

About me

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Accessible Applications with Qt

Qt Developer Days 2012

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Outline

Definition of Accessibility

Overview of APIs and Platforms

Making Applications Accessible

Tools

Summary

Accessibility

“degree to which a product, device, service, or environment is available to as many people as possible”

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accessibility>

Enable people to
inform themselves
and participate in society

Legal

- Rehabilitation Act (1973) amended with section 504 and 508
- Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (2001)
- EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

Assistive Technology

Virtual Keyboards

Screen Reader

Braille

Speech recognition



Special fonts

Example: OpenDyslexic

Allow platform or custom fonts!

<http://dyslexicfonts.com/>

APIs and Platforms



SAPPORO
13410 km

AVIEMORE
10009 km

QUEENS
10689 km

LUTHER
10502 km

SKI SHOP
7 m

RESERVATIONS
47 m

South Africa

CERVINIA
8894 km

ZURS
8692 km

SKI DECK

MATT
8937 km

Accessibility APIs

MSAA

IAccessible2

AT-SPI 2

Apple
Accessibility API

UI Automation

Qt

`QWidget::accessibleName` (and Description)

`QAccessibleInterface` (improved in Qt 5)

Qt Quick: Accessible (starting with Qt 5)

No external dependencies

Except Linux and Qt 4.8:
`qtatspi/qt-at-spi`

Making Applications Accessible

Colors

Fonts

Keyboard navigation

Accessible Name

Demo - Calculator

In Code

```
QWidget::setAccessibleName()
```


QAccessibleInterface

Important Properties

Name

Description

Role

State

Demo – Rating Widget



Demo – Rating Widget in QML

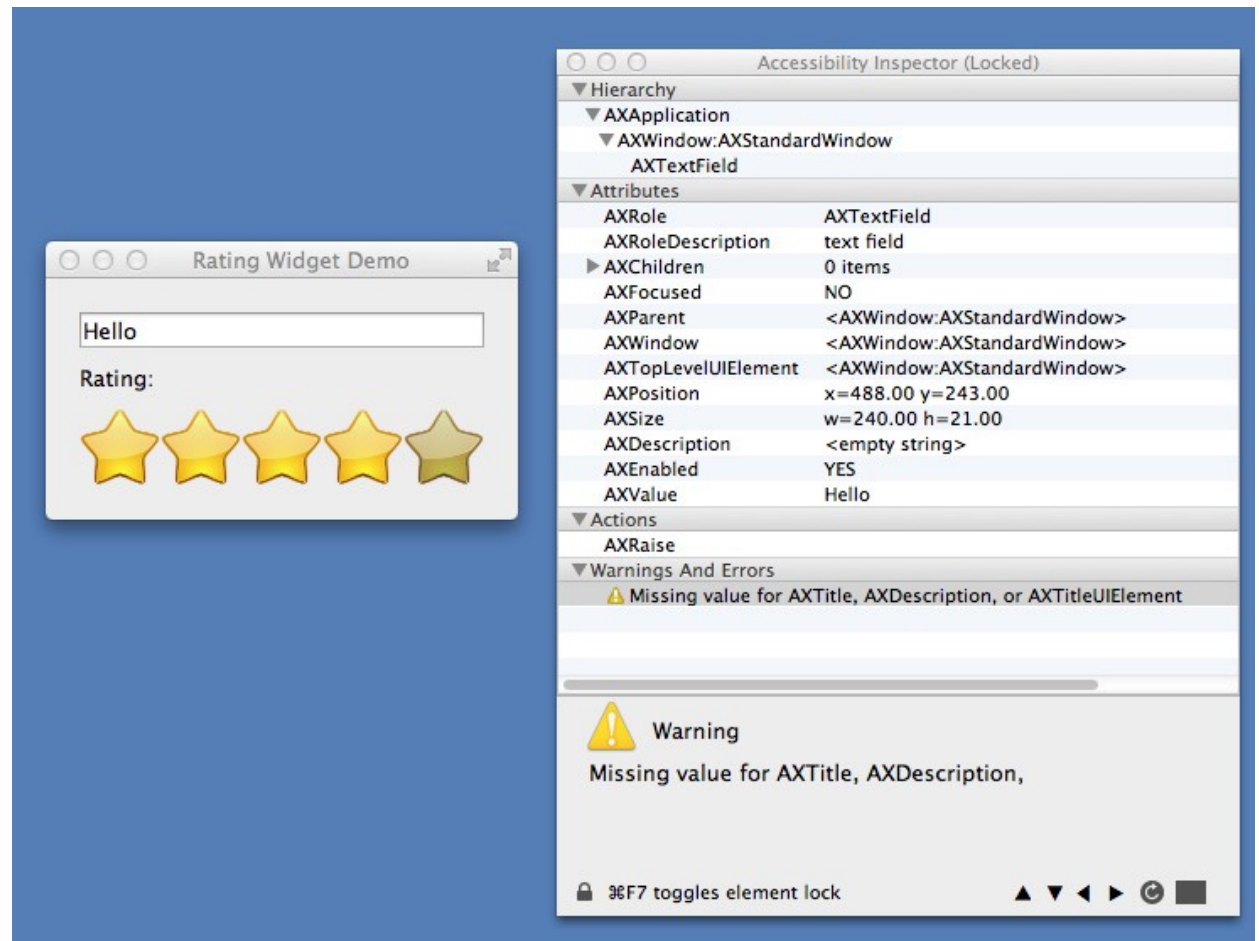
Tools

Mac Tools

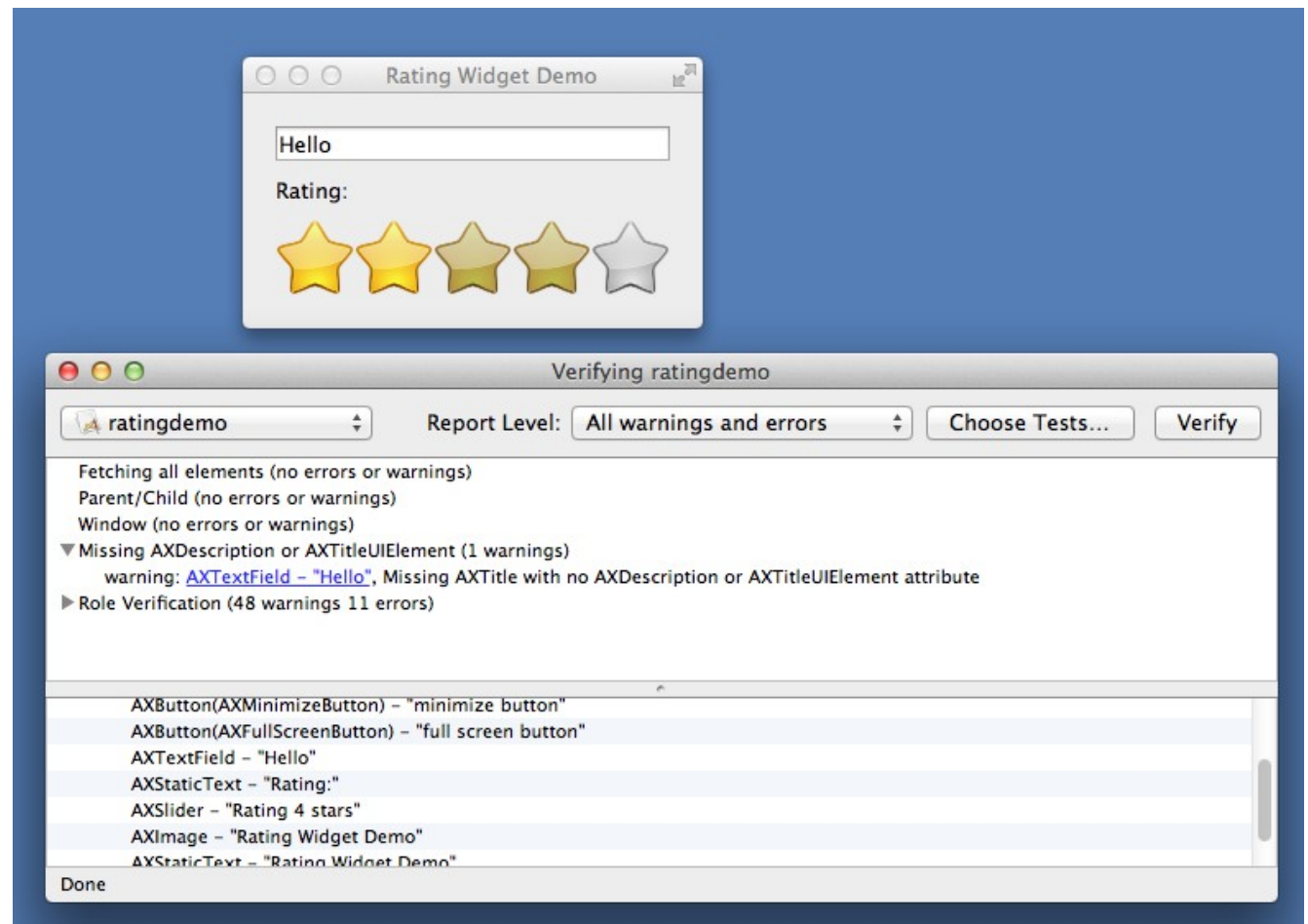
Voice Over



Accessibility Inspector



Accessibility Verifier



NVDA

NVDA Speech Viewer

Controls spin button 20
Controls spin button 13
Inverted appearance check box not checked
Inverted key bindings check box not checked
Controls combo box Horizontal slider-like widgets

Horizontal slider-like widgets Horizontal slider-like widgets
Vertical slider-like widgets Vertical slider-like widgets

