AEGIS

Open Accessibility Everywhere:

Groundwork, Infrastructure, Standards

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Editorial

The AEGIS Consortium is pleased to announce the fourth issue of the AEGIS Newsletter. The special focus of this fourth issue is on AEGIS' upcoming 1st International Conference & 2nd Pan-European Workshop/ User Forum, as well as on the new release of odt2braille software package developed within our project. We hope that you will also enjoy the interview with the member of AEGIS's Advisory Board, Prof. Gregg Vanderheiden, Director of Trace R&D Center University of Wisconsin-Madison. And as always, the articles in this issue present the ongoing work, experiences, accomplishments, and lessons learned by the AEGIS partners. An overview of past and forthcoming events where the project has or will be featured is also presented. Please feel free to contact us for any further details, comments, or just to share your experiences in the above fields of interest.

The AEGIS consortium

AEGIS (Open Accessibility Everywhere: Groundwork, Infrastructure, Standards) is a research project funded by the European Commission, working in the area of accessibility and independent living. AEGIS develops an Open Accessibility Framework (OAF) consisting of open source accessible interfaces and accessibility toolkits for developers, alongside accessible applications and open source assistive technologies for users. AEGIS will produce this framework through user research and prototype development with current and next generation ICT. This should deeply embed accessibility into future ICT for the open desktop, rich Internet applications, and mobile devices. AEGIS results will be referred to standards organisations where appropriate, and made available under open source licenses to the greatest extent possible.

Interview with Gregg Vanderheiden

by Karel Van Isacker

June 2010

Prof. Gregg Vanderheiden, is co Founder at Raising the Floor Initiative, co-Chair at the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines Working Group at W3C Worldwide Web Consortium, and Professor in Industrial and Systems Engineering and Biomedical Engineering Departments of the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Could you give us a short overview of your background and involvement in AT (Assistive Technologies)?

Hmmm. I have been at this for 39 years so let's see how to make this short. I started out in augmentative communication in 1971. It wasn't called that back then, in fact the term "augmentative communication" comes from a chapter I wrote in the 70s. The first 10 years of my career were spent in developing assistive technologies that were picked up and manufactured/sold by half a dozen companies. When computers came out I switched my work to computer access, particularly focusing on "transparent access" that allowed users to operate all of the standard software products running on the computer (without the software being aware). Here my work involved both assistive technologies (again passed off to and sold by AT companies) and working on features that could be built right into mainstream products. We developed a number of access features that bundled together were called the access pack. We did it for Windows 2.0 through 3.2. We then worked with Apple to get them built into the Apple IIe, IIgs, and Macintosh; with IBM to create AccessDOS, and with Microsoft to get them built into Windows 95 and everything since. (They were also done for X-System and OS/2).

My third decade was focused mostly on universal design. I worked with ICT companies ranging from computer manufacturers and software developers to ATM manufacturers, kiosks, point-of-sale devices etc. We developed EZ Access to provide an integrated cross disability access package for public information and transaction machines. I have also worked quite a bit on accessible telecommunications across disabilities and of course on standards.

My work now is focused on trying to create infrastructures that allow us to build accessibility naturally into everything around us. This includes both accommodating more people through natural flexibility in the interfaces that are built into products (and automatically adapt the interfaces as people approach them) and being able to invoke special assistive technologies and services from the cloud on any device a person encounters when that device cannot accommodate them with its own interface.

What are your experiences with the knowledge of people with disabilities about the available (commercial) AT and the actual usage of AT by end-users?

-Awareness is one of the biggest problems in this area. People who need assistive technology simply don't know that it exists. Affordability is a problem, but there are so many who could afford the assistive technologies they need if they only had some idea that they existed and knew where to find them. Most people don't even know that they should go look (that there is anything to look for) or they would find things they could use. This is one of the most important, and most difficult to fund, areas of assistive technology.

-But awareness is not the only non-technical factor causing under-adoption and underutilization. There are many additional reasons why people do not take advantage of accessibility opportunities that could benefit them: they may be truly unable to perceive the functional limitation they are encountering, they may deny the functional limitation, they may feel helpless about doing anything about it, they may have a generalized "technological pessimism" dating from an unsuccessful experience, they may not have the training available to learn to use a new technology, they may not be able to afford it, they may feel that functional decline is appropriate to their age, etc.

