

# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

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# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

Good news (1):

- Use of Free Source Software in public institutions around the world increases quickly
  - ministries
  - gouvernement agencies
  - city administrations
  - schools



# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

## Good news (1):

- Use of Free Source Software in public institutions around the world increases quickly
- KDE: 10% of all European public institutions (and growing)
  - French parliament
  - Munich
  - German federal and country ministries
  - Many schools throughout Europe



# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

Good news (1):

- Use of Free Source Software in public institutions around the world increases quickly





# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

Good news (2):

- Awareness for people with disabilities increases steadily
  - blind students in school or university
  - citizens with disabilities in public libraries
  - government employees with disabilities



# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

## Good news (2):

- Awareness for people with disabilities increases steadily
- More and more laws that force the state to only buy accessible computers
  - United States
  - European Union
  - European member states (e.g. Germany, Great Britain, Norway)



# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

Good news (2):

→ Awareness for people with disabilities  
increases steadily

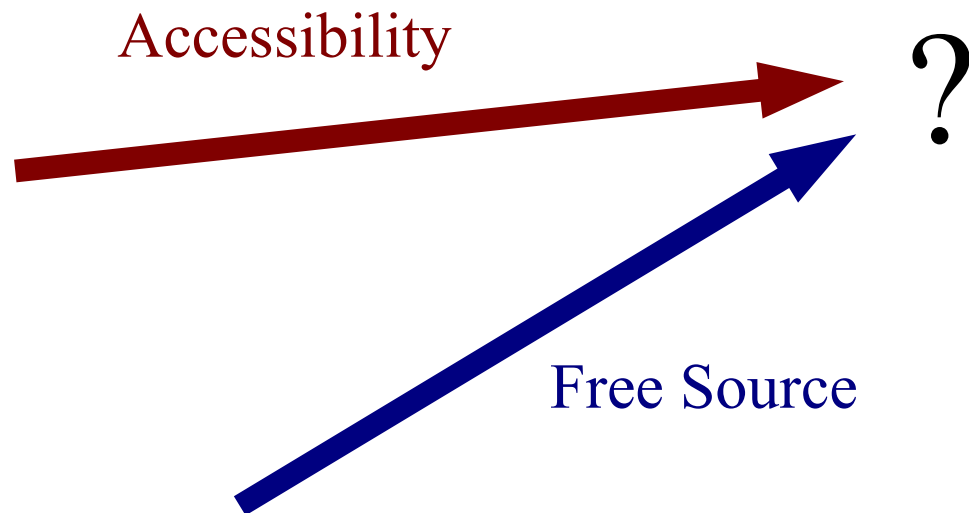
*Accessibility*





# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

2 x Good news = ?