Sliders

Controls

Minimum value: -1 ☐ Inverted appearance

Maximum value: 20 ☐ Inverted key bindings

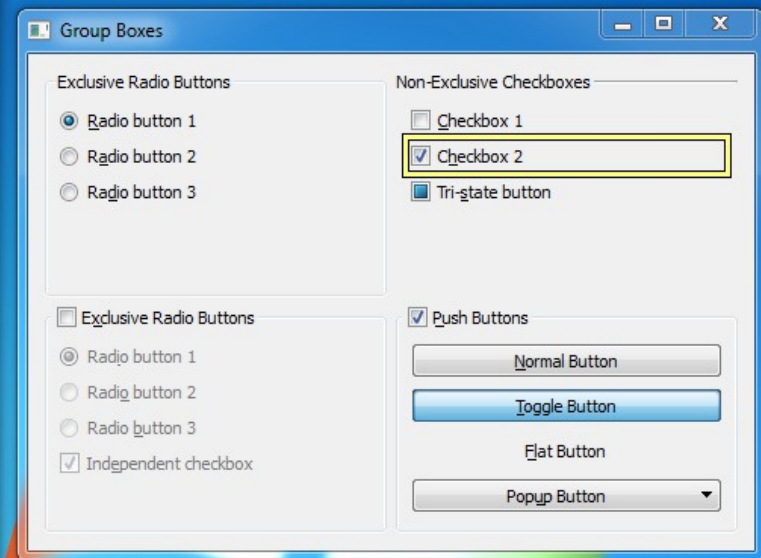
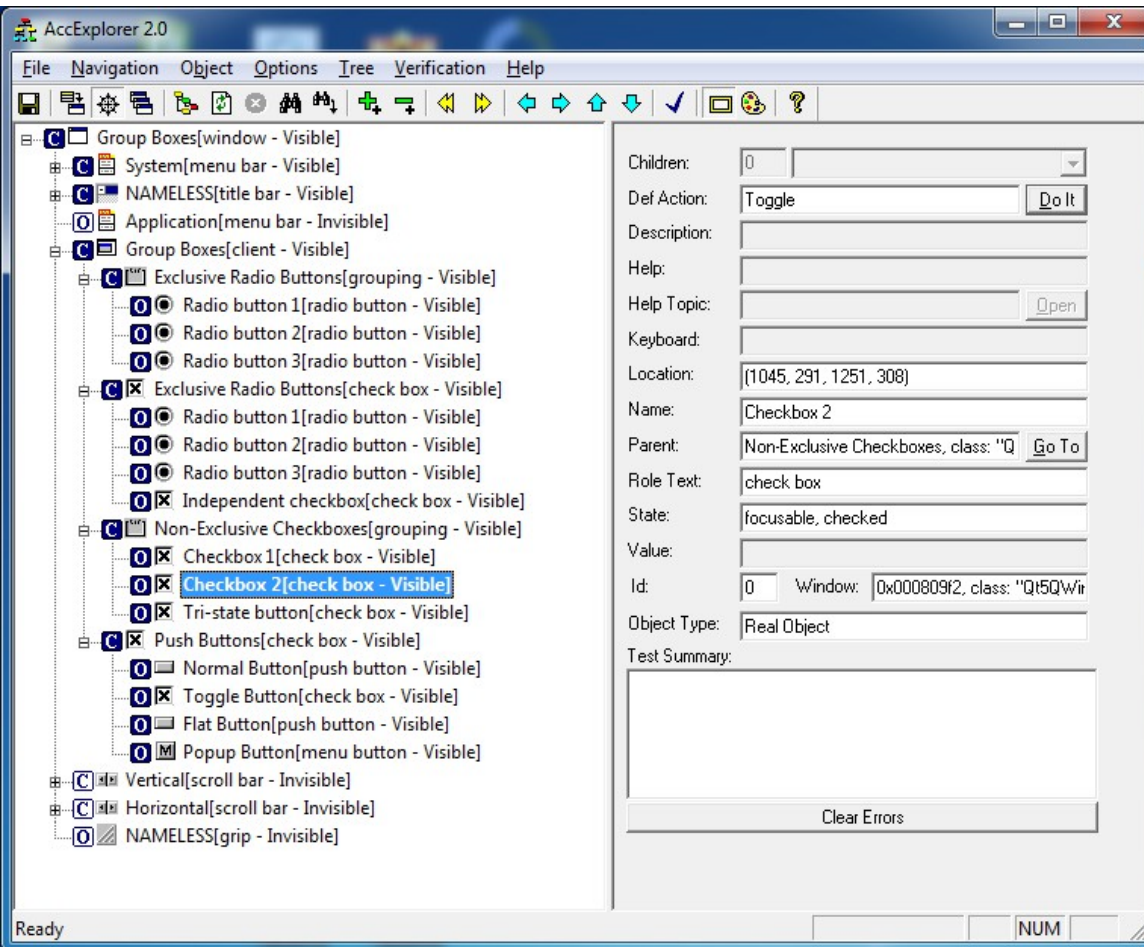
Current value: 13

Horizontal slider-like widgets
Horizontal slider-like widgets
Vertical slider-like widgets

Horizontal



Acc Explorer



Accessibility Probe

The Accessibility Probe application is shown with a menu bar (File, Navigation, Options, Help) and a toolbar. The main interface is divided into three panes:

- Explorer:** A tree view showing the accessibility hierarchy. The selected item is a slider with the accessible name 'Horizontal'.
- Accessibility Properties:** A table showing the properties of the selected slider.
- Event Monitor:** A table for logging accessibility events.

