About me

Frederik Gladhorn

KDE

Digia

Accessible Applications with Qt

Qt Developer Days 2012

Frederik Gladhorn <frederik.gladhorn@digia.com>

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

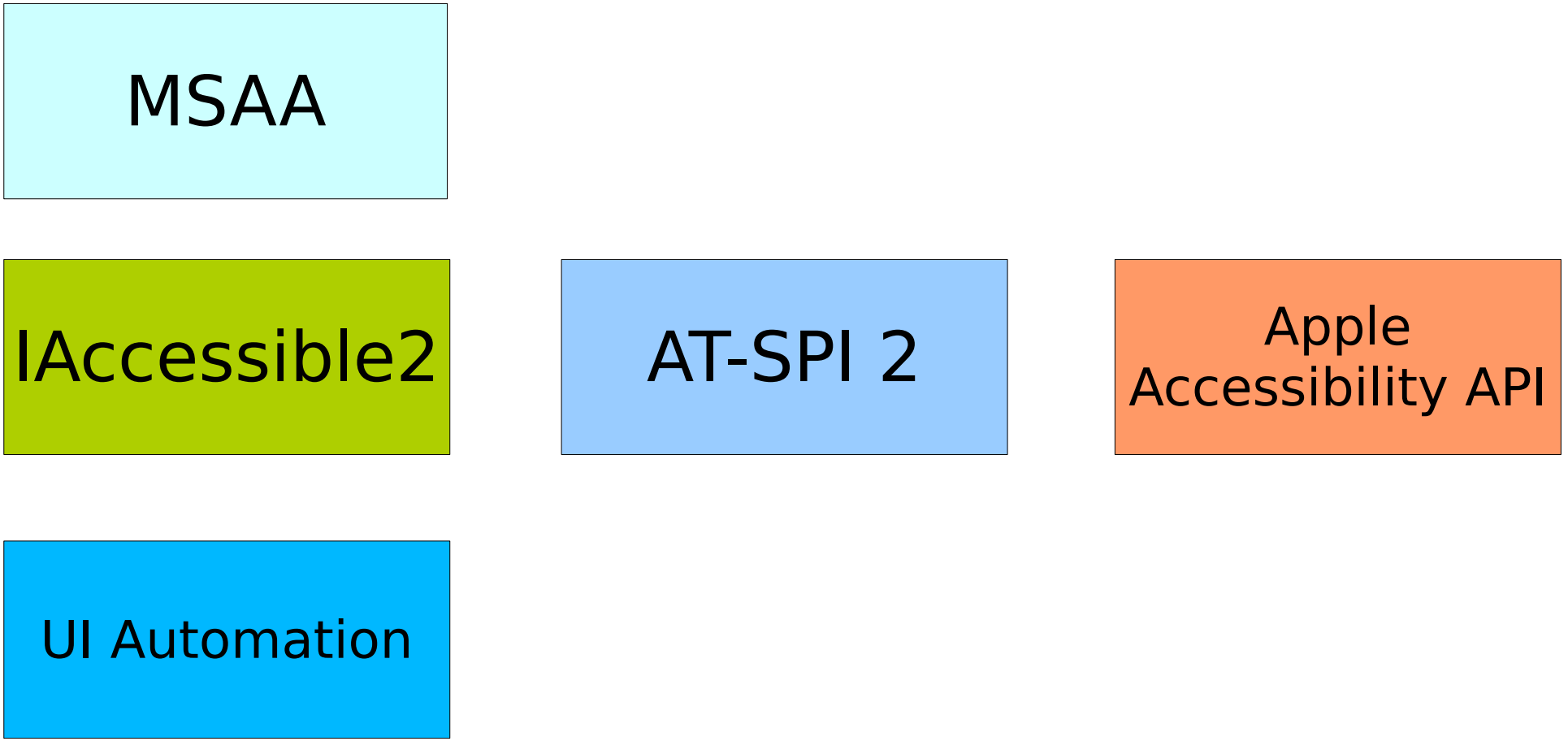
Allow platform or custom fonts!

http://dyslexicfonts.com/

APIs and Platforms


SAPPORO
QUEENS
10689 km
CERVINIA
8894 km
8892 km
SKI SHOP
7 m
RESERVATIONS
47 m
South Africa
SKI DECK
8937 km

