Copyright and Accessibility in Hungary

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**Brief Introduction**

- LSTR, the birthplace of talking devices in Hungary
  - 1985 BraiLab Basic
- Speech synthesis
- Microcomputing
- 77 Elektronika
- Assistive technology
Historic Overview

CP/M based portable notetaker with floppy drive

1987 Brailab Plus

Text processing

- Braille/Ink printing
- Programming in Pascal, C, Dbase, Basic etc.
- Commandline environment with full speech support
Historic Overview

Speech adapter for IBM compatible PC-s

1991 Brailab PC

Equivalent access to MS-DOS

- Internet access: e-mail, ftp, web browsing and talking terminal emulator
- Complex CD law base
- Recognita OCR
- Hybrid talking books
Digital talking book technology

Synchronised storage of text and audio on a CDrom

Blind friendly navigation and book reading

3T-Book Talking Tactile Text
Historic Overview

**Book Reader**, stand-alone Hungarian speaking portable computer

- With Braille keyboard
- Built in CD-ROM drive
- Speech output
- Text editor
- Calculator
- Hybrid book reader

1995
Historic Overview

• Java powered device
• Braille input
• With speech output
• Text editor, Calculator
• Hybrid book reader
• MP3 player, memo recorder
• Phone, SMS, WiFi, Web, email, contacts.

SlatTalker 2003
Talking PDA with Braille mask
Accessibility in the Past Decade

• Email, FTP & web browsing with free MSDOS software and speech support
• Accessing the LAN at the work place
• Leisure time activities: OCR, E-book reading, printing, MIDI sequencing, accessible games, etc.
• Until the mid90s, this was all possible at a negligible cost with nearly equivalent conditions for the sighted and the blind.
• As Windows began spreading, squeezed out DOS and all command line environments, blind PC users couldn't keep the pace so they got marginalized by the end of the decade.
• Most of them continued to use their old MSDOS, speech adapter and special software until the late 90s.
Changing to Windows

• KFKI's experimental system for Window-eyes & Jaws to access Windows in Hungarian by Brailab PC
• The soundcard becoming a standard component of computers -->
• Software speech output begins to dominate, squeezes out hardware solutions
• Speech engines first appear in English etc., then in Hungarian (eg. Profivox)
• Adaptation to blind demands varies greatly
• A Hungarian speech engine was first integrated into Jaws in 2001 and became accessible more widely in 2003

Comparison:

**DOS**: Screen reader: free, speech hardware < $50.

**WIN**: Screen reader for a few years period > $1500.
Accessibility and the Web

• In the beginning, all sites were fully accessible for the blind, since they only contained textual information.
• The only obstacle still today is when the graphical possibilities are abused on a site.
• This is an obstacle for sighted visitors too.
Accessibility Criteria for Web Sites

• Provide information in text not in graphic (bitmap)
Label graphical links with the <alt> tag or refer to purpose by the filename (e.g., "latest_news.gif" instead of "link01.gif")
• Allow keyboard access to all services (not only mouse)
• Refrain from frequent page refreshing
• The following things must appear near the top of the page:
  Link to text only or print-friendly version
  "Skip navigation links" option
  Important information and news
Accessibility Criteria for Web Sites

• Use shorter text lines
• Refrain from complicated tables
• Put the most important information at or near the beginning of lines in lists and tables
• Prefer multiple short pages to a single long page
  a series of short pages instead of a very long page
• Insert blank line(s) to separate groups of related information
• Indicate importance by verbose means not only by colors
A Good Example

As it is shown in Internet Explorer
A Bad Example
As it is shown in Internet Explorer

Skype is a little program for making free calls over the internet to anyone else who also has Skype. It's free and easy to download and use, and works with most computers. Download Skype now or learn more about Skype (incl. screenshots).
Copyright Concerns of Accessible E-books, Talking Books and Music Documents

- Hungarian act about the protection of authors' rights (1999)
- Par. 41 allows free utilisation of works for the disabled
- Multiplication and dissemination for non-business purposes only
- Satisfying the needs of disabled people
- Works provided in a form that only suits this purpose
- Establishing organisations managing the "collective administration of copyrights"

MEK --> Hungarian Electronic Library
Braille Music XML (BMX)

www.recordare.org

The same music extracted into pure Braille
Thank You for Your Attention