The AEGIS project survey revealed that few people with disabilities actually use AT and that of those using it, many are raising the issue of a lack of training. Many raise the need for a European certified AT curriculum which should be followed by those coaching people with disabilities in obtaining their needed AT, as well as raising awareness among people with disabilities themselves so that they are stronger positioned to make their own decisions. This links to your statement on the W4A 2010 website (7th International Cross-Disciplinary Conference on Web Accessibility, www.w4a.info/2010/).

Yes unfortunately there is often a gap between the promise of assistive technologies and what is actually possible or effective for a particular user. Again this is due in part to the lack of good information upfront and, as you pointed out, the fact that the assistive technologies are often provided without training that is needed in their use.

"Raising the Floor" aims to actually build accessibility directly into the internet, consumer goods, PCs so that people who don't have any resources, don't even have a computer, can sit down to any device/computer they encounter anywhere and be able to invoke the access features they need. Where does this initiative stand at present, and how is AEGIS involved.?

AEGIS is a key partner in this initiative. "Raising the Floor" is a Consortium of individuals and organizations that are all trying to provide a broader range of accessibility across a broader range of platforms in a way that people can afford. There is little or nothing in AEGIS that doesn't contribute to this and AEGIS was one of the early groups to sign on. With regard to where the organization stands, its members have been very active. The advances in WebAnywhere and VizWiz, the Fluid work, and AEGIS work are a few examples. The largest new initiative has probably been the National Public Inclusive Infrastructure (NPII; http://npii.org).

The NPII is your brainchild. NPII's innovative approach uses the cloud to allow consumers to explore accessibility options and tools that can be saved as a profile and used seamlessly on any computer. How do you see this progressing in the next few years and what role can the OSS community, but also other "proprietary" communities play in this? You mentioned in a recent keynote that "We are moving to an ICT environment with a profusion of hardware models (desktop, laptop, netbook, smartphone, tablet, set top box, game systems, players), multiple operating systems (Windows, Mac, Linux, Chrome OS, iPhone, Android, Windows Mobile, Symbian, Maemo (Nokia), Bada (Samsung), WebOS, etc.), hundreds of software applications that embed another universe of widgets, plug-ins, and players, and a networked information environment that adheres to no standard and mutates far beyond the initial conception of the Web." (see W4A 2010 website)

Well the NPII is the result of bringing together the ideas of many people from many countries. We are really talking about federated NPII's forming a global public inclusive infrastructure (GPII). We are currently in the process of updating the website to reflect this. One of the key things about the NPII/GPII is that its goal is to facilitate all technologies and all platforms. It facilitates accessibility that is built into both devices and the Internet. It facilitates both commercial assistive technologies and free access features (provided by commercial entities or by third parties). It supports commercial assistive technologies paid for by individuals, but also allows for AT providers that may contract with a company, a school, a state, or country to (for a fee) provide AT at no cost to individuals. Being infrastructure, the NPII does not make any distinction between whether what it is delivering is proprietary or open source, free or for a service fee. It is kind of like the road system is to a transportation industry.

It is important to note that the NPII is 'infrastructure' and not product. The NPII will create no access solutions. It simply provides the tools, components, preference, and delivery infrastructures for companies and developers to make and deliver solutions to users. It does the things that cut across platforms and companies – things that no single company can provide and maintain. It uses an open level playing field approach that provides things that can facilitate all companies' efforts. And it will allow new types of accessibility and interoperable access solutions to be implemented as well.

In a 2009 CSUN interview, you mentioned that the NPII would A) help people work collaboratively building on each others work and B) would enhance built-in access while still supporting AT for those that need it. For example for people who need more powerful AT or AT that involves hardware. Now, duplication is what is happening in the AT world with OSS and proprietary solutions, with a variety of outcomes and results: cheap and partially efficient, expensive and very efficient, but also expensive and worthless.

