



Open accessibility

Open Source Schools unconference 20 July 09

Steve Lee

info@oss-watch.ac.uk

<http://www.oss-watch.ac.uk>



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Overview

- Accessibility
- Communities, people, projects
- Demo of NVDA, Dasher & Maavis



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Me

- Developer, writer, consultant, pest
- Education & accessibility
- Mozilla, GNOME, OATSoft, SF-UK, Project:Possibility, Straight-street
- OSS Watch Community officer, accessibility special interest



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OSS Watch

- JISC funded open source software advisory service
- Advise on procurement, engagement, development, legal
- Consultancy, events, presentations
- Publications
 - Briefing notes, surveys, case studies, slides
 - Wiki and team blog



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Accessibility

- Ensure ICT is useable by everyone according to **individual** preferences or requirements
- Choice in interaction style and presentation formats
 - Not just mouse and screen
- Do not exclude people with disabilities or elderly
- Kerb cut effect: meeting specific requirements often has more general applications





Use Cases

- It's common to categorise disabilities
 - Visual
 - Auditory
 - Physical
 - Cognitive (including print)
- Everyone is unique combination of abilities
- Accessibility overlaps with usability



Perform user testing - don't just follow checklists

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Accessibility and AT

- Individual program options
- Adjustments built into OS desktop
 - Mouse / key settings
 - Fonts size, colours
- Specialist software / hardware for alternative input and output
 - Screen readers – speech + Braille
 - On Screen Keyboard, eye gaze, head track





Alternative content streams

- Closed captions
- Audio description
- Alternative text for images



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Integration technology

- Accessibility APIs (MSAA, UAE, AT/SPI)
- ...also good for testing via user interface
- Alternative input/output devices
- Gestures





Web

- Accessibility related to open standards
- Originally rendering decided by user agent
- Content – now Rich Internet Applications
- Kurb cut, e.g. SEO from structural markup
- WCAG-2
- WAI-ARIA





'Open' Accessibility

- Users engage in non commercial ways
- Community voice
- Innovation
- Inclusion
- Companies are conservative, need example



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Communities, people & projects

- Mozilla – community 'hub' around browser
- GNOME – Linux, Solaris
- OATSoft – find OATS, community
- Project:Possibility – USC, UCLA students
- Raising the Floor – web collaboration
- AEGIS – EU funded Sun technologies





OSS Watch

Communities, people & projects

- TechDis – JISC Service
- Southampton – E.A. Draffen
- AccessApps - RSC Scotland
 - OSS Watch case study





Projects

- NVDA – screen reader
- Dasher – alternative input
- Maavis – simple media access & comms
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- Accerciser
- Firebug – accessible web debugger





Demo

- NVDA – screen reader
- Firevox – WAI-ARIA live regions
- Dasher – alternative input
- Maavis – simple media access & comms





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