Accessibility APIs



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

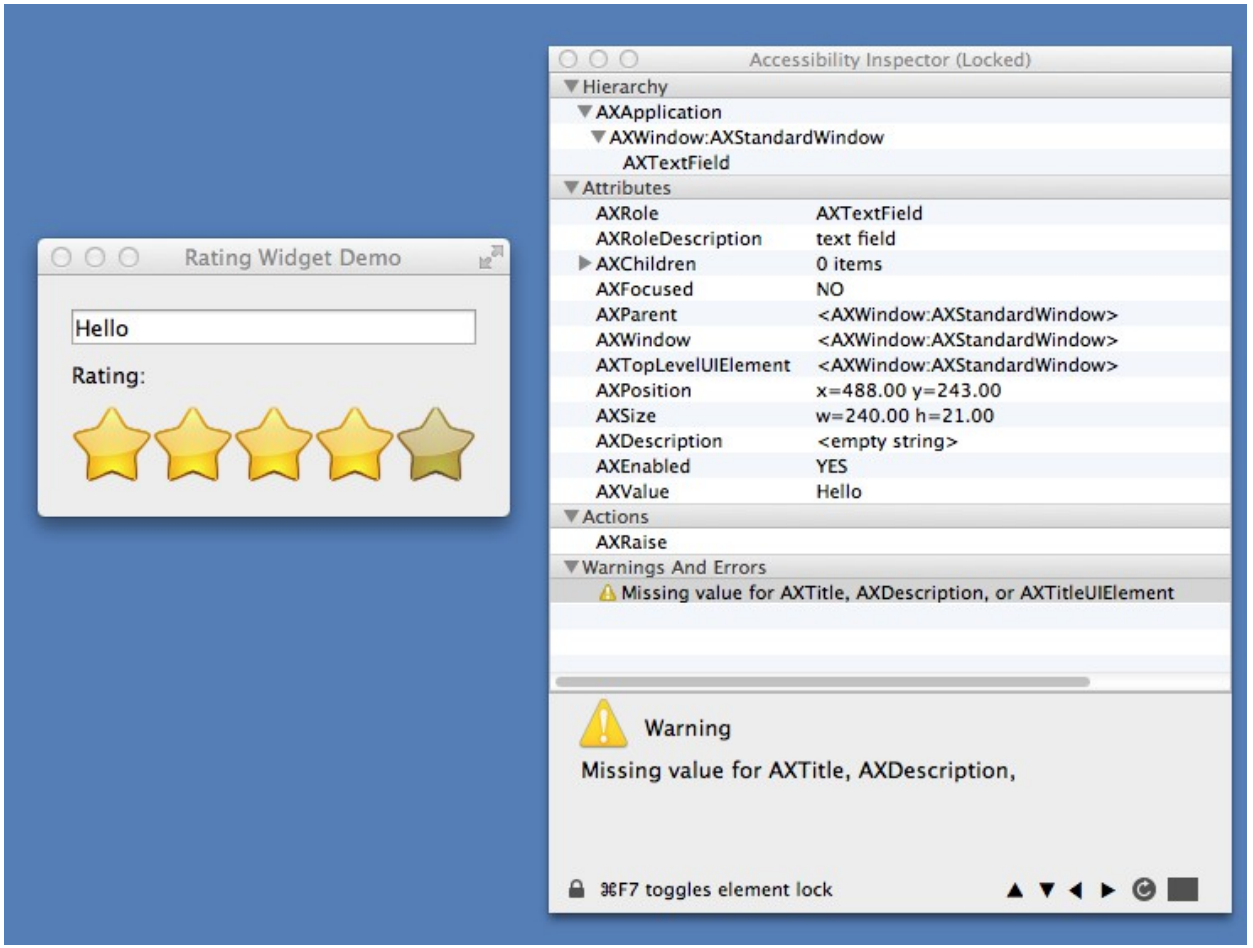
Demo – Rating Widget in QML

Tools

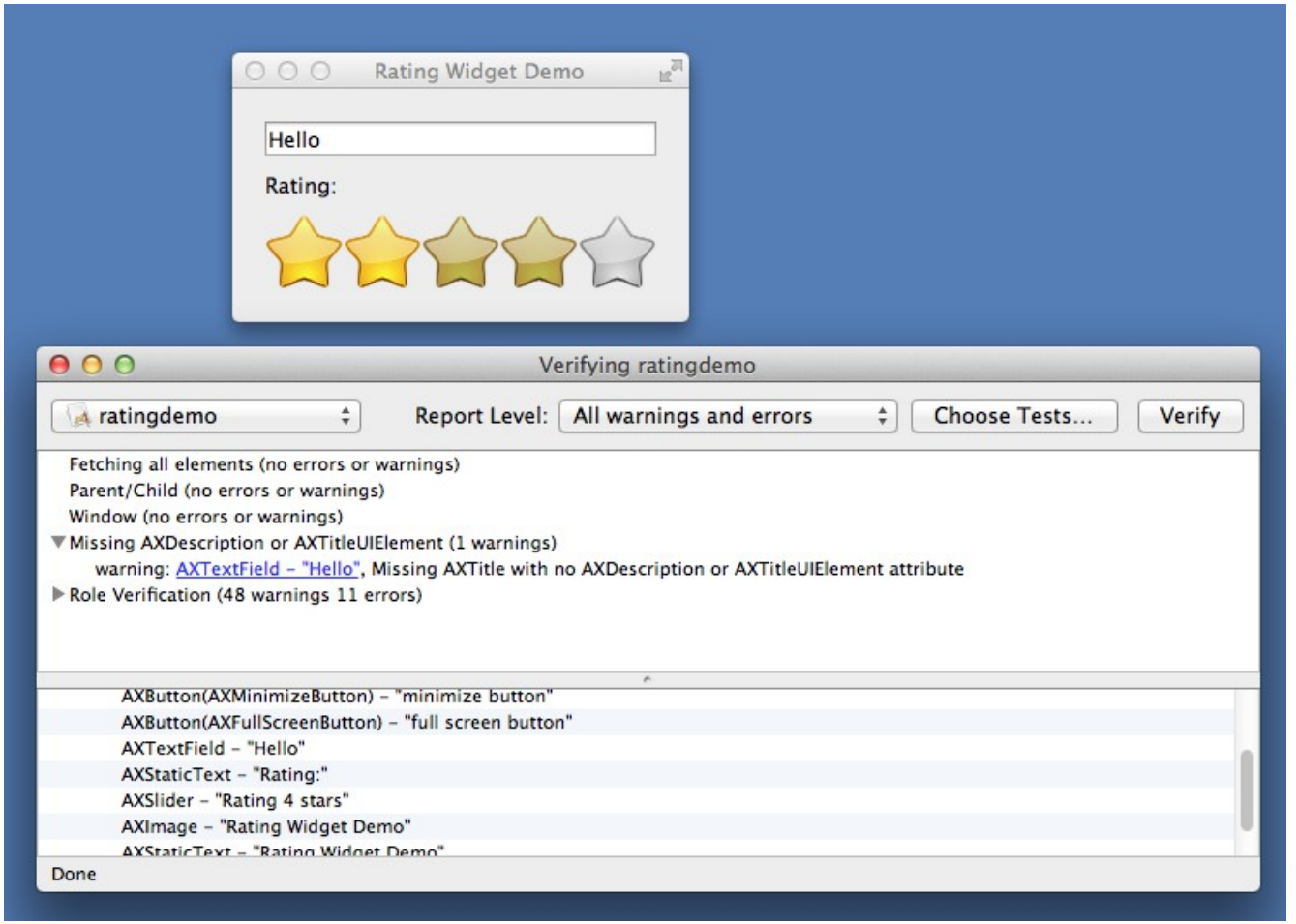
Mac Tools

Voice Over

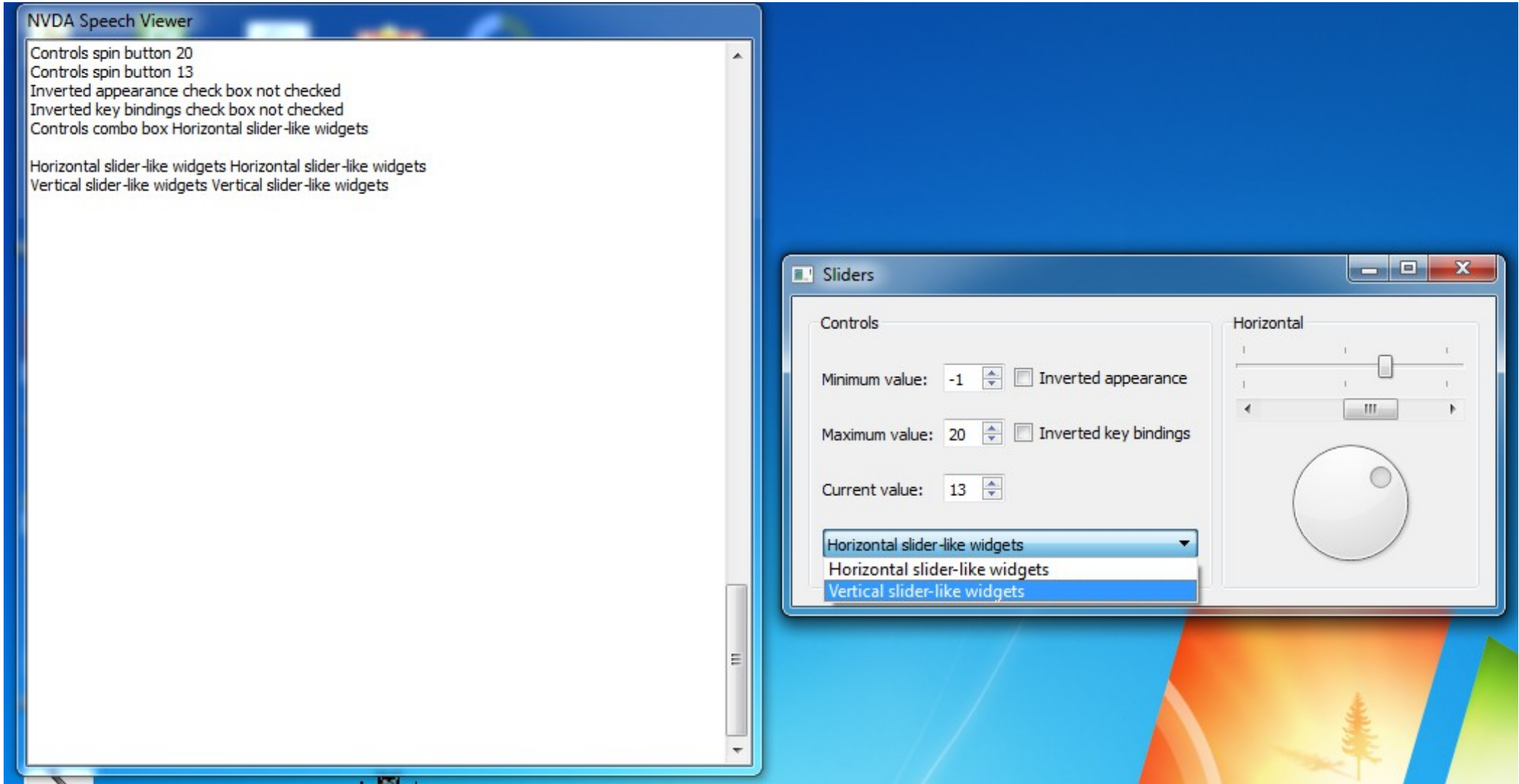
Accessibility Inspector



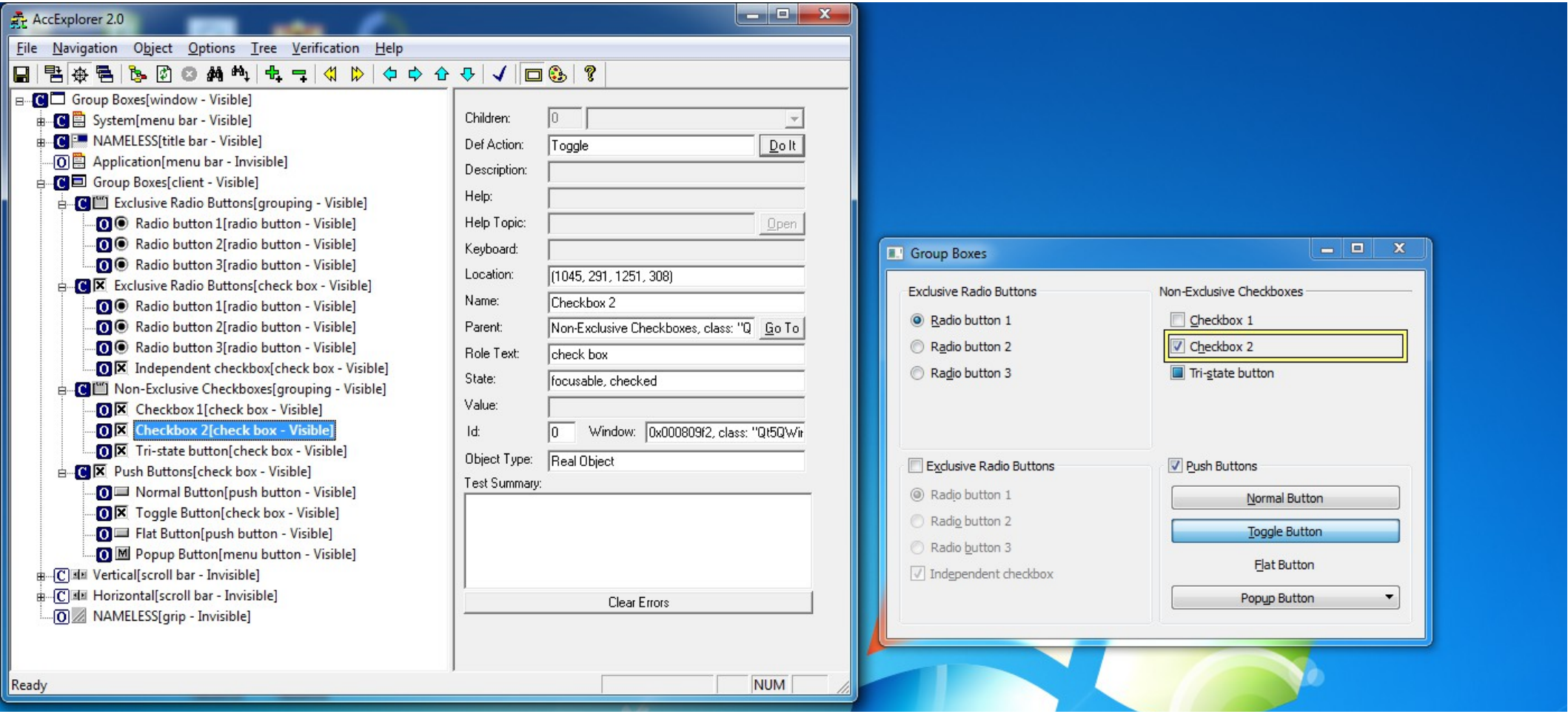
Accessibility Verifier



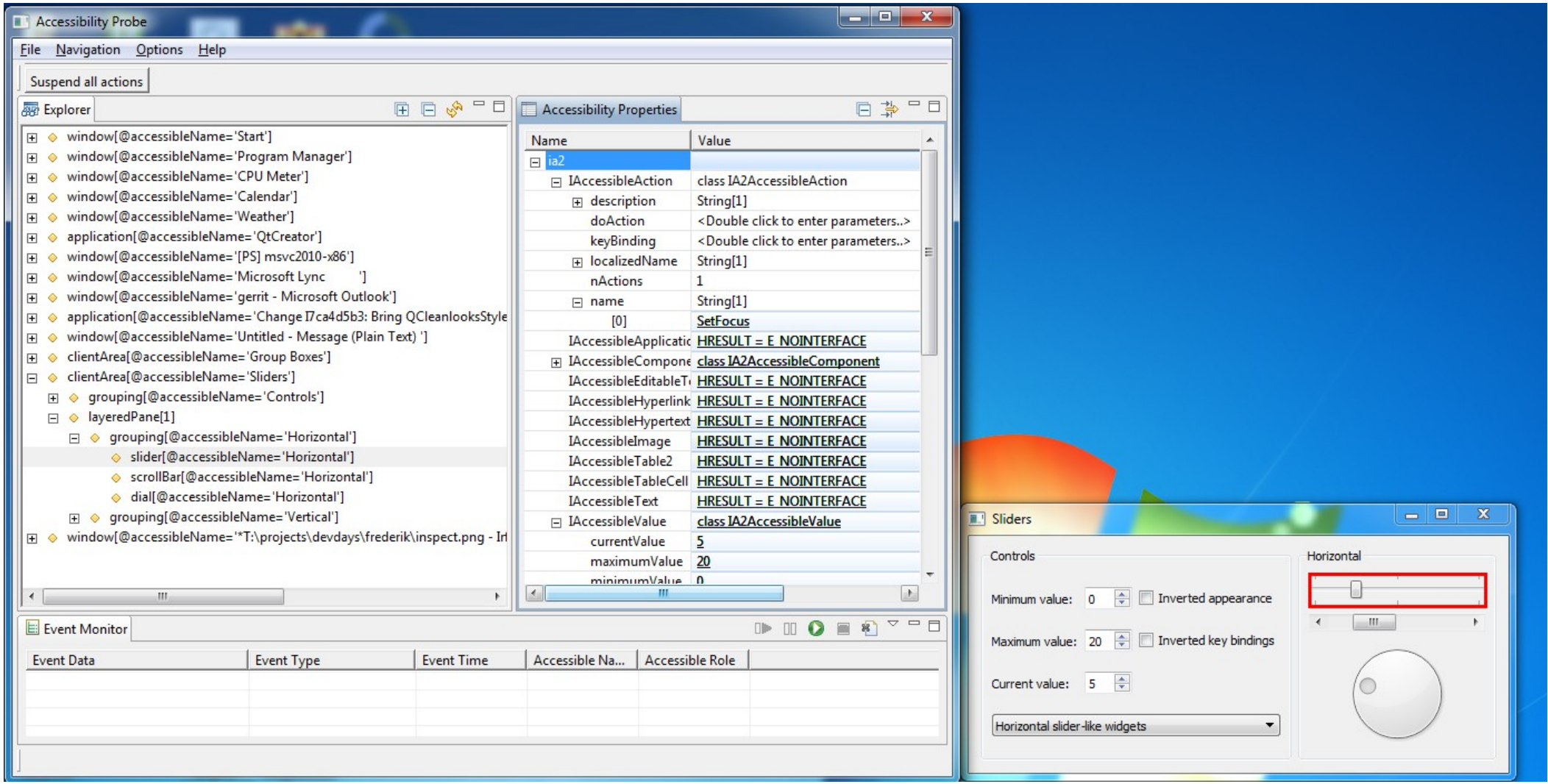
NVDA


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

