Deep Linking in tvOS

Session 246

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What is a Deep Link?

A URL referring to content that your application can display

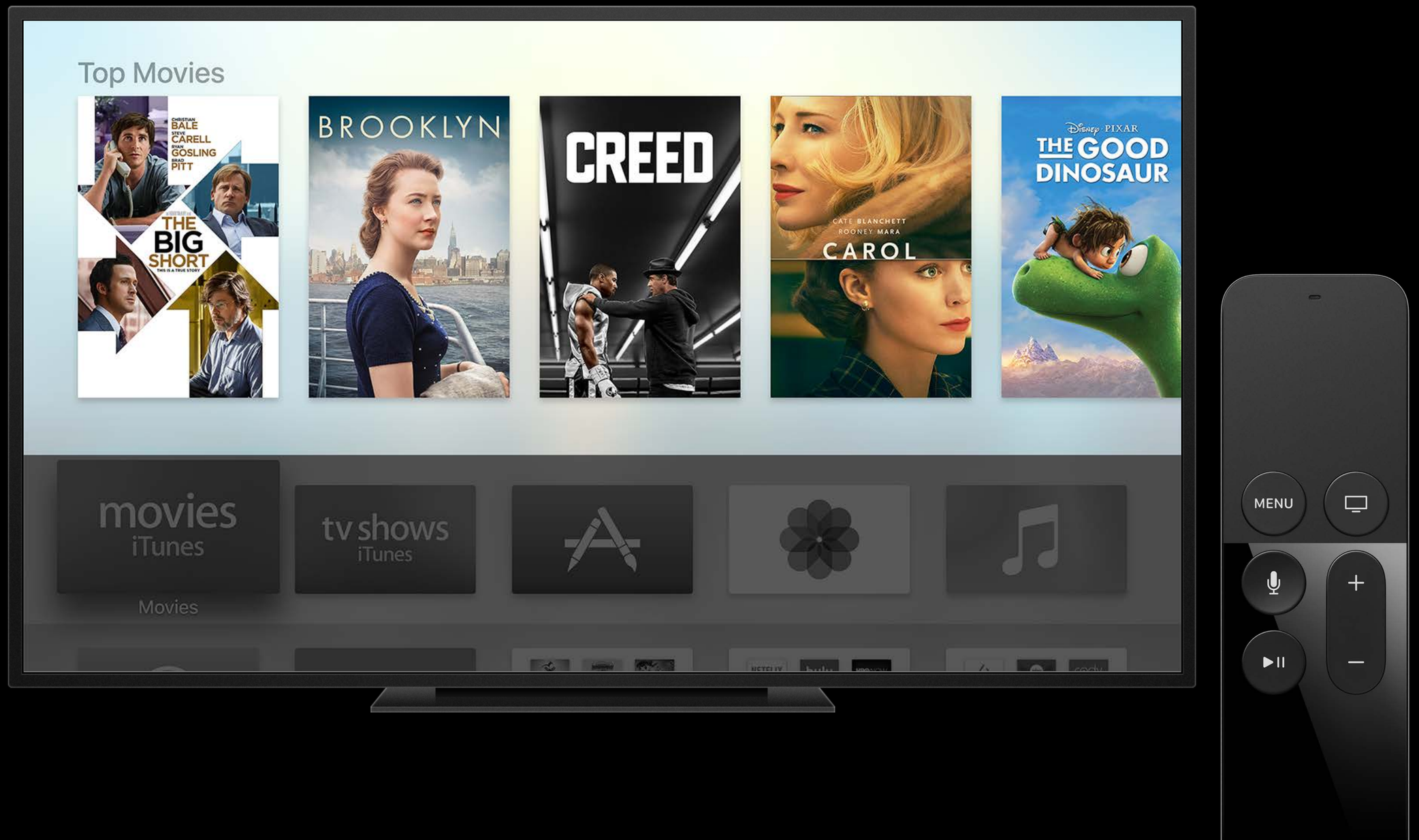
The content is often several steps away from your app's main screen ("deep" in the navigation hierarchy)

The link jumps the user directly to the content

Where Do Deep Links Come From?

