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START AUDIO

Interviewer: You don't like to listen to your own voice? (Laughter)

P4: I've worked in a call centre before.

Interviewer: Oh, yes.

P4: Fair enough, I couldn't do the physical... I tried to do the job, but they wanted me to do more than what I physically could do.

Interviewer: Oh, yes.

P4: It was getting me annoyed, because they were saying, "You're not doing it right", but I can't talk and do at the same time, when you've got them on the phone. Sat in front of a computer trying to talk to someone and typing. I can't do both, so there were a lot of silences, and I used to get in trouble for it.

Interviewer: Oh, right. You tried a lot of different jobs, actually, right?

P4: I've tried. I failed, but I tried.

Interviewer: Oh.

P4: The one I did like was working with a local blind society, [on assist and sale 0:00:38], that way, but the place went under, so I got made redundant.

Interviewer: Oh, no. It's quite hard to find jobs that are more...

P4: I just do sport now. I try and stay fit doing that.

Interviewer: Yes. It's the sad thing about... (Laughter)

P4: It is.

Interviewer: Unequal chances in careers and so on.

No, but I really hope that these workshops are also a way to get interested in other technologies, that might also open up a couple of new skills and...

P4: Well, at the outset it's going to broaden my horizon as to what you can do with computers and machinery.

Interviewer: Absolutely.

Alright. So if you're good with it, or fine with it, may I start the interview? (Laughter)

P4: Yes.

Interviewer: Cool.

[P4], could you briefly introduce yourself and tell me how you became aware of the workshop?

P4: Well, I'm [P4]. I first became aware of it with [anonymised] sending a message asking that yourself was wanting people to assist with the project. Then thinking about it, and thinking about it, and then losing the email.

Then having [P2] tell me about it. Then me and him had a discussion together, as we do, because we do work together in a voluntary... I volunteer. He works at [anonymised 0:02:03]. Then we discussed it.

Then it was a case of, "Well, that would be good for that. That would be good for that." So that's where it came to thinking of it, thinking what I've got already, and where I can get more knowledge out of it. So that's what got the idea.

Interviewer: Great.

Could you briefly describe your condition or the kind of impairment you have?

P4: Now, that's a tricky one.

Interviewer: Oh, yes. (Laughter)

P4: The simple way of saying it is CP or cerebral palsy, because the condition itself is split into two, but when I've been to doctors and stuff they've said, "Just call it that, because you will confuse everyone by calling it the other."

Interviewer: Okay.

P4: It's like, yes I use sticks, yes I can't see too well, but whatever I can't do... I don't use the word can't. If there's a way I need to do something, I work a way around it. It's like if I'm going out somewhere and I need to go a long distance, or get shopping, I've got a power chair I can use to go and get my shopping.

Interviewer: Cool.

P4: But I don't like bringing it into town.

Interviewer: No.

P4: It's just one of those things. If I can walk it, I will walk it. If I can't, I will use the chair.

It's trying to manage my own disability, and then do what I can do, but also at the same time the passion I have is to try and help others and get the best out of them as well.

Interviewer: That's great. No, I think it's a really interesting point about finding ways around and finding alternatives, how to get stuff done. I think it's-

P4: When I started at [the job] with [P2] they asked us to do databases. I didn't know that much about databases, but doing what we were doing I've learnt a hell of a lot by just playing with it, trying it.

Interviewer: Cool.

After hearing the briefing on the infrastructure here at Open Lab, do you have any needs we should be aware of to make your time at Open Lab as pleasant as possible?

P4: Apart from potential help with a steady hand and stuff, and if I can't see something just a little guidance, that's about it.

Interviewer: Great.

Do you have any specific needs concerning light and illumination? Now the light is switched off, so it will be [on 0:04:27].

P4: It's quite bright at the minute anyway.

Interviewer: Yes. So if it's on it will be like this.

P4: That's alright.

Interviewer: That's alright? Good. The workshop will be the same, basically, but it would be also possible to have an additional table lamp to light up something.

P4: It depends what we're doing.

Interviewer: Yes. I guess with electronics I just make sure that we have something here, because that's quite a lot of details on the small components, so I might just organise a...

Do you have any needs regarding the furniture or equipment that we're using? You can stand, so you can probably also see in the laser cutter.

P4: I can stand up for a little bit, but, having a look in there, there are things I could put my hand on briefly [to steady myself and stuff like that 0:05:12].

Interviewer: Oh, yes. So something stable to [hold onto]?

P4: If needs be I can always keep one of them with me anyway.

Interviewer: Yes. In the workshop we have also chairs, so you can also sit down in-between if it's too long standing.

