Barnsley Assistive Technology Team

Maavis@School

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- **University of Sheffield**
  - co-ordination and project management

- **Barnsley AT Team**
  - user involvement and assistive technology

- **FullMeasure**
  - assistive technology development

- **OSS Watch**
  - open source software advisory service
**Objective**

*IT without knowing about IT*

- **Moderated Access to Audio Visual Services**
- i.e: a simplified computer interface
- Developed to become a platform, be flexible and sustainable (more later)
Potential population excluded from the benefits of information technology

People with dementia; older people; children with special educational needs.

Design challenge: create more intuitive access to IT services

Research challenge: can we show a benefit to use of this technology?
Maavis emerged from a previous small project
- provision of IT within residential care homes
- Sheffield’s largest residential care home
- small scoping project in school

Study
- research into benefits of provision of systems
- usability study into design of system
Communications + media = web
Easily acquired skills, common = web
Without internet + privileges = rich client
Open source platform = plenty of choice
All of above = Mozilla as used in Firefox
  - Very well tested
  - Great community, cross platform
  - Some experience with Jambu
Maavis@School ::
Development and Technology

- Designed for multiple engagement levels
  - User – simple UI
  - Non technical facilitator – copy files, UI
  - Technical facilitator – create/edit 'web pages'
  - Core developer – extend platform
  - Future - Plug-ins extend community
- Mozilla XUL platform + VLC media player
- Outfox server – provides more flexibility – Skype
OSS Watch advise on open dev.

- Low cost to users
- Community of users and developers
- Innovation & sustainability
- Exploitation - regional development
- “Freedom to discuss plans with anyone”

Development forge - open access
Small study
- 3 special schools in S Yorkshire, term long trial
- user requirements scoping exercise
  - software development

Trial:
- Provision of system to children meeting recruitment criteria in 3 special schools
Measuring impact of provision (and improved independent access to IT)
- Qualitative data from teachers, students
- Qualitative data from analysis of video evidence
- Quantitative data from pre&post intervention assessments
Features of Maavis

New features specific to SEN
- Switch access with scanning
- Simple Log-in pages
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Top level screen

- Information
- Call
- Bye Maavis
- Photos
- Videos
- Music

Touch the activity you want to do
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Photo collection chooser

Touch the album you want to look at

Cats and Dogs
Events
Flowers
Places

Other things to do
Project team believe Maavis has great potential

- Use in many ‘sectors’ to provide accessibility for people otherwise excluded from IT

Unique in several senses

- Functionality
- Platform choice and flexibility
- Evidence based
- Can be used as a platform for other things, e.g. tele-health
Several other bids using Maavis

- Nominet – internet delivery of content
- Knowledge Transfer – deployment and training resources within FE
- Exploitation bids
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Summary

- Maavis is designed to simplify access to IT
- Potential across a number of applications
- Small study looking at benefits within special schools
- Unique and flexible architecture and technology
- Ripe for further potential
- Open Source
Join Maavis

http://maavis.fullmeasure.co.uk