

Information Communications Technology Newsletter

November 2006: *Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility (FITA) Improving the quality of life of disabled persons through ICT.*

Software of the Month

Poweriso V3.4

Recently I had few ISO file images on computerr and I wanted to look at these ISO imeges without actually burning them onto a CD. ISO or NRG files are file archives created by a Cd and DVD burning software such as Nero, and contains the original CD files. Luckily for me I found Poweriso.

PowerISO is a CD/DVD image file processing tool, which allows you to open, extract, create, edit, compress, encrypt, split and convert ISO files, and mount these files on an internal virtual drive. It can process almost all CD-ROM image files including ISO and BIN.

System requirements: Windows98/Me, Windows2000/XP/2003 operating system or above.

For me as a blind person, I found Poweriso very user friendly and fully compatible with my Window-Eyes screen reader v5.5. To download a trial version of the software visit <http://www.poweriso.com>

Please note that the trial version is fully functional but works only on file sizes of up to 300mb, plus the usual reminder purchase notices appear from time to time.

Web Link of the Month

Christmas is with us again

Many of us are used to buy Christmas cards and send them by postal mail to our friends and relatives. Nowadays, there are several e-card services from where you can send electronic e-cards by email. Most of these e-cards are free and are very nice because they have music incorporated with them. Below are few websites to try from where you can send these Christmas season e-cards.

Cloudeight Acpressions, Free E-Cards and E-Greetings
<http://thundercloud.net/acpressions/>

Free Greetings and Ecards - Fun and Silly Greeting Cards
<http://www.funsilly.com/>

123greatings.com
<http://www.123greetings.com/>

Contributed by: Michael Micallef

News Articles

FITA ICT Training Courses

FITA News

Welcome to the 35th issue of the FITA newsletter. Through this newsletter service we look forward to continue to bring you up to date information about:

- Assistive Technology News
- Services provided by Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility (FITA) and its partner organisations
- Progress registered in the area of ICT accessibility in Malta and Gozo.

FITA's services are made possible thanks to the support of the funding partners.

- [Malta Information Technology and Training Services Ltd.](#)
- [National Commission Persons with Disability](#)
- [Gasam Group of Companies](#)
- [Computime Ltd.](#)
- [Philip Toledo Ltd](#)
- [Megabyte Ltd](#)
- [The Computer Society of Malta](#)
- [Crimsonwing \(Malta\)](#)
- [6PM Consultancy Group](#)
- [Engineering Centre](#)
- [SMS Group of](#)

FITA is working to organise more ICT training courses with the help of the Maltese College of Arts Science and Technology (MCAST), the Education Division and the Ministry for Industry, Investment and Information Technology

Persons interested in introductory ICT courses and ECDL Module 4 (Excel) courses should contact FITA by 23rd December 2006.

We appreciate the support of NGOs in circulating this information to their members

Reasonable Adjustments

BECTA are currently engaging in a public consultation on reasonable adjustments in software and accessibility. This consultation process seeks views of guidelines on the 'reasonable adjustment' to be expected in future educational software and electronic materials for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities as an important milestone in the progress toward an inclusive and accessible curriculum.

Their proposed guidelines on what is required for 'reasonable adjustment' are available from the Becta community pages at <http://communities.becta.org.uk/digitalresources/reasonableadjustment> The consultation period end on 12th December 2006. Following this consultation the guidelines will be revised and made available on the Becta community pages in February

Source: Adrian Higginbotham, British Educational Communications and Technology Agency - BECTA

Access Course

Improvement of the accessibility of e-learning programmes and services will be the focus of the Consortium for eLearn Accessibility, established this month by the European Network Visually Impaired Training Education Research. The group is open to all companies and organisations active in e-learning: <http://fastlink.headstar.com/elearn2>

FITA AGM

We would like to thank all those who attended the FITA AGM which was held on 30th November 2006. We regret that some of the invites apparently disappeared in the mail. A special thanks to those who still managed to attend, notwithstanding the short notice. The original invitation included an information video which can be especially useful to HR departments in raising awareness about ICT empowerment and accessibility issues. More copies are available from FITA upon request.

The AGM started off with Mr. Joseph M. Camilleri, Chairperson, National Commission Disabled Persons and Mr. David Spiteri Gingell, Chairperson, Malta Information Technology and Training Services Ltd. expressed their appreciation that the work carried out by FITA is being well received by both the disabled community and business organisations. This is also shown by the increasing demand for ICT accessibility consultancy services.

Mr. Joseph A. Gasan, Chairperson, Gasan Group, delivered an account of his past experience as FITA funding partner representative, wherein he highlighted the genuine interest and untapped initiative of many disabled persons.

Honourable Mr. Leo Brincat, shadow minister for ICT, commented on FITA's contribution to the Labour Party's ICT Vision Statement, highlighting the need for

Companies

We welcome your contributions. Email us on stanley.debono@gov.mt or michael.micallef@gov.mt.

Greetings

The board of administrators and all of us at FITA wish all the readers a Merry Christmas and a prosperous prosperous New Year

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closer cooperation with research entities and the importance of investing in this field.

Ms Joanna Azzopardi, Project Manager, Information Society Secretariat within the Ministry for Investment, Industry and ICT outlined the ongoing collaboration with FITA in addressing the digital divide.

The attendees expressed their support for how FITA assists disabled persons in releasing their potential through the effective use of ICT. The Foundation received positive feedback on its past activities and also welcomed suggestions for future initiatives including computer based Maltese speech synthesis and making accessibility an ubiquitous criteria across local ICT projects and awards.

Employment and Disability Seminar

On 5th December 2006, FITA participated in a seminar on Employment and Disability organised by the Reggie Miller Foundation. Mr. Michael Micallef delivered a presentation, whilst Mr. Stanley M. Debono coordinated the preparatory work and the organisation of an information stand. The stand was managed by three foreign students who through collaboration with the Leonardo Programme European Mobility project, are currently supporting administrative work at FITA.

We wish to thank the organisers of the seminar for this opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of e-inclusion within the context of employment.

Microsoft software initiative

People interested in applying for the MS Windows Vista software upgrade should forward us their details at michael.micallef@gov.mt. Only individuals who already own the HelloIT MS Windows XP software issued in 2005 can obtain this package. If you had not applied for the Windows XP software you can now buy it from Maltapost offices, till stocks last.

Onvol Applications

If you wish to apply for the Onvol Internet offer, please contact FITA to arrange an appointment. Once you visit FITA you only need to present the yellow special identity card in order to have your details verified. For more details please refer to the FITA website.

<http://www.knpd.org/mittsfita>