And Now for... "Web Speak"

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The w3C (World Wide Web Consortium) has spoken: their new Pronunciation Lexicon Spec will create a "100% standard" for speech-enabled web applications. Besides creating Web apps driven by voice, PLS 1.0 provides web access for mobile phones.

"There are 10X as many phones in the world as connected PCs. Phones will become the major portal to the Web," says James Larson, co-Chair of the Voice Browser Working Group. "Speech recognition is not yet widely associated with the 'visual Web'. But this will change as devices continue to shrink and make keyboards impractical, and as cell phones become more prevalent in regions with low literacy rates."

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