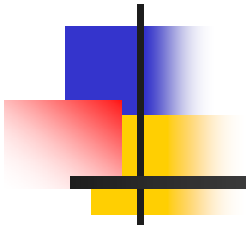


# Technology





# The Law

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- Tech Act of 1988 (PL 100-407) Original act
- First: First law to specifically address the technology-related needs of persons with disabilities.
- Second: Provided financial assistance to states to develop consumer-responsive systems and implement assistive technology coordination.



## The Law continued:

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- Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1994 (PL 103-218) - second act
- Required states to be more accountable in conducting activities through the systems change projects; extended state grant appropriations for technology until states could incorporate it into their systems, and encouraged advocacy services to take a greater role.



# Types of Technology

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- Assistive – any device, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially or off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.
- Adaptive – modifies traditional tools



## Assistive Technology cont.

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- Assistive technology can be as low-tech as a large button telephone or as velcro instead of buttons on a shirt;
- Or as high-tech as an electric wheelchair equipped with a sip and puff control.



# Assistive Technology Service

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- Defined as any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.
- Examples: Division of Vocational Rehab
- AT Service includes Evaluation, Selecting, Purchasing and Training or Technical Assistance



# Paradigm Shift

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- FROM.....Medical model that focused on what an individual could not do
- TO.... Social model that focuses on what an individual can do