

**2017 Review of the GARI Database**

Invitation to submit comments or suggested changes to the Global Accessibility Reporting Initiative (GARI) Database

1. **Background**

The Global Accessibility Reporting Initiative (GARI) is a project created in 2008 by the Mobile & Wireless Forum (MWF) and designed to help consumers learn more about the various accessibility features of wireless devices and to help them identify a device that best suits their needs.

The project website ([www.gari.info)](http://www.gari.info)) includes information on more than 110 accessible features in over 1,100 mobile phone models from around the world, as well as information on accessible tablets, accessibility related mobile applications, and as of late 2016, accessible Smart TVs and Wearables.

As part of the GARI project, the MWF has committed to regular reviews of the features that we report on in light of changes in the technology and customer needs. As a result, we invite all stakeholders to provide any comments or suggestions on the features that they would like to see reported on by manufacturers, as well as comments on the usability of the GARI website.

Comments or suggestions can be made by **31 July 2017** in order to be included in the current review cycle.

1. **Guidance for commentary**

Since GARI was designed to consolidate all reporting requirements that existed at the time for manufacturers (and still may continue to exist), **some features in the database are a result of regulatory requirements**. As a result, some features, like whether a device supports SMS, might appear redundant since all phones support this feature, however, as it continues to be a reporting requirement in one country, we must retain this feature for compliance purposes. Therefore, while we welcome comments on all existing features, it should be understood that manufacturers may not be able to amend or remove particular features for the reasons stated above. That said, commentary about the continued usefulness of particular features in view of market conditions, is definitely welcome.

**When providing suggestions for new features**, we encourage you to provide these in a way that manufacturers can objectively determine whether their device supports that given feature or not. Features such as ‘Does the device have large keys’, for example, would invite a subjective response, and may not ultimately be useful. Likewise, suggestions should be based on the features and software that the device is shipped with, rather than what might be added to the device later, such as third party software, device or applications – unless support for certain devices (e.g. braille displays) is built into the operating system shipped with the device.

Lastly, we ask you to remember that **the GARI project is a global project**, and as such, we are not able to include a reference to whether a device supports access to a particular service where that service is only available in a particular location or country. If possible express the suggested feature in a way that may be applicable in different countries. Likewise, we are not able to include pricing, carrier availability or broadcaster information.

1. **Suggestions for new features**

Mobile wireless technology continues to evolve at an incredible pace, with many of developments having the potential to significantly enhance the accessibility of a device.

We would welcome comments or suggestions that you have in relation to any new features that we should consider adding.

If possible, please provide feature suggestions in the following format:

Table with newly proposed features for GARI

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Device**  **& Category:**  *(e.g Hardware, Hearing, Vision, Dexterity, Cognition)* | **Proposed Feature** | **Proposed Description** | **Type of Response** | **Technical Note or Reference\*** |
| Mobile phone, Hearing | Real-time-text capability \*\* | The device supports real-time-text (RTT) capability provided that the network it is operating on also supports RTT. | Yes / No | You can answer yes, if the device supports RTT based on RFC 4103. |
| Mobile phone, Hearing | Text phone/TTY compatibility (existing feature in GARI) | This product is compatible with the Textphone/TTY for the deaf. |  | Add technical Note: You can answer yes, if the device supports RTT backward compatible with TTY technology. |
| Mobile phone, Vision / Mobility | Personal Assistant / Voice Control | The device provides a personal assistant that can help the user carry out functions on the device (e.g. writing and sending texts, placing phone calls, scheduling events, posting social media updates, searching and surfing the internet, accessing different applications etc.). | Yes / No |  |
| Mobile phone, Tablet, Wearable,  Vision / Hearing | Haptic Feedback | The device supports a tactile feedback system which uses different forces and vibrations to let the user know that a function has been carried out. | Yes / No |  |
| Mobile phone, Hearing | Mono Audio | The device allows for both channels of audio to be routed to one single earpiece. | Yes / No |  |
| Mobile phone, tablet, Wearable, Smart TV, mobility / vision | Text-to-Speech / Dictation | The device converts what the user says (punctuation include) into text. | Yes / No |  |
| Mobile phone, tablet, Wearable,  Hearing | Flashlight Notifications | The device can be configured to alert the user to notifications through flashing the light. | Yes / No |  |
| (fill in your proposed new feature) |  |  |  |  |

*\*The ‘Technical Note or Reference‘ column is meant for the guidance of those completing the forms and is not part of the published information. It might refer to a standard or other technical reference that will assist manufacturers in determining the correct response.*

*\*\* Since Real-Time-Text is a network dependent feature, it will be an US feature only for the moment. Once RTT will be available in the networks in other regions, it will be rolled out progressively to these regions in the GARI database.*

1. **Comments on existing features**

To provide comments on the currently listed features in GARI, please consult the following pages and click on the button “All”:

* Mobile Phones: [GARI Mobile Phone Section](http://gari.info/findphones-advanced.cfm)
* Tablets: [GARI Tablet Section](http://gari.info/findphones-advanced.cfm) (click on tablets on the top of the page)
* Smart TVs: [GARI Smart TV Section](http://gari.info/findsmarttv-advanced.cfm)
* Wearables: [GARI Wearables Section](http://gari.info/findwearables-advanced.cfm)

1. **Applications**

Accessibility related or assistive applications can add considerable functionality and usefulness to a device and in order to help consumers understand how a device’s accessibility may be further enhanced, the MWF has added an app section. Apps can be searched for by name, by impairment category or by finding a device and then viewing the supported apps from those listed.

We contact each app developer individually to request permission to list their app although app developers can list their own apps directly (for free) on GARI. If there are particular assistive or accessibility related apps that you believe we should have on GARI please let us know and we will endeavour to add these.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of App** | **Link to app store or developer’s site** |
| (fill in name of the app) | (fill in link to the app store) |

1. **Submission of comments**

The MWF welcomes any comments that you have on GARI and all inputs can be emailed to [michael.milligan@mwfai.org](mailto:michael.milligan@mwfai.org) or [sabine.lobnig@mwfai.org](mailto:sabine.lobnig@mwfai.org) by 31 July 2017. Please also visit the [GARI blog](http://blog.mobileaccessibility.info/) to follow our progress on this review.

Michael Milligan

Secretary General

Mobile & Wireless Forum (MWF)