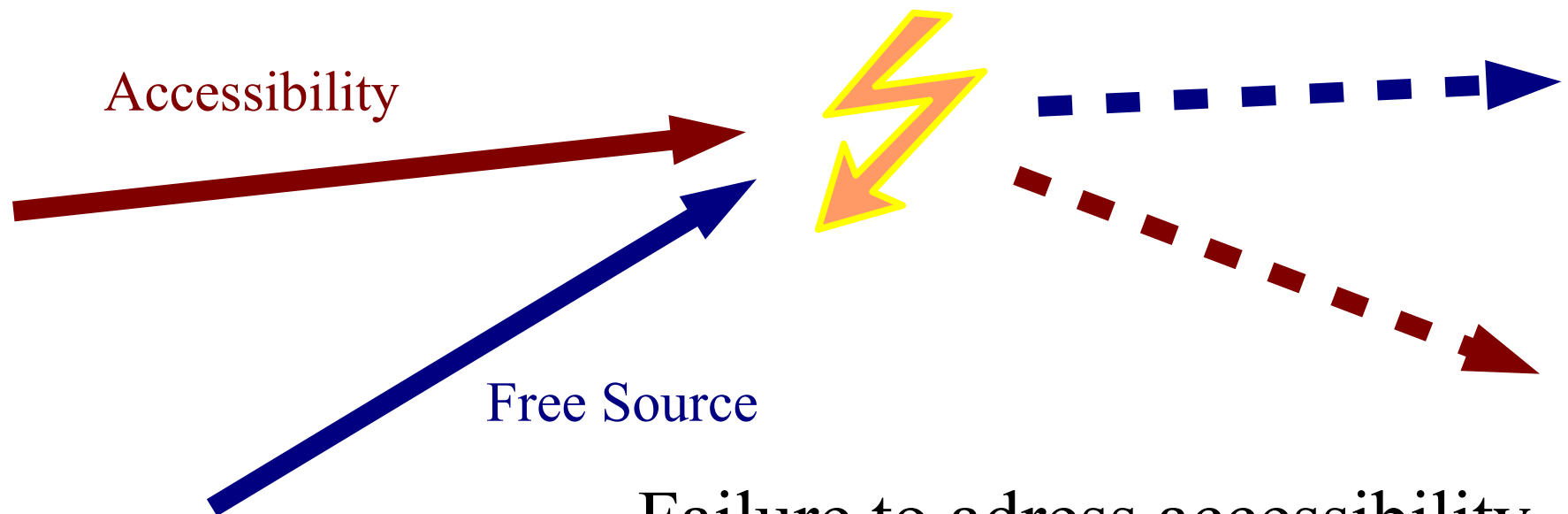




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2 x Good news = Bad news for both?

→ People with disabilities losing their jobs  
(PR nightmare waiting to happen)



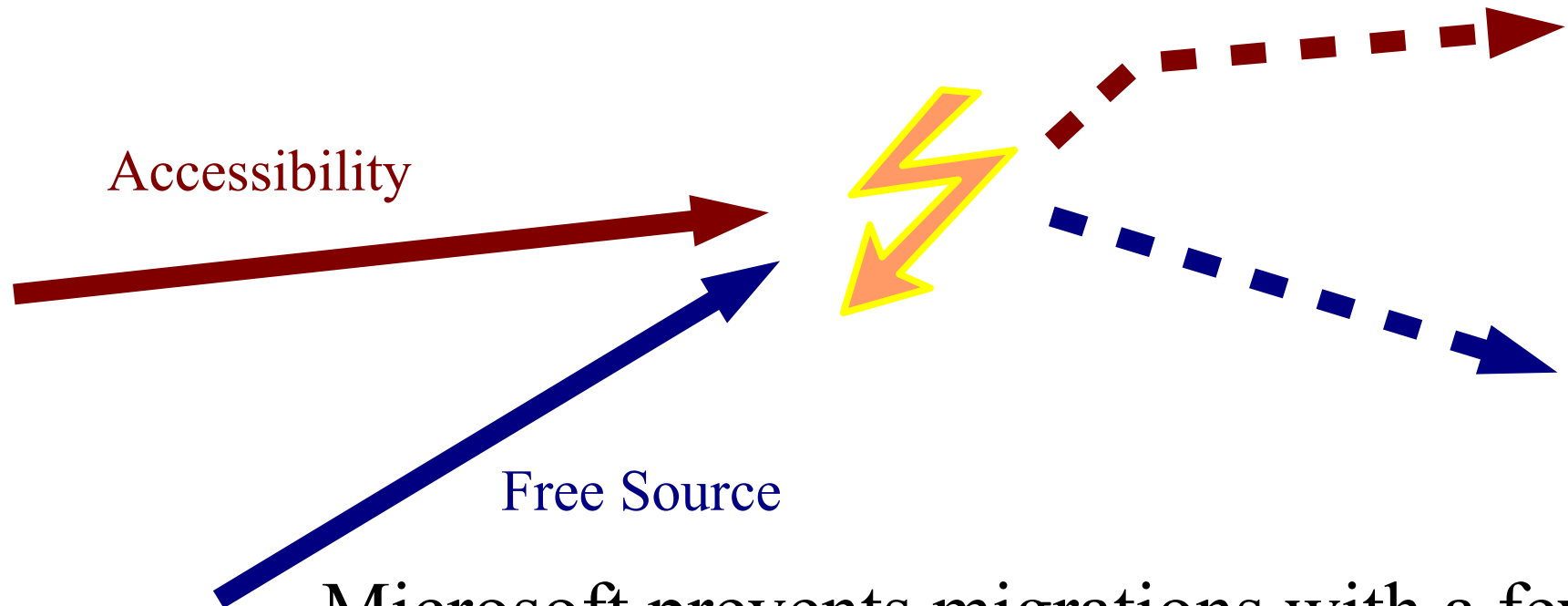
Failure to address accessibility  
slows down KDE migrations



# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

2 x Good news = Good news for Microsoft?

