about the Apple Vision Air. I did not enjoy Apple Vision Pro in the slightest. I know they have a new feature where you can use the magnifier with the update. Is it coming? Or maybe it's already here? I'm not going to repurchase it to just to try that out. It feels like a for me, okay, I know there are people who are accustomed to using VR headsets. It feels to me like wearing a cinder block on my head so it's not really comfortable, and I wouldn't want to go around wearing it, and they don't expect you to go around wearing it. So what is it really for? Like, that's why I like these glasses, because they're lightweight. You can wear them for a long time. You can walk around with them and they look at least have the semblance of normality. And I think that is what will help more mass adaptation to these like more people will adapt to something that looks quote, normal before they'll get on board with this huge VR headset or a smaller VR headset.

R

Rob Mineault 33:22

Yeah. I mean, I think that it clearly has, has failed in both, both in both as a piece of AT and as a mainstream device. I think VR is kind of in the same spot that say the Google Glass was like 10 years ago, or whatever it was seven or eight years ago. It's just not ready for it. I think the technology isn't there to make a form factor that people are actually going to embrace. I think it's just it's still too soon. And I think that even as as mainstream, you know, really, really super geeky people in the mainstream that that love the idea of a VR headset. I don't see, I don't hear anybody really raving about their VR headset that they use a lot, a lot of people who bought them their novelty thing, they use them occasionally and stuff, but they're certainly not using them in the day to day. and even in terms of development and developing apps and developing games and stuff for that sphere, none of it has really taken off.

C

Carrie Morales 34:32

I would agree with that. It has had a slow increase, particularly with gaming, maybe the Meta Quests and all of those, by the way, apparently now has a screen reader of sorts, which is what I've heard, sounds cool. Maybe one day I'll get it. Maybe not. I. I it's just it's just not really useful for your everyday life. It's not practical.

R

Rob Mineault 36:33

Right, right. And I think that you what's happened is the the idea of these Meta glasses, I think that is has swooped in and sort of taken over that spot. Because, you know, with the Meta glasses, you can wear them out, you can you look like you're wearing a pair of sunglasses. I mean, talk about a form factor. You really you have to look really closely, and you have to know what you're looking for, I think, to even recognize that somebody is wearing a pair.

R

Ryan Fleury 37:01

That's good. I wanted to ask you, Rob, because you're the sighted one in the group. So yeah, the blindness community has adopted these but has the mainstream, because if the mainstream hasn't, they're the ones with the bigger spending power than our little blindness

community will continue on if it's only the blindness community that is adopting this technology.

R

Rob Mineault 37:22

No, it's definitely a mainstream product that that's doing fairly well. I mean, it's done well enough to warrant them developing a second generation, and for all of these other companies to sort of jump on board. So people are definitely wearing them and, you know, definitely embracing that technology.

C

Carrie Morales 37:43

What's interesting is that it kind of goes hand in hand, in a way with social media, because a lot of social media users are using these to get B roll, to take pictures, all sorts of things. But also, when I go out, a lot of people still don't know or recognize that they are smart or that they have a camera, until you know the light goes off and it's like, those, yeah, the LED indicator light. It's like, you take a picture, a photo. It's like, Oh, are those? Are those smart glasses? And I'm like, once I was speaking to Meta, and I was in a Bath and Body Works. And I'm like, Hey, Meta, read this. And then this woman, she was the sweetest thing. She came up to me, like, Sure, I'll read it for you. I'm like, oh my goodness.

R

Rob Mineault 38:44

Turns out her name was Meta.

C

Carrie Morales 38:49

So sorry. I was just speaking to my glasses, which feels really funny, but ...

R

Ryan Fleury 38:54

it's going to become more natural every day.

R

Rob Mineault 39:00

Yeah. I do get that sense. I think that they, you know, this is going to be sort of the next big thing, the big piece of technology, that's, that's, that's going to be adapted. I don't know that everybody's necessarily, is going to be walking around with a pair of these on necessarily, but I think that we're, you're going to see it'd be a lot more common, for sure. And you think of like things like gaming GoPros have been around for quite a while, right? These cameras that you strapped to your head or whatever and get, like, whatever you go mountain biking, or people like, do all kinds of things with it, these are just kind of like the next, the next iteration of that type of technology. I think that there's certainly a segment that will use it like that. The

thing is, is that this has so many, many, so much more functionality above and beyond that for even a mainstream audience that I, yeah, I think that they're, they're they're really poised to really start to make some traction.