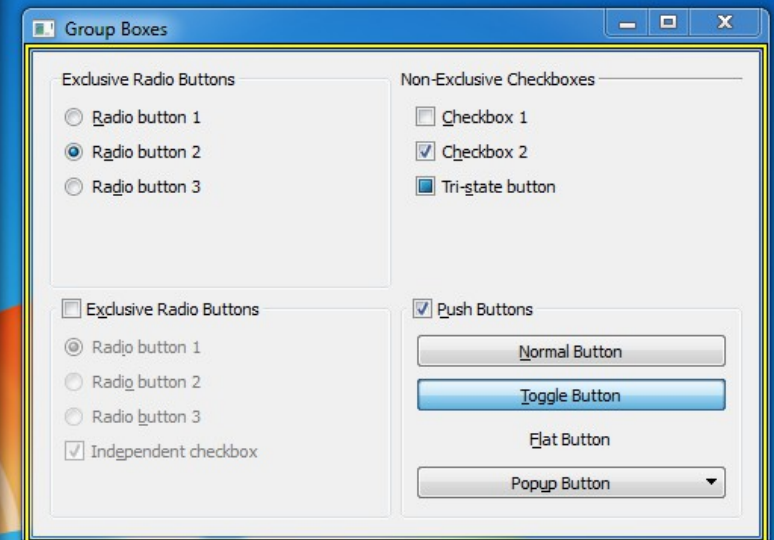
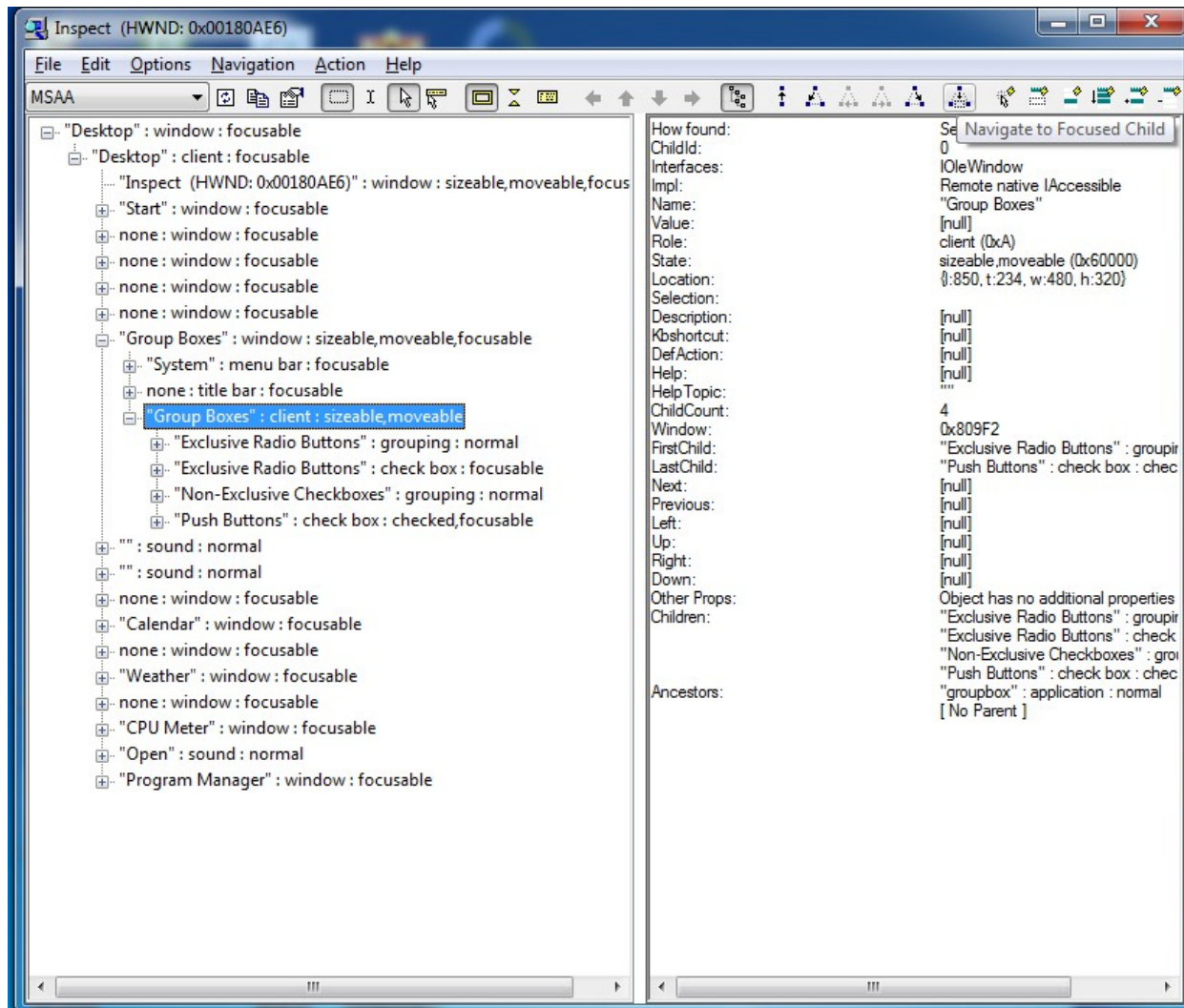
Name	Value
ia2	
IAccessibleAction	class IA2AccessibleAction
description	String[1]
doAction	<Double click to enter parameters...>
keyBinding	<Double click to enter parameters...>
localizedName	String[1]
nActions	1
name	String[1]
[0]	SetFocus
IAccessibleApplicatio	HRESULT = E_NOINTERFACE
IAccessibleCompone	class IA2AccessibleComponent
IAccessibleEditableT	HRESULT = E_NOINTERFACE
IAccessibleHyperlink	HRESULT = E_NOINTERFACE
IAccessibleHypertext	HRESULT = E_NOINTERFACE
IAccessibleImage	HRESULT = E_NOINTERFACE
IAccessibleTable2	HRESULT = E_NOINTERFACE
IAccessibleTableCell	HRESULT = E_NOINTERFACE
IAccessibleText	HRESULT = E_NOINTERFACE
IAccessibleValue	class IA2AccessibleValue
currentValue	5
maximumValue	20
minimumValue	0

Event Data	Event Type	Event Time	Accessible Na...	Accessible Role

The Sliders application is shown with a menu bar and a toolbar. The main interface is divided into two panes:

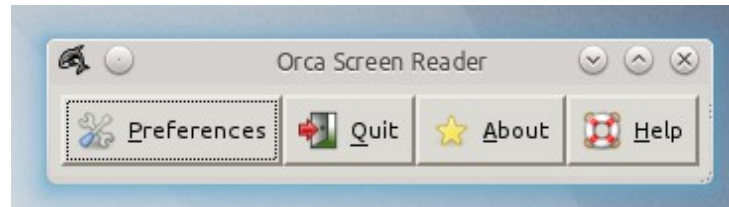
- Controls:** A panel with input fields for Minimum value (0), Maximum value (20), and Current value (5). It also has checkboxes for Inverted appearance and Inverted key bindings, and a dropdown menu for Horizontal slider-like widgets.
- Horizontal:** A panel showing a horizontal slider and a circular knob.

