



This is an author produced version of *Maavis@School*.

White Rose Research Online URL for this paper:  
<http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/10329/>

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**Conference or Workshop Item:**

Judge, Simon, Lee, Steve and Cudd, Peter (2009) *Maavis@School*. In: *Recent Advances in Assistive Technology and Engineering (RAATE) 2009*, 30th Nov - 1st Dec 2009, Coventry, UK.

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Barnsley Assistive Technology Team

**Maavis@School**

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Steve Lee

*Developer - Full Measure, Consultant - OSS Watch*

# Contents

- People
- Background
- Development and Technology
- Maavis@school trials
- Future & Scope

# Maavis@School :: People

- **University of Sheffield**
  - co-ordination and project management
- **Barnsley AT Team**
  - user involvement and assistive technology
- **FullMeasure**
  - assistive technology development
- **OSS Watch**
  - open source software advisory service



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

Barnsley Hospital   
NHS Foundation Trust



*IT without knowing about IT*

- **Moderated Access to Audio Visual Services**
- i.e: a simplified computer interface
- Developed to become a platform, be flexible and sustainable (more later)

# Maavis@School :: Motivation

- Potential population excluded from the benefits of information technology
- People with dementia; older people; children with special educational needs.
- Design challenge : create more intuitive access to IT services
- Research challenge: can we show a benefit to use of this technology?

# Maavis@School :: Background

- Maavis emerged from a previous small project
  - provision of IT within residential care homes
  - Sheffield's largest residential care home
  - small scoping project in school
- Study
  - research into benefits of provision of systems
  - usability study into design of system

# Maavis@School :: Requirements and technology choice

- Communications + media = web
- Easily acquired skills, common = web
- Without internet + privileges = rich client
- Open source platform = plenty of choice
- All of above = **Mozilla** as used in Firefox
  - Very well tested
  - Great community, cross platform
  - Some experience with Jambu





# Maavis@School :: Development and Technology

- Designed for multiple engagement levels
  - User – simple UI
  - Non technical facilitator – copy files, UI
  - Technical facilitator – create/edit 'web pages'
  - Core developer – extend platform
  - Future - Plug-ins extend community
- Mozilla XUL platform + VLC media player
- Outfox server – provides more flexibility – Skype





# SS WatchMaavis@School ::

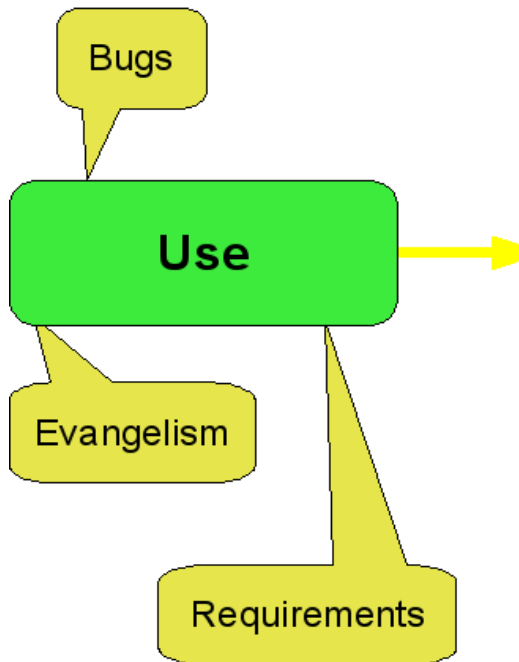
## Open Source Development Model

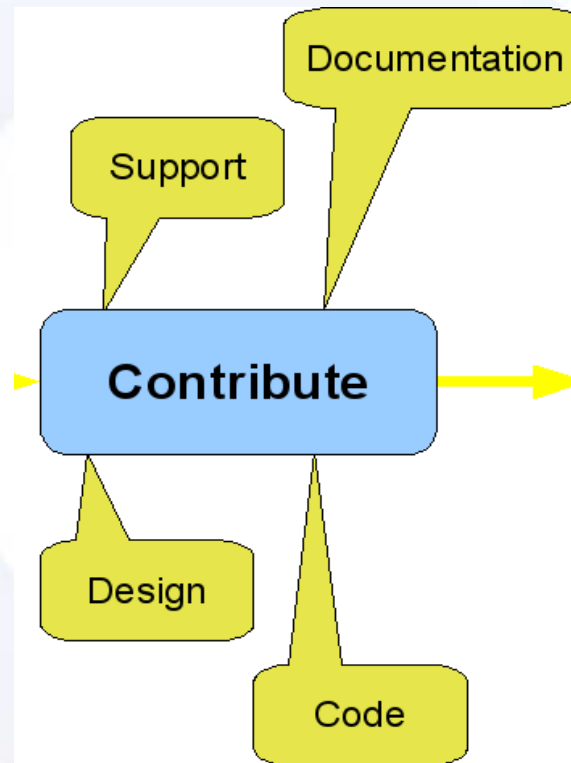
- open source, open development
  - Low cost to users
  - Community of users and developers
  - Innovation & sustainability
  - Exploitation - regional development
  - “Freedom to discuss plans with anyone”
- Development forge - open access



