Adding accessibility through apps

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Today's presentation

- Accessibility benefits of Apps
- The API debate
- How to make an app accessible
- What does accessible look/sound like?
Accessibility benefits of Apps

- Secondary (accessible?) interface
- Always with you
- All in one
- TTS Built in
APIs and their benefits

- Application Programming Interface
- Allows software to communicate
- On A TV could allow
  - Channel change
  - Menu options
  - Access to EPG info
- Problem solved?
Open vs Hidden APIs

• Open APIs
  – Published externally
  – Enable third party developers to add value

• Hidden APIs
  – Kept in-house
  – Only available to the manufacturer
Advantages of open APIs

• Exploit the full potential
• Get others to work for you
• Strangers want to add value to your product
Who adds the most value with an app?

Own Brand

Third party

RNIB supporting blind and partially sighted people

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If you've got to do it, do it right

No-one else can!

- Integrated text to speech
  or
- Use the TTS built into smartphones

- Home grown APIs **can** be accessible
- Home grown apps **must** be accessible
What makes an app accessible?

- Good size and contrast
- Meaningful names for Voiceover
- Correct reading order
- Avoid custom controls
How not to do it.
How to do it right.
Conclusion

• Apps can make the inaccessible accessible
• Third party developers want to add value
• Keeping things in-house means taking responsibility
For more information

Contact RNIB
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Read platform developer guides
http://tinyurl.com/iOS-access
http://tinyurl.com/Android-accessibility