These are indeed two of the key aspects of the NPII. First it allows for us to more easily use some common components such as where AT links to delivery systems or to mainstream technologies. There are so many technologies, and with the new web technologies, there are so many different authors, that it is becoming very difficult for a single AT company to keep up with all of the different technologies, software platforms, devices, etc. If we can work off some common base and have the different assistive technology vendors creating different features and capabilities (rather than spending most of their time just trying to stay compatible with the ever-changing mainstream technologies) then we should be able to innovate faster and less expensively. This can translate into lower costs to developers allowing them to be more creative and reach larger numbers of users.

The second part deals with the dual nature of the NPII. By providing some services in the network it allows companies to "build-in" more accessibility so that it is a natural part of the product/system. In this way people with disabilities will more often be able to use the technologies they encounter in the world as they encounter them. But not everything can be "built-in". Sometimes individuals will need interface adaptations that go beyond that which can be provided as a natural part of products and systems. Here's where assistive technologies always have stepped in and will always need to step in, even in the future. With the NPII, there are new options for providing assistive technology assistance. In addition to the "install on the product in front of you" approach we can also have assistive technology as a service which a person can invoke on any device they encounter. It can also allow individual features to be offered that a person can add to the other built in and assistive technology functionality they have. I see the open source community as playing a very large role in helping to build many of these common components that can be used across individual solutions. Most open source software is developed by commercial companies. And most open-source software is also sold commercially. There are some notable examples however of open-source software that is also free and very widely used. So we see open source software being involved in all aspects of the NPII from the common components to the commercial products to the free access features and services.

The European AT industry is a very fragmented market, especially due to the small sizes of the involved companies. Should they be afraid of OSS initiatives, or should they embrace this and look at the OSS model as a way to provide additional supportive services?

I think that kind of depends on the individual OSS efforts. Some efforts set out with a view that it is better to be free and open source than to be commercial. Other OSS efforts don't equate "free" with open source. They see a role for both free and commercial open source software.

In general I think that AT companies, especially smaller ones, should really look to partnering with open source efforts and with efforts such as the NPII that can help give them components for building solutions more quickly and less expensively as well as provide them with better mechanisms to reach out to a larger audience and create products which can be distributed internationally.

Visiting events such as CSUN, often very fancy gadgets are sold but which in reallity are hardly useable. E.g. cheap Braille embossers that punch holes in papers instead of actual embossing, but which are in fact hardly efficient since it is quite hard for a Braille reader to understand the holes and the edges. Can we conclude from such example that there is in many cases a lack of end-user involvement in the creation of new products? Products seem to be more technology than user driven. This is also addressed by Marcia J Scherer (President, Institute for Matching Person & Technology) and her Matching Person and Technology (MPT) Model that emerged from research on the use and non-use of recommended AT by consumers with a variety of disabilities.
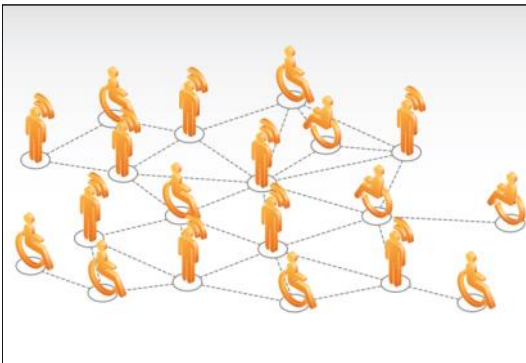
I think it is safe to say that there was not enough user involvement. Or they will involve one or a few users instead of involving the larger community of users. And yes, people often get involved in this area because they are technologists and believe they have a solution for a problem. And technologists often focus on the technology. But that is okay. It's a good way to get them involved in the field. Many of us got into the field that way.

instead of being harsh in our criticism) connect them to users and people who know the field and can help them to mature their product. Often the people who know most about how to design good products, are their competitors, and, unfortunately, it's not in their best interest to teach their colleague/competitor. But as a field, we need to step up and help newer developers to better understand. We were all there once ourselves. And this also goes for mainstream ICT companies. Sometimes their efforts are not entirely on the mark. We need to be gentle with those that are trying and connect them to those who can help them do better with each revision.

