MOUSE 4all

PRESS DOSSIER

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WSA
WORLD SUMMIT AWARDS
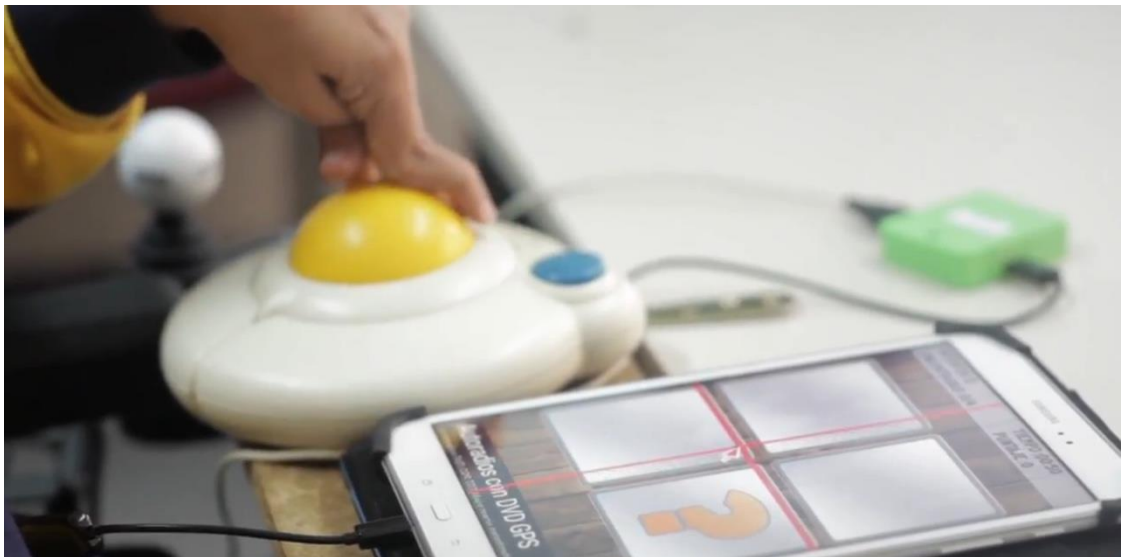WINNER 2017

Accessibility for Android™

mouse4all.com

What is Mouse4all

It's an innovative assistive product which enables persons with a severe physical disability to use an Android tablet or smartphone without touching the screen. Mouse4all improves the quality of life and autonomy of people with motor impairment, allowing them to be connected with family and friends, anytime, anywhere. It can be used with switches, an adapted mouse, trackball or joystick.

What does Mouse4all enable

- Using messaging apps such as WhatsApp.
- Accessing social networks: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram…
- Watching YouTube videos.
- Browsing the Internet. Reading e-books, blogs and digital newspapers.
- Installing and using any app from Google Play, including games.
- Reading and writing emails.
- Listening to music and radio.

In a nutshell, anything that can be done using a touchscreen.

User benefits

- Autonomy and privacy. Digital Inclusion. Participation in society.
- Increase in self-esteem and self-confidence.

Technical requirements

Mouse4all is compatible with most of the Android tablets and smartphones launched in the last four years:

- Android 4.4 or newer is recommended.
- USB OTG support, allowing the connection of a mouse or pen drive with an adapter cable.

Target users

Mouse4all enables using an Android device, entirely, without touching the screen. Persons with a severe physical disability resulting from cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) or neuromuscular diseases can now enjoy mobile technology.

Communication is an inherent necessity of the human being. Mouse4all improves the quality of life of its users who can now interact with other online, listen to, be listened, share their thoughts, feelings and ideas… enabling them to socialize, work or just to have fun.

Anyone who can press a switch with any part of her body can use Mouse4all and experience how it translates a simple switch press into an action on the screen: move, click, scroll, drag and drop, swipe…

Mouse4all makes the use of Android tablets and smartphones truly universal. With this technology, new users can now access the Internet, interact through social networks, play games and use whatever app they like the most.

Physical disabilities in the World

There are 17 million people across the world living with cerebral palsy (CP). It is the most common physical disability in childhood. CP is a permanent disability that affects movement. Its impact can range from a weakness in one hand, to a complete lack of voluntary movement. (https://worldcpday.org)

Every year, around the world, between 250 000 and 500 000 people suffer a spinal cord injury (SCI). The majority of spinal cord injuries are due to preventable causes such as road traffic crashes, falls or violence. (http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs384/en/)

It is estimated there are around 450 000 people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) worldwide. These numbers are hard to determine with accuracy because there is no standard measure, the disease takes time to diagnose, and availability of adequate medical care for neurological diseases varies from country to country. (https://www.als.net/)

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is one of the most common diseases of the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) in young adults. Today more than 2 300 000 people around the world have MS. There are more women than men with MS, about 50% more. (https://www.msif.org/)

Testimonials

Mouse4all is a social startup. From the beginning, our goal has been to create a solution that improves the quality of life of persons with a severe physical disability.

