

Q. How did Present Pal come about?

A. Estendio is a multi-award winning Scottish start-up which was incorporated in November 2014 by 19 year old Chris Hughes. Estendio's mission is to cultivate human potential through accessible technologies.

Estendio has developed 'Present Pal' - a presentation support software which helps users to deliver a more confident and prepared presentation. Present Pal acts like a set of interactive flashcards that can control your Microsoft PowerPoint.

Present Pal was created by Chris Hughes, a former student at the University of Strathclyde. Chris had just begun his business degree when he realised that his grades would be largely based on his ability to present information – a task that frustrated him due to having dyslexia. No matter how long Chris spent rehearsing for presentations, he would freeze as his classmates watched him anxiously stumble through his presentation. After seeking advice from his disability officer, Chris discovered that there was no real support available for presentations and the only solutions were to present to a classroom of less than 10 people, record the presentation beforehand and play it out to his peers or skip the presentation altogether. Chris believed that these options further highlighted his disability and so in a mission to find a solution through assistive technology, he came up with the idea of Present Pal. www.presentpal.co.uk

Q. What are the benefits of using Present Pal?

A. Present Pal guides users through their presentation with interactive flashcards on their smartphone or tablet, integrating fully with Microsoft PowerPoint so that users can also control their slides whilst they present. Present Pal has various expert-advised features to help those with Specific Learning Differences such as 3-5 bullet points per flashcard, linear focus scrolling, and pop up bubbles which act like a safety net to store key information and images that the presenter may otherwise have forgotten. Present Pal can also be personalised to suit individual needs by choosing from Crossbow Education approved colour overlays, font faces and sizes to reduce the user's visual stress whilst presenting. These expert-advised features aid presenters by providing dependable, anxiety-relieving assistance.

Q. Is Present Pal available to purchase?

A. Present Pal has been approved by both Disabled Students' Allowances (DSA) and Access to Work (ATW) and can be recommended by a needs assessor today. DSA is a government funded grant for UK students who have a disability, Specific Learning Difference or a mental health condition. After proving their eligibility, students can visit a needs assessor to be provided with assistive technology such as Present Pal. ATW is the workplace equivalent.

Present Pal launched on the App Store and Google Play Store on 6th of September 2018. Present Pal is available to download and purchase on our website www.subscription.presentpal.co.uk for those wishing to purchase a licence or a monthly/annual subscription.

Q. How much does it cost?

A. DSA/ATW Approval = **£96**

One Off Purchase = **£115**

Monthly Subscription = *30 days free* then **£4.99/month**

Annual Subscription = **£3.49/month**

Q. Who does Present Pal appeal to?

A. Estendio conducted research with 130 students across Glasgow and found that 93% of students have to present as part of their course and 86% of those with learning differences are uncomfortable with this. Following these findings, a pilot study was conducted with City of Glasgow College and 92% of students agreed that Present Pal was the best way for them to present. These discoveries led Estendio to seek DSA and ATW approval. This market is now Estendio's main stream of revenue. However, Present Pal's anxiety-relieving features not only benefit those with learning differences, but also those who suffer from stress and uneasiness when speaking publicly. Present Pal's main recommendations through the DSA are for students with ADHD, anxiety, autism, dysgraphia, dyslexia, dyspraxia and physical impairments.

Q. What sets Present Pal apart from other presentation software?

A. Present Pal is the only presentation software which aids the actual delivery of a presentation. Rather than focussing on content creation and presentation formats, Present Pal supports the actual presenter delivering the speech. Present Pal's expert-advised features such as visual stress preferences, key trigger words, linear focus scrolling and pop up bubbles are all beneficial aids for people who fear or struggle with presenting.

Q. Who is involved in Estendio?

A. CEO - Chris Hughes

Chair of the Board - Nicola Harkness

Non-Executive Director – Iain Landsburgh

Non-Executive Director – Margaret Coughtrie

Head of Operations - Euan Colley

Q. More information?

A. Website www.presentpal.co.uk

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For press enquiries, please contact Chris Hughes- CEO chris@estendio.com