

NV Access

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Annual Report
2009-2010

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President's Report

2009-2010 has been a somewhat fruitful year for NV Access, and also a year of changes. Several grants were either started, or renewed, and the mindset of the organization has perhaps switched to a slightly better position, which has allowed us to put in place a few things that make running the organization easier, and to plan out the future direction more successfully.

The year started off with NV Access receiving a small but useful grant from Yahoo! which allowed further development of the support for ARIA (Accessible Rich Internet Applications) support in NVDA. This included such things as accessible drag and drop, more advanced table navigation, and reporting of ARIA landmarks. These features are becoming more important as ARIA is becoming more and more common across the internet, so it is great that we can work together with Yahoo! to make sure that NVDA stays at the forefront of the available technologies in web accessibility.

As PDFs are a major part of almost anyone's electronic life (from government documents to airline tickets), we welcome the support of NV Access from Adobe. Over the past year, Adobe has provided us with a rather substantial grant, plus smaller quarterly payments. These have enabled us to make major improvements to NVDA's support for Adobe Reader (bringing access to PDFs on par with other commercial screen readers), and improved support for Adobe Flash.

Mozilla has also greatly helped out by providing us with another grant that is not specifically tied to any particular work, yet of course we continue to focus on goals that improve the overall web experience for blind people in relation to Mozilla products.

The final significant payment, though not specifically a grant, was an anonymous donation, roughly the amount of half a year's employment for one NV Access employee. We have made great use of this money to work on a few things in NVDA, that in the past have been overlooked due to lack of time. Specifically these were the implementation of a display model (off-screen model), and better support for complex documents such as in Open Office and IBM Lotus Symphony.

We very much thank all the above organizations for their support of NV Access. These grants and donations have allowed us to most importantly sustain NV Access for the last year, and of course then to ensure the ongoing development of NVDA.

However it must be noted that all these grants and donations still only were enough to sustain the employment of two developers. It is important that going in to the future we look at trying to grow the organization, so that we can find new developers

and or simply be placed in a slightly more stable position. This may be achieved by branching out in to other sources of income such as commercial technical support, accessibility consulting, or the sale of related accessibility products.

Over this year, Jamie and I have held two face-to-face developer meetings to work on NVDA, including both planning and coding.

The first was held in August 2009, where we discussed the beginnings of ARIA live region support, if or how NVDA should provide access to Flash/Silverlight via virtual buffers, and how NVDA should provide support to Text Services Framework (TSF). We also worked together on fixing a few bugs, and also moved closer to releasing the first stable NVDA release since 0.5 (2009.1).

The second was held in March 2010, and in this one we discussed many plans to do with the new display model and improving access to complex documents (Open Office / Lotus Symphony).

As usual, both of these meetings greatly invigorated us to continue our work on NVDA, and allowed us to come away with many new ideas and a better idea of where the project is going.

In March 2010, NV Access was able to talk about and demonstrate NVDA on the ABC's New Inventors program. As I had some personal commitments on that particular day, Jamie was interviewed by the host and the panel, in front of a live audience; however I participated in some extra video footage produced beforehand. It was really exciting to be able to present NVDA to such a wide audience, and clearly from the web forum, and the slight spike in donations afterwards, people certainly found our product useful, if not very interesting. Our spot on the New Inventors program also sparked some attention from several disability organisations in Australia who were keen to promote NVDA to their clients.

This year we have been able to make not one but two stable releases of NVDA. We released 2009.1 in November and 2010.1 in March. We were extraordinarily happy with the stability of both of these releases, and it has shown us that there is definitely an advantage to releasing more, with smaller changes, rather than holding off until we have more bright and flashy features. These releases provide greatly improved support for:

- Both Internet Explorer and Adobe Reader
- Support for UI Automation
- Support for Windows logon / security dialogs
- Support for 64-bit applications
- And much more.

In December 2009, NV Access decided to find a book keeper, to help us manage our finances. We have now been using the services of Nova Book Keeping for the last half a year, and so far we are finding it to be going well. Having a book keeper has greatly reduced the work that Amy had to do to keep our finances in check, and it has also meant that we no longer have to keep buying copies of particular accounting software, as it is all done off-site.

Finally, due to Amy and myself moving to Queensland, and because we would like to be able to accept tax-deductible donations, we have started investigating changing our organization structure from an Incorporated Association under the act of Victoria, in to a Public company limited by guarantee, under Australian federal law. Although this change would cost a fair amount, and mean that we would have to dissolve the current organisation and create a new one, the advantages are clear. The change would firstly allow us to run the organisation from anywhere in Australia. It may also make it more clear to people what our structure really is as it will be a more well-known one. And, at the same time we become a company, we would also apply for gift recipient status, for tax-deductible donations. The committee all agrees that this is the way we should go, and it has also seemed to spark a bit more enthusiasm from all of us, in regards to running the organisation. It certainly feels like a step up from where we have been.

I would like to thank the entire committee for all the work and input over the year. Although we still have a high place to strive for, I feel that we have certainly taken many necessary steps this year, which will allow us to move forward. I think the next year is going to be both fun and challenging, and I very much look forward to it.

Michael Curran
President

Treasurer's Report

As Mick mentioned in his president's report, the 2009-2010 financial year has been a very rewarding one for NV Access. We were able to procure just over AU\$160,000 in grants and donation, thus leaving us with a healthy surplus of AU\$40,000. We would like to thank all the corporations and individuals who have supported NV Access and the NVDA project over the last year.

I believe that this year has made a good financial foundation for NV Access to move forward into the new business structure. This structure should not only be able to provide NV Access with tax deductible donation status but should also make us appear a more serious entity. The Gift Deductible Recipient (GDR) status will also enable NV Access to become eligible to apply for grants from the various Australian philanthropic trusts and funds. This is something that we have wanted to tap into for a few years now and should enable us to grow our income and expand the organisation.

The coming year is looking very promising for NV Access. Hopefully by the time of the next annual report the organisation will have set some major changes into action. I would like to thank the committee for all your work throughout the year, and in particular Jamie and Mick for their tireless work and unfailing dedication to NV Access and the NVDA project.

Amy Curran
Treasurer

NV Access
Profit & Loss Statement
July 2009 through June 2010

Income	Amount
Donations	\$41,868.18
Grants	\$120,409.08
Bank Interest	\$3,480.39
Total Income	\$165,757.65

Expenses	Amount
Salaries and Wages	\$119,218.29
Fees and Taxes	\$100.00
Bank Charges	\$149.30
Service Charges	\$277.13
Travel	\$1,781.33
Stationary	\$327.53
Bookkeeping	\$281.00
Legal	\$700.00
Total Expenses	\$122,834.5

Assets	Amount
Surplus for 2009-2010	\$42,923.07
Cash in bank	\$62,972.27
Total Assets	\$105,895.34