You also worked on a prioritization model, distinguishing "what is easy today" from "what is important to consumers". Is this principle applicable to all areas such as mobile, desktop, web, consumer good applications?

Yes I did. This model allows us to keep what is important at the top of the list even if we don't really have any good way of doing it today. We never know when technology will take a twist and something which would have been "impossible" turns out to be quite doable. For example a number of years ago there was an access feature that required a change to cell phone core chips. These chips were frozen and there was no way to make the change. So any suggestions that involved changing that chip were simply discarded. Then, due to other circumstances, the core chips needed to be changed. However because the disability need

was no longer on the "to do" list, the change was not made and the opportunity was lost for another generation or more of the chip. In fact it was never on the list and was never made. And yes, I do believe that this approach is important to apply across all systems. When we're doing our daily to-do lists we of course have to draw from "the important that is also possible today" list. But we should not make this a single list that is the intersection of "important" and "possible today". We should keep these two lists separate and always start with the "important" list and re-decide each day what is "possible today". What is possible today changes so fast.

The advance of the internet in terms of speed and also new applications that have started to "blossom" has initiated a war between the entertainment industry and torrent/P2P users. However, those very same users are the ones that often create captioning for documentaries and films they then again make available, where people who are disabled can access them. For example, many deaf people rely on closed captions and scene descriptions for educational and other films. What is your vision on this?

Part of the NPII is a system that would allow users who need captions or descriptions to be able to find them if they exist anywhere on the Internet. Our goal is to work with the entertainment industry and other "creators" so that this can be done in a fashion that does not impinge on their intellectual property or take away the support and compensation back to the authors. None of us would like to have our days work claimed by someone else in a way that would cause us to lose our pay check. I think we need to be very careful to separate the use of crowd sourcing and P2P technologies for accessibility and their use for free distribution of commercial products. We need to ensure that these technologies are not blocked in a way that prevents their use for accessibility. And one way to do that is to try to respect the rights of others with regard to their own creative output.

Let me close by saying we need more research on why we have such low penetration with ICT access. We are reaching a small minority of the people who could benefit from accessible technology. In some product categories it may be as low as a few percent. In other areas it is higher but I don't know of any ICT/disability category where it is higher than about 15%. And this low percentage cannot be entirely attributed to just cost, or even awareness and cost. We need to learn much more about adoption or lack of adoption if we are to create a successful strategy for increasing access. Improving the technology or extending the varieties available alone will not get us where we need to be if that is not the only limiting factor. Let me also say that 'free AT' is not the answer either. In reality nothing is free. It may be free to the user but somewhere the cost for development, maintenance and support must be borne. It is kind of like saying that we can cure world hunger by just making all food free. The gap between what is needed and what we currently address cannot be filled with government funded or philanthropic access efforts. It is too large. We need to use market mechanisms as much as possible, to grow the commercial AT market as well as growing built-in access by mainstream companies to address as much of the accessibility need as possible - and reserve government / philanthropic intervention only for those that market forces cannot reach, even when facilitated. Open source software and proprietary software both have roles to play in addressing this need.

AEGIS delivers ...

New OpenOffice.org Writer Extension Produces Braille

The Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (K.U.Leuven) released an extension for OpenOffice.org Writer in the context of the AEGIS project that enables users to save documents as Braille or to send them directly to a Braille embosser. "odt2braille" (http://odt2braille.sourceforge.net/) is a freeware extension for OpenOffice.org, a office suite that is freely available for Microsoft Windows, Mac OS X, Linux/Unix and Solaris.

Due to the emergence of technologies such as audio books and synthetic speech on PCs in the last few decades the proportion of blind persons who know Braille has decreased. Some people consider Braille as an arcane system that will become marginalised or replaced by audio books and synthetic speech. Nevertheless, Braille is still important: it is not only a reading system but also a writing system, and its defenders maintain that teaching Braille to blind children is important for the development of functional literacy. Braille is also indispensable for persons who are deaf-blind.

odt2braille is available for Microsoft Windows (XP, Vista and Windows 7), and will later also become available for Mac OS X and Linux/Unix. The current version of odt2braille supports eight Braille embossers, and additional embossers will be added later. One of the supported embossers is the Elekul, which was developed at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven by Prof. Dr. Guido François, and which was the first system that could emboss Braille on both sides of the same sheet of paper.

