

HP iPAQ and Mobile Speak Pocket make technology accessible for visually impaired



“With Mobile Speak Pocket (MSP), I can browse the Internet, send and receive emails, chat with my friends on MSN messenger, and stream audio and video from my PC to my HP iPAQ. It’s allowed me to enjoy the best summer for a few years and still be in contact with the world.”

Tom Johnston

Mobile Speak Pocket





Tom Johnston is 23 years old and lives in Leicester, UK. He lost his sight due to Marfans Syndrome, a condition that affects the body's connective tissue, but after studying at a boarding school for students who are blind in Worcester, he went on to achieve an accounting degree at Loughborough University.

Tom is now an independent accessibility consultant, checking out websites for accessibility to people who are blind or with visual impairments and proof reading braille documents. A self-styled technology enthusiast, he also designs and builds computer systems and networks for clients and is a big fan of both playing and listening to music.

Tied to desktop

Speech software is important to both Tom's working and social life and he runs Freedom Scientific's JAWS for Windows screen reader on the main PC in his home. However, this tied Tom to the computer in his room and he wanted more freedom. He found it with a wireless HP iPAQ Pocket PC and Mobile Speak Pocket (MSP) screen reading software from Barcelona-based Code Factory S.L., an HP Assistive Technology Partner.

Not only does MSP read the screen of your PDA and convert the visual information into speech, it can also be connected to a braille writing device. It works with most mainstream Pocket PCs including the HP iPAQ line, and is now available in 20 languages and 55 countries.

Ease of use

"I had owned Mobile Speak for my mobile phone for some time and knew the quality of Code Factory products," said Tom. "As soon as I discovered that PDAs were finally going to become accessible through MSP, I couldn't wait to see how well it worked. I was not disappointed.

"I installed MSP on my HP iPAQ and immediately began configuring it to work with my wireless network and mobile phone. Access to the relevant settings is easy and even though I don't have a separate keyboard or thumb-board, Code Factory's virtual keyboard makes inputting text and passwords no trouble at all."

Keeping in contact

Being able to use his HP iPAQ assists Tom in his work because he is no longer tied to the PC in his room for proof reading new products or other technical tasks. Having bought a 2GB flash drive, he also takes it on train journeys when he travels around the country to visit friends, taking music, movies and text to read on the way.

"With MSP, I can browse the Internet, send and receive emails, chat with my friends on MSN messenger and stream audio and video from my PC to my HP iPAQ," added Tom. "It's allowed me to enjoy the best summer for a few years and still be in contact with the world."

Customer at a glance

- **Name:** Tom Johnston
- **Headquarters:** Leicester, UK
- **Age:** 23

Partner at a glance

- **Company:** Code Factory
- **Headquarters:** Barcelona
- **Telephone:** +34 93 733 70 66
- **Number of employees:** 15
- **URL:** www.codefactory.es
- **Business:** Developer of software for people with blindness or visual impairments
- **Product:** Mobile Speak Pocket, Mobile Speak, Mobile Accessibility and Mobile Magnifier

Why HP?