P4: When I initially come somewhere I will use two sticks. When I get used to somewhere it will then go to one, then sometimes none. It's when I get used to it.

Interviewer: Yes. Good.

So now about your computer and technology practices that you are already having. Where and for which purposes do you use a computer?

P4: Social media, games, office work stuff. Because when I go out anywhere, because the person I live with has depression, so to help her I write up a rough monthly sheet, so she knows when I'm going to be in and when I'm not going to be in.

Interviewer: Ah, okay.

P4: Which calms her down a bit.

That's one side of the computer stuff, but I can near enough take it apart, put it back together again.

Interviewer: That's more [P2's] expertise then? (Laughter)

P4: He knows more the software side than the component side. I know quite a lot on the component side.

Interviewer: Ah, that's cool.

P4: Fair enough not being able to see, but it's a case of, "Well, if you can't see it use your finger. As long as it doesn't blow up you're fine."

Interviewer: Yes, as long as it's not connected to an electric circuit.
(Laughter)

P4: Exactly.

Interviewer: When you're using a computer what kind of computer is it, a PC or a Mac?

P4: A PC at the minute. I'm looking at Macs.

Interviewer: Okay.

P4: It's just the cost implication for that.

Interviewer: Yes. Well, in the workshop we will have both a Windows computer and a Mac, so if you want you can try out the Mac and see how it goes for you with it.

P4: That would be good. (Laughter)

Interviewer: Do you need any additional equipment for using a computer? I have a standard mouse, a big screen, and a laptop of course, and a key board to extend it.

P4: Standard mouse, big screen. That will do.

Interviewer: Good.

Do you use any additional software? Do you use a screen reader or..?

P4: I've had one in the past, just because I was being lazy when I was reading emails. So I've used them before, but I tend just to adjust the screen resolution.

Interviewer: Oh, okay. So we can just change the settings on the computer and you will be fine?

P4: Yes.

Interviewer: Good.

Do you have any programming or coding skills?

P4: No, but I'm keen to learn.

Interviewer: Oh, great, because that will be part of the electronics as well.
(Laughter) So that's good.

P4: That's one of the things he wanted me to do with databases, like with the coding, and I didn't have a clue, but there's always a thing of ____[0:08:12].

Interviewer: Oh, yes. (Laughter)

P4: That's something I'm keen to learn.

Interviewer: Great.

Do you have any CAD or graphical designing skills? Have you worked with software in that domain?

P4: I've had a little play with it, but I've not gone quite far with it. Because they let me have a little play at one of the places I was at.

Interviewer: What software was it that you used?

P4: I can't remember. It was just something that they said, "Right, you can have a little play on that", and it was just where I was trying to do something. I can't remember what it was. It was a good few years back, but I just thought it was quite fun.

Interviewer: Okay, cool.

P4: Then after that, because I didn't have the powerful enough computer to try and do it myself, or the money, I didn't, but then when I heard from [P2] and from [anonymised] what you guys are doing I thought, "Yes, I want to get my hand back in that."

Interviewer: Yes. Great. Now I think we are going to do both 2D and 3D modelling and designing.

P4: Oh, yes.

Interviewer: So (Laughter) [it will be some 0:09:25] fun weeks now with a lot of new skills for you then. (Laughter)

P4: Oh, yes.

Interviewer: Do you have any concerns about using a computer which you would like to share with me? Something that I haven't mentioned yet maybe? Something that you would like to add?

P4: No. If I feel that I've been sat at it too long I will just take five minutes out and come back.

Interviewer: Absolutely. I mean-

P4: That's just something that's been put into us from when I was working in the call centre, for best practice when using...

Interviewer: Yes.

P4: Because you're there eight hours, nine hours, ten hours straight.

Interviewer: Oh, yes. You know, we have the rule during the workshop that whenever you need a break you just let us know, and then we all just take a break.

That's why I scheduled three hours, which is a long time, but it also allows us more flexibility, and taking time.

The same also if I am going quickly through the tutorials, or the introductions, or if I explain something not well enough, just let me know, because it's a learning process for all of us.

P4: Exactly.

Interviewer: Great. (Laughter)

So, previous maker experiences. Have you ever invented or created anything for helping you in daily life?

P4: No, but I have always got ideas.

Interviewer: Oh, great. What kind of ideas?

P4: [P5 0:10:52], who I sent the email to, he's wanting to get into being able to vlog and do a YouTube channel. So for the last couple of months I've been thinking, "How can he do that? He's in a chair. He can't move a great deal. How can he do that to be able to do what he wants to do?"