Microsoft Inspect

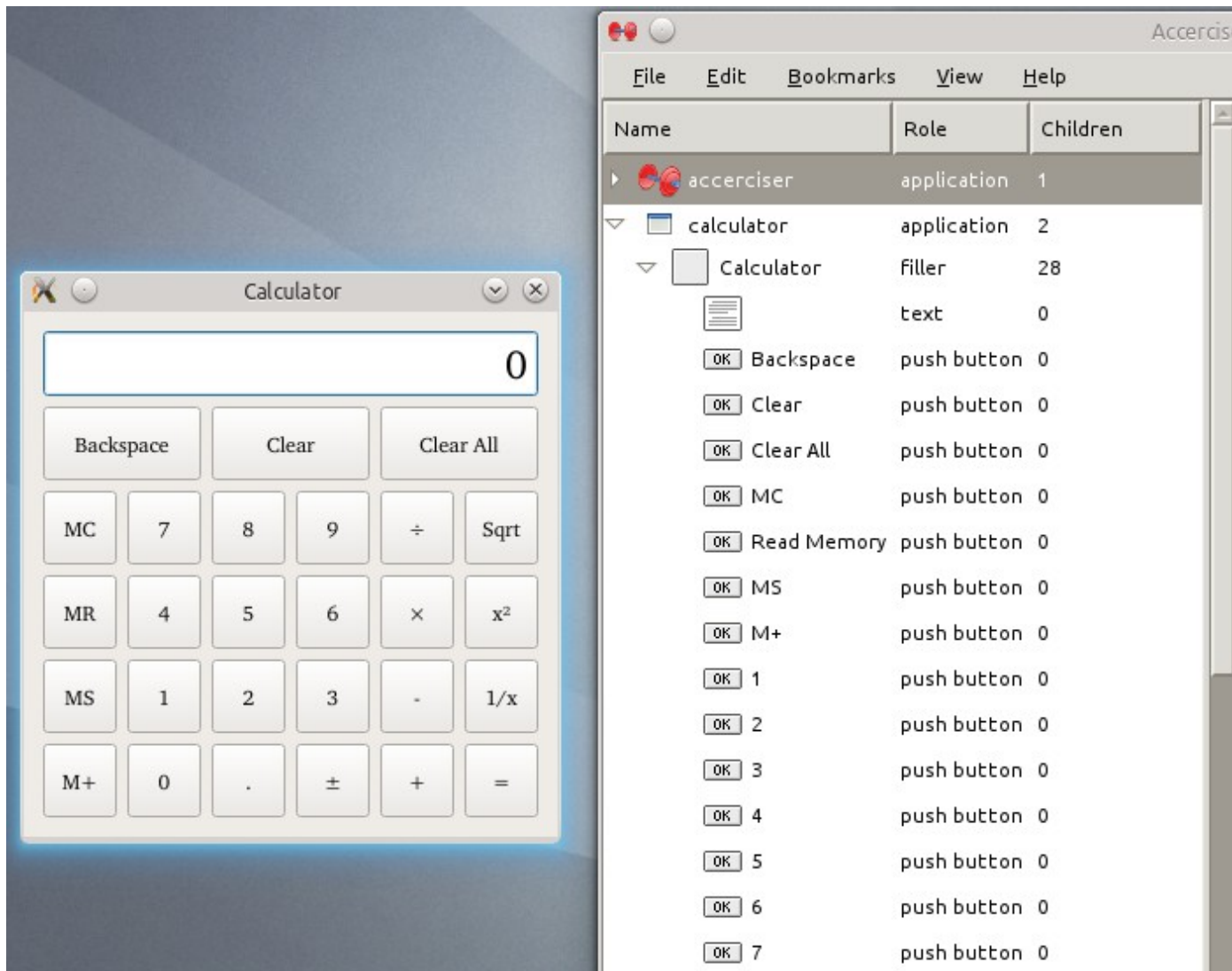


Linux Tools

Orca



Accerciser



The image shows a Mac OS X desktop with a standard calculator application and its Accessibility Inspector. The calculator window is titled "Calculator" and displays "0". The Accessibility Inspector window is titled "Tree Settings" and shows a tree view of the calculator's UI elements. The tree view lists the calculator as an application, with a sub-entry for the calculator itself as a filler. Below these are various UI elements like "[text]", "Backspace", "Clear", "Clear All", "MC", "Read Memory", "MS", "M+", and digits 1-9, 0, each with a role of "push button" or "text".

Accessible	Role
calculator	application
Calculator	filler
[text]	text
Backspace	push button
Clear	push button
Clear All	push button
MC	push button
Read Memory	push button
MS	push button
M+	push button
1	push button
2	push button
3	push button
4	push button
5	push button
6	push button
7	push button
8	push button
9	push button
0	push button
.	push button
±	push button
÷	push button
×	push button
-	push button
+	push button
=	push button

Tree	
Tree	
Accessible	Role
▼ calculator	application
▼ Calculator	filler
[text]	text
Backspace	push button
Clear	push button
Clear All	push button
MC	push button
Read Memory	push button
MS	push button
M+	push button
1	push button
2	push button
3	push button
4	push button
5	push button
6	push button
7	push button
8	push button
9	push button
0	push button
.	push button
±	push button
÷	push button
×	push button
-	push button
+	push button

Summary

Check Your Application

Colors, Fonts

Keyboard navigation

Screen Reader

Future Work

Qt Quick

Webkit

Questions?

Frederik Gladhorn <frederik.gladhorn@digia.com>

Differences Qt 4/5

- Improved notifications
 - Text
 - Tables
- Interface implementation much simpler
- IAccessible2 on Windows

About me

Frederik Gladhorn

KDE

Digia

German, from Bremerhaven, living in Oslo

University Stuttgart, Technical Cybernetics

Active in KDE since 2005

Joined Nokia in 2010 and Digia in 2012

Focus on Accessibility in the last year

I need assistive technology in the form of my glasses.

Enjoying climbing and skiing in Norway

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Enable people to
inform themselves
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Study by forrester/microsoft 2003/2004:
57% of computer users between 18 and 64 could
benefit from assistive technology

You should care because you make better apps and
reach more people.

Legal

- Rehabilitation Act (1973) amended with section 504 and 508
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Assistive Technology

Virtual Keyboards

Screen Reader

Braille

Speech recognition



Deaf
Blind
Motorical
Dyslexia

Special fonts

Example: OpenDyslexic

Allow platform or custom fonts!

<http://dyslexicfonts.com/>

Adds “gravity” to the letters so they don't turn around.

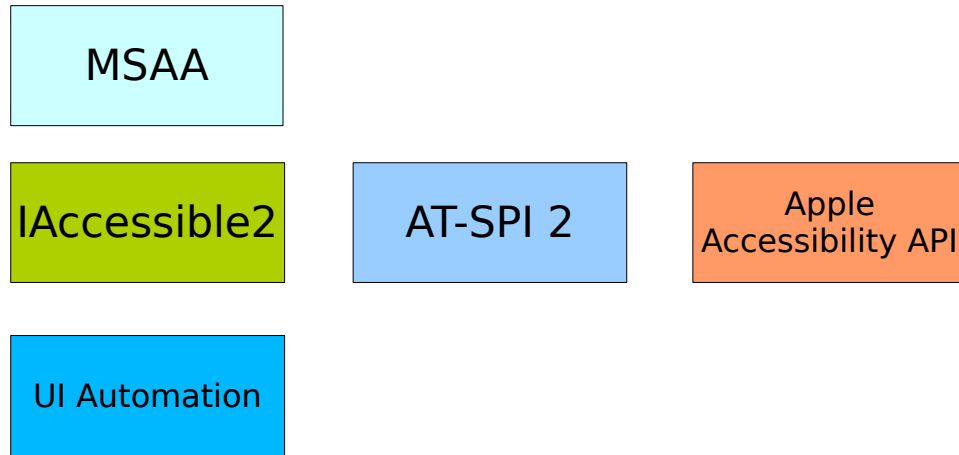
APIs and Platforms

In this section you will get a short overview of what Qt interfaces with for each platform. This is mostly interesting when debugging accessibility of your application.