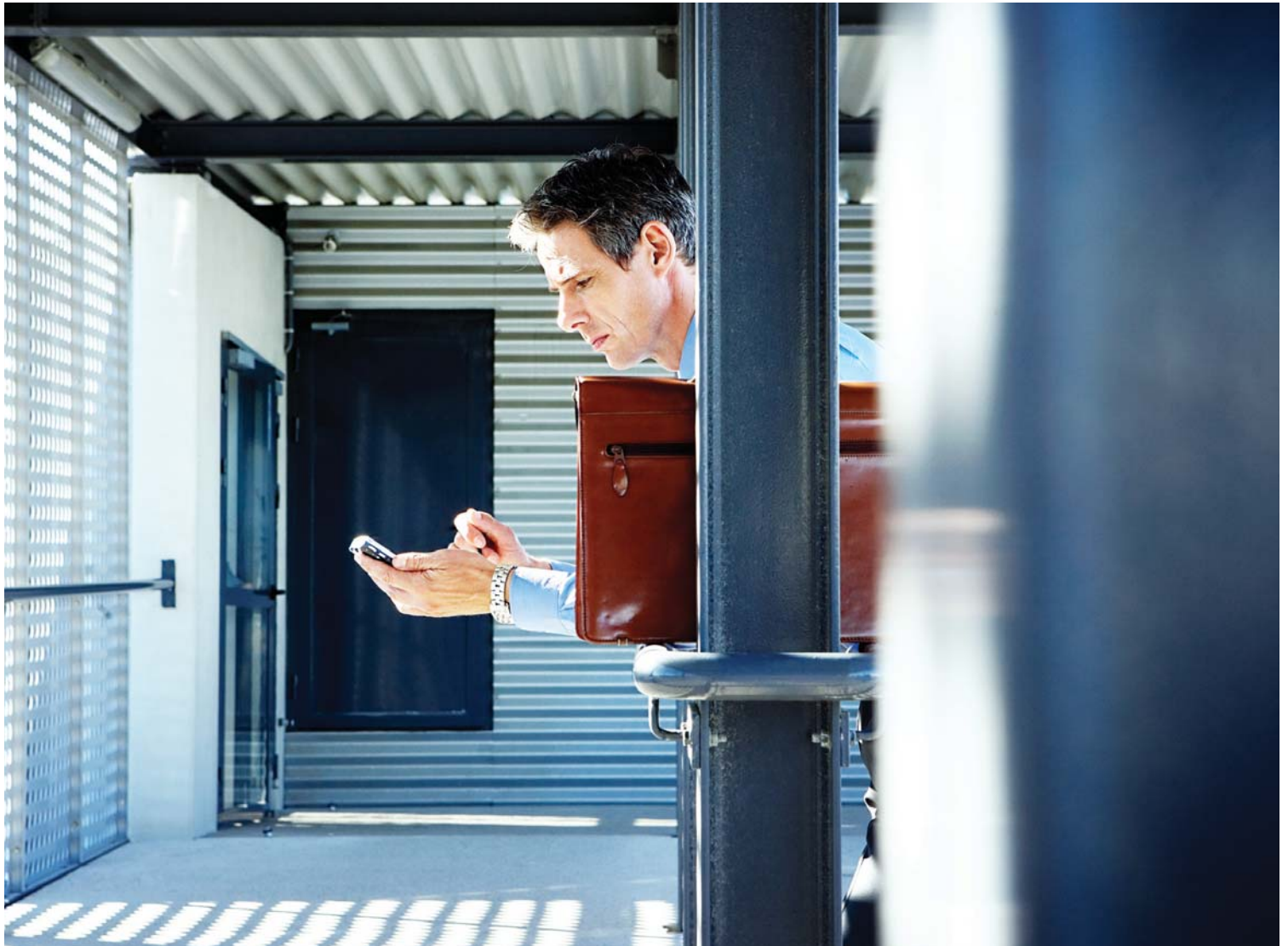
- HP is committed to connecting people to the power of technology by providing accessible products and services to meet the needs of people with disabilities, and age-related limitations.
- To achieve this, it partners with assistive technology vendors like Code Factory to help them with the development of their solutions on HP technology.
- With integrated wireless, the HP iPAQ Pocket PC range allows you to remain connected to the rest of the world, so they are an ideal vehicle for assistive applications.

Hardware

- HP iPAQ Pocket PC range

Software

- Mobile Speak Pocket screen reader
- Fonix, Acapela and Loquendo speech synthesisers



Challenge

- Tom Johnston of Leicester went blind several years ago. He obtained a university degree and now works as an accessibility consultant for organisations such as Loughborough University, ViewPlus Technologies and the National Centre for Tactile Diagrams.
- A technology and music enthusiast, he also likes to design and build computer systems and relies on his desktop PC, fitted with Freedom Scientific's JAWS for Windows screen reader.
- However, this tied him to his room and he wanted to achieve greater freedom while still working and keeping in touch with friends.

Solution

- Tom already used the Mobile Speak product on his mobile phone. It comes from Barcelona-based Code Factory, an HP Assistive Technology Partner which has now produced Mobile Speak Pocket (MSP), a screen reader for Pocket PCs.
- Tom has teamed Mobile Speak Pocket with an HP iPAQ Pocket PC.
- He has configured the iPAQ to work with his wireless network and mobile phone.

Results

Simplicity

- Using MSP's four 'virtual keys' in conjunction with the iPAQ's function keys makes it easy to navigate around most interfaces and controls, scrolling up and down and across lines to hear the text read.

Agility

- Using the HP iPAQ with MSP provides Tom with a much more versatile way to work and keep in touch.

Value

- It has given him freedom.

For more information on how working with HP can benefit you, please contact your local HP sales representative or reseller, or visit www.hp.com.

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