**TV shows could use ultrasound to send bonus extras to your phone**

By **Timothy Revell**

HEAR that high-pitched ringing? No, me neither. But such sounds at low volume can now be used to deliver bonus television content to your cellphone or tablet.

“Imagine that you’re watching a travel programme and your phone instantly receives the exact location, booking details and nearby attractions of the place you see,” says Tae Hyun Kim of [Soundlly](http://www.soundl.ly/) in Seoul, South Korea which developed the technology.The system uses your TV’s speakers to play data-filled tones alongside whatever you are watching. You won’t notice a difference, but the microphone on your smartphone will, picking up additional content streamed alongside the main event. “This can make television interactive,” says Tae.

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This use of ultrasound is already possible, but the volume levels break broadcasting rules and can irritate young people or animals. “The real advantage of our system is that its noise level is the same as a quiet library,” says Tae.Soundlly’s focus is currently on second screens such as your phone or tablet, but the technology could be used to send data between any two devices that have speakers and microphones, says [Mu Mu](https://drmu.net/) at the University of Northampton, UK. “Using ultrasound, devices can literally talk to each other.”