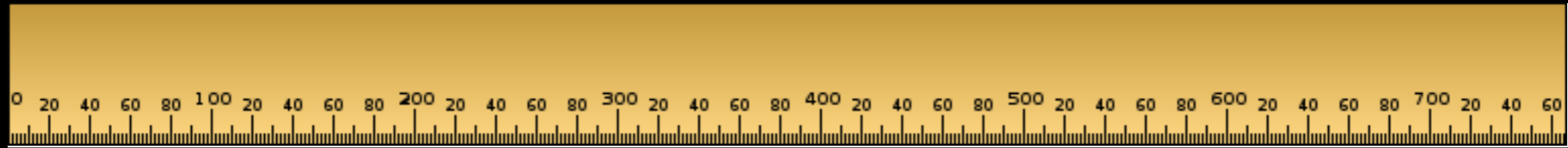


Standardising accessibility



a game
changer for
Free Software?

Olaf Schmidt, Akademy 2008

1. Why open standards are important
2. Why accessibility is important
3. Software accessibility
4. KDE and accessibility standards

1. Why open standards are important

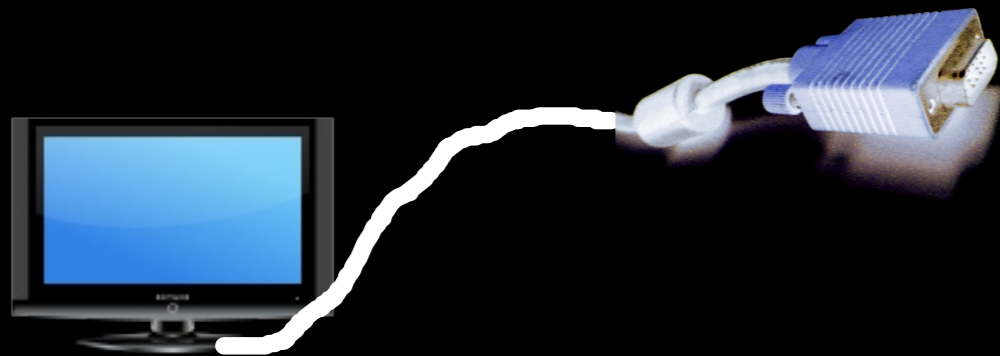
standard devices
standard plugs
standard APIs



