**Conventional communication assistive technology**

6,899 patent families for conventional communication technology filed across 43 patent offices

**What technologies are involved?**

- Special software and services: 4,064 (59%)
- Visual communication: 1,745 (25%)
- Audio communication: speech input: 751 (11%)
- Switches and input devices: 535 (8%)
- Audio communication: text-to-speech (TTS): 506 (7%)


**Which are the fastest growing technologies?**

- Filings in *emulation software* (accounting for over half of *special software and services*) increased almost fourfold between 2011 and 2016.
- Speech input-related filings have marked an average annual growth rate of 39% from 2013 to 2017.

**Who is filing?**

- **Applicant sector**
  - Corporate: 64%
  - Individuals: 25%
  - Academia: 10%

**Top patent applicants**

- IBM (U.S.): 149
- Panasonic (Japan): 115
- Samsung (Republic of Korea): 113
- NEC (Japan): 82
- Microsoft (U.S.): 77