

## Pick of the Month – October 2010

### AT Pick:

### **Deaf Find Their Voices via Mobile Video and Apps**

Wireless gadgets have changed the way nearly everyone communicates, but one group has benefited more than others: the deaf. For those who cannot make a voice call, texting and video, in particular, have not only opened them up to the hearing world and to each other, but also allowed them to use American Sign Language (ASL), often their native language.

About 17 percent (36 million) of U.S. adults report some degree of hearing loss, according to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders in Bethesda, Md. Thanks to increases in bandwidth and technologies that use it, the deaf and hard of hearing can now communicate via texting, Blackberry messaging, video multimedia messaging service (MMS), and video chats over Google's video chat service (to name a few). New video-friendly mobile devices, including Apple's iPhone 4 and HTC's EVO, have likewise helped.

To read the full article, visit <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=deaf-mobile-video-and-apps>.