KDE4

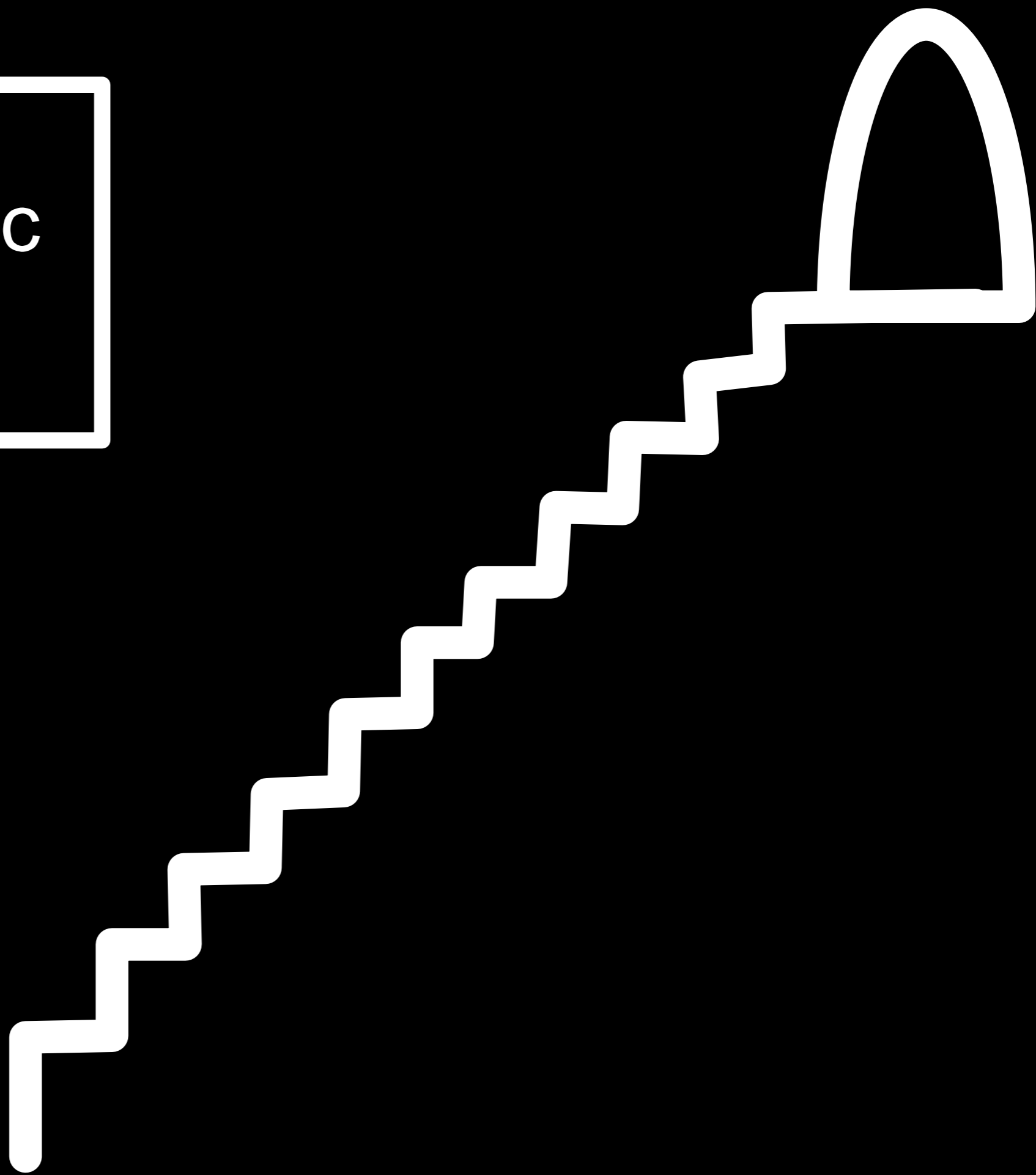


Qt4



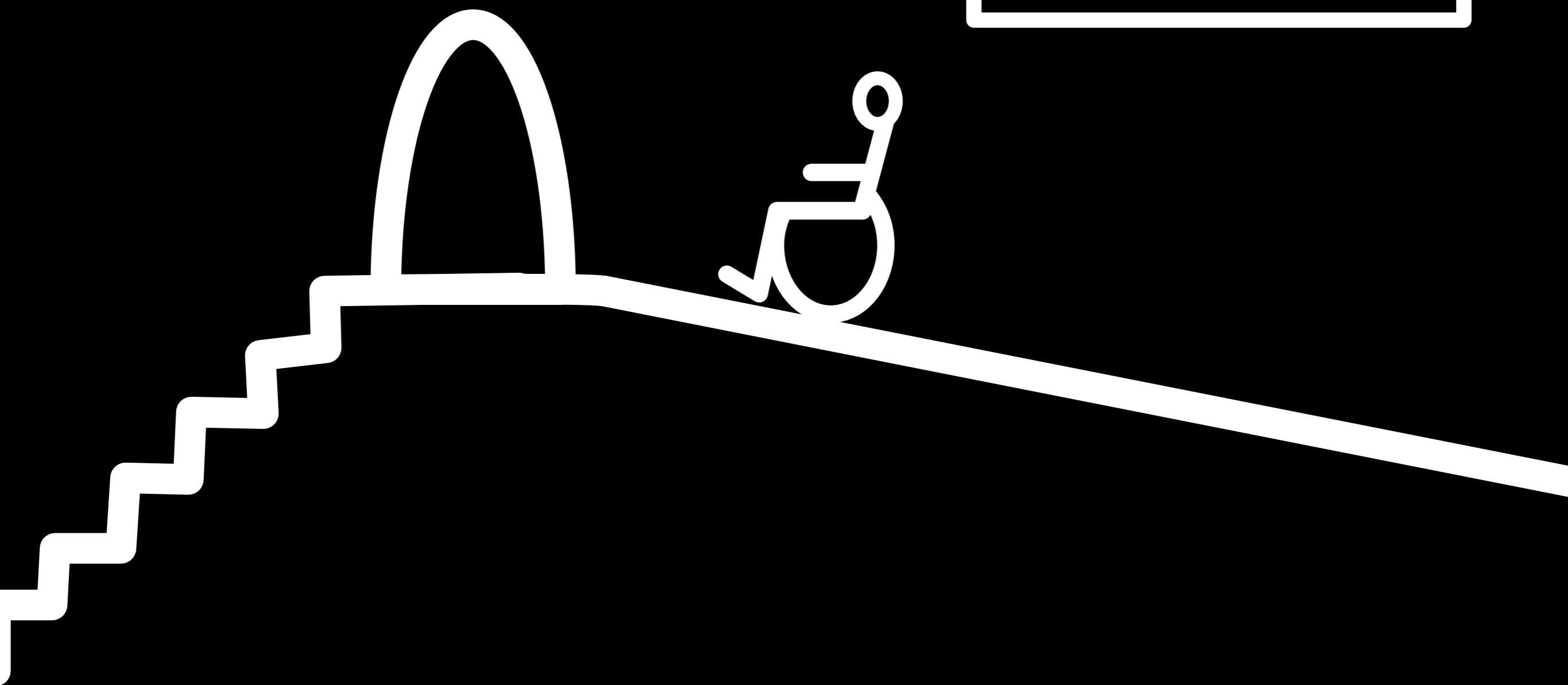
2. Why accessibility is important

Free and
democratic
election
→

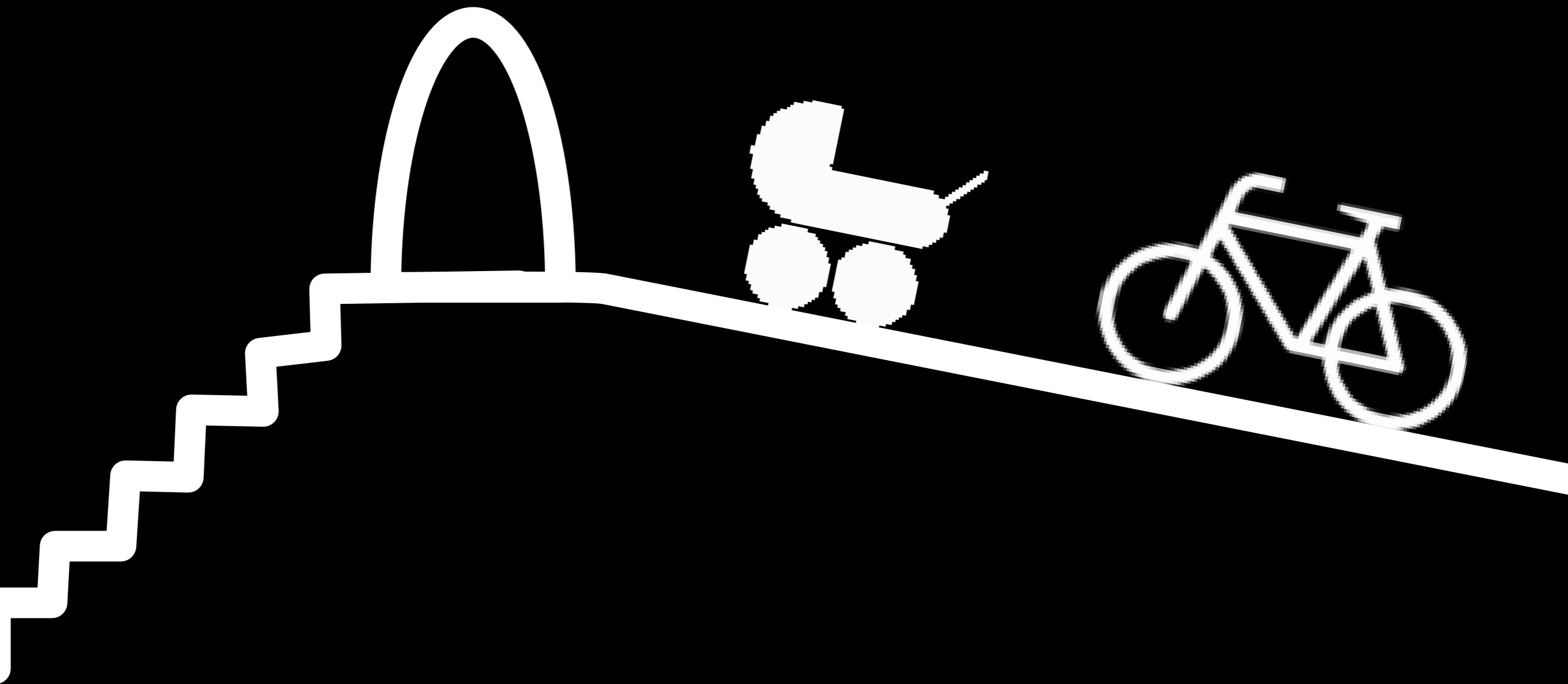


universal access
is required by law

Free and
democratic
election



universal access
is required by law

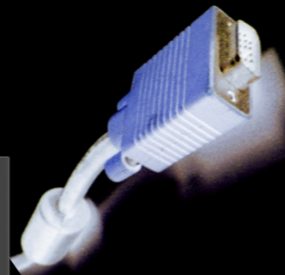
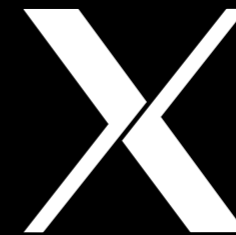


3. Software accessibility

accessibility barriers in software



KDE. Be free.



