

CURRICULUM VITAE – TIM IN 'T VELD

PERSONAL INFORMATION

T.A. in 't Veld, B.Sc.
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I am Tim in 't Veld (26), master of Business Informatics student at Utrecht University (the Netherlands). My (research) interest is on human - computer interaction. My goal is to design effective software and hardware products which enable users to take full advantage of today's technology. I specialize in the design of assistive technology products for visually impaired users. I also have an entrepreneurial attitude with an interest in the development process and marketization of technology products.

Many of my societal activities focus on advocacy efforts for the visually impaired. I deploy and support initiatives which provide the visually impaired with the tools and skills they need to succeed. I am active in student life and liberal (youth) politics. I also provide freelance software / hardware services to small business customers.

EDUCATION, HONORS, SKILLS

2006 Gymnasium, Coornhert Gymnasium, Gouda, NL

2014 B.Sc. Information Science with a computer science minor, Utrecht University, nl

2014 Recipient of the 2014/2015 "Google scholarship for students with disabilities". This €7.000 scholarship is awarded to disabled students based on demonstrated academic and leadership achievements.

Programming experience C#, PHP / mysql / xslt etcetera, LaTeX, Java, unix server administration
Languages Dutch (native), English (fluent in speaking and writing), German (reasonable speaking, limited writing), French (limited speaking)

ACTIVITIES

2013 - present in my B.Sc. thesis project I developed FaceSpeaker, a prototype wearable face recognition device for the blind. This device supports blind users during social interactions by covertly identifying their acquaintances. The working prototype speaks an acquaintance's name when his face comes in view of the camera embedded into the user's glasses. This project was graded 9 (out of 10) and accepted at 2 student research conferences (ICCHP young researcher consortium and the VSNU student research conference for Dutch / Belgian Bachelor research projects). In addition, the project received major media exposure including a national newspaper article, 3 television appearances and 4 radio interviews. More information can be found at <http://www.facespeaker.org>.

2004 - present Software / hardware consultant. I am responsible for system administration (software installation / maintenance, computer hardware assembly / maintenance) as well as software development for various small business and individual customers.

I am responsible for the full software and hardware maintenance of approximately 25 desktop and laptop computers as well as various small network infrastructures. Most of the desktop computers are self assembled and many are used in small business environments. As downtime is unacceptable for those users, I design the computers to be highly reliable and if a serious problem does occur I repair it on site within 24 hours.

I maintain a webshop for a lunchroom, when customers order lunch the order is immediately being printed at the restaurant. <http://www.lunchroombinnen.nl>.

I performed programming and product promotion / support work for the firm Babbage Automation (<http://www.babbage.com>), mainly related to accessible mobile phones for blind users. I have very limited vision myself and use such technology daily. I have a deep interest in this technology and closely follow developments in the smartphone market, especially related to accessibility.

- 2008 - present I co-initiated the ICCHP summer university on mathematics, science and statistics <http://www.icchp-su.org>. Blind students in mathematics, sciences and related fields need specialised solutions in order to succeed in their field of study. ICCHP summer university provides this extremely small group of students (and their professors / teachers) an opportunity to learn about those solutions, and provides them with an opportunity to meet and exchange best practices. The event has been successfully organized 4 times in Viena, Telc (CZ), Linz and Karlsruhe. In 2012 and 2013 I lead a workshop about finding and reading scientific literature using asistive technology.
- 2010 I coinitiated and technically realized the "Wayfinder Access Protest Petition". Wayfinder Access was a unique smartphone navigation solution for the blind which enabled me and many other users to travel independently. In 2009 Vodafone acquired Wayfinder, only to discontinue all their products a year later. For most users there was no alternative to Wayfinder Access at the time, and Vodafone planned to pull the plug from the wayfinder servers soon leaving users helpless. Our petition succeeded in extending the life of Wayfinder for some time, getting Wayfinder users a refund from Vodafone and focussing attention on the importance of navigation for blind users.
- 2010: board member of JOVD Utrecht (local chapter of the Dutch liberal political youth organization). As secretary my duties included being the first point of contact to our organization, providing information through newsletters and our website, and writing minutes for all board and organization meetings. I also developed a system to optimize our membership administration and provide easy insight into member mutations for my fellow board members.
- 2006 - 2011 Member of student association "Utrechtcsch Studenten Corps", member of the sub-association for science studies 'Medisch- Natuurphilosofisch en Veterinair Tandheelkundig Gezelschap "Christiaan Huygens"'.