 R Ryan Fleury 40:04

Before we move on. Carrie, I have one more question regarding the Meta glasses. So if you're in a group of other people wearing meta glasses, and you say, "hey, Meta", do you trigger their glasses?

 C Carrie Morales 40:14

You should not. Because of the way that the microphones are directed. And the funny thing is, my first got it, my son was trying to trigger it while I was wearing it, and he'd go, "Hey, Meta, hey Meta", and dance around in front of me. It did not trigger. And I'm like, okay, that's actually really great. Now when he did, like, get up really close to me, then, then it did trigger. But I think you have another problem if somebody is that close to you, yes, and it's not family, unexpected.

 R Rob Mineault 40:56

So have, have you been sort of, like, keeping, keeping an eye on what the second generation of the Meta glasses are going to be like? Have you heard of any any features that that will they will be sort of plugging in? Or do you have any theories?

 C Carrie Morales 41:11

I haven't. What I do hope for is a better camera, because the Meta glasses does struggle with smaller text. It really does. You know, for for regular print, it's fine. I want a better camera. And the Oakleys have, what is it, a 3k or something camera, which is great. I wish that it was landscape. Might make it harder for text, maybe, but honestly, most of the time I find myself using it more in in landscape for descriptions or reading things or finding things around me, as opposed to just sitting there and reading documents. I would hope that the speakers can go louder as well. The battery life is a must. If they don't address the battery life issue, that's that's going to kill them.

 R Rob Mineault 42:19

What do you find on general usage? What do you find the battery life like?

 C Carrie Morales 42:25

It depends on what I use it for. So if I'm out and about, I will use it with my phone, and I'll treat it like Bluetooth headphones. So I'll jabber away on it, you know? I'll use it to to listen to music

and do all sorts of things. Use it to even to speak to Gemini, all, all these different things. And so I find that the more you use it for that, it drains the battery faster. And I also use it, of course, to look in the look and tell feature look and read that look and read that. And the more you use it, I would say, like, if I'm especially active and like, out of the house three hours, and that's using it heavily. That's not with Live AI. Live AI, I would say, under an hour, which is why I don't tend to use it. It does charge pretty quickly in the charging case, but like they also act as my sunglasses, so I don't want to take them off if I'm outside.

R

Ryan Fleury 43:34

So make sure you carry a battery pack with you.

C

Carrie Morales 43:38

Yes, but there's no way to charge it, unless it's in the cradle, because the where it charges is literally on the nose, like the bridge of the nose.

R

Ryan Fleury 44:05

So once your Metas are charged and you've drained the battery, if you had the case with you, you could just drop them back into the case, even if, yeah, I guess the case isn't portable, though, right? You'd have to connect a battery pack in the case?

L

Lis Malone 44:21

It looks portable.

C

Carrie Morales 44:25

Yep, it looks just like a sunglasses case.

R

Ryan Fleury 44:29

Oh, okay.

L

Lis Malone 44:30

You know, someone was just telling me today that they know somebody who when they're when they're using their Meta glasses that they they hang them around their neck with, like, you know, those eyeglass lanyards so you could, you know, drape, like the librarian chains around your neck. And they, but they put the case around it so that it's there. But they keep it charged in the in the case. I'm like, You got a case around your neck with the glass? I'm like, Well, I mean, I guess that's, that's one way of doing it. But I don't know, I want, I have heard

things about the battery issue, and so maybe that is one of the things that's kind of keeping it at the lower price point too, that when you start to load it up to give up more juice or something, that it's probably going to cost more.

 R Ryan Fleury 45:22

all the Oakleys went up in price.

 C Carrie Morales 45:26

Honestly, not by much.

 R Ryan Fleury 45:28

Yeah, I think in Canada here, I think it was like \$100.