DAISY is the standard for Digital Talking Books, developed and maintained by the DAISY Consortium and was adopted by NISO as a ANSI/NISO standard (Z39.86). Digital talking books are used by persons with a visual impairment, dyslexia or other impairments that hamper access to printed text.

odt2braille can be downloaded from http://odt2braille.sourceforge.net/. This website also contains installation instructions and a manual.

odt2braille is suited to both Braille experts and occasional Braille users. In addition to converting text documents to Braille, it also allows users to directly input Braille in a document.

In other words, users can determine which specific Braille codes should be transferred to paper. The keys S, D, F, J, K and L can be used to simulate the keys on a Braille keyboard.

More importantly, text documents can be converted to Braille *automatically*. This type of conversion can also be done with other – typically commercial – applications, but odt2braille has important advantages:

Firstly, the whole process runs in a single environment, i.e. OpenOffice.org:

- creating the document,
- formatting the document (including both rich formatting for traditional printing and basic formatting for Braille),
- printing and/or embossing the document.

Secondly, all data are saved in a single file:

- the content,
- the formatting for print (for sighted users),
- and the formatting for Braille.

Consequently, there are no separate versions but a single document, which avoids synchronisation issues between several versions of the same document.

The new functionality is available through the "Braille" menu, which is added to OpenOffice.org Writer when odt2braille is installed. The Braille conversion is an intuitive process and the output can be tailored by the user. Users with little or no Braille experience can rely on the existing Braille conventions. In this case the Braille conversion requires very little user interaction. odt2braille is also suited to experienced Braille users who prefer to use their own formatting conventions.

The list of supported Braille embossers is still limited and consists of certain models by Interpoint NV (i.e. Elekul), Index Braille and Braillo Norway AS. It is also possible to export documents to computer files that can be read by other Braille software. In this way, Braille conversion and embossing can be separated in time, and the user can still modify the Braille document before sending it to the embosser.

In November 2009, the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven released another OpenOffice.org extension in the context of the ÆGIS project: odt2daisy (http://odt2daisy.sourceforge.net/), an OpenOffice.org Writer extension that converts text documents to audio books in the DAISY format.

AEGIS Project video

The AEGIS project video has been initiated and a first version will be shown at the 1st International Conference. This first version is based on filming that took place in Santorini, Greece, during the AEGIS 6th plenary board meeting on 9-11 June 2010.

Focus is on having a clear explanation of what the project aims to achieve, as well as to highlight the current needs of people with disabilities. To achieve this, a technical overview is provided, as well as the end-users' point of view via interviews with key   partner representatives.

The final video will be made available in a subtitled format via the project website, YouTube, DVD and other channels.

1st International Conference of AEGIS & 2nd Pan-European Workshop/User Forum

Access for all in the desktop, web and mobile field: an end-user and developer perspective

The 1st AEGIS International Conference will showcase the world's most influential open source, web and mobile accessibility projects and bring together developers and people with disabilities. It gathers presenters and exhibitors that address assistive technology in Rich Internet Applications (RIA), desktop applications and mobile applications, as well as developer tools that embed accessibility plug-ins.

Venue:

Escuela de Ingenieros

Higher Technical School of Engineering

University of Seville, Spain

Important dates

- Paper submission deadline: extended to 27 July 2010
- Notification of acceptance and outcome of review process: 29 July 2010
- Exhibitor registration deadline: extended to 10 September 2010
- Final camera-ready papers: 27 August 2010
- Delegate registration: 30 September 2010

Details about the User Forum, Workshop and Conference can be found on the next pages.

Conference-related Events

User Forum (6 October 2010)

This User Forum will provide an opportunity for the end-users of the project, people with disabilities and their representatives (tutors, trainers, carers), as well as other stakeholders and experts, to give their technical and practical feedback, suggestions and concerns about prototypes of the project solutions. Presentations of the AEGIS solutions will be grouped so that participants can discuss and evaluate those that specifically affect their own disability.

