

Welcome to **TalkBack**® - The WAV Number Proofreader for Excel 5.x
Copyright Spreadsheet Solutions, 1995.

TalkBack is Shareware. If you continue to use TalkBack after a 30 day evaluation period, you must register it, or remove it from your computer.

Proofread your worksheets with a new friend. With TalkBack you no longer need a co-worker to read off a list of numbers for you to proof them. TalkBack does it all for you! Well, maybe I went too far with that last statement, however I do think you'll find it an invaluable tool. While there certainly are more sophisticated programs that will read numbers (and text) to you in "correct" english, oftentimes they're complicated, very expensive, and not directly integrated with Excel, making them difficult to use. TalkBack is none of these! Directly integrated with Excel (written in VBA, and accessible from the "Tools" menu), TalkBack is both inexpensive, and easy to use. Simply select the range you want to proof, start TalkBack, and you're on your way!

Installing TalkBack

NOTE: A sound card is **NOT REQUIRED**, (but recommended) since TalkBack can use the PC Speaker Driver (available from Microsoft, or from many BBS's). However, you will need one or the other.

TalkBack requires two files:

TALKBACK.XLA
TALKBACK.WAV

TALKBACK.WAV MUST be placed in your main EXCEL directory, (e.g. c:\excel\talkback.wav, or c:\msoffice\excel5\talkback.wav) however, the **TALKBACK.XLA** add-in can be placed in any directory you wish.

If the WAV file is not found in your EXCEL directory when you load TalkBack, it will display a message to that effect (indicating where it should be), and will not allow you to proceed using TalkBack. You must Exit Excel, move the file to the directory specified in the message, and then restart Excel in order to use TalkBack.

Loading the TalkBack Add-In

In order to use TalkBack it must be loaded. You can do this in different ways depending on how often you use it.

To make it always available...

Specify it as an Add-In (Tools|Add-Ins... then "Browse" for TALKBACK.XLA)

OR

Place TALKBACK.XLA in your XLSTART directory.

To use it for a single session...

Simply open it as you would any other .XL? file.

Using TalkBack

Simply select the range you want read back to you, and then select "**TalkBack...**" from the Excel "**Tools**" menu. The "TalkBack..." menu item is only available in the "Worksheet" Tools menu, as TalkBack will only work when the active sheet is a worksheet (as opposed to a chart, dialog, or macro sheet). A shortcut key combination has also been assigned so you can start TalkBack with **SHIFT+CTRL+T** instead of using the menu.

TalkBack will display a dialog with two options:

Say Columns/Rows (*check box*)

Enable this item to have TalkBack say the Column/Row numbers of the data whenever it starts a new column.

Delay (msecs) (*edit box*)

Enter the number of milliseconds TalkBack should wait between speaking the numbers in each cell of the selected range. The default is 1000 (0.5 seconds).

When you're set, simply select the **Start Talking** button, and TalkBack will take it from there, reading back to you all the numbers in the selected range.

Simply press ESC at any time if you wish to Pause or End TalkBack before it's finished.

How TalkBack Speaks/Limitations

As I mentioned earlier, TalkBack is not as sophisticated as some other commercial products (but then it doesn't carry their pricetag either). And there's a reason for this. **MEMORY!** I wanted something small and easily accessible that wouldn't drain my system memory (many commercial products have big DLL's which use large amounts of memory). Many of the commercial products can also use "correct" english when reading numbers (and/or text) from an application, and truly "analyzes" the data it receives before speaking it.

For instance, a commercial product might read 435.1 as "Four Hundred Thirty Five Point One". TalkBack on the other hand, will read this same number as "Four Three Five Point One".

In addition, TalkBack will only read numbers, and does not support reading text as some commercial products do. When TalkBack comes to a blank cell, or one with text, it will simply say "Uh Oh", or "Invalid Entry", and proceed to the next cell.

Speaking of proceeding to the next cell, the Shareware version of TalkBack reads all the numbers in the first column, before it moves to the second column (analogous to "Down and then Over" when Printing multiple pages). Registered Users will also have the option "Across and then Down" (reading all the numbers in the first row, before it moves to the second row).

Registering TalkBack

To register TalkBack, send your name and address along with \$15US funds to:

Spreadsheet Solutions
c/o TalkBack
P.O. Box 11047
Shorewood, WI 53211

You can also contact me at: 74002.2373@compuserve.com

With registration you'll receive a disk with the smaller registered version of TalkBack (no nag screens), along with shareware versions of all my other Excel Add-ins to try risk free, containing over 170 custom functions in all!

DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY

This software is distributed "as is", without any warranty as to performance or any other warranties whether expressed or implied. Because of the many hardware and software environments into which this program may be used, no warranty of fitness for a particular purpose is offered. The user must assume the entire risk of using the program. Any liability of the seller will be limited exclusively to product replacement or the refund of the registration fee.

TalkBack Credits/Acknowledgments

Credit to: Richard Mansfield, Evangelos Petroustos, and Ventana Press for their book: Visual Basic Power Toolkit from which I gleaned all that was necessary to create this add-in.