 L Lis Malone 45:34

Yeah, but they're ugly as snot. I'm like, I don't know. I'd rather have the shorter, shorter battery life with the Ray Bans. and, you know, not look like a freak show.

 R Rob Mineault 45:50

But it's very interesting because, you know, I feel like within a year, we're going to probably going to hear two, three other manufacturers jumping on board of this. And there's going to be Oakleys, there's going to be Ray Bans, there's going to be Google's, like, yeah, who even knows? There's going to be all kinds of these things floating around there that. And that's what I kind of mean, it's going to be a little bit of a gold rush, I think for some of these manufacturers to really become competitive in the sphere, which is great news for consumers, and especially for folks that are, that are that you're going to be able to use this as a type of assistive technology. So I think that we're we this could be even better than sort of the smartphone revolution was, as long as they continue to either at least keep the accessibility portion of this like sort of on par with what it's at it is at, but ideally making it even better, like Apple did with with smartphones eventually, right?

 C Carrie Morales 46:58

I think it would have to be. I hope so that's one of the downsides, too, or that it can cut both ways. I think for a mainstream company, if they don't prioritize accessibility, will they actually change it? Yes, well, we might wave our flags yell and scream, hey. What about us? Do we have enough of a say? Will they actually listen versus like an AT company that may have less resources and perhaps doesn't have as many integrations or certain capabilities, but in a way, is more optimized. So it's like this, give and take, this pro and con, and you're just going to

have to, as a user, decide which one is better for you. Or, you know, you could always get both of them and wear them for different things. I don't know. I have an Apple device and an Android device itself. Yeah.

R

Ryan Fleury 48:06

And I think the big thing the AT companies have to fight with is the price point. If they cannot get the price point down to something that most can afford, it's never gonna fly. Well, I won't say never going to fly, because there are people that spent the three, \$4,000 on Envision AI or the Envision glasses, right? So there is a population of people that will purchase that product, that blindness specific product. But then again, how future proof is it? What are the updates going to be like, you know, it's great to support your AT companies. I'm all for that. I work for one, but at the same time, you have a company like Google, Apple, Meta, Agiga, all these companies are coming up with four or \$500 products that will do 90% or sometimes maybe more than what your specialized at will do at a much more approachable cost. They've got to stand up and take notice.

C

Carrie Morales 49:09

Until these large companies come up with an update that completely makes something inaccessible.

R

Ryan Fleury 49:16

They don't do that. Carrie, come on.

C

Carrie Morales 49:19

No, never ever! I think one of the things the problems is I do accessibility testing, and I work have done so for a lot of large companies, and it's like, there's so many people who are saying, this is a problem, this is a problem. This is a problem. And it's like, Well, hello, are we speaking to to the wall? Are you there? Is anybody there? Yeah, it's like crickets.

R

Rob Mineault 49:52

I I'd be curious to know whether or not they would be surprised at sort of the warm reception that the Meta Glasses received by the blindness community. But you know, you would think that they, they'd be smart about it. They'd recognize that, wow, we have this really, we have this opportunity to really engage this demographic that is hungry for affordable pieces of of assistive technology. You think that they would embrace that and be like, yeah, let's make it accessible as possible. Because really, all we need to do is do a little bit of tweaking to what we've already built and to really make it accessible and become a leader in that space. Because Ryan says this all the time, the blindness community has money to spend, and they will spend it with the product that actually takes their accessibility needs seriously.

C

Carrie Morales 50:51

You tell them, Rob, tell me how it goes.

R

Ryan Fleury 50:59

I'll let you know how it goes at the Board meeting.

R

Ryan Fleury 51:00

Well, and I think that's what Carrie had mentioned earlier, right? There's trade offs. There's things with the Meta glasses she's not happy about. It depends on also what region of the world you're in. You know, over in the UK, their regulations, their rules, are way different than North America, and there were times where people had to use VPNs to get access to the AI features. So, you know, there's still a lot of work to be done to make it universally accessible to everyone.

R

Rob Mineault 51:23

That's fair. Well the other big thing, you know, we talked to at manufacturers all the time. And you know, the key component to developing any anything is always talking to the community. And so who knows if Meta is talking to the community necessarily. It could be they're just developing what they're developing for the mainstream. And if it happens to be a great piece of AT, that's great, but that's definitely not their, their priority, right? So that's where I think, you know, AT companies have the advantage over that, is that, you know, they they actually talk to the community, and they're going to make changes to their their product that that resonate with the community.

