

# Comcast announces 'talking TV guide' for vision-impaired

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Comcast Corp.'s blind TV executive Tom Wlodkowski says the company's "talking TV guide" for the visually impaired will go live on the nation's largest cable-TV system by Dec. 1.

The talking guide, still in its beta phase, can be accessed by Xfinity subscribers on the company's X1 set-top boxes.

There are 5 million X1 set-top boxes in American homes and Comcast is switching out older boxes for X1s throughout its cable-TV franchise areas.

With about 22 million Xfinity TV subscribers, 600,000 to 700,000 of those [subscribers](#) could be classified as blind or visually impaired, based on national statistics.

The talking guide voices the current TV listings, on-demand listings and DVR functions.

Comcast announced in 2013 that it was developing the talking guide. Wlodkowski, vice president for accessibility, heads the project and works out of a special lab in the Comcast Center to develop products for those with disabilities.

He recently demonstrated the talking guide. The guide mostly worked as advertised, though it had a glitch in the movies section. Brian Roberts, Comcast's chairman and [chief executive officer](#), announced that the

talking guide would be released to the public at a conference in Silicon Valley on Wednesday afternoon.

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