→ Accessibility as defense for Microsoft



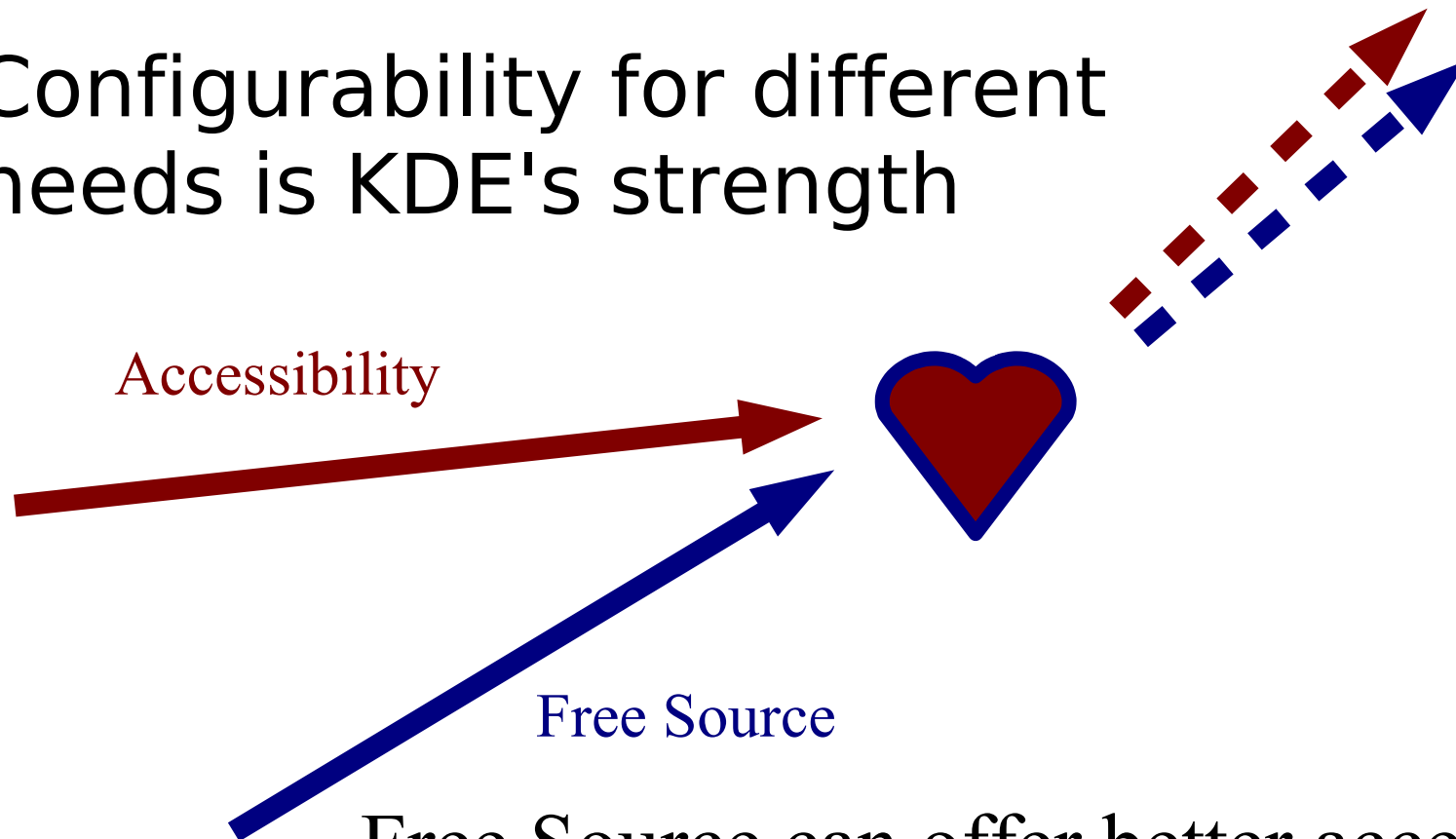
Microsoft prevents migrations with a few  
accessibility improvements and a lot of PR



# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

2 x Good news = Really good news?