The working language of the User Forum will be Spanish.

Fees: Attendance is free.

Registration: Register online at http://www.aegis-conference.eu/pages/register.html Complete the registration form and select the 'User Forum' option in the 'Please select the events that you wish to attend' question.

User Forum Programme: check at

http://www.aegis-conference.eu/pages/userforum.html

2nd Pan-European Workshop (6 October 2010)

This Workshop aims to bring together end-users and experts in the field of assistive technologies, from both the FOSS and proprietary communities, to focus on the accessibility of desktop, web and mobile applications. During the workshop the project will present the tools developed so far, and will stimulate discussions between both end-users and application developers vis-à-vis the project's progress. The outcomes of the workshop will be taken into account by the project consortium during the next stages of the project.

The working language of the Workshop will be English.

Fees: Attendance is free.

Registration: Register online at http://www.aegis-conference.eu/pages/register.html Complete the registration form and select the '2nd Pan European Workshop' option in the 'Please select the events that you wish to attend' question.

Workshop Programme: check at

http://www.aegis-conference.eu/pages/workshop.html

GNOME Hackfest

The GNOME Accessibility Hackfest will give module maintainers and developers the opportunity to work face-to-face to further improve the accessibility of GNOME 3.0. It will include a combination of formal sessions and unconference-style hacking, making it possible to attend the User Forum and Conference sessions of interest while still leaving plenty of time to get things done in preparation for the GNOME 3.0.1 release.

- 4 October: Testing; Module Updates and Demonstrations
- 5 October: Documentation Day
- 6 - 9 October: Documentation writing, GNOME 3.0 bug fixing, Outreach

Additional information and a sign-up list can be found on the GNOME Accessibility Hackfest Wiki at http://live.gnome.org/Accessibility/HackfestAEGIS2010

Poster Exhibition

All conference speakers, abstract submitters and exhibitors are invited to submit a poster for the poster exhibition area.

All posters should be A0 size maximum (841 x 1189 mm). Further specifications can be found at http://www.aegis-conference.eu/pages/posters.html

:Please submit your posters to aegis@ace-centre.org.uk for approval. We will print your posters for you and bring them to the conference.

Poster exhibition area: The poster exhibition area is adjacent to the main exhibition area. Individual poster locations will be at the discretion of the conference organisers.

We were there too!

AEGIS project was present at following events:

2009

- Techshare 2009 Conference, 16-18/09/09, ExCeL London conference and exhibition centre, London, UK

- Techshare Mobile 2010, 15 June, International Convention Centre, Birmingham, UK

- DAISY 2009 Technical Conference, 24-25/09/09, Leipzig, Germany

- ID-dagarna, 07-09/10/09, Stockholm, Sweden

- Joining Hands TOWARDS OPEN SOURCE IN THE EMBEDDED SYSTEMS INDUSTRY, 28/10/09, Madrid, Spain

- OpenOffice.org Conference 2009, 03-06/11/09, Orvieto, Italy

- OASIS 1st International Conference - Open architecture for Accessible Services Integration and Standardisation, 4-5/11/09, Florence, Italy

- Seminar "ICTs at the Service of the Society", 11-13/11/09, Sevilla, Madrid

2010

- FOSDEM '10   06-07/02/10, Brussels, Belgium

- FOSS-AMA satellite event of ETAPS 2010, 27-28/03/10, Paphos, Cyprus

- International Cross-Disciplinary Conference on Web Accessibility (W4A 2010), 26-27/04/10, Raleigh, NC, USA

- IST Africa 2010, 19-21/05/10, Durban, South Africa

- Rencontres Mondiales du Logiciel Libre (RMLL) / Libre Software Meetings (LSM), 6-11/07/10, Bordeaux, France

- ICCHP 2010, 14-16/07/10, Vienna, Austria

- ISAAC Barcelona 2010 Communicating Worlds, 24-29/07/10, Barcelona, Spain

We plan to be there...