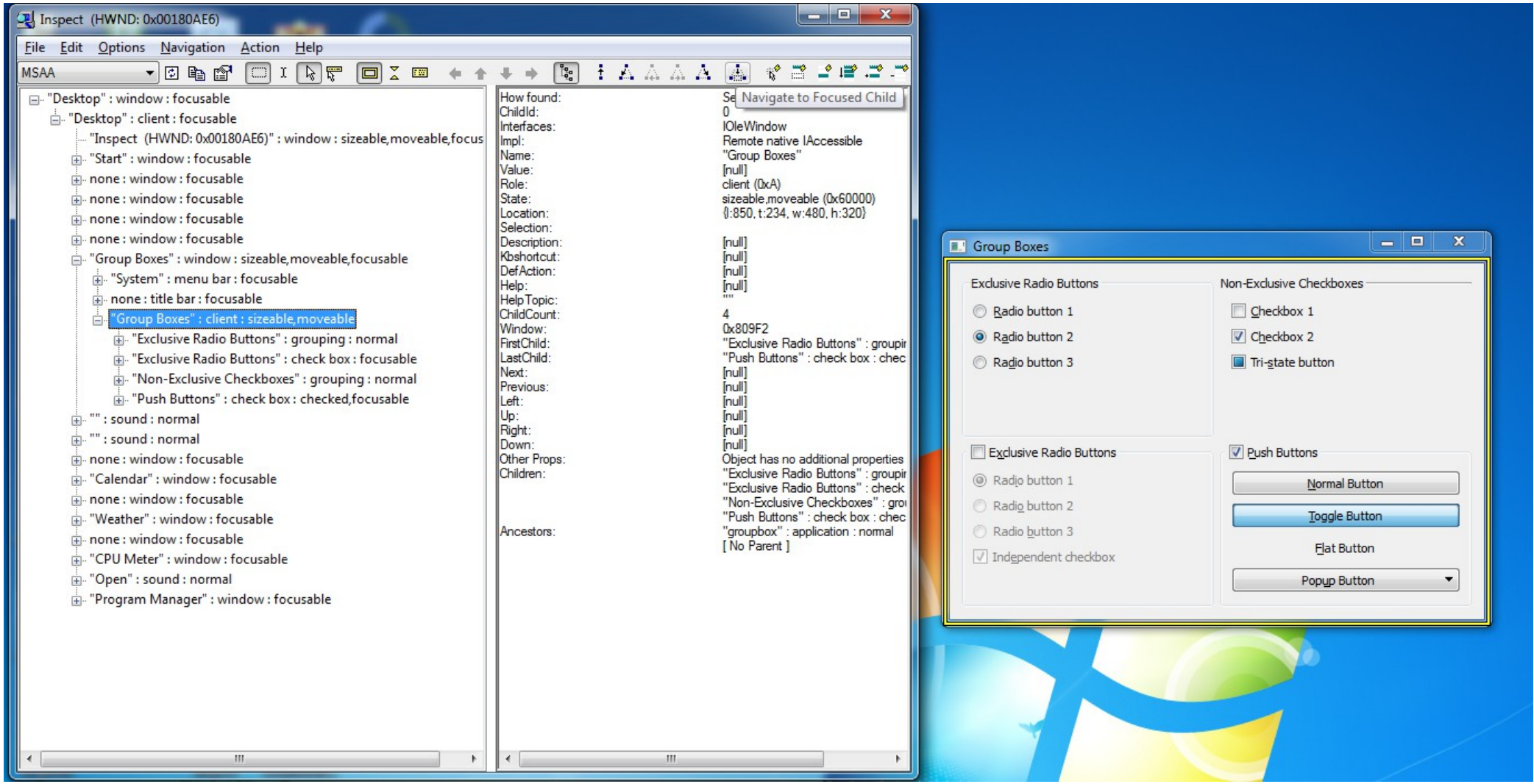
Acc Explorer



Accessibility Probe



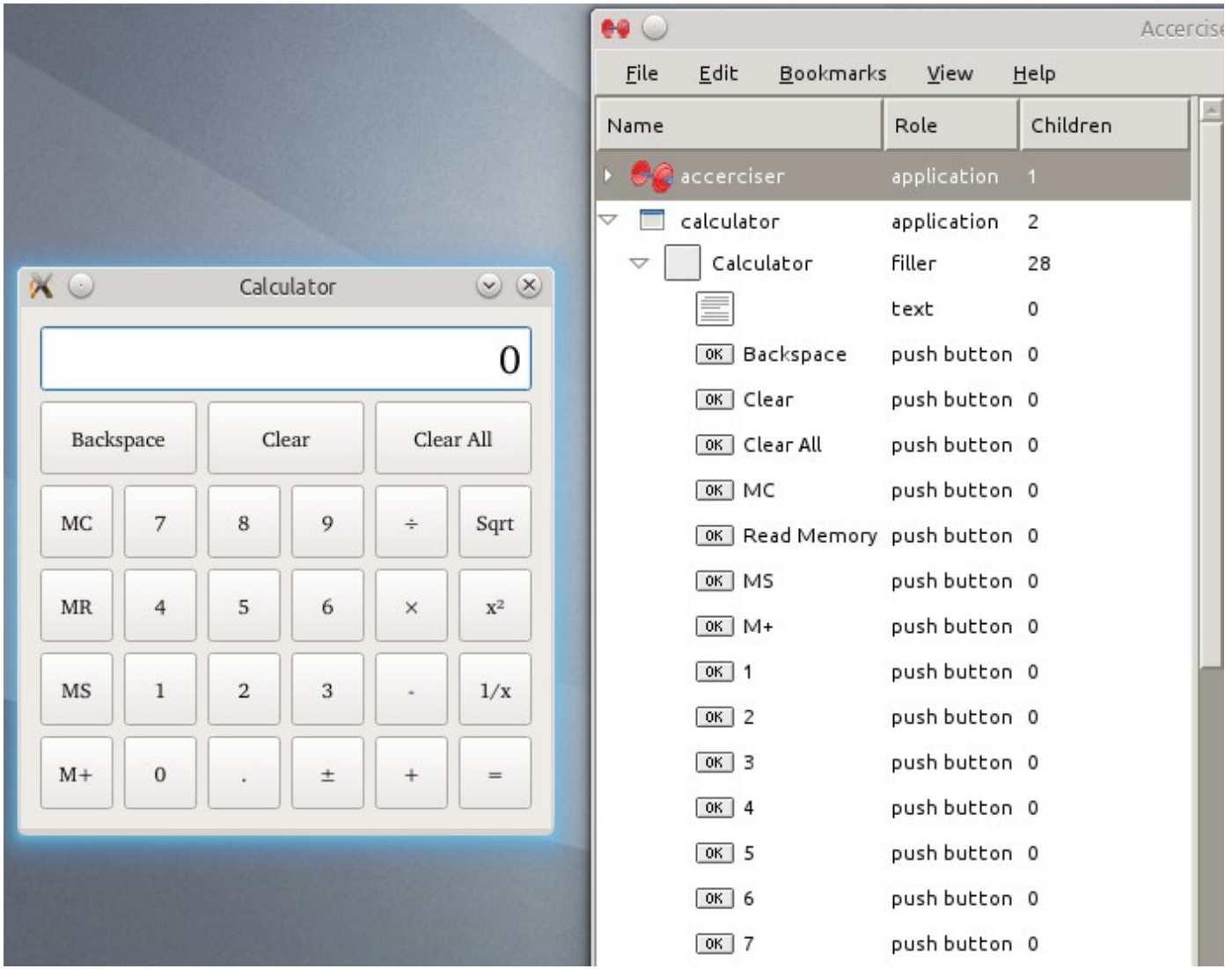
Microsoft Inspect



Linux Tools

Orca

Accerciser


Calculator
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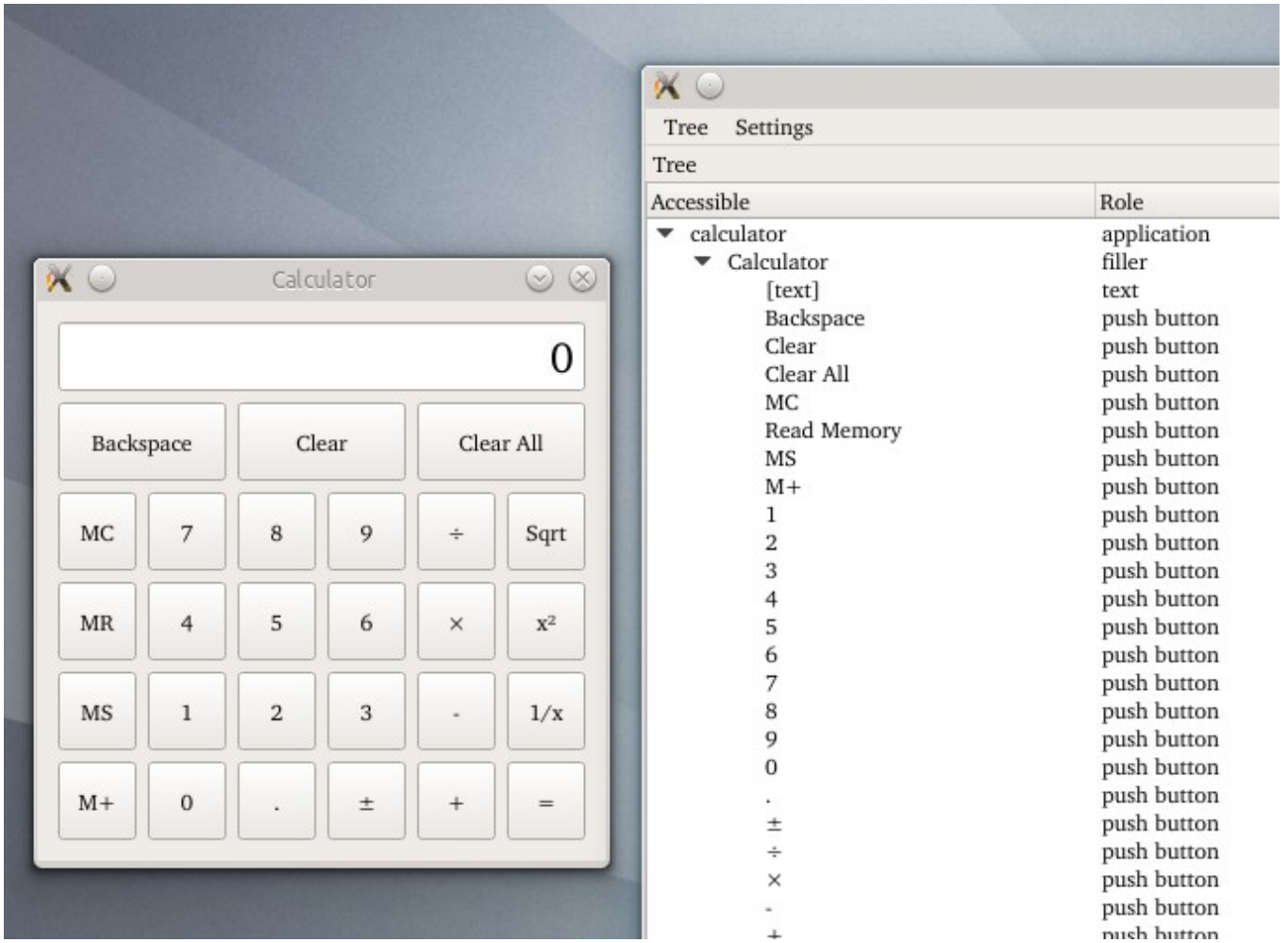
Backspace
Clear
Clear All
MC 7 8 9 ÷ Sqrt
MR 4 5 6 × x²
MS 1 2 3 - 1/x
M+ 0 . ± + =
File Edit Bookmarks View Help
Name Role Children
accerciser application 1
calculator application 2
Calculator filler 28
text 0