R

Ryan Fleury 52:06

Well, this is where a geek could really just take the world by storm, or the blindness community,

R

Rob Mineault 52:12

Yeah, for sure, you know. And if it's if the price points only, like, say 100 bucks more, maybe under 50 bucks. You know, a lot of people will probably eat that in exchange to get a really rock solid product that's gonna that's not only gonna work for them right now, but isn't gonna get busted by a by an update.

R

Ryan Fleury 52:35

Why don't we just do quickly talk about what we predict is going to come over the next year,

↳ ~~↳ we have heard there are announcements that are going to be coming from Meta~~

because we have heard there are announcements that are going to be coming. Meta's announcements, Google's announcements next year. We've talked about what we hope for, but what do we actually think we're going to see?

 Rob Mineault 52:55

Can I go first?

 Ryan Fleury 52:56

Absolutely.

 Rob Mineault 52:58

So one thing, and this is a bit of a cheat, because I did hear, I did hear this rumor for the the next generation of Meta glasses, but I did hear that facial recognition is coming. I think that that particular technology comes with some challenges, because there's already been a little bit of pushback for people about about that like that creeps a lot of people out. The fact that, you know, somebody could have, you know, a pair of Meta glasses on, and have that camera live, and it could capture their face, and then they would know who they are, like, who they're there. I think there's some some hoops to jump through in that sense, maybe it would just be, like, you'd have to train your glasses on people? Like, I have no idea how it would actually work, but I know that that's something that they're working on.

 Carrie Morales 53:49

That is something really interesting? I did not hear about that, but for Meta to be doing that is pretty scary. Now, Echo Vision does have something similar. You have to train it, though, and kind of take pictures of from different perspectives of people's faces. And you know, if somebody knows about that, it's like, oh, but it's for people who are blind, and that's more understandable than like meta recognizing, having that facial recognition data from millions is super scary.

 Rob Mineault 54:23

You're right. Like, if that's how it would work. If it would just reference the, your your image against, you know, their, you know, your Facebook profile, and would be able to pull up your identity to anybody who's got those glasses on. Like, that's super creepy. I don't think that's gonna fly. Nobody's nobody's gonna be okay with that. I don't think so. It's probably not what there but then again, it's Meta. So who knows.

 Ryan Fleury 54:50

There'll be pushback for a little while, but people are already being recorded every day. Everywhere they go. They don't even think twice about it anymore.

R

Rob Mineault 55:02

So yeah, but that's going pretty far. That means anybody you could, you walk by somebody on the street and they would, they potentially know who you are, like they'd know your name. And that's, I don't think that's gonna be accepted.

R

Ryan Fleury 55:20

I don't think we're there yet, but you'll give it five years, and it'll just be second nature. You won't even think twice about it, and you'll forget this conversation ever happened.

R

Rob Mineault 55:27

And that'll be scary. I don't want to live in that timeline. That's there's a lot of safety issues around that, like, I don't know if that'll work.

R

Ryan Fleury 55:45

Yeah, if you, if you listen to DoubleTap over in the UK, they're talking about this, you know, possibly, what is it the internet, Internet Protection Act or something. It's been around for, you know, 10 years, and they're starting to implement it now, is my understanding. But people are talking about you, maybe you need to have a license to get on online and prove your age to access adult content, because right now, anybody and their dog can access pretty much adult content, so I don't want you to verify you know your age. And you know UK is very, very, very different place than you know US and Canada when it comes to regulations, so it's a bit of a pushback. So it's going to take time, for sure, for the stuff to be adopted.

R

Rob Mineault 56:28

Where you're kind of right is that we are used to that now. So yeah, maybe it is just like the frog in the pot. They slowly, turn up the heat, and people forget about it, because online privacy really isn't a thing anymore.

