

## Pick of the Month – August 2018

### Web Pick:

### **The cost of access**

From Laura Kalbag:

“Without the inputs from internet users with physical impairments we wouldn’t have the voice technology underpinning Siri or Alexa.’ But what is the cost of using Alexa for people who would find it difficult or impossible to access the web or technology without voice recognition?

“Assistive technology, such as voice recognition software, or screen readers that read the contents of the screen aloud have been historically expensive. One of the most popular screen readers, JAWS, costs more than £700. When Apple added VoiceOver, its own free screen reader, to its devices, it made screen readers much easier to access. For people who could afford iPhones.

“It’s a wonderful thing that assistive technology is now built into some technology as a default. It’s an important part of making technology more inclusive. But in the case of Amazon’s Alexa, and many inexpensive or free solutions, the cost of access is your privacy.”

Read the full post at: <https://laurakalbag.com/the-cost-of-access/>.