That is why we have developed, tested and improved Mouse4all in collaboration with end users, their families, therapists, relevant associations and public administrations.

Our ultimate indicator of success is what these stakeholders tell us about Mouse4all. This is what gives meaning to our work.

"It helps me to enter Facebook and work by myself".

Angel,
user with cerebral palsy

"We did not even dream that our users could use tablets and smartphones."

Mila,
Speech Therapist

"Tablets and Mouse4all have opened a window to the world for them."

Eva,
Therapist

"I can now take advantage of all the things a mobile phone can offer. Mouse4all has given me the capability to express my thoughts in total privacy and to be able to participate in social networks with total freedom."

Rafael, user with cerebral palsy

"Mouse4all is a discovery, it's completely portable and easy to use once it has been installed. It is a window to communication and leisure for the ALS patient."

Marisa, ALS Speech Therapist

"Dani has cerebral palsy. Since he uses Mouse4all, he communicates quickly and frequently with his family and friends. It has been a very important change for all of us."
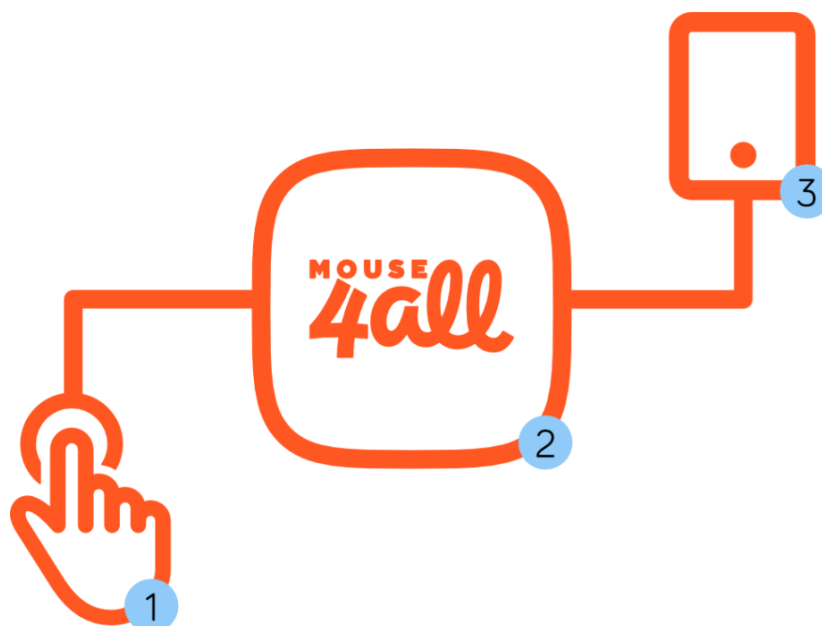
Julio, Dani's father

"At last a flexible and adaptable solution that changes the life of people living with a physical disability. Mouse4all gives them the possibility to fully engage in our global digital community with benefits for all of us."

Dorothy Gordon, Board member of World Summit Awards

How does it work

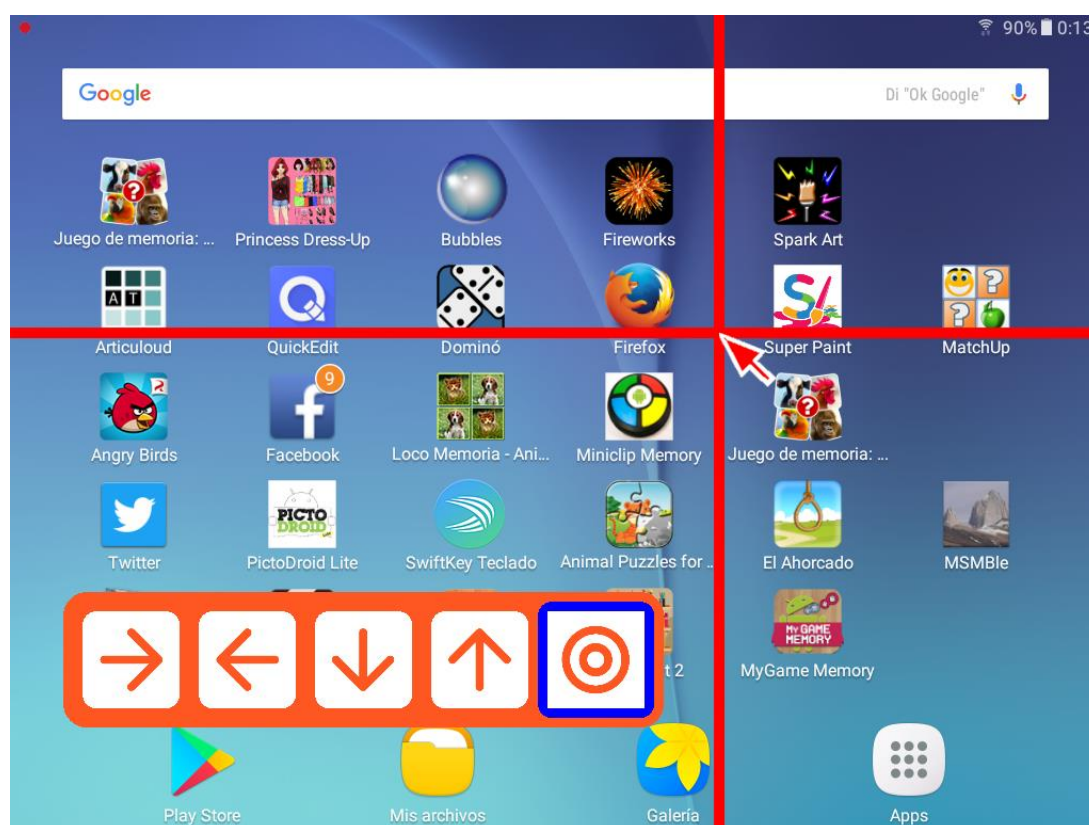The solution is composed of three elements:

