

Using Mobile Technology to Apply Ergonomics

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Abstract: The author has implemented ergonomics initiatives for over 2 decades as a plant-level ergonomist, corporate ergonomist, and as a consultant; and along the way recognized many inefficiencies associated with the application of ergonomics. These inefficiencies come in many forms:

- lack of process infrastructure
- poor documentation
- information/content fragmentation
- limited accessibility of tools & content
- technology problems & delays
- non-value-added activities & wastes

Mobile technology has dramatically impacted our everyday lives. We use smartphone to find a restaurant and get directions to that restaurant. Our kids are learning & creating on a tablet/pad, often their personal device. To learn more about something, we “Google” it on our smartphone. The day is rapidly approaching when we utilize mobile devices & technology to apply ergonomics more efficiently, and more effectively. The author shares his quest to better utilize mobile technology to apply ergonomics by:

- Designing for accessibility: Creating user-friendly apps & tools accessible to a wider range of users.
- Designing for mobility: Developing tools & content designed for access & use on a mobile device.
- Designing for on-demand training & education: Creating on-demand video content to teach the user to apply the apps/tools, educate the user on specific/narrow topics, etc.
- Virtual/Lean consulting: Delivering smaller units of consulting time (as short as 30 minute blocks) through a mobile device

The author will share what he has learned in these efforts to make ergonomics “mobile”, and present ideas for future advancement.