GWSocialEyes The Accessible Facebook Client
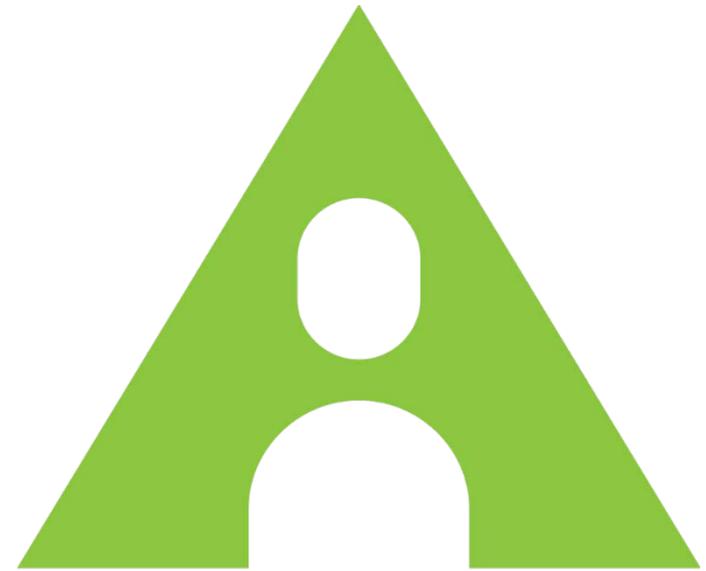
Marc Solomon

Accessibility Consultant

Ai Squared Indiana

Ai Squared

We've got accessibility covered.
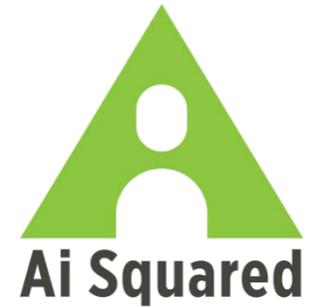
History of GW Micro

GW Micro was founded by Doug **G**eoffray and Dan **W**eirich in 1990. Vocal-Eyes was our popular screen reader for DOS. Window-Eyes was introduced when Microsoft released Windows in the early 90's.

GW Micro has been developing screen reading solutions for more than 22 years!

Accessibility Partnerships

- Microsoft
- Apple
- Adobe
- IBM
- Citrix

Free Window-Eyes Offer

- Partnership and agreement with Microsoft commenced on January 14
- Microsoft Office 2010 or newer required
- Download the free version of Window-Eyes from:
  www.WindowEyesForOffice.com
- Full featured screen reader with same application support as retail version

Merger with Ai Squared

- Ai Squared and GW Micro joined forces on May 1
  - Complementary cultures, expertise and product lines
  - Long history of collaboration on technical projects
  - Common vision for the future of our companies and products
  - We hope to deliver an even wider range of computer access solutions to our customers
- GW Micro is now known as Ai Squared Indiana
- Please stay tuned for exciting product updates:
  - Window-Eyes
  - ZoomText
  - sitecues
  - And more!

What is GWSocialEyes?
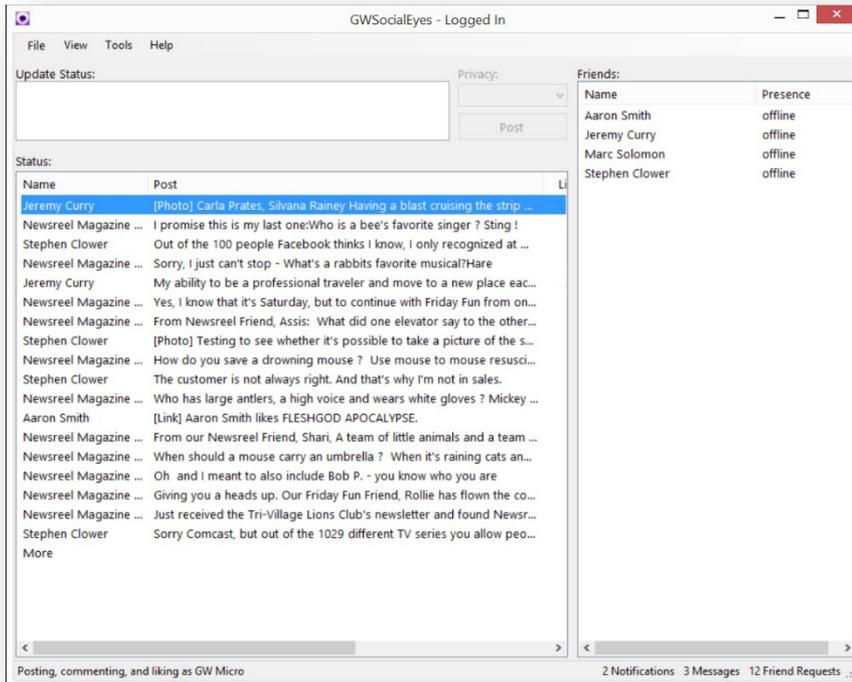
- Stand alone Facebook client for Windows that allows you to complete the most popular tasks:
  - Post status updates, review your timeline, post comments, like posts, chat, respond to friend requests, find friends, groups and pages
  - Subset of all features available on facebook.com
- Fully keyboard accessible, keyboard shortcuts for common tasks, screen reader friendly
- Simple and uncluttered user interface with intuitive navigation and conventional menu system
- Low cost - $39 for 1 year subscription

Why GWSocialEyes?

- Not everyone has a smart phone (35% of US adults in 2013 according to Pew Research)
- Not everyone is comfortable using touch interface
- www.facebook.com can be challenging to use for some computer users
- Poll of customers reflected interest and demand for easy to use Facebook client for Windows
- Business case - new potential reoccurring revenue stream that is screen reader agnostic

How Did You Do It?

- C# programming language (.NET application)
  - Windows Forms (WinForms)
  - Standard controls with native accessibility built in
- Facebook Graph API (named after the idea of a social graph)
  - Information on Facebook represented as nodes, edges, fields
  - HTTP based
  - Access tokens used for authentication
- Facebook Chat API
  - Jabber/Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP)
- Proprietary code and 3rd party tools used for:
  - Authentication and licensing
  - Spell check

Other Accessible Tools

- GWConnect
  - Accessible Skype client for Windows
  - http://www.gwmicro.com/App_Central/Apps/App_Details/?scriptid=1353
- Chicken Nugget
  - Accessible Twitter client for Windows
  - https://q-continuum.net/chicken_nugget/
- Qube
  - Accessible Twitter client for Windows
  - http://www.quartzprojects.co.uk/download/
- Socializer
  - Provides access to Facebook, Twitter, Skype and Instant Messaging on Windows PCs
  - http://www.serotek.com/accessibilityanywhere

THANK YOU

Contact us

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