OK Backspace push button 0
OK Clear push button 0
OK Clear All push button 0
OK MC push button 0
OK Read Memory push button 0
OK MS push button 0
OK M+ push button 0
OK 1 push button 0
OK 2 push button 0
OK 3 push button 0
OK 4 push button 0
OK 5 push button 0
OK 6 push button 0
OK 7 push button 0

Randamizer


Calculator
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MC
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Read Memory
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MS
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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

Accessible Applications with Qt

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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.

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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/

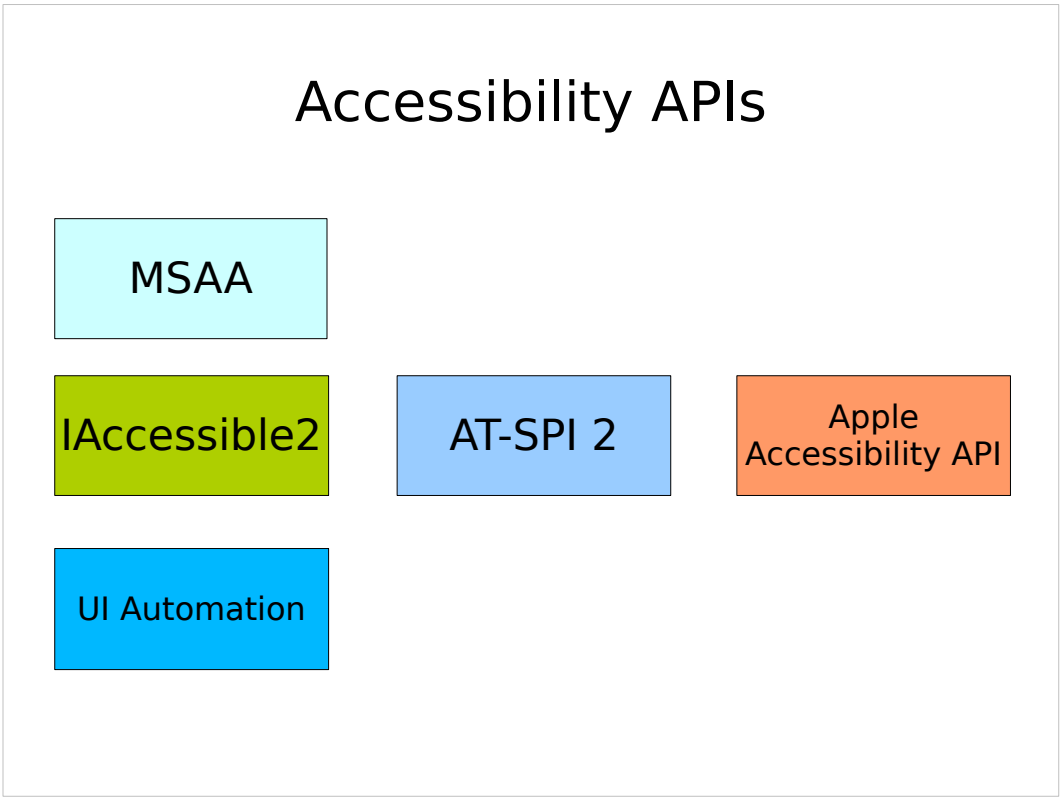
Adds “gravity” to the letters so they don't turn around.