AEGIS project will be present at following events:

2010

- ICT 2010, 27-29/09/10, Brussels, Belgium

- NPII meeting, 29-30/09/10, Brussels, Belgium

- 2nd Pan-European AEGIS User Forum, 06/10/10, Seville, Spain
- 2nd Pan-European AEGIS Workshop, 06/10/10, Seville, Spain
- 1st International AEGIS Conference, 07-08/10/10, Seville, Spain
- ODF Plugfest, organised by the Federal State, Regions and Communities of Belgium, 14-1510/10, Brussels, Belgium
- International Workshop "Accessibility and the contribution of International Standards" organized by the World Standards Cooperation (WSC), 03-04/11/10, Geneva, Switzerland
- RAATE conference, Coventry, UK, 1st December 2010
- European Day of People with Disabilities Conference, 2-3/12/10, Brussels, Belgium

2011

- CSUN 2011, 14-19/03/11, San Diego, CA, USA
- REVA Expo, 05-07/05/11, Ghent, Belgium
- HCI 2011, 09-14/07/11, Orlando, Florida, USA

Any presentations the project made have been uploaded to http://www.slideshare.net/aegisproject/presentations and can be viewed as well as downloaded there in text only, pdf and ppt versions.
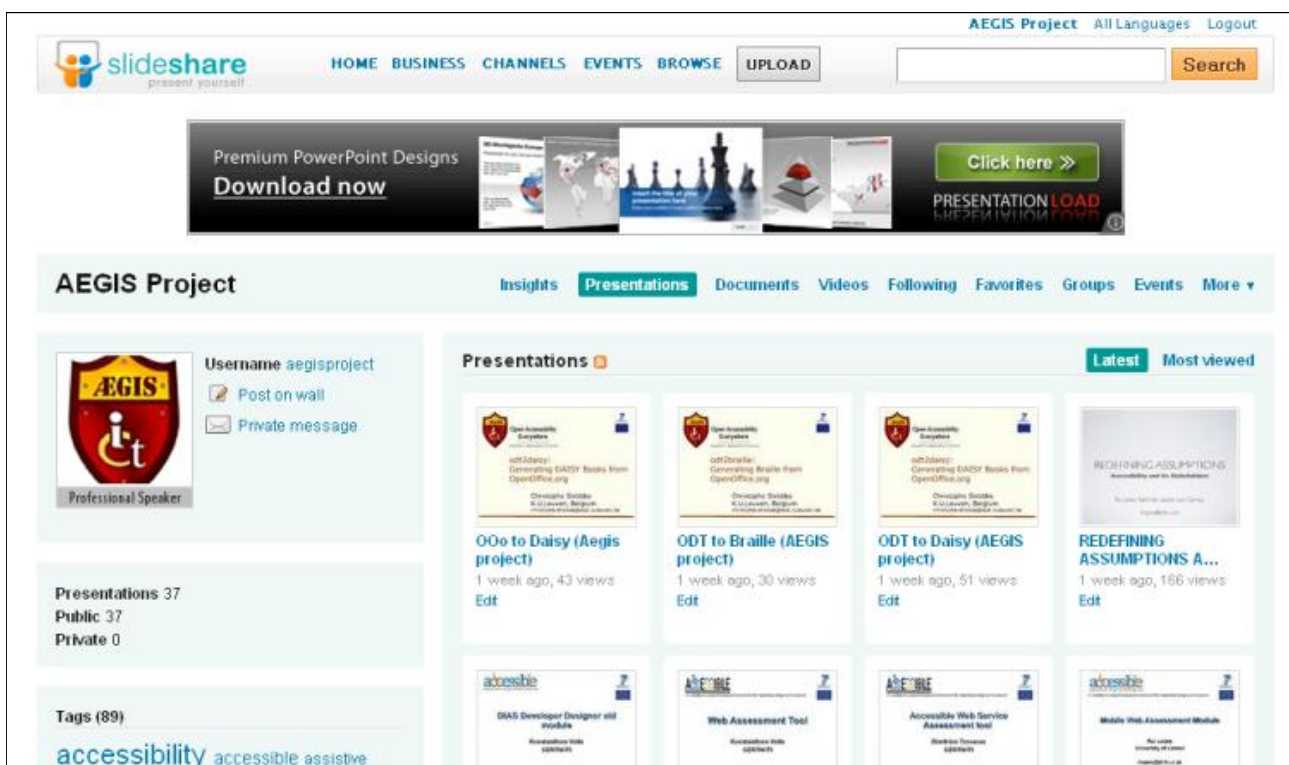
Our Publications

