

Blindfolded!

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Nosillacast Mac Podcast

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Why Blindfolded?

- To demonstrate VoiceOver on iOS & OSX
 - 1.3 MILLION Legally Blind people in the US alone
 - 70% unemployment
 - Apple has integrated VoiceOver into all of their products - even the iPod Nano!
- Fascinated by the technology, similar to learning a new language - fun!
- Hope to gain support for developers to actually use the readily available Apple API's

My Learning Process

- ✦ Apple tutorial as soon as you turn on VoiceOver
- ✦ Apple's VoiceOver Manual was of some help:
help.apple.com/voiceover/info/guide/10.7/English.lproj
- ✦ BIGGEST help was the blind community
 - ✦ Showing easier way to do things, helped me tweak settings in VoiceOver Utility
- ✦ Practice. Frustration. Help. Practice. Rinse and repeat!

How Does VoiceOver Work on iOS

- ✦ Turn on VoiceOver in Settings
- ✦ VoiceOver reads aloud whatever you touch
- ✦ To select, double tap or split tap
- ✦ Typing
 - ✦ Touch a letter, she tells you what it is
 - ✦ Stay on the letter, says the military name “November”
 - ✦ Lift your finger, different voice tells you the letter



How Does VoiceOver Work on OSX



- ✦ Hundreds of keystrokes to learn instead of the mouse
- ✦ Control-Option are VoiceOver keys, or “VO”
- ✦ Navigation requires “interacting” - VO-shift-down arrow
 - ✦ Stop interacting: VO-shift-up arrow
 - ✦ Constantly diving up and down into content
- ✦ And then there’s the Rotor...

VoiceOver Commands Help

The image displays a collage of overlapping screenshots from the VoiceOver Commands Help application. The screenshots are organized into several categories:

- General:** Includes commands like 'Bring Window to Front', 'Click Mouse', 'Close Window', 'Drop Marked Item after VoiceOver Cursor', 'Drop Marked Item before VoiceOver Cursor', 'Drop Marked Item on VoiceOver Cursor', 'Escape', 'Ignore Next Keypress', 'Interact with Scroll Bar', 'Item Chooser', 'Keyboard Help', 'Label Item', 'Mark Item to Drag and Drop', 'Mouse Down', 'Pause or resume speaking', 'Perform Action for Item', 'Previous Activity', 'Read Contents of VoiceOver Cursor', 'Read Contents of Window', 'Read Current Item Alphabetically', 'Read Current Item Phonetically', 'Read Help Tag for Item', 'Read Selected Text or Item', 'Read Visible Text', 'Read VoiceOver Hint', 'Read Text', 'VoiceOver Hint', 'Click Mouse', 'Acting with Item', 'Acting with Item', 'Control-Option Lock On or Off', 'Cursor Tracking On or Off', 'Closure Triangle Open or Closed', 'Keyboard Commander On or Off', 'Multiple Selection On or Off', 'Trackpad Commander On or Off'.
- Navigation:** Includes commands like 'Go to Popup Item', 'Go to Spotlight Menu', 'Go to Status Menus', 'Go to Top of Window', 'Go to Visible Beginning', 'Go Down and Wrap to Next Line', 'Go Down One Page', 'Go Left a Bit', 'Go Left and Wrap to Next Line', 'Go Left One Page', 'Go Right a Bit', 'Go Right and Wrap to Next Line', 'Go Right One Page', 'Go to Desktop'.
- Find:** Includes commands like 'Find Previous Image', 'Find Previous Italic Text', 'Find Previous Item or Text with Same Attributes', 'Find Previous Landmark', 'Find Previous Link', 'Find Previous List', 'Find Previous Live Region', 'Find Previous Misspelled Word', 'Find Previous Plain Text', 'Find Previous Radio Group', 'Find Previous Same Table Level Item', 'Find Previous Searched Text', 'Find Previous Searched Text in History', 'Find Previous Table', 'Find Previous Checkbox', 'Find Previous Color Change', 'Find Previous Column', 'Find Previous Control', 'Find Previous Different Item', 'Find Previous Font Change', 'Find Previous Frame', 'Find Previous Heading', 'Find Previous Heading Level 1', 'Find Previous Heading Level 2', 'Find Previous Heading Level 3', 'Find Previous Heading Level 4', 'Find Previous Heading Level 5', 'Find Previous Heading Level 6', 'Find Previous Text Field'.
- Information:** Includes commands like 'Describe Item in Mouse Pointer', 'Describe Item in VoiceOver Cursor', 'Describe Item with Keyboard Focus', 'Describe Mouse Pointer...om Top Left of Screen', 'Describe Mouse Pointer...m Top Left of Window', 'Describe Open Applications', 'Describe Position of Item in VoiceOver Cursor', 'Describe Position of Item in VoiceOver Cursor'.

Overlaid on the center of the collage is the text: ***This is only 6 out of 15 of the VoiceOver Commands Help Screens!***

DEMO

What Did I Learn?

- iOS is much easier than I thought
 - Navigation is easy, even started testing apps like MacHash to see if they were accessible (it is!)
 - My brain doesn't know where the letters are, my *fingers* know
- OSX is MUCH harder than I thought
 - HUNDREDS of keystrokes to learn
 - You really are dependent on the web designer
 - For the love of Pete please use Headings! (see Urban Spoon)

Lessons Learned Cont...

- You really are dependent on the application developers
 - e.g. Firefox is completely inaccessible
 - APIs are there for developers, up to them to use
- Apple has made so much accessible, but still a long way to go
- Lost my cursor one day, so I enabled VoiceOver because I knew I could navigate without the cursor!
- The blind community rocks

Special Thanks

- Buddy Brannan *Split tap!*
- Slau *Moral Support*
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- Dan Eckmeier *Long time encouragement*
- Donald Breda *Diagnosis of Weird Behavior*
- Keith Watson *Two finger tap doesn't stop his wife*
- Joshua Laya
- Kevin Chao *Another Long Time Helper*
- Scott Howell *Got me off stuck*
- James Austin *Dry run*
- Bill Holton *New Mac user so very helpful*
- Lore Schindler *Moral support - sightling teaching blind children*

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- ✦ To Katie Floyd
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 - ✦ For allowing me to email her hundreds of practice calendar invites
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