

Accessibility & FOSS

Nicolas Steenhout
Accessibility NZ

Business of Open Source Miniconf
linux.conf.au
18 January 2010

Introduction

- Person with disabilities
- Involved with FOSS
 - Core Team: Mambo, Joomla!, B2Evolution
 - Using desktop + web based applications
- Involved with business
 - Executive Director: Center for Independent Living
- Involved with disability awareness
 - Presentations

Assumptions

- Presentation only an overview / introduction
- Project wants to be successful
- Success = Sales
- Sales = Number of people using application
- Sales != Commercial / Exchange of money

Project wants to have as many people, businesses & organisations using their application(s) as possible.

Not Software: Solutions

We do not provide software.

We provide solutions.

Clients have specific problem. Our product is the solution.

Our solution must make our clients' lives easy.

Our solution must resolve more of clients' issues than competitor

Major Markets

- Governmental Agencies
 - Government departments
 - Non-Profits primarily funded through government grants
- Medium / Large Business
- Education
 - Tertiary level

Accessibility Required

- Laws, regulations, guidelines, recommendations
- Most “major” countries address access to e-information.
- Primarily for government
- Impacts businesses as well
- Clients may be unaware of responsibility!

Anti-Discrimination

- Most "major" countries have anti-discrimination legislation
- Disability = protected class
- Covers employees + clients

New Markets For You

- Provide applications that are accessible
- Point out to client how your accessible software helps them
- Access markets that require accessibility, such as government or education

Disability Types

A disability is:
"A condition that significantly impairs
one or more activity of daily living"

- Vision
- Hearing
- Mobility / Dexterity
- Learning
- Cognitive

What Is Accessibility?

Accessible software is:
"Software usable by everyone,
regardless of impairment"

- Web applications + desktop applications
- Keyboard only
- Alternate text & tooltips
- Simple workflow
- No dependance on sound / colour / images
- Etc...

Conclusion: Win-Win-Win-Win

- Your project **wins**: More sales
- Your client **wins**: Better compliance
- People with disabilities **win**: Greater access
- FOSS **wins**: Greater buy-in to FOSS

Accessibility Resources

- Concepts of web accessibility apply / similar to software accessibility
- WCAG
- ATAAG
- W3C's WAI – <http://www.w3.org/WAI/>
- Me: <http://accessibility.net.nz>