

Apple made an announcement this week that you will soon be able to text or write out something and have it read out loud using your personal voice. Why would someone want to do this? I'm looking at how Apple's personal speak feature will work, and another company that's been doing the same thing for ALS patients and their families.

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SUPERS
0-8 Jamey Tucker/whatthetech.tv
51-59 Luisa Cordano/The Acapela Group

ON-CAMERA TEASE

WHAT IF YOUR SMARTPHONE'S VOICE COULD SOUND LIKE YOU? TYPE OUT SOMETHING AND HAVE IT READ IN YOUR VOICE. APPLE SAYS YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT SOON. I'M JAMEY TUCKER I'LL EXPLAIN HOW IT WORKS COMING UP.

ANCHOR INTRO

YOUR SMARTPHONE CAN ALREADY DO SOME AMAZING THINGS AND APPLE JUST ANNOUNCED THAT SOON YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE YOUR PHONE SPEAK IN YOUR VOICE.

WHAT YOU TYPE IN NOTES OR MESSAGES CAN BE READ OUT LOUD IN YOUR PERSONAL VOICE. AND THERE'S A GOOD REASON SOME PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO DO THAT. OUR CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY REPORTER JAMEY TUCKER EXPLAINS.

PACKAGE SCRIPT

The idea behind the accessibility feature called "personal voice" is to make a conversation easier for someone who loses their ability to speak. Apple says it can be used in voice and video calls as well as in personal conversations. When it rolls out, you'll be able to find it in the accessibility menu within settings.

Right now you can have your phone speak text aloud by just highlighting some text, and scrolling through the options until you see "speak".

computerized voice: "Your phone will read that text back out loud using one of Apple's computerized voices

but soon you'll hear your own voice reading what you typed.

This technology is similar to one used by The Acapela Group to help people who lose their ability to speak clearly.

so to maintain their identity to be able to continue speaking the way they sounded before.

"It is very simple to do. All we need is to capture about 10 minutes or 50 sentences of the person's speech before they lose their capability for speaking, and within 24 hours we generate a digital voice, a text-to-speech voice that can be used on any tablet, PC, or mobile phone. ALS patients can record their voices in the early stages. When they type a response or question, the people in the room will hear their voices rather than a computer recording. Apple says its Personal Voice feature is part of an iPhone and iPad update coming later this year.

That's What the Tech? I'm Jamey Tucker

ANCHOR TAG

THE ACAPELA GROUP'S SOFTWARE, "MY OWN VOICE" IS BEING USED IN THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY AROUND THE WORLD. ANYONE CAN USE IT FOR FREE.

(HERE'S THE WEBSITE ADDRESS WHERE PEOPLE CAN RECORD AND SAVE THEIR VOICE SAYING THE WORDS AND PHRASES NEEDED TO CREATE THEIR VOICE BANK.

<https://mov.acapela-group.com/record/>

WEB STORY

Apple announced new technology is coming to iPhone and iPad later this year that will allow users to record their own voice that can be used to speak text out loud.

Apple calls the accessibility feature "Personal Voice". The idea is to give people who are losing the ability to speak, to record themselves now and use those recordings when talking on the phone, in a FaceTime call, or when in a room with someone else.

As you may already know the iPhone, iPad, and Mac computers can read aloud text that you type in one of Apple's computerized voices. To do this, you just need to highlight any text and swipe the bar to select "speech", or "speak".

When the update is rolled out later this year, rather than hearing the text read by a digitized or computer voice, the text will be read in your own voice. To capture this, users will need to record a series of words and phrases to store in a voice bank.

The technology is similar to that of the company "The Acapela Group" which developed software to convert text to speech in a person's own voice.

so to maintain their identity to be able to continue speaking the way they sounded before.

"It's intended for personal use for patients with a diagnosis of a degenerative disease that will make them progressively lose their voice, explained Luisa Cordona of The Acapela Group at CES in January.

"It is very simple to do so all we need is to capture about ten minutes or 50 sentences of the person's speech before they lose their capability for speaking," she said.

Anyone can record their voice using the Acapela software on its website, <https://mov.acapela-group.com/record/>, and save the recording in a personal voice bank.

"Within 24 hours we generate a digital voice, a text-to-speech voice which can be used on any tablet, PC, or mobile phone that makes use of text-to-speech."

The Acapela Group also allows users to record some of their own phrases.

Apple says its "Personal Voice" feature will be part of improvements to its already wide range of accessibility features later this year.