# Blindfolded!

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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

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### 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\*
- Darrell Shandrow (<u>Blindaccessjournal.com</u>)
- 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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- For allowing me to email her hundreds of practice calendar invites

#### To Steve Sheridan

 For listening to endless repetitions of typing on iOS and practicing VoiceOver on the Mac

#### Allison Sheridan

#### Nosillacast Mac Podcast

#### http://podfeet.com

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