**Seeing AI Deep Dive**

For those that don’t already know it Seeing AI is like the Swiss army knife of apps for vision impaired – it’s got 9 features which I’ll cover today, and in my view it’s possibly one of the best free apps? – let us know if you agree with that in the chat!

Ok, first I’d like to go over the layout of the app.

**So I should hopefully now be sharing my screen and you should be able to hear voiceover**

**Layout**

Top left **Menu**

Where you will find:

**Browse Photos** (more on this cool feature later!)

**Help**

**Feedback**

**Settings**

Here you’ll fine several settings covering things like:

Options for the Currency mode,

An option to automatically turning the camera flash on in low lighting

Options for the Siri shortcuts feature (this is an amazing feature which again we’ll be covering shortly),

Option to reorder ‘channels’ – this is really helpful if not all the modes are needed or you want it to change the default mode of the app.

and finally an option choose voice which is used.

At the bottom of screen is the channel selector which enables you to switch between the different modes of the app. To change between them you need to first move voiceovers focus to the channel selector and then flick up the screen to go to the next mode or down the screen to go to the previous. The default one is ‘short text’ when you open Seeing AI.

**Short Text**

Short text is a feature that uses the camera to read text that it picks up instantly using OCR (it is very accurate and impressive and is designed for quick reading tasks for example food labels in the kitchen or signs when you’re out and about. You don’t get any guidance on whether something is in field of view of the camera so it would be difficult to read a letter with this feature, but it is excellent for quickly reading short text.

**Document**

Similar to short text but this mode is designed to read a full document or letter. It will give you guidance on how to position the phone to make sure that the document is in the field of view of the camera by recognising all 4 corners then when it is it will capture the whole document and then read it back to you all at once. Unlike short text once you have captured the text you don’t need to keep the text in view and you can move your phone.

When it has identified all 4 corners and automatically captured the text it will display all the text in a ‘scan result’. You can then navigate this text as you want – line by line by swiping left and right (great for recipes!) or you could swipe down with two fingers to have all the text read at once or you can also use the play button which is in the bottom left-hand corner.

Also, if somebody has low vision you can increase or decrease the font size, as it is being read to us it highlights the text it is currently reading so people can follow along. There is also a really nice feature which is the share button in the bottom right-hand corner – you can then share the text with a friend or family member if you like – so if the recipe for chocolate cake was good you can share the love or save it to notes or cloud storage (drop box etc) so you can make it for yourself again!

**Technique**

Some people find it helpfully to stand up while others find it helpful to place their elbows on the table to help them hold their phone above the document at the right hight so that the text is in the field of view of the camera.

A good guide to read a document using this mode would be to:

Make sure that your lighting is good. Set paper down on table, place phone with the screen pointing upwards in the centre of paper and make sure the edges of the phone align with the paper. Then raise the phone slowly until around 16- 18 inches above and it announces that all corners are visible then hold the phone stead while Seeing AI captures the text.

This process take time to master but is worth it as the results are very accurate and you’ll be able to read documents now whenever you have your phone!

There are phone stands too, for example Giraffe Reader which is available for most iPhones up to iPhone 8. Or you can use camera stands too, which I think Grant can tell us more about later.

So that was an overview of Seeing AI’s Short Text and Document modes

There are 9 modes in total including modes for:

Product mode - for identifying products by reading barcodes

Person mode - which can identify and name people that you’ve saved into its database or describe new people that you haven’t added to Seeing AI.

Currency mode - for identifying bank notes

Scene mode - which using AI to describe what’s in front of you

Colour mode - for detecting colours – great for identifying and choosing clothing

Handwriting mode - for reading handwriting – very good – it can even read mine!

And finally, light mode which detect light and lets you know with a high pitch tone for bright light and low-pitched tone for low light.

Next for the real deep dive stuff!

**Siri Shortcuts demo**

**https://guidedogs.zoom.us/rec/share/EQwRByW6FNKAciW-BYwQq\_dsIhE9fj8QoMVfy4LI1Of6YOhBbSnCQgp9DSuSawDF.xa4WQqkv\_wpS6tkn?startTime=1614693238000**

**Examples:**

**Sort text** – Read this

**Document** – Read me this document

**Product** – identify this for me

**~~Person~~** ~~– Tell me who this is~~

**~~Currency~~** ~~– what is this note~~

**~~Scene~~** ~~– describe what’s in front of me~~

**~~Colour~~** ~~– what colour is this~~

**~~Handwriting~~** ~~– recognise handwriting~~

**~~Light detector~~** ~~– light detector~~

**~~Browse photos~~** ~~– describe photos~~

**~~Recognise new person~~** ~~- Recognise new person~~

**Browse Photos demo**

Think of this feature as an accessible replacement to Apples stock ‘Photos’ app. It uses OCR to read aloud any text it finds on images and then also uses AI to describe them – cool eh, let me show you now.

**Demo**

\*Include ‘Explore’ feature.

Also, you can use the ‘Recognise with Seeing AI’ which you can fine in the ‘Share’ menu of pictures within the ‘Photos’ app. This isn’t the quickest way, but it is cool, and you can make it easier to find the option by adding it to your favourites by using the ‘Edit actions’ button at the bottom of the ‘share’ menu.

I’d now like to hand over to today’s amazing panellists to get their view on Seeing AI and how they use it.