



# Information Communications Technology Newsletter

Issue: February 2010  
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Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility  
Improving the quality of life of disabled persons through ICT.

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## Software of the month

### **++ Mobile Speak Version 4.0 New product and price information**

This new version of Mobile Speak merges the platforms Symbian and Windows Mobile into one product.

This version includes a free Games Pack (to be used with Symbian only). For those licenses no TTS has to be pre-selected.

You can now purchase a Mobile Speak license with TTS and only when you are generating the activation you will have to decide which TTS the activation will have.

This license upgrades an existing Mobile Speak license (no matter if Mobile Speak Symbian, Mobile Speak Smartphone or Pocket) to the new Mobile Speak 4.0.

Upgrade licenses include a free license for Mobile Magnifier, Mobile Daisy Player, Mobile Colour Recognizer and our Games Pack. Those licenses do not have a TTS! They do upgrade the existing license of a customer to the new system, maintaining the TTS he or she had assigned to license/UID.

Further to these changes by CodeFactory, the manufacturer of the Mobile Speak software, FITA is now binding licences to mobile numbers (and not mobile phones) and the below licence fees apply

Service	Cost
Brand New Mobile Speak license V4.0	€230.00
Upgrade license from V3.XX to V4.XX	€130.00

*Source: Michael Micallef*

## Website of the month

### ++ Anti-Viri

Often when you buy a new computer, it comes with a trial version of Norton, McAfee or some other commercial antivirus software. When that free trial is about to expire, the program starts to nag you about upgrading to a paid version, which can be expensive. That's when some users start looking for a free antivirus alternative. There are some excellent free antivirus programs, but a common mistake is to install that freebie without removing the old one. Some users also think they'll be more secure if they install a second antivirus package.

In most cases, having more than one antivirus program running on your computer is bad news. Antivirus programs consume memory and processing power, as they scan the stream of data, emails, web pages and downloads that enter your computer. So it makes sense that having more than one antivirus scanner will slow down your computer.

But there's another potential problem... Sometimes antivirus programs can fight with each other, since they both want to be the final arbiter of good and evil on your computer. One might even think the other \*is\* a virus, and attempt to quarantine it. You may see slowdowns, lockups or experience random restarts



Read more at:

<http://www.freebyte.com/antivirus/>

## Articles

### ++ Klabb 3-16

#### What is Klabb 3-16?

Klabb 3-16 is an after-school hours care service for school-age children offered by the Foundation for Educational Services (FES). The service bridges the gap between when school finishes and when parents finish work, and provides care during out of school holidays where needed. There is a planned programme of activities on offer where children do their homework and take part in educational fun activities. The service provides a safe, stimulating environment with appropriate adult supervision and facilitation during non-school hours.

Klabb 3-16 caters for children aged between 3 and 16 years who attend State, Church and Independent Schools.

The club is run by a team of dedicated and professionally trained staff. Each centre has a Co-ordinator, who is responsible for the overall running of the respective centre.

#### What are the opening hours?

The service runs from Monday to Friday between 2.30 pm and 6.00 pm during school days and from Monday to Friday between 8.30 am and 6.00 pm during holidays (subject to demand).

#### What activities are organised?

The Klabb 3-16 programme will deliver activities based on a variety of arts and crafts, sports, drama, music, cooking, free play, etc.

### Can my children do their homework whilst at Klabb 3-16?

Children will be doing their homework between 3.00pm and 4.30pm OR 4.30pm and 6.00pm, supervised by teachers. However, it is the parents' responsibility to ensure that homework is completed daily.

### Who works at Klabb 3-16?

We place significant importance in employing staff that are passionate about child care. Klabb 3-16 employees are selected through a thorough recruitment process. Most staff members are required to hold first aid qualifications.

The Co-ordinator is responsible for the overall operation of the centre, and is the contact person for the respective centre. Homework tutors, who are qualified teachers, assist children to do their homework. Playworkers hold qualifications in Childcare and/or Playwork or are in the process of acquiring such qualifications. They organise hands-on fun activities such as arts and crafts, story telling, sports, drama, music, cooking, free play, etc.

### I'm interested. How do I register?

Parents need to register for the service by completing a Registration Form by:

1. Meeting with the Centre Co-ordinator
2. Downloading it from [www.fes.org.mt](http://www.fes.org.mt)
3. Requesting a copy to be sent by mail, by calling 21455600/7 or email [klabb316.medic@gov.mt](mailto:klabb316.medic@gov.mt)

### Now that I've registered, how do I book for the service?

For all bookings, please call the respective Centre Co-ordinator.

Bookings need to be made in advance, preferably by Wednesday of the previous week. This is to ensure that the appropriate staffing ratios are met.

### Is there a fee for using Klabb 3-16?

Yes, the service is against payment. Fees are paid in advance and must be handed to the Klabb 3-16 Co-ordinator. No booking is confirmed until full payment is issued. Pre-booking is advised in advance where possible to avoid disappointment. Rate: ?1.20 per hour

For more information please contact us on: Tel: 21 455 600/7

Email: [klabb316.medic@gov.mt](mailto:klabb316.medic@gov.mt)

### **++ MOBHAVIP Project**

Mobility and Orientation Training (MOT) enables visually impaired persons to learn how to orientate themselves and move about in their every day lives, be it at home, at their place of work, and even in the outside world.

