

First, I want to thank you and the rest of your team evaluating mobile technology accessibility. I am blind, 18 years old, and a senior at Addison Trail High School in Addison, IL.

I do not really know what more I have to contribute that you probably haven't already heard. I am outraged by the Windows Phone 7 fiasco, and I feel that at the very least, cell phone carriers should stock a Windows Mobile 6.5--or other accessible device--until a solution is worked out for Windows Phone 7.

That said, I think carriers need to, at the very minimum, stock an accessible phone. Companies who create new phones--even basic phones--should build in accessibility. Apple has done this better than anyone could have dreamed, but there are folks who want just a phone to make calls and maybe send text messages. Instead, if they want access, they are forced to pay hundreds of dollars extra (and often times to get a data plan which costs more) just to get a phone that can run screen reading technology.

Again, at the very minimum, I feel that basic phones need to be made accessible off-the-shelf. I hope that Apple will continue to lead the way in this department, and perhaps other manufacturers--Google and Microsoft particularly--will see the value in making their products accessible to the blind.

Thank you so much for your time,