→ Configurability for different needs is KDE's strength



Free Source can offer better accessibility  
than closed systems (if done right)



# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

LinuxFoundation:

- Merger of OSDL and Free Standards Group (FSG)



# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

## LinuxFoundation:

- Merger of OSDL and Free Standards Group (FSG)
- Linux Standards Base (LSB):
  - atk (Accessible ToolKit, used by gtk, OpenOffice.org, Firefox)
  - Qt Accessibility



# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

## LinuxFoundation:

- Merger of OSDL and Free Standards Group (FSG)
- Linux Standards Base (LSB)
- OpenAccessibility workgroup
  - IBM, Red Hat, SUN/GNOME, KDE/Trolltech, some Windows accessibility companies



# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

Upcoming accessibility standards:

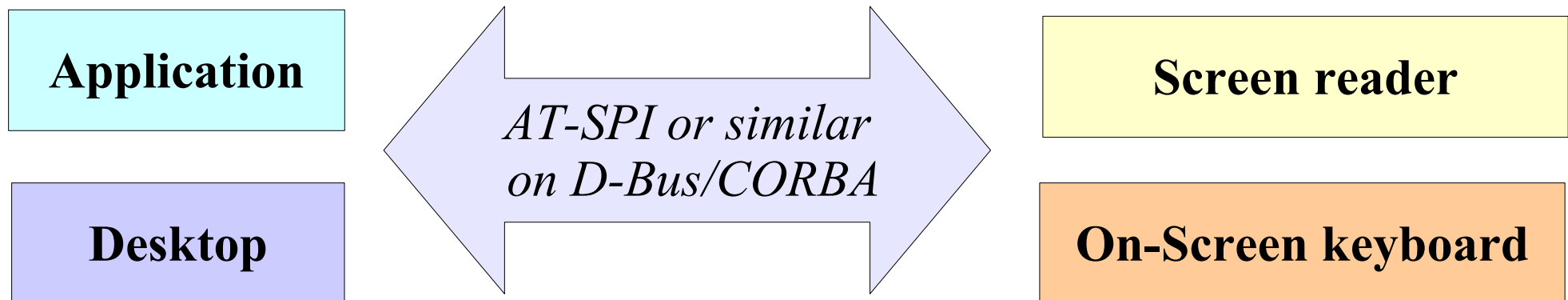
- Keyboard accessibility (already supported by KDE for a long time)



# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

Upcoming accessibility standards:

- Keyboard accessibility (already supported by KDE for a long time)
- Long-term: AT-SPI or similar





# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

## Simple things to keep in mind

### 1. No fixed sizes

- Users with low vision need bigger sizes to see and read the content
- People have different screens



# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

Simple things to keep in mind

1. No fixed sizes
2. No fixed time-outs
  - Some people need more time to respond



# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

Simple things to keep in mind

1. No fixed sizes
2. No fixed time-outs
3. Easy keyboard navigation for everything
  - Some people cannot use mice
  - Power users are quicker with the keyboard
  - Some people need on-screen keyboards etc.



# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

## Simple things to keep in mind

1. No fixed sizes
2. No fixed time-outs
3. Easy keyboard navigation for everything
4. No hard-coded colours
  - Colour scheme system improved in KDE 4.0
  - Further improvements planned for KDE 4.x



# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

## KColorScheme

→ How to get a text color

– `KColorScheme::foreground (role)`  
offers 8 colours

- `NormalText`
- `InactiveText`, `ActiveText`
- `LinkText`, `VisitedText`
- `NegativeText`, `NeutralText`, `PositiveText`



# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

## KColorScheme

- How to get a text color
- How to get a background color
  - `KColorScheme::background (role)` or  
`KColorUtils::tint (bgColor, textColor)`



# Why accessibility bugs harm KDE and how to get rid of them

## KColorScheme

- How to get a text color
- How to get a background color
- Background images
  - Only show the default background image if `KGlobalSettings::allowDefaultBackgroundImages()` returns true



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Questions?