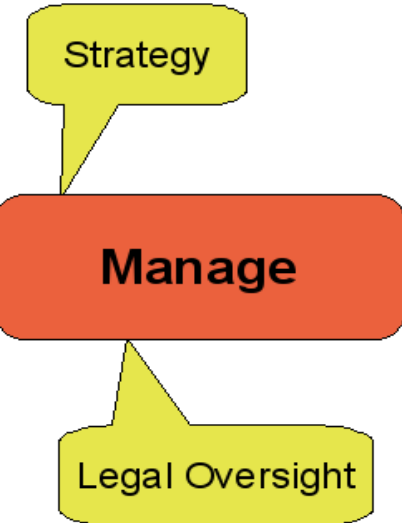
JISC

# OSS Watch



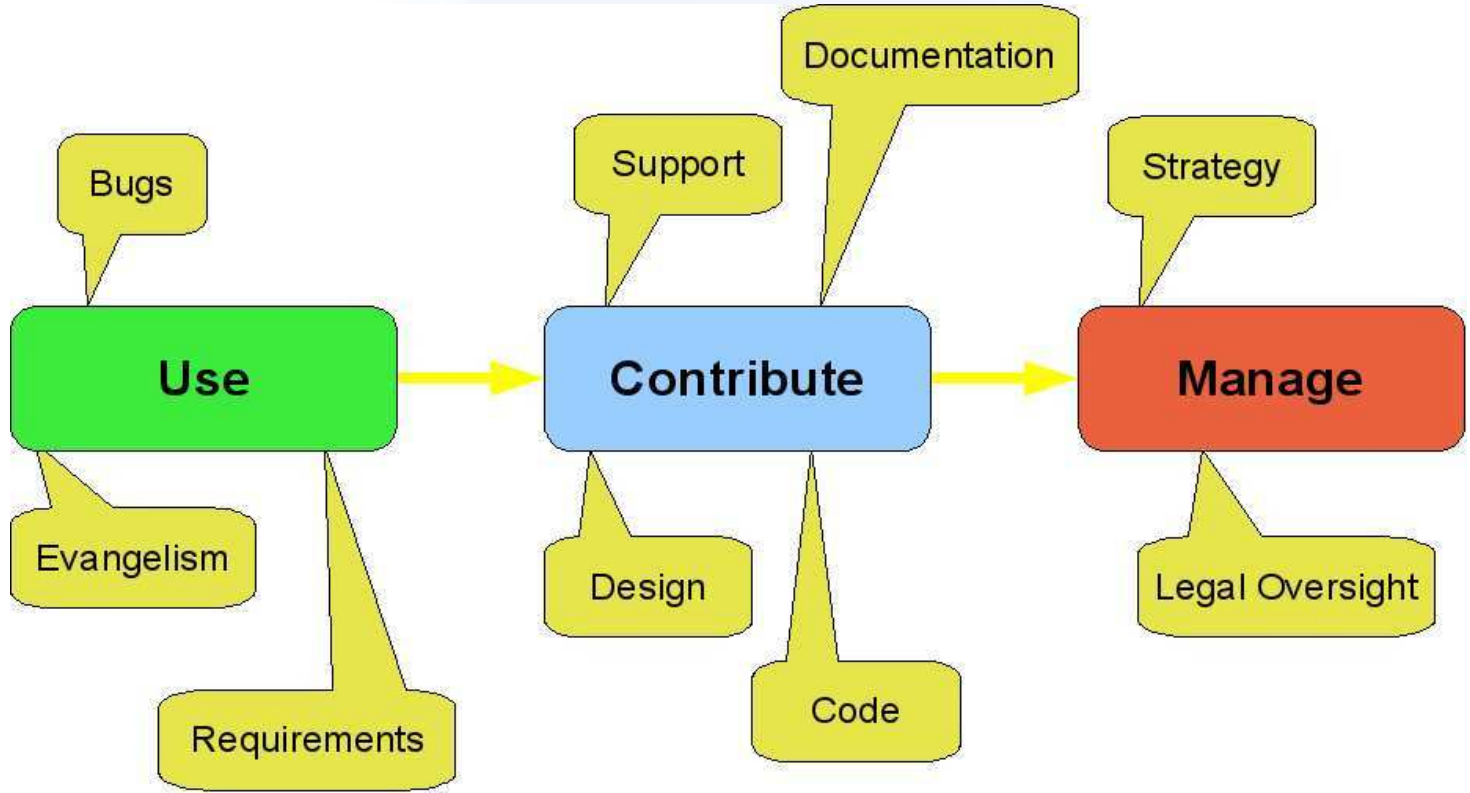


# SS Watch



JISC

# OSS Watch





<http://oss-watch.ac.uk>



JISC

# Maavis@School :: Study

- Small study
  - 3 special schools in S Yorkshire, term long trial
- user requirements scoping exercise
  - software development
- Trial:
  - Provision of system to children meeting recruitment criteria in 3 special schools

