



Information Communications Technology Newsletter

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Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility
Improving the quality of life of disabled persons through ICT.

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Welcome to the 70th issue of the FITA newsletter.

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Software of the month

++ Everything

As many of you know, Windows XP/Vista come with their own File Finder search utility. Very recently I discovered a very simple File Finder utility which I like more, this is called Everything.

Everything V1.2 is a very light File Finder program utility, that it is very fast and can locate your forgotten files very quickly. It also comes in Portable version which means that you can carry it with you on your pendrive without actually installing it on your computer.

Main features include:

- Keyboard Shortcuts.
- Small installation file.
- Clean and simple user interface.
- Quick file indexing.
- Quick searching.
- Minimal resource usage.
- Real-time updating

This little file finder utility is fully compatible with the assistive technology such as Window-Eyes V7.11 screen reader or Zoomtext V9.2 screen magnifier.

Everything can be downloaded from <http://www.voidtools.com/>

Contributed by: Michael Micallef

Articles

+ + Science and Technology Festival

FITA and ACTU participated in the Science and Technology Festival organised by MCST and held on the University Grounds.

The week long activity consisted of a variety of activities, spread all over the university grounds.

Children and adults alike enjoyed a tour of interactive science exhibits on display were they were invited to explore and uncover the scientific principles that make the exhibits tick.



The activity helped raise awareness about ICT accessibility and assistive ICT solutions amongst children and teachers alike.

++ FITA Annual General Meeting

The FITA Annual General Meeting 2009, was hosted by MITA at Gattard House in Blata l-Bajda.

Speeches and presentations from past FITA AGM are archived and made available within the Funding Partners section of the website at <http://www.knpd.org/mittsfita/funding.htm>

I wish to thank MITA for hosting the event, and all participants, particularly



Mr. Matthew Gat, CEO of MITA and Mr. Joseph M. Camilleri, Chairman, KNPD for showing their active support towards FITA's endeavours.

Last but not least, I also wish to thank FITA members of staff and volunteers for their support and dedication.

Contributed by: Stanley M. Debono

++ Maltese Speech Engine - Online Survey

FITA has embarked on the development of a Maltese Speech Engine (MSE) which will enable computers to convert Maltese text to speech audio. This Project is part-financed by the European Union European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

This technology will allow for a more natural human-machine interaction when Maltese language speakers use ICT.

This technology already exists today for a number of languages, including English. Up until now, Maltese speakers, amongst whom, school children, illiterate persons and disabled persons, have had to rely on these alternative languages. This means that all information services and media relying on Maltese electronic text remain inaccessible to all these individuals.

FITA is inviting you to participate in an online survey intended to further increase the knowledge base necessary to ensure the success of this project and ensure as much as possible that it

is in-line with your needs and expectations.

The following web addresses will take you to the opening page of the on-line survey. Once you reach the survey you may choose either the Maltese or the English language version of this survey.

If you wish to participate as a business organisation please fill in the survey at:

www.mfsadni.com/snap/fitacomponline

If you wish to participate as a private person / household please fill in the survey at:

www.mfsadni.com/snap/fitaonline

Thank you for your cooperation.

Contributed by: Stanley M. Debono

Question Box

++ IE8 vs Firefox

The browser wars are endless, as Internet Explorer and Firefox continually improve, add features, crash, and improve again. So naturally, many have users have asked, how do IE 8 and FireFox 3.5 compare when it comes down to speed, quality of Web page rendering, configurability, and user-friendliness? This article by Bob Rankin provides some good answers and more food for thought.

Read the full article at:

http://askbobrankin.com/internet_explorer_8_versus_firefox.html

Source: Bob Rankin

Credits

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

- Malta Information Technology and Training Services Ltd.
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- Gasan Group of Companies
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- Philip Toledo Ltd
- Megabyte Ltd
- The Computer Society of Malta
- SMS Group of Companies
- Crimsonwing (Malta)
- 6PM Consultancy Group
- Engineering Centre

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