symhelper
a crowdfunding tale that really worked

Maurizio Berti
maurizio.berti@vnssrl.it
What's AAC?

Augmentative and Alternative Communication
Symbols

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>food</td>
<td>hamburger</td>
<td>Pizza</td>
<td>Burrito</td>
<td>Spaghetti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Food" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Hamburger" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Pizza" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Burrito" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Spaghetti" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bread</td>
<td>cheese</td>
<td>French fries</td>
<td>hot dog</td>
<td>popcorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Bread" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Cheese" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="French Fries" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Hot Dog" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Popcorn" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fruit</td>
<td>banana</td>
<td>ice cream</td>
<td>cookie</td>
<td>candy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Fruit" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Banana" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Ice Cream" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Cookie" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Candy" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drink</td>
<td>water</td>
<td>juice</td>
<td>soft drink</td>
<td>coffee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Drink" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Water" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Juice" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Soft Drink" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Coffee" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ok… what's AAC again?
At the center of our garden
At the center of our garden
Enter Symhelper

2012 command line python script

2015 GUI + .exe install package
Hip to be square

Automated
Easy installation
PDF as input format
Simple+fixed steps to run
Editing capability
How it happened

- **python script**
- **exe package**
- **minimal GUI**

2012

- Meeting with Luca Errani

**Crowdfunding success**

April 2014

- **bugfix**
  - Draw/Impress check
  - Special characters
  - Image folder removal

November 2014

**improved GUI and fixes**

- Wizard
- Layout parameters
- Processing feedback

July 2015
How it works

SymHelperExt

SymHelper

.size

.outline

.spacing

...
Specs

Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8.X
LibreOffice 4.3, 4.4
GhostScript

ImageMagick Convert
Pillow – a friendly PIL fork
April 2014
let's see the **real thing**

(hopefully)
Pick a file
Set the margins
Adjust page layout
The bar moves
The document is ready
Who's behind it?

- Comunità dell'Arca, L'Arcobaleno
  Bologna

- CSCA - Centro sovrazionale
di comunicazione aumentativa
  Milano e Verdello

- Associazione Il Volo – ONLUS
  Fiscaglia (FE)

- Ausilioteca
  Bologna

- VNS
  Milano
Show me the money

300 subscribers
5.200 euros
14,58 euro/donation
(excluding two 500 euro donors)
Where is it?

italian: http://unlibropertutti.org

english: maurizio.berti@vnssrl.it
What now?

“Non square“ symbols
Linux, MacOS X support
Punctuation
Row and page editing functions
Video help
Localization

Please write → maurizio.berti@vnssrl.it
“We definitely made a dent with Open Source”

Luca Errani - 24/9/2015
Thank you

Maurizio Berti
maurizio.berti@vnssrl.it