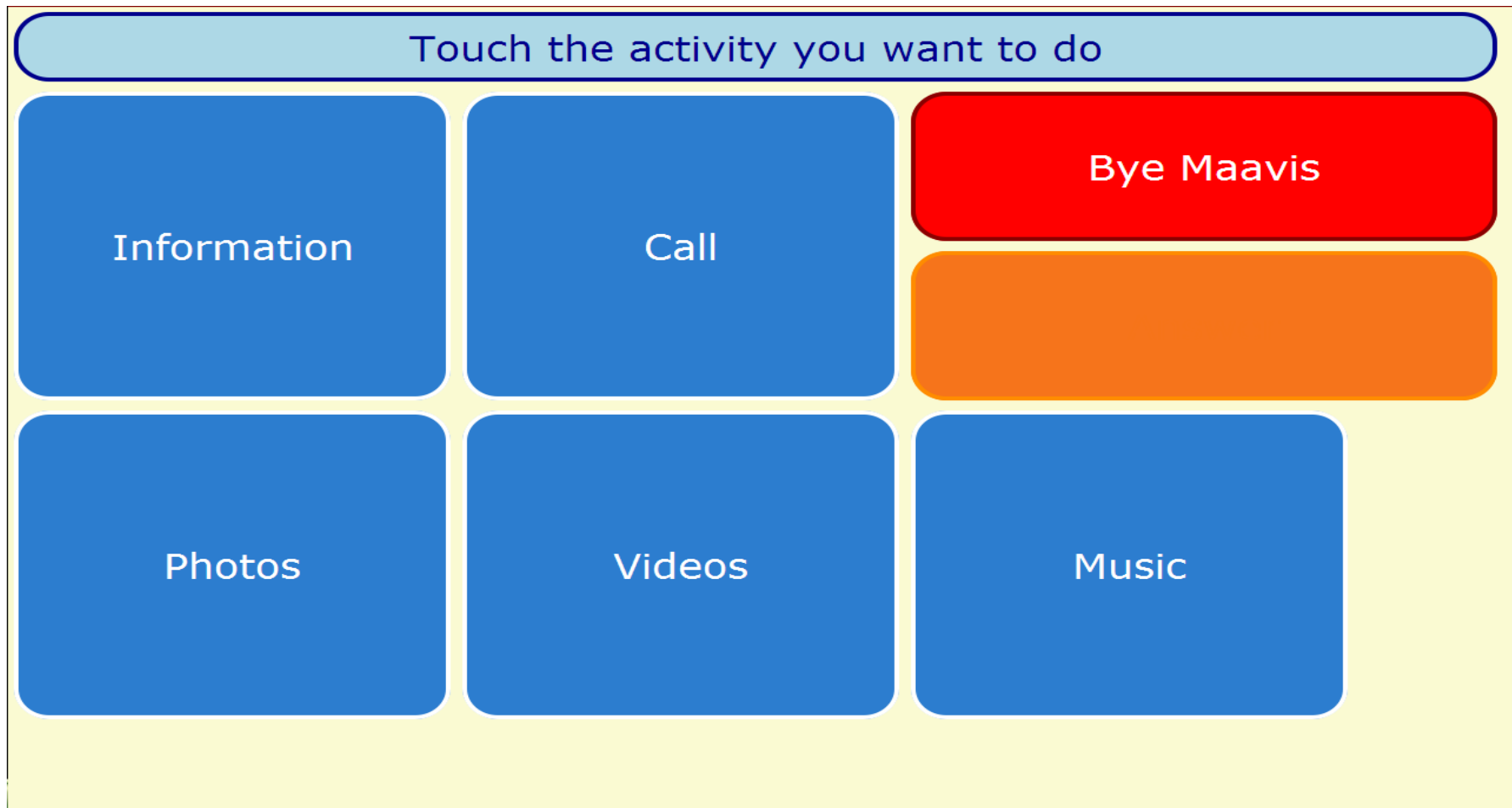


- Measuring impact of provision (and improved independent access to IT)
  - Qualitative data from teachers, students
  - Qualitative data from analysis of video evidence
  - Quantitative data from pre&post intervention assessments

# Maavis@School :: User Requirements & Implementation

- Features of Maavis
- New features specific to SEN
  - Switch access with scanning
  - Simple Log-in pages

# Maavis@School :: Top level screen



# Maavis@School :: Photo collection chooser

Touch the album you want to look at



Cats and Dogs



Events

Other things to do



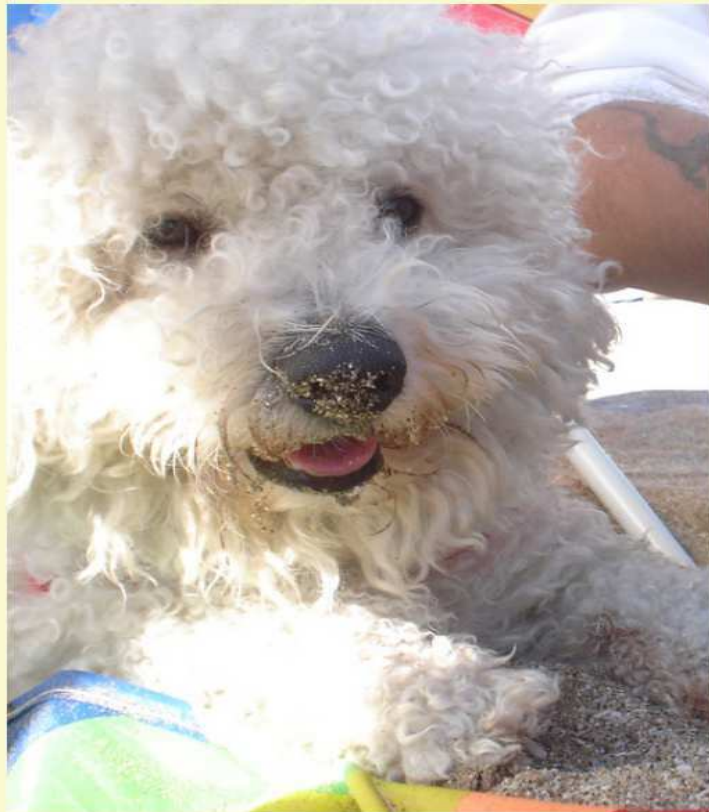
Flowers



Places

# Maavis@School :: Photo slideshow viewer

Watch Slideshow



Change Photos



Play



Back



Next

# Maavis@School :: Info (web) viewer

Look at or read things

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# Maavis@School :: Potential

- Project team believe Maavis has great potential
  - Use in many 'sectors' to provide accessibility for people otherwise excluded from IT
- Unique in several senses
  - Functionality
  - Platform choice and flexibility
  - Evidence based
  - Can be used as a platform for other things, e.g. tele-health

- Several other bids using Maavis
  - Nominet – internet delivery of content
  - Knowledge Transfer – deployment and training resources within FE
  - Exploitation bids



# Maavis@School :: Summary

- Maavis is designed to simplify access to IT
- Potential across a number of applications
- Small study looking at benefits within special schools
- Unique and flexible architecture and technology
- Ripe for further potential
- Open Source

**Maavis@School::  
User Requirements & Implementation**

<http://maavis.fullmeasure.co.uk>