Introducing the VisiTab
The $100 Gift of Independence

Presented by

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The year that passed

In 2014:

- $100 could get...
  - An accessible Android tablet with Android OS 4.2
- Increased accessibility of mainstream technology
- 2 Android OS updates were released
- In March 2014, only devices with 4.2 were available within the price range

Smart Devices
as a gift of independence

- Revolution of smart devices

- Portability

- Versatility

- Mainstream device

- Built in accessibility

- Personalisation

Why Android is now a viable option

- Development of Android Accessibility (OS Jelly Bean 4.2)

- Price aspects

- Range

- Constant upgrade of devices

The Big Question?

"Could the distribution of low cost, highly accessible Android tablets, with associated training, be of benefit to people who are blind or vision impaired and importantly, contribute to their independence?"

Aims of the VisiTab trial

- To determine the best type of tablet for clients
- To create a training mechanism
- To identify the ways in which the tablet may support the needs of people who are blind or vision impaired
- To identify the issues that may prevent people from benefitting from the experience
- To determine if the distribution of an Android tablet at little or no cost would ultimately benefit clients
- To develop a long term financial model for this project
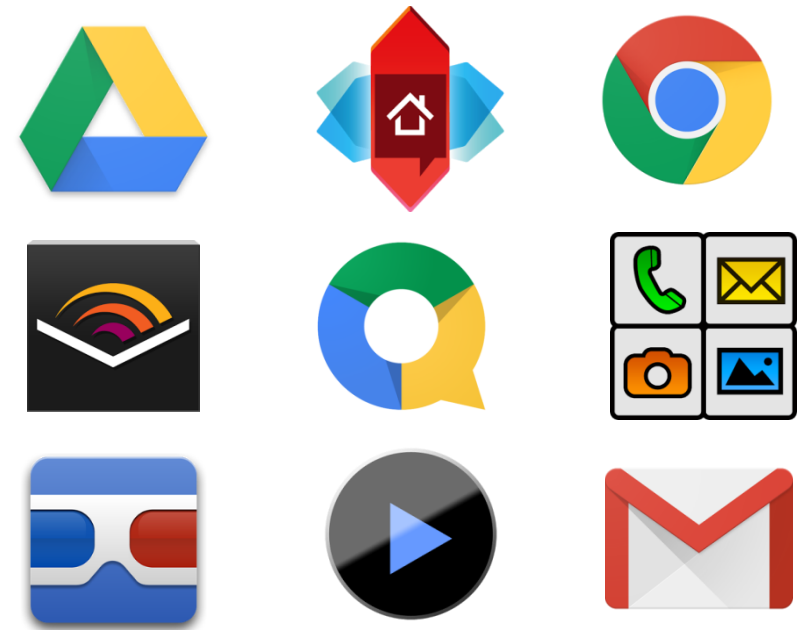
Visitab trial Overview

- **4** Team Members:

  Tony Hagan, Dr Scott Hollier, David Vosnacos, Yuemei Lim

- **4** Trial Tablets:

  5.5'', 7'', 9'', 10'' tablets

- **4** User Groups

  Low vision, Blind, Transition, Tech Savvy

- Run over **4** months

  March – June 2014

Participants

- 9 participants
- 18 – 64 years old
- 'low vision' (0), 'no vision' (2), 'transition' (4), 'tech savvy' (3)
- Nil to a lot of android experience

Devices

- Google Android 4.2
- Dual-core processor
- 1GB RAM
- 4GB storage

Training

- **Step 1:** provide familiarity of tablet hardware
- **Step 2:** provide familiarity with accessibility
- **Step 3:** Performing app tasks
- **Step 4:** Alternative launcher test
- **Additional:** video magnifier capability - connecting to a 50'' TV through HDMI

Advantages and limitations

Advantages

- Participants wanted to take the tablets home!

Limitations

- Recruitment, Quality of hardware, Installation of google android, Technical issues

THE VisiTab

- Quad-core processor

- Minimum Android 4.4 KitKat

- 9" tablet

- 'grippy' back surface

- USB and HDMI ports

- a physical 'back' or 'home' button

- GPS, Bluetooth, SIM-capable and a convertible stand cover

Bundle to include

- Initial approx 1.5 days training
- VisAbility App
- Optional bluetooth keyboard
- Convertible stand cover
- $20-50 subsidised price

The Future?

- Finances

- Logistics

- Quality control

- App development

- Training

Thank you

Any Questions?

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