Accessibility APIs – that's what they looked like to me in the beginning.

Accessibility APIs



Not going to mention mobile (iOS/Android)

The left column is Windows, then Linux and Mac.

Luckily there is no need to care about these since Qt abstracts the individual APIs away. It only matters for debugging with platform tools (see last section).

Qt

`QWidget::accessibleName` (and `Description`)

`QAccessibleInterface` (improved in Qt 5)

Qt Quick: `Accessible` (starting with Qt 5)

For `QWidget` the easy thing to improve accessibility is setting the `accessibleName` and `accessibleDescription` properties:
`myWidget->setAccessibleName("label");`

More complex solutions: subclass `QAccessibleInterface`

Qt Quick: attached property `Accessible`

Please refer to the documentation for each.

No external dependencies

Except Linux and Qt 4.8:
qtatspi/qt-at-spi

All accessibility features work with a Qt build since 4.8.

The one exception is Linux and Qt 4 where a plugin is needed. Almost all Linux distributions have packages for qt-at-spi. In Qt 5 the plugin has been merged and is part of qtbase.

(Much easier than a year ago where it took me two days to get it running at all.)

Making Applications Accessible

Colors

Fonts

Keyboard navigation

The goal is clear: reach as many users as possible.

For that: follow platform color schemes if possible, otherwise make sure you have high enough contrasts. Everyone benefits from that.

For the fonts it's the same, go with the platform, allow big fonts and test with them.

Keyboard navigation is especially required by screen reader users. It is very important there since “pressing tab” is the primary means of discovering your application.

Accessible Name

Demo - Calculator

One of the examples shipped with Qt, the widget calculator one shows a funny behavior with the Orca screen reader. The “MR” button is read as Mister. This demo shows how to fix it to read “read memory” instead by setting the `AccessibleName`.

In Code

```
QWidget::setAccessibleName()
```

QAccessibleInterface

QAccessibleInterface can be subclassed for custom widgets. For convenience Qt offers QAccessibleObject/Widget. This allows to get you started making custom widgets accessible easily.

Most important properties: Name, Description, State and Role.

Important Properties

Name

Description

Role

State

Things to keep in mind when subclassing
QAccessibleInterface:

Name: short concise, should be translated and should not be the Role (“button” as name does not help, use “open” for an open button in a menu with no visible text).

Description: longer than name, gives more detailed information about an object

Role: the type of the object, see QAccessible::Role

State: the state, such as focused etc.

Demo – Rating Widget



Demo - Rating Widget in QML

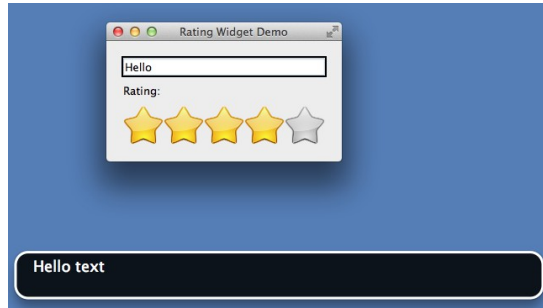


Tools

(Maybe blank screen)