So I started thinking how to make adaptations, like a pole or something he can have that the camera can sit on. Or something on a circuit that he can hit and the camera will start. He hits it again and the camera stops.

Interviewer: Oh, yes. That sounds good.

P4: There are loads of ideas.

Interviewer: Great. Which is also interesting, because I want to produce a couple of videos in the course of our workshop, so more like

show and tell videos about what we have done and what we make.

P4: That's what I do. When I've been doing this database and stuff, she says, "Can we have a meeting to see how you've been doing? You can explain it to us." I said, "Right." She comes to the meeting. This was last week. I said, "Right, play with it." She says, "What do you mean, play with it? It's a meeting for you to explain." "No. The easiest way for you to get used to it, and to see what I've done, is to play with it."

Interviewer: Absolutely. It's hands-on. (Laughter)

P4: That's the easiest way to explain stuff.

Interviewer: Absolutely. Have you ever heard of the term maker movement? If so, what does it mean to you

P4: I've heard of it roughly, but from what I understand it's more where you're telling something via a circuit, or whichever medium you're using, to make a specific movement you wanted to make.

Interviewer: Have you ever used a 3D printer?

P4: No, that's what I'm more interested about.

Interviewer: Oh, yes. Oh, he's looking over to the... (Laughter)

P4: I've seen them, but it's like how the hell can it do it?

Interviewer: Where have you seen it? Was it in the media?

P4: YouTube.

Interviewer: Ah, YouTube, yes. There are a great deal of videos on there.
(Laughter)

P4: Yes.

Interviewer: Have you ever used a laser cutter?

P4: That in itself is something that's interesting.

Interviewer: Ever played with electronics? You said something about the components of a computer.

P4: I've done my components of a computer.

I had when I was little a little – it's hard to explain what it was, because I can't quite remember, but it was a kid's board. You

had wires. You had to put that to there to make that light up, that to there to make that light up. I had one of them until it sort of broke.

Interviewer: Ah. So you played so much until it broke?

P4: Yes. (Laughter)

Interviewer: No, that's a good sign, because then you probably know a little bit about the meaning of the different components and what they do.

P4: But it's like trial and error. You plug that there, put the power on, or whatever, this was just a little battery, I think, ____ [0:13:52] had, but it's like, "That doesn't work well. Why didn't it?" You do that. It works.

Interviewer: Absolutely. That's just the principle as we are doing also in the electronics session on Friday, actually, already.

P4: That's good.

Interviewer: Yes. Now about your expectations for this workshop and the research. What are your general expectations for the workshop?

P4: I've got an open mind.

Interviewer: Cool. (Laughter)

Is there any technology you are particularly interested in learning here?

P4: All of it at the minute.

Interviewer: That's good. (Laughter)

What kind of skills would you like to have after the workshop?
The 3D printer? (Laughter) That's a good one.

What do you think will be most challenging for you in the workshops? You mentioned about when it's soldering and...

P4: I think the thing that will be more challenging is when it's like little components, but yes, I know you can get magnifiers and stuff on stands. But that is good. Yes, it's challenging in a positive way, because it's challenging me to then extend the disability, and say, "Right, I've got this to do. How can I do what I want to do?"

Interviewer: Absolutely, yes.

P4: So it will enhance what I can do already. Even if I have to use a little webcam on a screen, and do it like a CCTV thing, that's a way around it.

Interviewer: Yes, basically that's the same thing as we did for Dan in the workshop. We just installed an additional screen so that he could have a look inside the box. Yes, just let us know what you need and we will set all that up.

Do you already have any ideas what kind of things you would like to be able to build? You already said about a YouTube video facilitator for [P5]. (Laughter)

P4: I will have to think about that overnight. I've got loads of ideas, but it's trying to think which is going to be practical and which is going to work.

Interviewer: Yes. The good thing is that you have now three sessions first where you just learn the different technologies. Then we have two more sessions where you actually can build your own idea. So I think until next week you don't even have to think so much about ideas.

P4: Using the three sessions first to learn about stuff will then give me more of a clue of which is going to be practical to do and which is going to be realistic.

Interviewer: Yes, absolutely. Thinking also that we have only six hours in total for building your idea. It sounds like a lot of time, but it's actually not.

P4: It's quite short.

Interviewer: Yes.

Yes, that's all great. Do you have any other thoughts about the workshops you think I have not covered yet and would like to discuss with me?

P4: No. It would have been nice to do longer.

Interviewer: Let's talk about it again after the five sessions if you're still into it. (Laughter)

P4: It does sound good.

Interviewer: That's good. Alright then. That's all I have to ask you. Thank you very much for the interview. (Laughter)

END AUDIO

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