Accessible documents

Normal PDF is not accessible

- only tagged PDF (e.g. OpenOffice)



OpenDocument

- accessibility improvements were needed for government deployment



4. KDE and accessibility standards

alternative output for blind users



Qt Accessibility
Framework

standardised
communication

screen
reader



alternative input for impaired users



standardised
communication



Qt Accessibility
Framework

on-screen
keyboard
or other
accessibility
aid



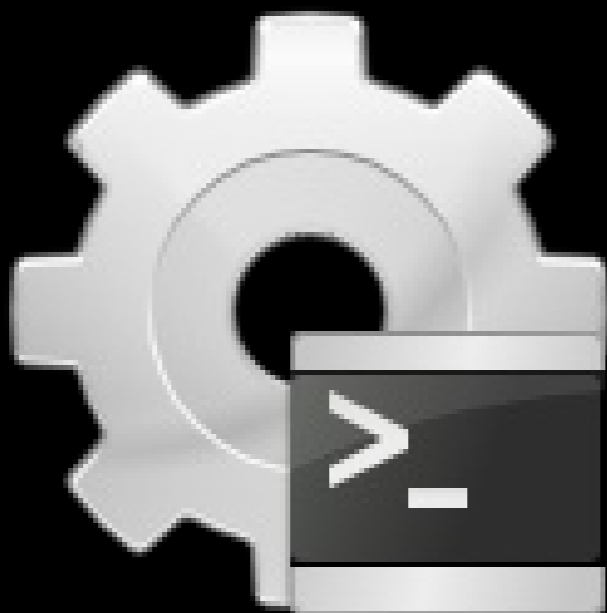
other uses



standardised
communication

Qt Accessibility
Framework

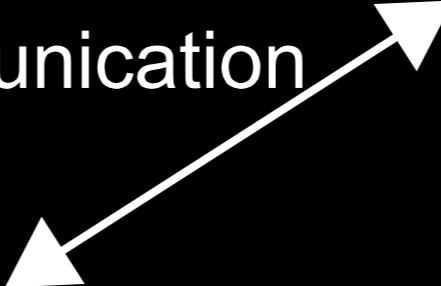
testing,
scripting



Standardising Accessibility



standardised
communication

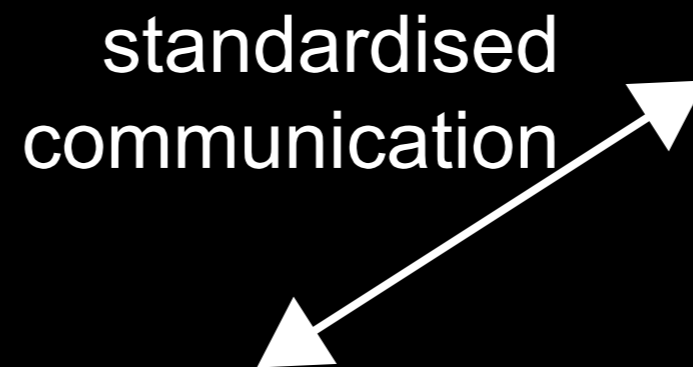


A11y.org
Open Accessibility Group

OpenAccessibility

- part of the LinuxFoundation,
but focus beyond Linux
- standards can be forwarded to ISO
- Keyboard Accessibility Specification

Cooperation with Windows



IAccessible2

- Windows port (by OpenAccessibility)

UI Automation

- competing standard (by Microsoft)

Accessibility aids in KDE

colours and sizes ✓
magnification ✓
text-to-speech ✓
mouse settings ✓
mouse emulation ✓
keyboard settings ✓
...



support for bigger
assistive technologies
(screen readers etc)



What does this mean for KDE?

Accessibility standards as danger for KDE

- extremely small team, huge amount of work
- lack of accessibility support can harm KDE adoption rates (especially in governments)

What does this mean for KDE?

Accessibility standards as chance for KDE

- Give everyone the freedom to use and improve KDE
- Make blind users part of our community
- Make accessibility a core part of our identity