R

Ryan Fleury 56:42

We've got smart speakers. We've had for 10 years now that the mics are always listening. You can be sitting in the living room with your partner, your best friend, talking about, I don't know how dairy is bad for blindness. And you know what you're going to see on your Facebook feed? There's something related to dairy or blindness, right? I guarantee you. So you AI is here, the intelligence is here.

C

Carrie Morales 57:08

We never listen to your private information. Google never does that, especially Apple ...

L

Lis Malone 57:16

Never, never. But you know when you were just saying about the facial recognition aspect of it. I mean, just with these glasses that we're talking about alone, the fact that we that you have to attach your account with your Meta account as your Facebook, which has your Instagram, which has your Threads, think of how many pictures we're posting with our ID. We're tagging people, so we're giving them more information of more visuals of other people they already have all or all already in the database. I prefer that they would take you ever watch any of those shows when I mean, sometimes it does freak me out because I'm like, I know that. What is it? The FBI, and they find one security camera where somebody's walking by, and they put it through the facial right? Oh, yeah, that's this person. Here's their first social media here.

R

Ryan Fleury 58:13

So they don't even they could do it now, given them access by having a Facebook account.

L

Lis Malone 58:21

We have sold our privacy for long term social media like when people say, oh my god, like I would never pay for it, don't worry, you are paying for it.

R

Ryan Fleury 58:32

And we've gone down a dark hole.

R

Rob Mineault 58:35

Yeah, that's right. We've gone from assistive technology to conspiracy theories.

R

Ryan Fleury 58:42

All right! For part two!

R

Rob Mineault 58:43

That's right. I don't even get me started on all the all the data. I'm sure they're selling our shopping habits, what you're searching for ...

C

Carrie Morales 58:55

That's not even a conspiracy theory. This is actually what they do. This is reality.

R

Rob Mineault 59:01

That's right. When you click on that little check box, it says, I accept. That's exactly what you're accepting.

C

Carrie Morales 59:08

But the thing is, they, they trick you, because it's like, if you don't accept, then you can't use it. So that's the thing, that's how they hook you. That's how they trap you.

R

Ryan Fleury 59:17

Damn dopamine.

L

Lis Malone 59:19

That's your ticket. That's the admission ticket. Your usage, your every, every, everything, yep. I mean, look, you know Carrie. They now know exactly which products. They know which brand of tomato sauce you're buying.

R

Ryan Fleury 59:36

And that you shop at Bed Bath and Beyond.

C

Carrie Morales 59:40

Bath and Body Works.

R

Ryan Fleury 59:44

Yes, I'm sorry.

R

Rob Mineault 59:51

So once again, bringing, bringing the show down. Always good to end the show on a positive. I don't know. I. I have hope for the future. I'm the optimist of the group.

R

Ryan Fleury 1:00:04

Get your head out of the sand.

R

Rob Mineault 1:00:05

Well, hey, listen. If Meta wants to analyze what kind of pasta sauce I buy on a regular basis, they're fine. Go ahead. All right, Carrie, we want to thank you so much for taking some time out and chatting with us and catching up for those people who would love to hear more of you and find you online, where the heck can they do that?

C

Carrie Morales 1:00:34

Sure, so you can go to carrieonaccessibility.com or search for Carrie On Accessibility on YouTube, on X or Twitter, on Threads, on Instagram, on Mastodon. We're on Discord, and I will say that I engage most on YouTube Mastodon and Discord. So if you really want to reach out, you can also email. So it's email@carrieonaccessibility.com

L

Lis Malone 1:01:07

It's worth mentioning that on the dark web, Carrie can be found as user number 4942864831212!

R

Ryan Fleury 1:01:19

Exclamation mark.

R

Rob Mineault 1:01:26

Lis has been on the dark web recently. That's the second Dark Web reference she's had today.

L

Lis Malone 1:01:32

Insert mother's maiden name here.

R

Rob Mineault 1:01:36

Oh, good Lord. Will you come back?

C

Carrie Morales 1:01:41

Sure. I would love to.

R Ryan Fleury 1:01:43
We have that on record now.

C Carrie Morales 1:01:47
I was crossing my fingers.

R Rob Mineault 1:01:50
It's been an absolute delight. Carrie, best of luck with the channels. Keep up the great work. And yeah, let's, let's chat again, and we can chat about the next generation of wearables that I'm sure is around the corner.