APIs and Platforms

In this section you will get a short overview of what Qt interfaces with for each plarform.

This is mostly interesting when debugging accessibility of your application.

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



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 sine 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

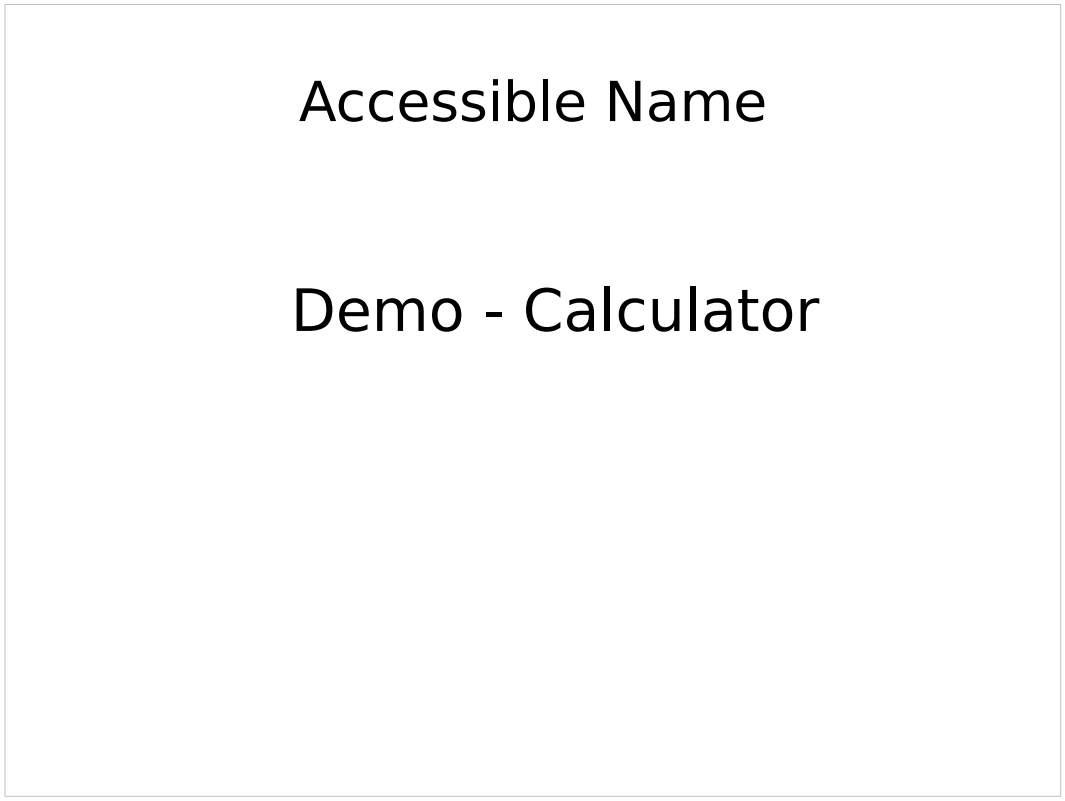
Keyboard navigation

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.



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 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).

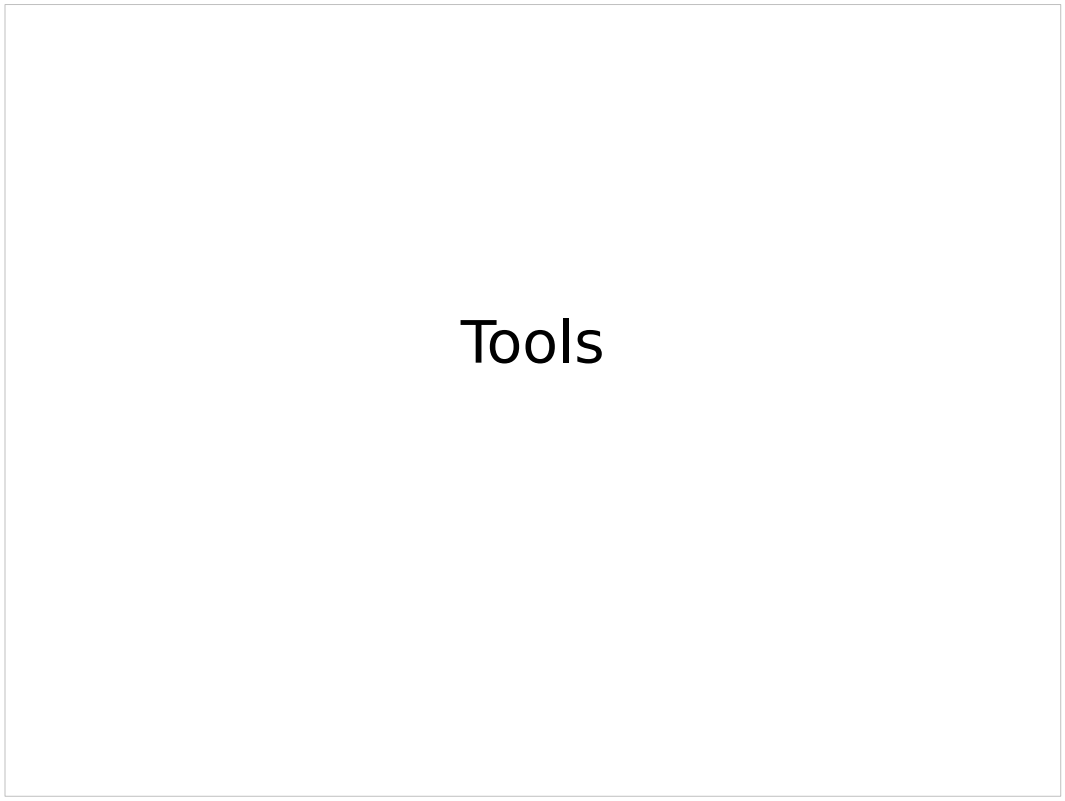
Description: longer than name, gives more detailed information about an object

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

State: the state, such as focused etc.

