Hello all,

HIMS is pleased to announce this major upgrade for BrailleSense 6, V2.0.

This upgrade updates the operating system from android 10 to Android 12, ensuring greater longevity of the BrailleSense, and the ability to install and use modern applications for years to come. Please note: you cannot down grade your device once you update to this version without performing a hard reset, which will erase all of your data.

This upgrade also adds a new To Do List application, brings the same games offered in the U2 to the BrailleSense 6, makes several improvements and enhancements to the e-mail program, and adds and optional Chat GPT interface. Please find the complete list of fixes and improvements in the attached release note.

**Please note:**

**\* most of you have heard that this upgrade is to include a new, more modern Web Browser. Unfortunately, this has been delayed, but is very definitely still on the way. Most of you also know that we intended to release this upgrade much sooner, thus, we felt that we needed to go ahead and give you the other features in this upgrade, and release the Browser as a separate update when it is available. Though we experienced some technical issues during development, it is well underway at this point, and we hope to get this to you soon.**

\* If you are using a BrailleSense 6 32, and have not upgraded to the most recent V1.7 update, you will need to use the offline installation build provided below. If you are running the most recent build of V1.7, you may upgrade online. If you are uncertain, we recommend the offline installation.

\* It is not possible to upgrade the unit if your battery level is below 40%, even if you are connected to AC power.

\* After the upgrade is completed, please press Backspace-Space-Enter-F to recover default apps, to ensure that the BrailleSense 6 is using the most current versions of the applications. Then, press Space-V from the Main Menu, to ensure you are running version 2.0.

**General instructions:**

You can update the BrailleSense either via an Internet connection or from external media containing the upgrade files. If you choose the "Online" method, be sure you have an active Internet connection before attempting the upgrade. When you update the BrailleSense, settings are usually maintained. However, if there are changes to setting values in the firmware, all settings will be initialized. Therefore, it is recommended that you back up your settings using the backup/restore utility in the “BrailleSense Settings” menu. Data in the flashdisk is protected. However, we recommend you backup your files before updating the BS6 Firmware as unexpected problems can occur.

* Note: You cannot cancel the update once it has started. You must not reset the unit during an upgrade. You must keep the unit connected to AC power throughout the upgrade process. We recommend you do not touch the BrailleSense while it is updating. It may take several minutes to update the BrailleSense , possibly even longer depending on the speed of your Internet connection.
* Also note: the upgrade files are temporarily stored on the flashdisk for installation. If you do not have enough memory available on the flashdisk, the BrailleSense is unable to update until you make room for the upgrade files.

You can access the "Upgrade Firmware" option via the "Utilities" menu, or launch it from anywhere on the unit using "F3-U".

When you have chosen your upgrade method, and the upgrade files are downloaded or detected, the BrailleSense will extract all of the necessary program files. Progress is announced every few seconds.

Once done, the BrailleSense will reboot, and the system files will be upgraded. During this process, there is no speech, but the progress will be shown in Braille as a percentage.

When the system files have been upgraded, the software will load and boot, and the application files will be upgraded. Progress is spoken and displayed during this process.

Finally, the system reboots again. If there are no new or changed setting values in the firmware, the release note is displayed. You can read it using normal document reading commands, or press escape to exit, and the Main Menu loads, and your settings are restored. If setting values have been changed, all BrailleSense settings are initialized, and the system boots and runs the Quick Guide before the Release Note appears.

Upgrading the BrailleSense Firmware Using the Internet

To upgrade the BrailleSense Firmware via the Internet, follow these steps:

1) Make sure you are connected to the Internet and plugged into AC power. Press "Enter" on "Upgrade BrailleSense Firmware" in the "Utilities" menu.

2) Press "Enter" on "Upgrade: Online". The BrailleSense connects to the HIMS server, and your current software version is compared to the HIMS server version. You are prompted to continue with the upgrade.

3) The BrailleSense begins downloading the upgrade files. The upgrade is very large. Thus, depending on the speed of your Internet connection, it may take a long time to download.

4) After downloading the upgrade files, BrailleSense automatically starts the upgrade process. Please remember you must not touch the BrailleSense until the upgrade is complete, as pressing keys, resetting, or unplugging the unit can interrupt the upgrade process, thus resulting in an incomplete installation. When the upgrade is complete, you are returned to the "program" menu, and the unit announces, "File manager".

5) After the upgrade is complete, check the software version by pressing "Space-V" while in the "program" menu.

Upgrading the BrailleSense Firmware from USB or SD

To upgrade the BrailleSense Firmware from a disk, follow these steps:

Download the upgrade file from the links below:

BrailleSense 6: <https://braillesense.s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/h632b/en12/H632B_system_57228.bin>

BrailleSense 6 Mini : <https://braillesense.s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/h620b/en12/H620B_system_57228.bin>

1. Note: the file is a .bin file, however, some versions of Windows may rename it as a .zip file. Do not extract this file. Simply rename the extension back to .bin. Copy the file to the root of an external storage device such as an SD card or USB thumb drive.
2. Connect the SD card or USB drive to the BrailleSense, and be sure the BrailleSense is connected to AC power. Then, press "Enter" on "Upgrade BrailleSense Firmware" from the "Utilities" menu.
3. "Upgrade: Online" is displayed. Press "Space-4" to go to the "Upgrade: Offline" option. Press "Enter".
4. The BrailleSense starts the upgrade process. Please remember you must not touch the BrailleSense until the upgrade is complete. When the upgrade is complete, you are returned to the "program" menu, and "File manager" is displayed.
5. When the upgrade is complete, check the software version by pressing "Space-V" while in the "program" menu.

If you have questions or problems, north American customers should contact HIMS, Inc technical support at support@hims-inc.com or by calling 888-520-4467.

International customers should contact the dealer from which they purchased the BrailleSense, or e-mail jenny@selvashc.com.