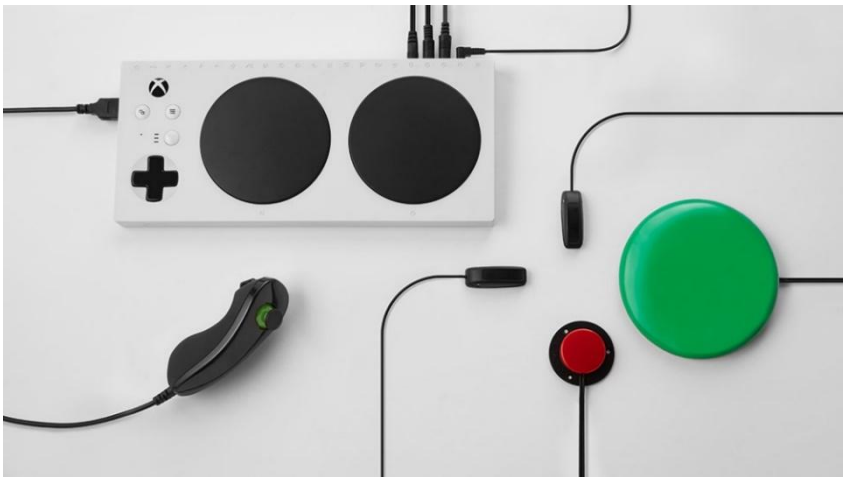
Let's Game! An Accessible Gaming Event Playbook



We want everyone to have a chance to play video games, feel included, and have fun. Hosting accessible gaming events is one way to build community and a sense of belonging for players of all abilities. #GameTogether

Before

- Advertise the gaming event via an accessible platform such as Eventbrite or Constant Contact. Be sure to allow the player to request accommodations via the registration system.
- Reserve any accommodations that might be needed, such as sign language interpreters, CART, etc.
- Have freebies! Organizations such as AbleGamers might provide a variety of game-themed giveaways, like stickers & bracelets, for attendees. Or order your own to share!
- Coordinate with others in your organization to serve as volunteer “co-pilots” who can help with configuring controllers and offering support during game play. These volunteers are vital to providing support throughout the event.
- Plan to have a variety of games for players who are blind/low vision (games with audio description) and games with captions for those who are deaf/HoH.
- Have a variety of systems available for players to choose from, such as PlayStation, Nintendo, Xbox, and PC. You will also want to let potential players know which gaming systems will be available during the event.
- Ensure a variety of access equipment such as eye gaze systems, Microsoft adaptive controller(s), switches, and one-handed controllers. You’ll likely need more than just one of each.

- Encourage gamers to bring their own equipment if interested.
- Have a few non-electronic games available for those who don't want to play video games.

During

- Some gaming setups will require internet connectivity. If wi-fi is unstable or not strong enough, be sure to have hot-spots or pay-to-play hotspots set up for the duration of the event.
- Create a space for gamers who bring their own PCs.
- Consider having food & drinks available, but you may choose to have it available in area set apart from the gaming equipment.
- Have lots of seating around each station! Bean bags are an easy option, though they might not be comfortable or accessible for all players, so options are vital.
- Take pictures and get signed consent forms to use those pictures.
- Tip – If using an Xbox One, consider activating the Accessibility feature 'Co-Pilot' where the 'helpers' can be the primary gamer and the individual with the disability can be the person that maybe has limited but some access to the game. For example, the helper controls everything in the race car game except the accelerator so that the individual with the motor challenges can activate the accelerator via an adapted controller or by triggering a switch.

After

- Be sure to use cleaning wipes on all of the controllers, switches and devices.
- Take note of the areas/game systems and equipment that were most used. This information will help shape future events.
- Schedule any follow-up meetings or consultations for gamers who want to see other types of gaming equipment, access controllers, and more.

Have fun!

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES
Assistive Technology Program

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