

Y Combinator-backed Whirlscape Closes Seed Funding Round

Minuum keyboard creators accelerate wearable device input technology development



TORONTO, Canada (February 6, 2014) — Whirlscape Inc., creators of [Minuum](#), “the little keyboard for big fingers,” closed an investment seed round for just over \$500,000 (USD). Y Combinator, FundersClub, BDC Venture Capital, and a dozen other prominent angel investors have contributed to the round. Whirlscape’s plans for the capital involve innovating beyond its participation in Silicon Valley’s startup accelerator Y Combinator. Whirlscape also aims to consolidate the success of its Minuum keyboard for Android touchscreen devices—available on [Google Play](#)—whose positive reviews have boosted sales since the New Year.

Since launching the Minuum keyboard in 2013, Whirlscape has grown to a dedicated team of 10 working to enable new ways to type, and to unify input methods across the rapidly emerging field of wearable and ubiquitous computing devices such as smart watches and Google Glass. Whirlscape has recently [demonstrated](#) the Minuum keyboard working on Samsung’s Galaxy Gear smart watch.

“Our vision for the future of hyper-personalized input devices involves letting you choose your companion device for its input capabilities,” said **Will Walmsley**, CEO of Whirlscape. “By simplifying the concept of the keyboard, we allow text entry to occur in places where it was previously unthinkable, removing barriers to communication. Your keyboard can now be anywhere you want it to be, out of the way, yet immediately accessible.”

Minuum’s [Indiegogo campaign](#) in spring 2013 raised 873 per cent of its initial funding goal. Over **1.2 million people** worldwide viewed Minuum’s teaser [video](#), and the keyboard earned coverage in more than 150 media outlets and nearly 30 languages. Ranked by number of funders, the Minuum campaign is in Indiegogo’s top 10 of all time—and number two among all technology campaigns. Public excitement over wearable potential helped fuel the campaign’s appeal.

Visit the Minuum website for an [FAQ](#) covering the most common questions about the keyboard. Find background information, technical details, photos, product specifications, and more details about wearable technology at [minuum.com/mediaroom](#). For wearable and ubiquitous computing demos, see: [youtube.com/user/minuumproject](#). To set up an interview or learn more about Whirlscape’s technology, **contact Artur Sedov** (artur@whirlscape.com).

About Whirlscape Inc.

Based in Toronto, Ontario, Whirlscape is a Canadian high-technology startup with roots in human-computer interaction (HCI), machine learning, and natural language processing. Founded in June 2012, Whirlscape has been supported by [Y Combinator](#), the [Creative Destruction Lab](#), and the [UTEST](#) program. Whirlscape develops the full-featured Minuum touchscreen keyboard, and creates wearable typing methods for OEM device integration.