C Carrie Morales 1:02:07
Awesome. Thanks for having me, and this was a lot of fun.

R Rob Mineault 1:02:11
Awesome.

C Carrie Morales 1:02:11
Well, you guys take care.

R Ryan Fleury 1:02:12
Thanks, Carrie, you too.

L Lis Malone 1:02:14
Bye, Carrie.

R Rob Mineault 1:02:15
All right. Okay, well, now we gotta do our outro. We gotta end on a positive note. So wait, Lis, didn't you say that you were, did you get a pair of these things, these Meta glasses?

L

Lis Malone 1:02:29

I had such a conversation about this today because I went to my low vision optometrist to get my prescription updated. And I wanted to wait until I got my new prescription, because I am going to get a pair and put my actual prescription into the lenses, right? More usable.

R

Rob Mineault 1:02:56

Oh, that's a good way to do it.

L

Lis Malone 1:02:58

Yeah, you figure I mean, because, you know, I mean, it's a pain in the butt, and it adds like an extra, like, 150 \$200 just to put, you know, right, my, my coke bottle lenses in it. So, but, yeah, no, I'm picking, I'm well, I'm going to get them this weekend, and then whenever, I don't know how long it's gonna take for the lenses. So next, by the time next time we have Carrie back, now I will be a bona fide user, and I can be really sick of saying, "hey, Meta".

R

Rob Mineault 1:03:27

Yeah.

R

Rob Mineault 1:03:28

It's too bad you can't change the activation word.

R

Ryan Fleury 1:03:32

Well, and even like it was too bad you don't have a better battery or a better standby mode, hibernate or something. Because, like I said, with, you know, Gemini or Chat-GPT. You know, I can lose half an hour just having a conversation with AI, and I don't have to keep triggering it, right? So if they can figure that out, either make the processing power more efficient or better battery. I don't know what it's going to take to do that, but we that's what we want. Is more natural language as well.

L

Lis Malone 1:04:02

And just like how what Carrie was saying is sometimes, like, one thing isn't going to fit the bill for everything. And I know that, you know, Carrie had mentioned that, you know, she likes to leave them on because they're also her sunglasses. So, I mean, for me, it might, now that I'm getting all this, you know, these, these pro tips, is maybe I'll just make sure I keep a pair of my regular sunglasses in my bag so I can switch them out. Maybe it's, it's another thing to have to

carry, but it's, you know, if it means that I can have more battery life for when I really need to use them, it's, you know, it's a small band aid for the current problem. But, you know, so, but it seems like that, you work it out, I guess.

R Rob Mineault 1:04:50

Yeah. Well, and I'm sure all of that stuff is, you know, again, those are all mainstream concerns people. People want longer battery life for sure. So I'm sure that that's stuff that they're working on that the the next generation will definitely probably improve on, especially if you've got Oakley, you know, breathing down their neck well.

R Ryan Fleury 1:05:11

And like I said, the Oakley ones I've heard are eight hour batteries.

R Rob Mineault 1:05:15

Yeah. So that's more in line to what most people would want.

R Rob Mineault 1:05:22

We want to be able to get a day of these just like we do with our smartphones? Yeah.

L Lis Malone 1:05:37

So I never get the day out of my smartphone.

R Rob Mineault 1:05:37

Anyways. Okay, anything else to say about that? Or can we get out of here?

R Ryan Fleury 1:05:38

Dinner time!

L Lis Malone 1:05:38

Let's go. Let's get out of here.

R Rob Mineault 1:05:38

Hey, Lis.

L Lis Malone 1:05:42

Hey, Rob.

R Rob Mineault 1:05:42

Where can people find us?

R Ryan Fleury 1:05:44

They can also find us online at Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and Mastodon.

L Lis Malone 1:05:44

They can find us at www.atbanter.com.

R Rob Mineault 1:05:50

And they can also email us if they so desire at cowbell@atbanter.com. Look at that team work. All right. Well, I think that's gonna go do it for us this week. Big thanks, of course, to Carrie for joining us, and we will see everybody next week.

S Steve Barclay 1:06:14

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