Mac Tools

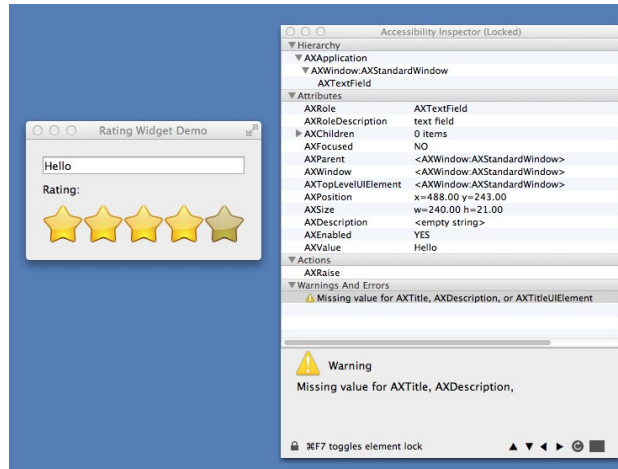
Voice Over



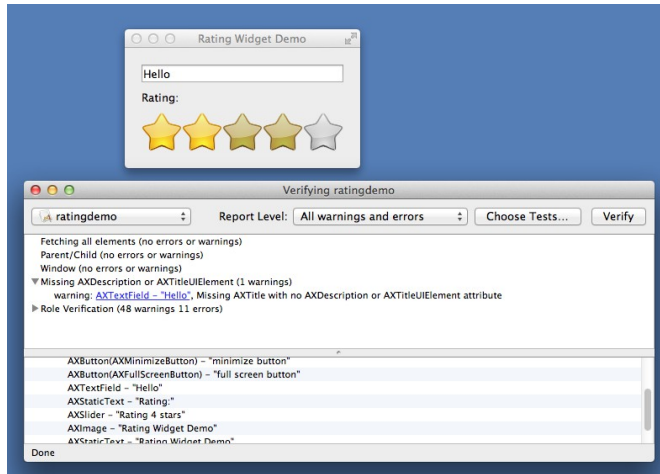
Voice Over

Helpful for debugging: not reading but visual

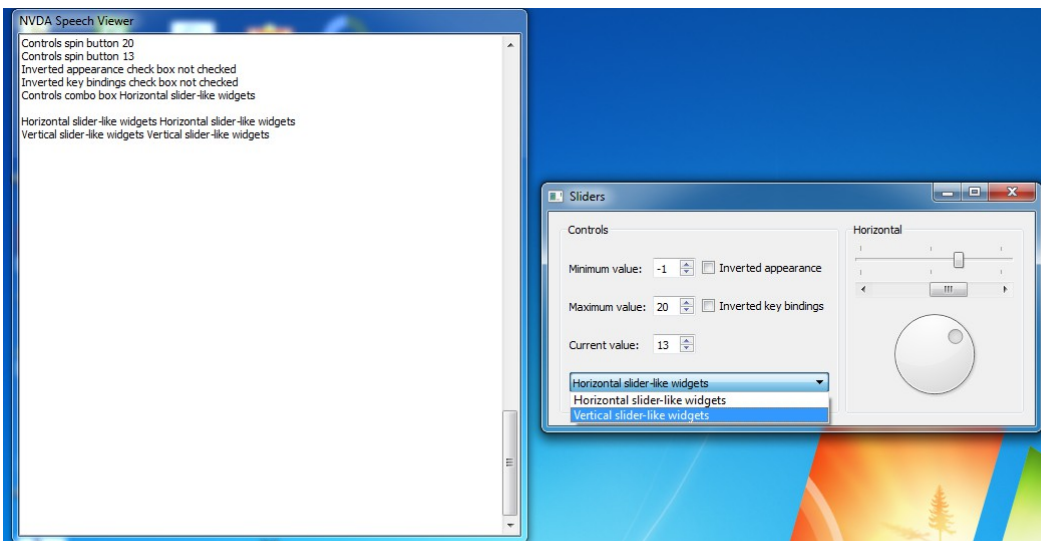
Accessibility Inspector



Accessibility Verifier



NVDA



The screenshot displays two windows from the NVDA (NonVisual Desktop Access) application. On the left is the 'NVDA Speech Viewer' window, which contains a list of speech output messages. These messages include 'Controls spin button 20', 'Controls spin button 13', 'Inverted appearance check box not checked', 'Inverted key bindings check box not checked', 'Controls combo box Horizontal slider-like widgets', 'Horizontal slider-like widgets Horizontal slider-like widgets', and 'Vertical slider-like widgets Vertical slider-like widgets'. On the right is the 'Sliders' dialog box. It features a 'Controls' section with input fields for 'Minimum value: -1', 'Maximum value: 20', and 'Current value: 13'. There are also checkboxes for 'Inverted appearance' and 'Inverted key bindings'. A dropdown menu is open, showing three options: 'Horizontal slider-like widgets', 'Horizontal slider-like widgets', and 'Vertical slider-like widgets'. To the right of the controls is a visual representation of a horizontal slider and a circular knob.

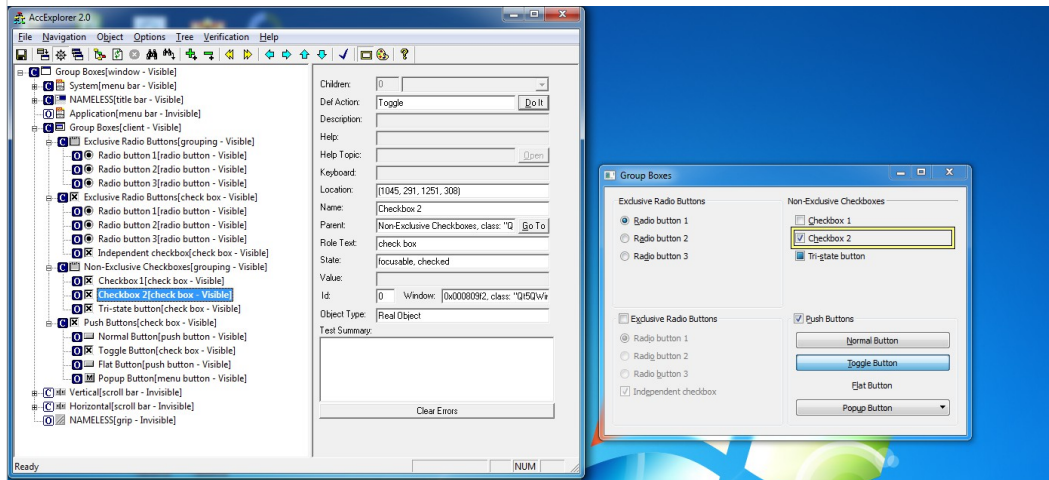
NVDA (NV Access)

Actual screen reader preferred by many blind people.

It's free and Open source. It uses both MSAA and IA2.

Has a speech viewer that can be pleasant to use while developing.

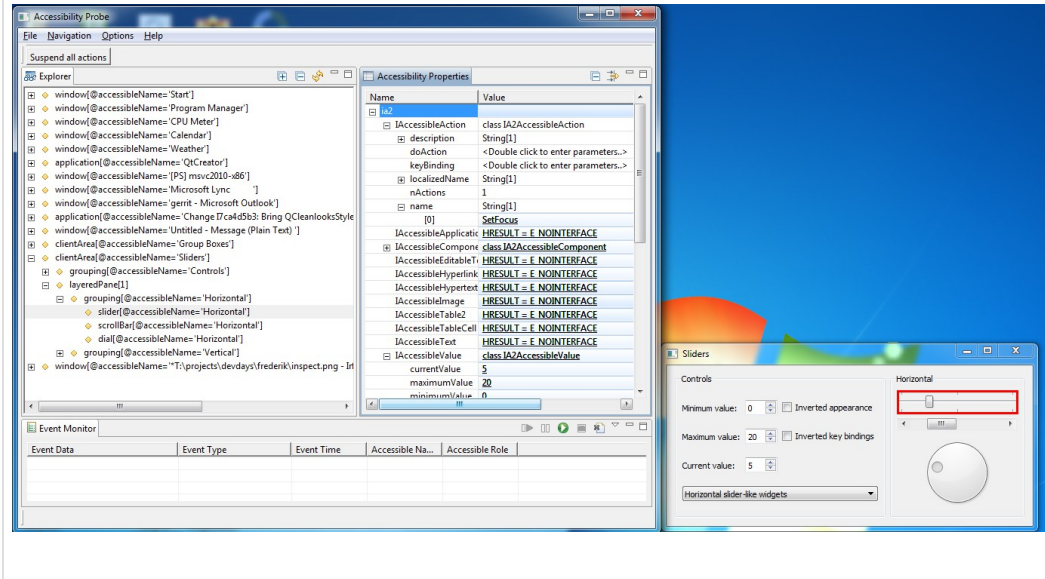
Acc Explorer



Accessible Explorer 2.0 (Microsoft)

Allows you to see the hierarchy, to navigate it and interact with the actions and properties exposed. For the hierarchy this is usually the preferred tool. However, it is obsolete, and might be hard to find.