1. An external input device that the person with disability uses instead of the touchscreen. This can be one or two switches, an adapted mouse, trackball or a joystick.

2. The Mouse4all box that allows connecting the input device to the smartphone or tablet.

3. An Android smartphone or tablet with the Mouse4all app, which can be installed from Google Play.

Mouse4all supports two different modes of operation, to better suit the needs of each user:

- Switch control. It can be set up to use one or two standard switches. The app supports point scanning to move the mouse pointer around the screen. This mode is specially designed for people with a severe motor impairment.

- Adapted mouse, trackball or joystick control. It enables the use of the Android device with any standard USB mouse device, including those with a wireless receiver.

In both modes, the user interacts with her input device to move a big pointer displayed on the screen. Additionally, two scanning lines help to locate the position of the pointer. By selecting a special a special option menu with the switch or by clicking the right mouse button, the person can perform advanced Android actions and gestures such as scrolling down the screen, returning to the home screen or pulling down the notification bar, to name a few.

The Mouse4all app includes a complete Settings menu where all its functionality can be easily adjusted to the needs of each user. The user can, for instance, change the size and color of the on-screen elements, the speed of the mouse pointer or the sensitivity of the input device.

Plug & play. Mouse4all is very simple to use. You can install the Mouse4all app from Google Play, just like any other app. Every time the Mouse4all box is connected to the micro-USB connector of the Android device, the app launches automatically. There is no need to manually open the app. Equally, the Mouse4all app stops when the connection cable is disconnected.

About us

Mouse4all SL is a startup created by two engineers, José Ángel Jiménez and Javier Montaner. Our deepest motivation is to apply technology to solve relevant problems and make the world a better place. Watching our satisfied users interacting with our innovative products is what we enjoy the most.

We are social entrepreneurs, and our objective is to make the company a sustainable business in the long term.

We are solving a global problem experienced worldwide by persons with disabilities. Hence, our moral duty is to reach them no matter where they live.

Partners

- ASPACE - Spanish Cerebral Palsy Association.
- FLM – Spinal Cord Injury Association (Madrid).
- ELA Andalucía – ALS Association (Granada).
- CEAPAT - Spanish National Center for Personal Autonomy and Assistive Technologies.
- Vodafone Spain Foundation.
- BJ Adaptaciones - Assistive Technologies Distributor, based in Spain.
- Liberator - Assistive Technologies Distributor, based in the UK.

Acknowledgements

- Mouse4all is included in the Catalogue of Assistive Technologies managed by CEAPAT (Spanish Reference Center for Assistive Technology).
- Mouse4all received the maximum score (5/5) on the Orientatech website, a joint initiative of Spanish Red Cross and Vodafone Foundation to evaluate social products and services.

Awards

- Winner Impact Prize 2018 – European Social Innovation Competition (European Commission).
- Winner – *Premios RTVE Emprende* 2018, category Disability. (Public Spanish TV Awards).
- Winner and Global Champion – United Nations World Summit Awards 2017-2018, category Inclusion & Empowerment.
- Winner – G5 Innova Awards 2017-2018 by Grupo 5.
- Winner – Social Innovation Challenge Lab Tech4Social 2018 by Ship2B and 4YFN.

- Finalist – European Social Innovation Competition 2017 by the European Commission.
- Winner – AAA Arona Accessibility Awards 2017.
- Winner – Vodafone Innovation Awards 2016 by Vodafone Spain Foundation.

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