The MOBHAVIP (Transfer of Innovation) project seeks to address the need of MOT to be provided for Blind and Visually Impaired persons in Malta. FITA's responsibility involved the evaluation and design of accessible resources and publications. The project includes partners from the UK and Germany.

Persons interested in participating as students, should contact Ms Alison Zammit, KNPd on 21487789 or [azammit@knpd.org](mailto:azammit@knpd.org) for an information pack containing:

- 1) Preparatory Course Outline
- 2) Unit 1 Rationale
- 3) Brief information about what it would be like to travel without sight
- 4) Time-table (dates for Practical sessions of Feb 2010 are confirmed - other sessions will be confirmed later on)
5. Application form for enrolment

### **++ Maltese Speech Engine Update**

FITA is finalising the research study on ICT and Disability which was carried out between October and December 2009. The results will be published on the FITA website by the end of March 2010.

The software development tender was successfully adjudicated and work on the speech engine is already in progress. There are planned a number of prototypes which will be user tested by stakeholders and project partners. The final deliverable is scheduled for third quarter 2013.

### **++ FITA ICT training courses**

With the increased volumes of digital media and computerized services understanding more about computers is more important than ever. A basic knowledge of computers and online resources, is essential not only at school and at work, but also enables citizens to make effective use of e-services.

The Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility (FITA) will again be organising computer sessions,

between February 2010 and June 2010. These courses are organized with the support of the Education Division's Life Long Learning Department and the Maltese College for Arts Science and Technology (MCAST).

For further information regarding these courses, kindly contact FITA on telephone 25992343 or email: [leone.sciberras@gov.mt](mailto:leone.sciberras@gov.mt)

## **Question Box**

### **++ Secrets of the Windows Taskbar**

To some, the Windows taskbar just takes up space at the bottom of the screen. But learning how to interact with the taskbar can make you more productive. Here are some tips and tricks that will help you manage and customize the taskbar.

#### Managing Open Applications

When you open an application, a button representing it appears in the taskbar. If that app is buried under others open on your desktop, left-click once on its button to make it appear instantly. Many people don't know that clicking on an app's taskbar button again minimizes it, bringing another app to the foreground.

You can also close an open app without bringing it to the foreground and using its built-in Close command; just right-click on its button and click Close. You'll be prompted to save any unsaved data.

Items you have opened with the same application, such as multiple word processor documents, may be collapsed into the application's taskbar button if the taskbar is crowded with many open items. If you don't see an item on the taskbar, hover your cursor

over its application and up will pop a vertical list of open items from which you can select.

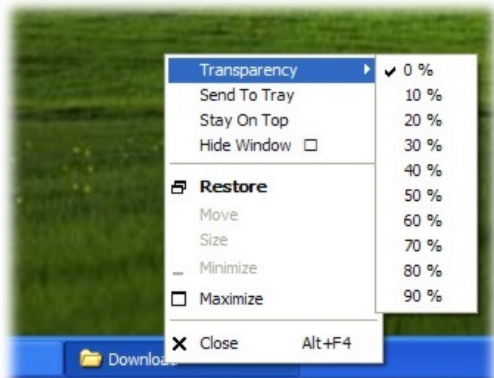
### Customizing the Taskbar

You can customize the taskbar by right-clicking any empty space in the taskbar, then select Properties, then the Taskbar tab. The Lock option prevents resizing of the taskbar so you don't accidentally mess up your taskbar settings while mousing over it.

Autohide gives you more display space by hiding the taskbar until you hover your cursor over the bottom edge of the screen.

Be sure to enable the Quicklaunch bar within the taskbar. Then you can drag any desktop icon to the Quicklaunch area, drop it, and launch the application by clicking on its Quicklaunch icon. A Desktop icon that takes you to your desktop instantly is also available when Quicklaunch is enabled.

I think it's nice to have a clock in the



taskbar, but you can remove the clock if you like. It's also useful to hide inactive icons, but you don't have to. Click the Customize button to enable or disable any of the icons. This option also lets you turn off those info balloons that pop up in the Notifications area at the right-hand end of the taskbar. I'm forever digging for the Volume icon, so I keep mine always available on the taskbar.

### Moving or Sizing the Taskbar

I can't tell you how many times I've accidentally moved my taskbar to the side or top of the screen, then couldn't remember how to get it back on the bottom. Oh, you too?!? To move the taskbar to any side of the screen, left-click on an empty portion of the taskbar (not on an open application's button) and drag the taskbar to the new position.

You can also make the taskbar taller or wider, depending on where it's located. If you have lots of icons on the taskbar, and it's on the bottom, you might want to make it taller. If you prefer your taskbar on the side of the screen, adjusting the width can be helpful.

To resize the taskbar, hover the mouse pointer on the edge of the bar until it turns into the little double-arrow grabber, the left-click and drag. Note that the taskbar must be unlocked to move or resize it. And once you get it where you like it, locking is a good idea!

## **Credits**

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

- Malta Information Technology and Training Services Ltd.
- National Commission Persons with Disability
- Gasan Group of Companies
- Computime Ltd.
- 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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