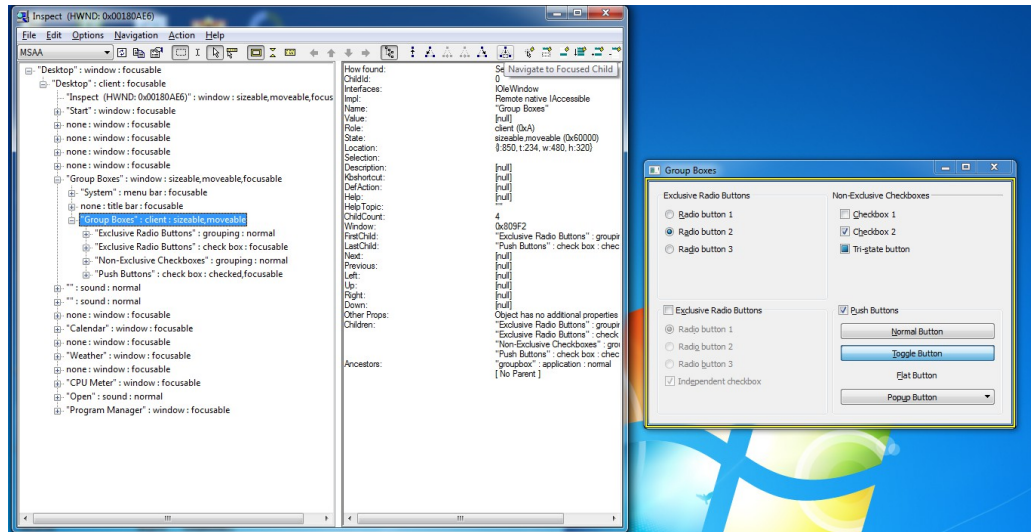
Accessibility Probe



Accessibility Probe (IBM)

Tool for inspecting both MSA and IA2, with focus on IA2. Only usable "inspector" tool available for IA2 on windows.

Microsoft Inspect



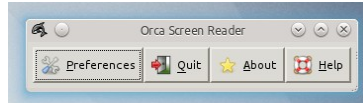
Inspect 7.1 (Microsoft)

Allows you to see the hierarchy, to navigate it and interact with the actions and properties exposed.

Allows more powerful focus testing. Supports MSAA and UI Automation but not IAccessible2.

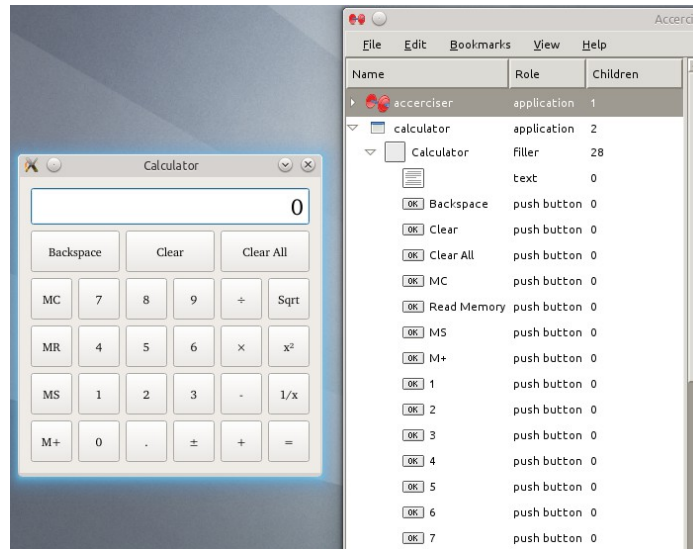
Linux Tools

Orca



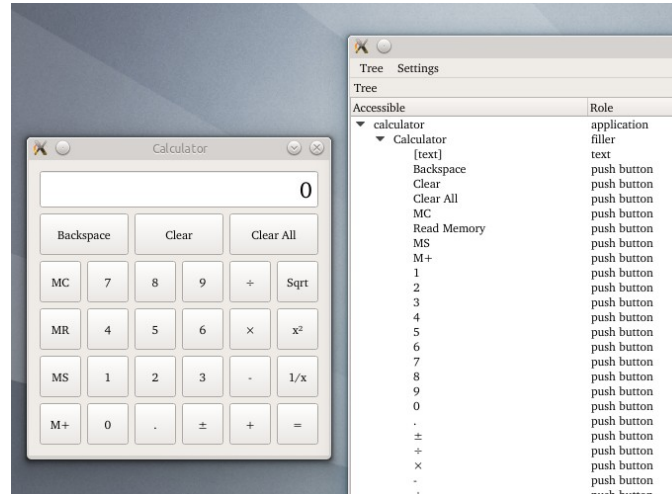
Currently the only real screen reader option on Linux.

Accerciser



Together with Orca one of the Gnome tools. Shows the hierarchy of accessible objects and has a scripting interface (Python).

Randomizer



Newly developed tool written in Qt,
mostly to verify our APIs.

Becoming more and more useful for
debugging.

Summary

Check Your Application

Colors, Fonts

Keyboard navigation

Screen Reader

Future Work

Qt Quick

Webkit

Qt Quick works really nicely, but needs some improvements, for example when it comes to list views.

Qt WebKit is currently not accessible.

Questions?

Frederik Gladhorn <frederik.gladhorn@digia.com>

Differences Qt 4/5

- Improved notifications
 - Text
 - Tables
- Interface implementation much simpler
- IAccessible2 on Windows