

# Spark Space

## 1. About Spark Space

- Spark-Space Ltd. is a British company
- Established in Cambridge, England in 2001 by Elaine Ferguson (concept and design) and Dr. Andres Kruse (software architecture)
- .Spark-Space received a Smart Award for innovation from the DTI based on the initial concept. themselves.
- Spark-Space Ltd, its designers, creators and staff all have one goal - to assist people to realise their potential through technology, be it in business, education or the workplace.

### 1.1. Elaine Ferguson

#### Elaine Ferguson

- Elaine Ferguson has been awarded an MBE in the New Years honours list 2007, citation "Founder of Spark-Space, Right to Write and for services to people with Dyslexia".
- Elaine has conquered her own personal battle with Dyslexia and over the last twenty years gone on to redefine the way Dyslexia is perceived and addressed.
  - Unable to write her name at 11
  - Elaine left school at 16 barely literate with no qualifications,
  - suffered corporal punishments and bullying which shattered her self esteem.
  - At 18 Elaine was diagnosed with severe Dyslexia and a high IQ,
- She is the designer of national specialist teaching programmes, projects and international software (Spark-Space) that help children and adults with Dyslexia overcome their Dyslexia. Elaine has changed the lives of thousands of individuals with disabilities, helping them surmount their barriers and reach their potential in education and business.
- From then on Elaine was relentless in the battle to help children and their families recognise and overcome Dyslexia, she pioneered new ways to teach children and adults both locally and nationally. In 1996 Elaine founded Right to Write Limited which is now a national company helping adults with Dyslexia gain and retain employment.
- Elaine has gone on to design unique not for profit projects such as the YEP project Young Entrepreneurs Project (45% of Entrepreneurs are Dyslexic) in partnership with the Princes Trust in London, a pioneering project helping young adults overcome Dyslexia and start a business.

- Elaine knew that in children Dyslexia is often not recognised until too late and that a tool that would enable children to access learning in the classroom from the beginning of school would revolutionise the learning experience.
- With this objective Elaine conceptualised and developed a 3D mind mapping tool, Spark-Space together with her husband Dr. Andres Kruse.

## **2. Features**

### **Features**

- 1 Create a document
- 2 Auto arrange your ideas
- 3 Rotational and 3D view
- 4 Plan a lesson
- 5 Make a presentation
- 6 Organise
- 7 Build a web page
- 8 Attach files
  - Hyperlinks
- 9 Listen to your document
- 10 Link to web pages
  - Hyperlinks
- 11 Import images
- 12 Create an idea map

New features in Spark Space version 4:

- User Profiles - You can now save all settings in a user profile file and restore previously saved settings. This is ideal if you are using Spark-Space in a teaching environment and want to have different settings for different students.
- Access Controls - With Access Controls you can turn off features or restrict the functionality of the program. This is useful in a teaching environment where you do not want your users to have access to all of the Spark-Space functionality.
- Idea Locks - ideas can now be locked, preventing accidental changes.
- Animated Demos - Spark-Space now contains additional and new animated demos for all languages. You can access the demos through the Help menu via the option "Animated Help...".
- Text-to-Speech in Idea-map - The text-to-speech button is now enabled and functional within an idea map, just select ideas and click the text-to-speech button to have the idea title read back.
- Translated Clipart - You can now choose the language in which the clipart files are shown

### **3. Editions**

#### **Spark-Space Editions**

- Spark-Space comes in a number of editions.

#### **Kid Spark**

- Kid Spark is for children, it has all the features a kid will require to create idea maps and documents.

#### **Spark Learner**

- Spark Learner is for the student in secondary and higher education. It comes with a number of good examples that illustrate how to use idea mapping as a student. It comes with Text-to-Speech built-in.

#### **Spark Educator**

- Spark Educator is for the teacher. It comes with the Presentation mode to support the teacher during the lesson.