Demo – Rating Widget

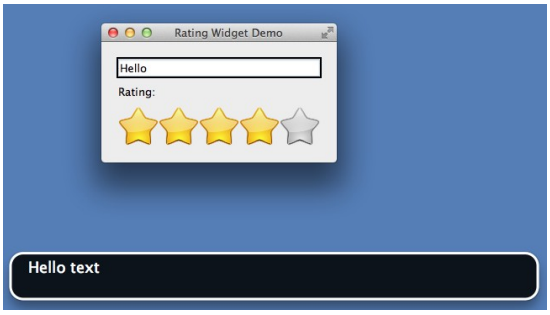
Demo – Rating Widget in QML



(Maybe blank screen)

Mac Tools

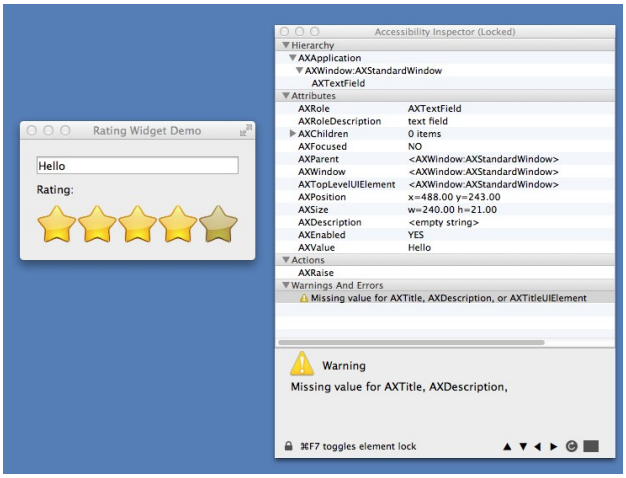
Voice Over



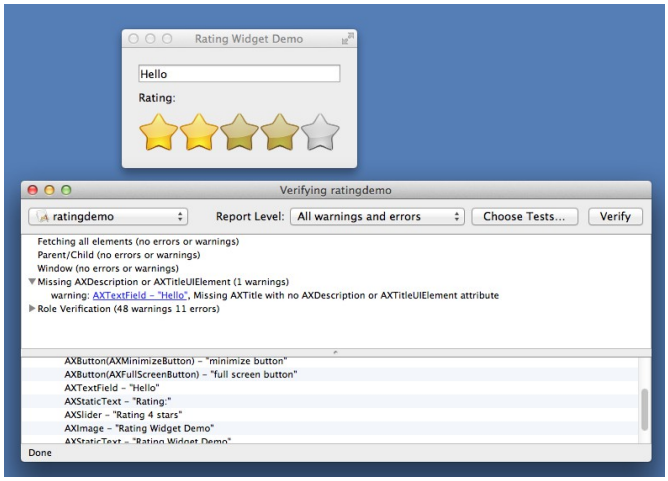
Voice Over

Helpful for debugging: not reading but visual

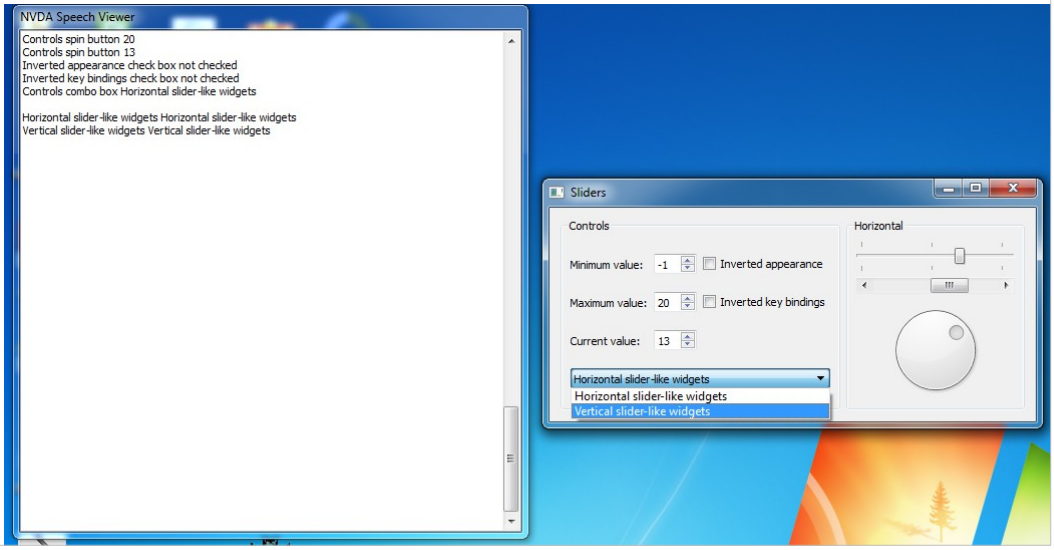
Accessibility Inspector



Accessibility Verifier



NVDA

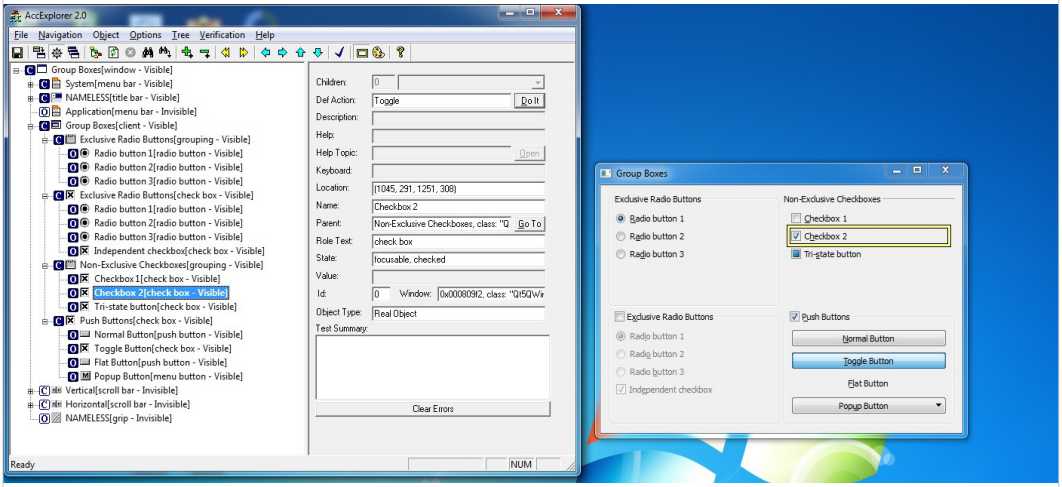


NVDA (NV Access)

Actual screen reader preferred by many blind people. It's free and Open source. It uses both MSAA and IA2.

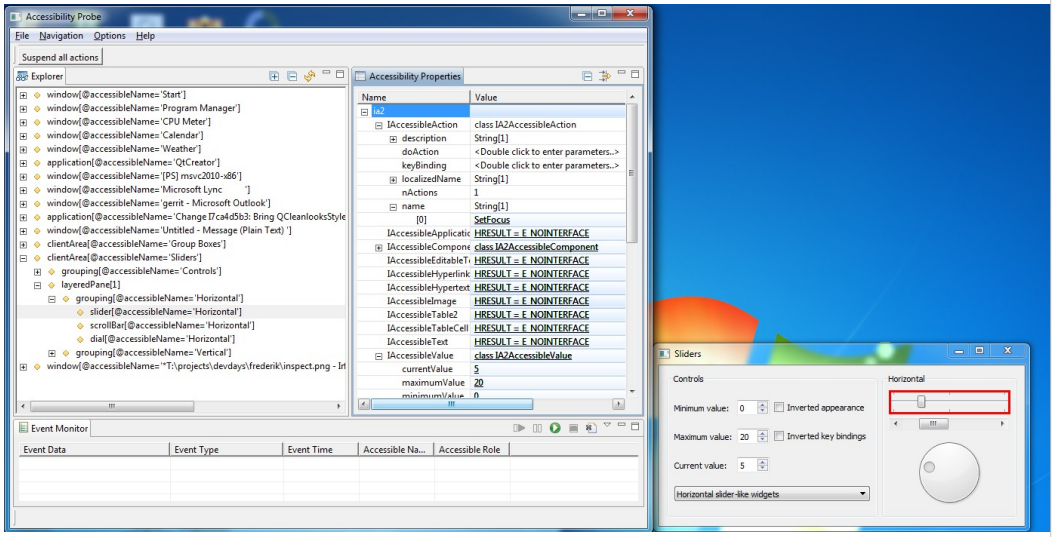
Has a speech viewer that can be pleasant to use while developing.

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.

