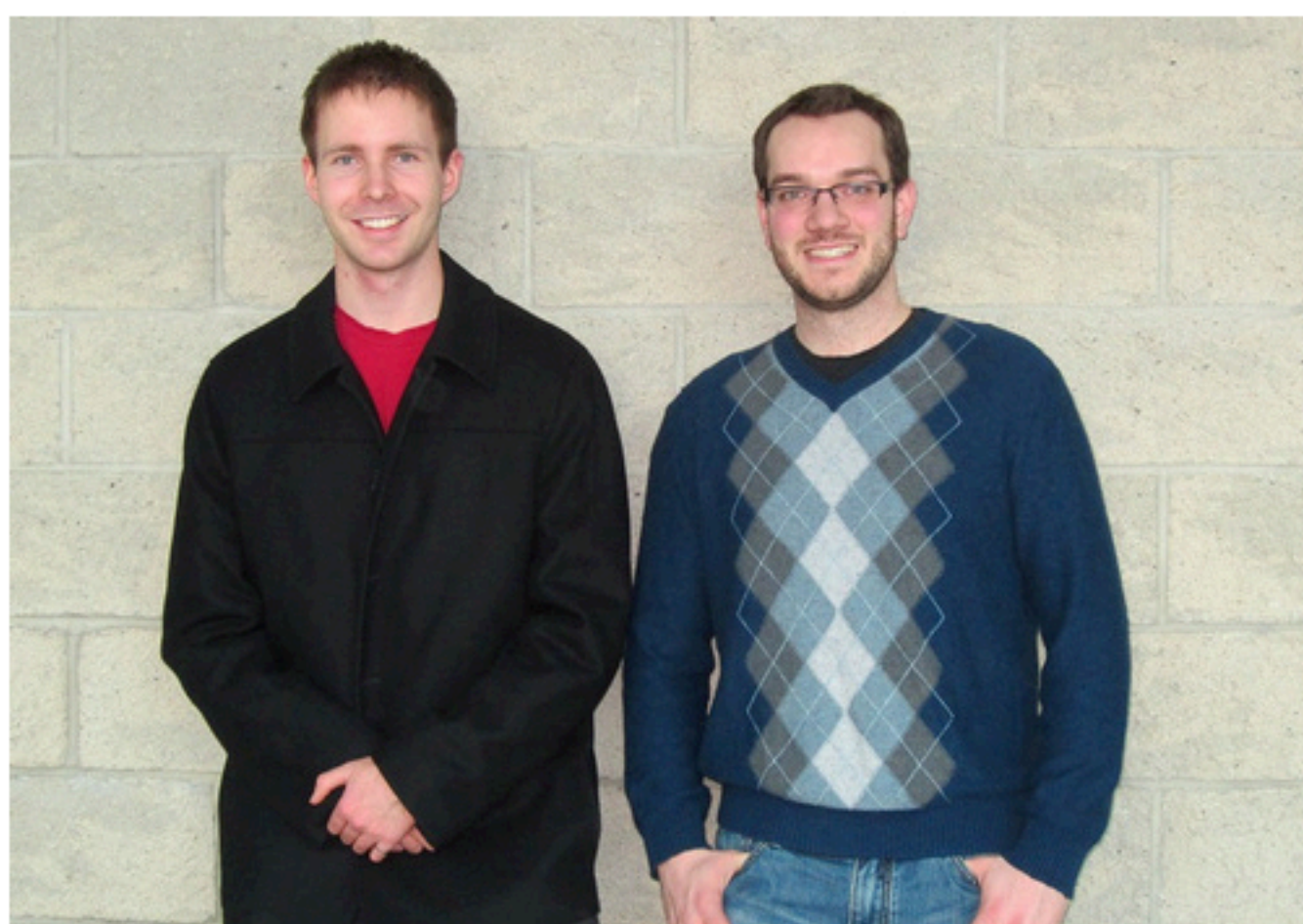




## Invici Technologies and the Importance of Protecting Your Intellectual Property



When asked, “What is one mistake you’re willing to share to other entrepreneurs?” Douglas Hagedorn, CEO of Invici Technologies says, “I didn’t understand how intellectual property worked soon enough.”

Douglas is the leading man of [Invici Technologies](#) (pictured on the right), a tech startup that is dedicated to the production and development of accessible computer interfaces for those who are blind or visually impaired. Invici’s product is similar to a tablet device with a touch surface. However, it provides tactile feedback to create tangible graphics, giving the product a competitive edge.

Of course, when you’re trying to invent a new product, you’ll be thrown into the daunting realm of intellectual property.

“I was really eager to show off my product at a conference and I thought it was like planting my flag on new soil first,” says Douglas “But being the first person to publicly invent something doesn’t give you the right to patent it and there are very strict time limits for patent applications once you’ve made your invention public. This made it more difficult to protect what I was doing. I would have liked to have known what it takes to patent something...a lot sooner.”

But Douglas’ entrepreneurial spirit didn’t let him give up.

“I like being a maker of things,” explains Douglas. “I became an entrepreneur because I didn’t see any other way to get the technology I had created out to the people who needed it without starting a business.”

There will be many challenges for any tech startup, but with those challenges also comes great success. Douglas mentions that one of his greatest successes was when he was able to get the technology to a point where he could demonstrate it to customers and potential partners.

His passion for helping the blind and visually impaired community is recognized and supported by organizations such as [CNIB \(Canadian National Institute for the Blind\)](#). Douglas says that organizations, such as CNIB, have given him the inspiration to continue to advance his technology and his company. He hopes to work with more organizations and collaborate on additional projects to assist the visually impaired community.

Douglas shared how he was introduced to AcceleratorYYC. He had just finished his master’s degree and was looking for a new place to work on his company. After learning about AcceleratorYYC’s recently launched business accelerator program, [Startup Slynshot](#), Douglas decided to give it a try and was greatly satisfied with the results. Startup Slynshot is a four stage program that consists of intimate coaching designed to help early stage entrepreneurs reach the next successful milestone for their company. Topics include market validation, customer acquisition, investor pitching, and more.

“Startup Slynshot was worthwhile,” says Douglas. “It made me answer some tough questions and taught me a lot, while letting me check out AcceleratorYYC at the same time.” (Startup Slynshot participants received a full time desk and membership at AcceleratorYYC for the duration of the 4 week program).

“When you work here, there will always be people who are further down the road than you when it comes to building their company. They know a lot more than you and have had a lot more experiences. They can teach you things. Everyone is able to contribute. [AcceleratorYYC is] just a perfect fit for me.”

Invici Technologies is now preparing for an official product launch in March 2014. As Invici continues to grow, Douglas says the company’s goals right now are to secure more funding and develop prototypes. With his improved knowledge of intellectual property and support from local organizations, Douglas will be able to take Invici to the next level.



Connect with Douglas and Invici Technologies by visiting [www.invici.ca](http://www.invici.ca).

Also like Invici Technologies on [Facebook](#) and follow [@invici\\_tech](#) on Twitter.

*Pictured: Colin Madsen, Product Manager & Douglas Hagedorn, CEO of Invici Technologies*