### **4. Education**

#### **Spark Space in Education**

#### **4.1. What can you do with Spark Space?**

##### **What can you do with Spark Space?**

##### **Create a document**

- Spark Space has been designed as a tool for the creation of documents - no more writer`s block!
- Spark Space offers a fully operational word processor `behind` each idea object and the option to switch between a full text and map view.
- Spark Space will assist you in ordering your writing with its unique and automatic approach to ordering and sequencing. Sections are re-ordered simply by dragging and dropping idea objects into a new order.
- You can save your documents as a word-processed document for use in Microsoft Word or other word processing program later.

##### **Auto arrange your ideas**

- Quickly insert your ideas onto the map then use the auto arrange feature to save time.

##### **Rotational and 3D view**

- Acquire a new perspective on your ideas using the rotational view or the virtual 3D view.

##### **Plan a lesson**

- Use Spark Space to plan and record lesson content. The visual map, along with the word processing options, provide powerful tools for planning any teaching session.

##### **Organise**

- Whether organising your time or thoughts, Spark Space has the answer with its simple to learn and user friendly features.

##### **Attach files**

- Files can be attached within Spark Space in the easy to use hyperlink option.

#### **Listen to your document**

- At the click of a button - listen to your document speak to you - using its in-built speech engine.

#### **Link to web pages**

- Link to your favourite web pages using the hyperlink option in Spark Space.

#### **Import images**

- Spark Space allows you to import images from its own clipart gallery and from other sources on your computer. You can import images (such as digital camera photos) for use within the idea map or for use with the document feature.

#### **Create an idea map**

- With Spark Space you can create an idea map to organise your ideas and thoughts, to allow you to plan and outline any information using your creative reasoning skills.

## **4.2. How can Spark Space help the student?**

### **How can Spark Space help the student?**

- Spark Space bridges the gap between ideas and the production of a structured piece of writing.
- It is for students with a conceptual learning style such as those with hidden disabilities like dyslexia.
- Spark-Space allows students to structure their thoughts at speed and then turn those ideas into a structured document in one program.
- Spark-Space enables students to see relationships between ideas through its unique 3D view, thus accelerating learning and understanding. Independent working is also encouraged as built in text-to-speech allows them to review and correct their own work.
- Spark-Space transforms the learning landscape for the LD Learner!
- The student to review the classroom lesson by using text-to-speech options allowing all literacy levels to keep up with the class, or it can be used as a template for home study providing a structure around which to work.
- It can be used to create essays and projects and to publish on the web.

## **4.3. How can Spark Space help the teacher?**

### **Spark Educator**

- Spark Educator is a teaching tool that works with a white board allowing all learning styles and ability levels in a classroom to learn together.
- Spark Educator has been designed for simple, uncomplicated use by teachers, building in templates and animated tutorials to allow mastery in minutes.

### **Spark Space**

- Spark-Space allows lessons to be presented in a way that captures all learning styles through its idea map and writing presentation style.
- Lessons on line - Lessons can be published on the web in only 4 clicks to promote home study.
- Accelerated learning Lessons are presented in a unique 3D way which aids a student's understanding of the "Big Picture".
- Students can self study. Spark-Space has built-in "text to speech" which allows independent study and self review of lessons.
- Simplicity Spark-Space can be used by anyone within minutes as it has been designed and developed by teaching professionals.

## ***5. How does Spark Space help students LDD***

### **Which students benefit?**

- Students who find it difficult to know where to start with writing essays and assignments.
- Students who need help with logically pulling together information gathered through research
- Students who are reluctant to plan their writing
- Students who are reluctant to edit finished work

### **How does it help them?**

- Allows students to think about what they already know about a topic
- Boosts their self esteem by establishing what they do know
- Identifies what they still need to know - "What do we need to find out about?"
- Gives them a logical structure for organising the information as they research and gather it for their writing task.
- Gives them a way to logically link new information to what they already know
- Improves willingness to edit and revise work.
- Produces more organised and logically structured written work

## ***6. Spectronics***

Spectronics Website