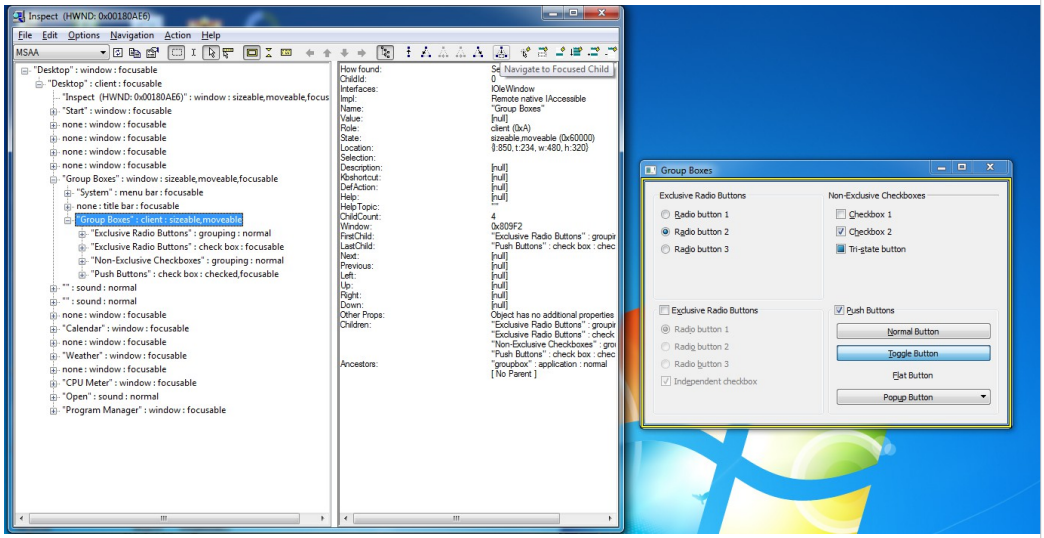
Accessibility Probe



Accessibility Probe (IBM)

Tool for inspecting both MSAA 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.

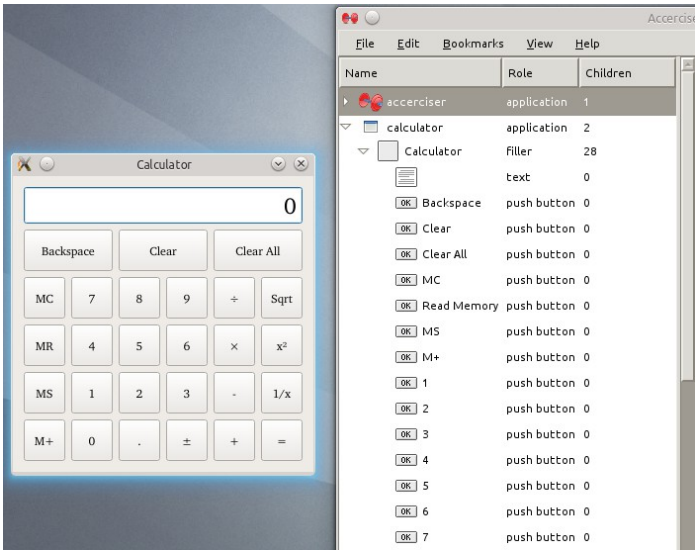
Allows more powerful focus testing. Supports MSAA and UI Automation but not IAccessible2.

Linux Tools

Orca

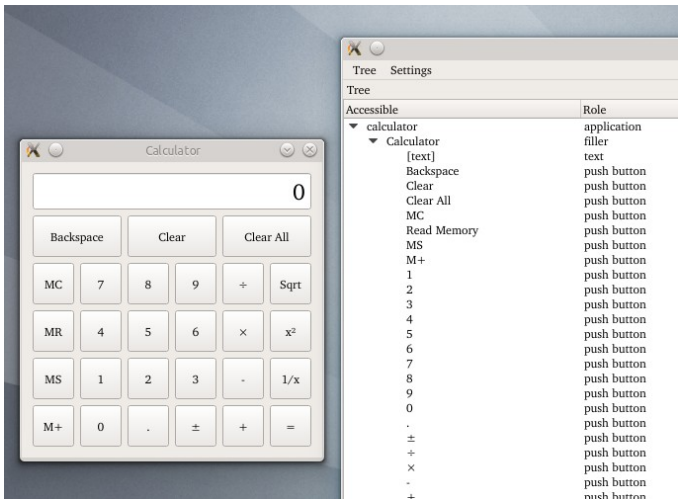
Currently the only real screen reader option on Linux.

Accerciser



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

Randamizer



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

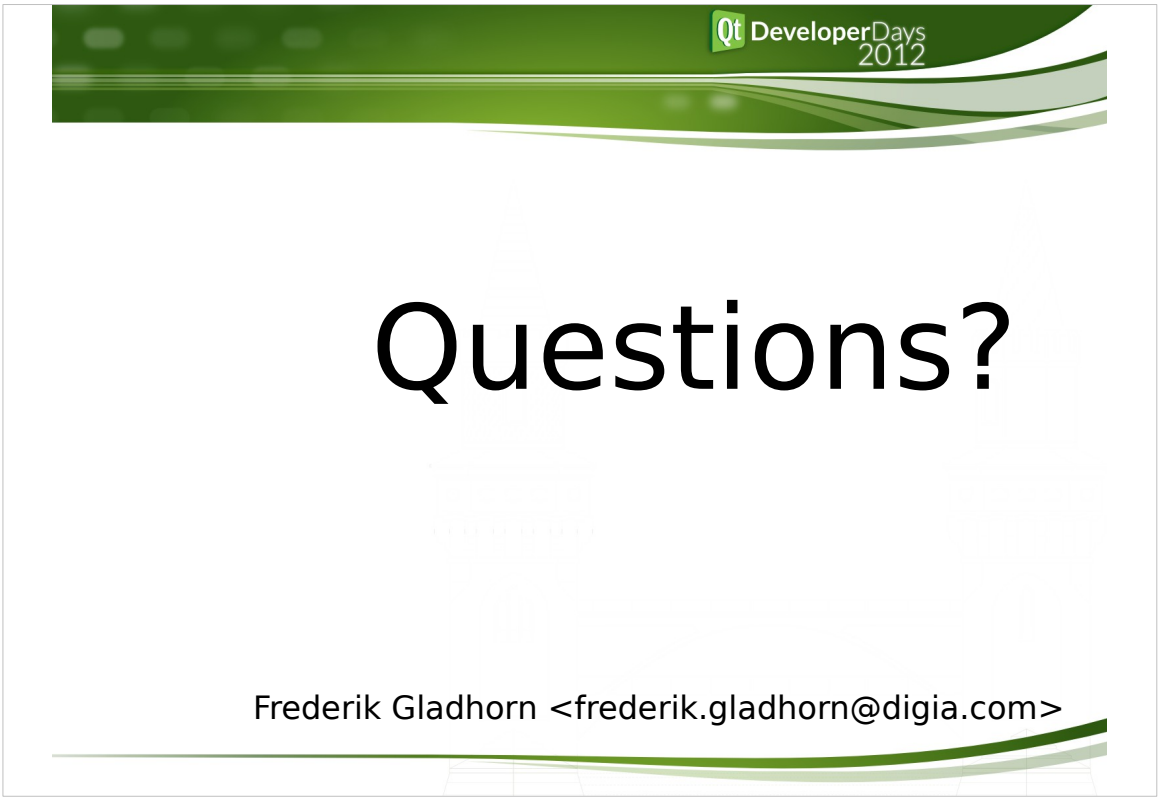
Future Work

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.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