Following is an overview of the publications produced so far by the AEGIS project:

2009

- Jon Azpiroz, Enrique Varela, ÆGIS Project: Building accessibility into future mainstream ICTs, LivingAll European Conference, 15-16/01/09, Valencia, Spain

- Peter Korn, Sally Cain, Greg Fields, Thomas Wlodkowski, Dr. Evangelos Bekiaris, Maria Gemou, AEGIS - Open Accessibility Everywhere: Groundwork, Infrastructure, Standards - a €12.6m investment in open source accessibility, CSUN 2009, 16-21/03/09, LA, USA

- Karel Van Isacker, Karin Slegers, Maria Gemou, Evangelos Bekiaris, A UCD Approach Towards the Design, Development and Assessment of Accessible Applications in a Large Scale European Integrated Project, HCI 2009, 19-24/07/09, San Diego, CA, USA

- Peter Korn, Evangelos Bekiaris, Maria Gemou, Towards Open Access Accessibility Everywhere: the ÆGIS Concept, HCI 2009, 19-24/07/09, San Diego, CA, USA

- Evangelos Bekiaris, Maria Gemou, Konstantinos Kalogirou, Embedded User Interface for web, mobile and desktop applications to satisfy Design for All principles, Article for book "User Interfaces", ISBN 978-953-7619-X-X, to be published by IN-TECH

- Vincent Spiewak, Christophe Strobbe, Odt2DAISY: Authoring Full DAISY Books with OpenOffice.org, DAISY 2009 Technical Conference (www.daisy2009.de), 24-25 September 2009, Germany

- Vincent Spiewak, OpenOffice.org can speak using odt2daisy!, OpenOffice.org Conference 2009, 3-6 November 2009, Orvieto, Italy

2010

- FOSS-AMA event, 27-28 March 2010, Cyprus
  - Karel Van Isacker, ÆGIS - ACCESSIBLE: Users Involvement Driving Accessibility Forward
  - Evangelos Bekiaris, Maria Gemou, Use Cases towards

All Inclusive Mainstream ICT

- Thanos Tsakiris, Konstantinos Moustakas, Dimitrios Tzovaras, Improved Accessibility in Maps for Visually Impaired Users

- Thanos Tsakiris, Konstantinos Moustakas, Dimitrios Tzovaras, Improved Accessibility in Maps for Visually Impaired Users

- Jan Vystrcil, Zdenek Mikovec, Miroslav Karsulin, Jaroslav Kucera, Incorporating ARIA into Web Toolkit

- Mats Lundälv, Bengt Farre, Annika Brännström, Lars Nordberg, Open-Source Concept Coded Graphic Symbol support in OpenOffice.org

- Christophe Strobbe, Vincent Spiewak, Jan Engelen, Odt2DAISY: Producing Digital Talking Books with Open-Source Software

- Evangelos Bekiaris, Kostas Kalogirou, Maria Gemou, Java User Interfaces for Accessible Mobile Applications

- Jon Azpiroz, Puerto Asensio, Iván Carmona, Rosana Sánchez, María Fernanda Cabrera, Giovanni Del Grosso, Designing Mobile Applications for All: Accessible Contact Manager

- Kaklanis, N., Votis, K., Moustakas, K. & Tzovaras, D., 3D HapticWebBrowser: Towards Universal Web Navigation for the Visually Impaired, International Cross-Disciplinary Conference on Web Accessibility (W4A 2010), 26th & 27th April 2010, Raleigh, NC, USA

- Christophe Strobbe, Generating DAISY Books from OpenOffice.org, ICCHP 2010, 14-16 July 2010, Vienna, Austria

- David Colven, Mats Lundälv, The AEGIS Open Source Project – What's in it for AAC?, ISAAC Barcelona 2010 Communicating Worlds, 24-29 July 2010

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