

As a totally blind user of many cell phones I wanted to respond to the comment period that is open until tomorrow. I currently use an Iphone but have used an Ericson, and a Nokia E71X running Mobile Speak which narrates the screen to you. I was unable to access the web, check mail, or check battery status. It was a hinderance to have such equipment be inaccessible. The inaccessibility of the Nokia is the main reason why I switched to the Iphone. I think that the blind/visually impaired community should responding to open comment period. A lot of aps on the Blackberry are not accessible from what I have heard with Horatio which is the screen reader for Blackberry. BLind people deserve accessibility right out of the box as the sighted community enjoys. The freedom to purchase cell phones and know that they will work is not something that the blind community enjoys. There is a lot that goes in to the consideration of a cell phone than color and carrier. One must first research the type of phone, post on forums and see if it is accessible, see if it is supported by Mobile Speak, and seeing if it is accessible by either testing it out or finding podcasts about it. I would love it if cell phone companies like T-Mobile, AT&T and Verizon would take accessibility for everyone in to account before marketing a product. What about having beta testers? Having blind/visually impaired test different aps on different phones? Thank you for reading this response.