

# Faisal, 28

Assam, India

**I love helping people to learn,  
I am so lucky to be a teacher**

## About Faisal

Faisal teaches a class of 6 and 7 year old children in a primary school in Assam, India. He studied at an Indian Institute for Information Technology and certainly knows his way around the computer! He would like to make better use of technology in the classroom to bring the lessons to life and inspire the children to explore the world around them.

Faisal has rheumatoid arthritis [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rheumatoid\\_arthritis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rheumatoid_arthritis) which was diagnosed whilst he was studying at IIT and has progressively made it harder for him to use his hands to operate the keyboard and mouse of his computer. When he first started teaching the arthritis didn't cause much of an issue but now he is worried that if he became unable to continue he would find it very hard to get another job.

He now doesn't use the computer in the first lesson of the day when his hands hurt the most, and has found some ways to make it easier. He uses a very slow mouse cursor as he doesn't have the fine motor control.

He finds it very hard to resize windows with the standard Ubuntu themes, he has learned to hold alt and use the middle mouse button to resize because he just can't hit the window borders. One hand on the keyboard for the alt key and moving the mouse whilst pressing the middle button is a tricky bit of coordination but he gets by.

In the evenings when preparing lesson plans for the next day Faisal tends not to use the keyboard but uses the Dasher on screen keyboard, this allows him to type with just small movements of the mouse to select letters as they fly across the screen, it isn't as fast as typing on the keyboard but it is much more comfortable and he can use it for long periods.

Faisal also suffers from Deuteranopia, a form of colour blindness which is quite common in men, affecting about 1%, it can also affect women, but not nearly as many, about 0.01%. This means he struggles to distinguish red and green colours, so red icons on a green background just fade together.

## Behaviours

### Learning

Faisal is a teacher and an academic, he will have a play with new things to discover how they work, then he likes to read documentation and manuals to back up what he has found out for himself.

### Use

Faisal has a laptop, he tried a netbook but the keys were too small and close together. In the classroom he plugs it into a television for the students to see the screen too. The school plans to get more projectors but there isn't one in his class yet.

### Sharing

Several other teachers at the school were impressed by Faisal's use of Ubuntu in the classroom, they want to know more about it and Faisal has promised to spend a day showing them how to use it during the holidays.

### Adoption

He is keen to look at new ways to control the computer, he is looking forward to finding out if the Unity desktop will make his window management easier or harder. He likes to try new hardware as well and wonders if the Apple magic touchpad would be a better way for him to control Dasher.

## Life Goals

It is quite hard in India for those with a disability to get a job, Faisal has no intention of leaving the school and wants to grow as a teacher in the area he loves.

In two years from now Faisal will still be taking a sabbatical from the teaching job to lecture trainee teachers on the use of technology in the classroom.

## Experience Goals

Efficient use of the keyboard

Flexibility to use multiple input devices and on screen keyboards

Good use of colour

## How to be Faisal

To test Ubuntu to make sure it works for Faisal and for people like him, you need to make your hands worse. Use sticky tape to tie some fingers together, observe how this makes some key combinations harder to reach. For a lack of mouse control crank up the mouse acceleration settings to the maximum, and instead of holding it in your dominant hand as normal swap to the other hand. If this is too easy try moving the mouse by prodding it with clenched fist rather than holding the mouse itself.

Faisal is colour blind, so you need to be colour blind too. Install compizconfig-settings-manager package and turn on the colour filter plugin in the accessibility section. Press super+d to turn on the full screen filter, then ctrl+super+s five times to step through the filters to the Deuteranopia setting (Protanopia doesn't work right now due to bug 599206)