Your top shelf extension is a likely source of deep link requests

The same logic can be used to handle link requests from any application


Top Movies
THE BIG SHORT
BROOKLYN
CREED
CATE BLANCHETT
ROONEY MARA
CAROL
Disney · PIXAR
THE GOOD DINOSAUR
movies
iTunes
tv shows
iTunes
Movies
MENU

Use Universal Links

Allows parity with your iOS apps

Ensures that the link is routed to your application

Ensures that your app is expecting to handle the URL

https://developer.apple.com/library/content/documentation/General/Conceptual/AppSearch/UniversalLinks.html

Handling Deep Links Gracefully

Configure the ViewController hierarchy to cleanly display the URL content

Present the UI without flashes or transitions

Make sure that Menu takes the user to a predictable place

Two Top Shelf Item URLs

The displayURL is opened with the Select button

- Respond by presenting a detail page for the item

The playURL is opened with the Play button

- Respond by starting video playback

Recommended displayURL Handling

Opening a displayURL should show a detail page

Pressing Menu should return to the app’s initial screen

Pressing Menu again should return to the home screen

What's new in tvOS

Play

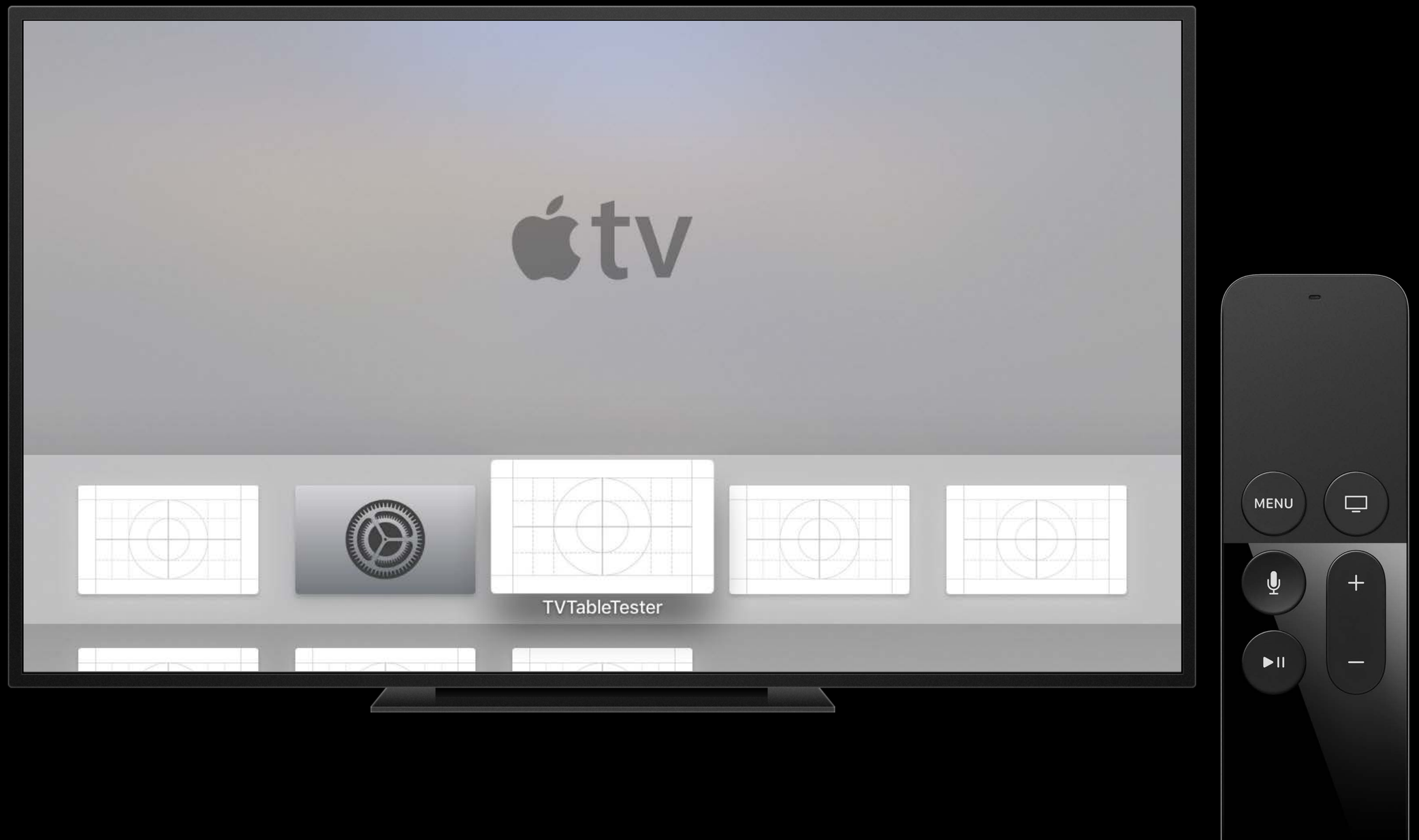
WWDC Videos

What's new in tvOS

Designing for tvOS

Focus Interaction on tvOS

Mastering UIKit on tvOS


tv
TVTableTester
MENU

Recommended playURL Handling

Opening a playURL should begin playing the video

Video should fade in from black

Pressing Menu should return to the video’s detail page

Pressing Menu again should return the the app’s initial screen

Pressing Menu a third time should return to the home screen


0:13
-38:26
MENU

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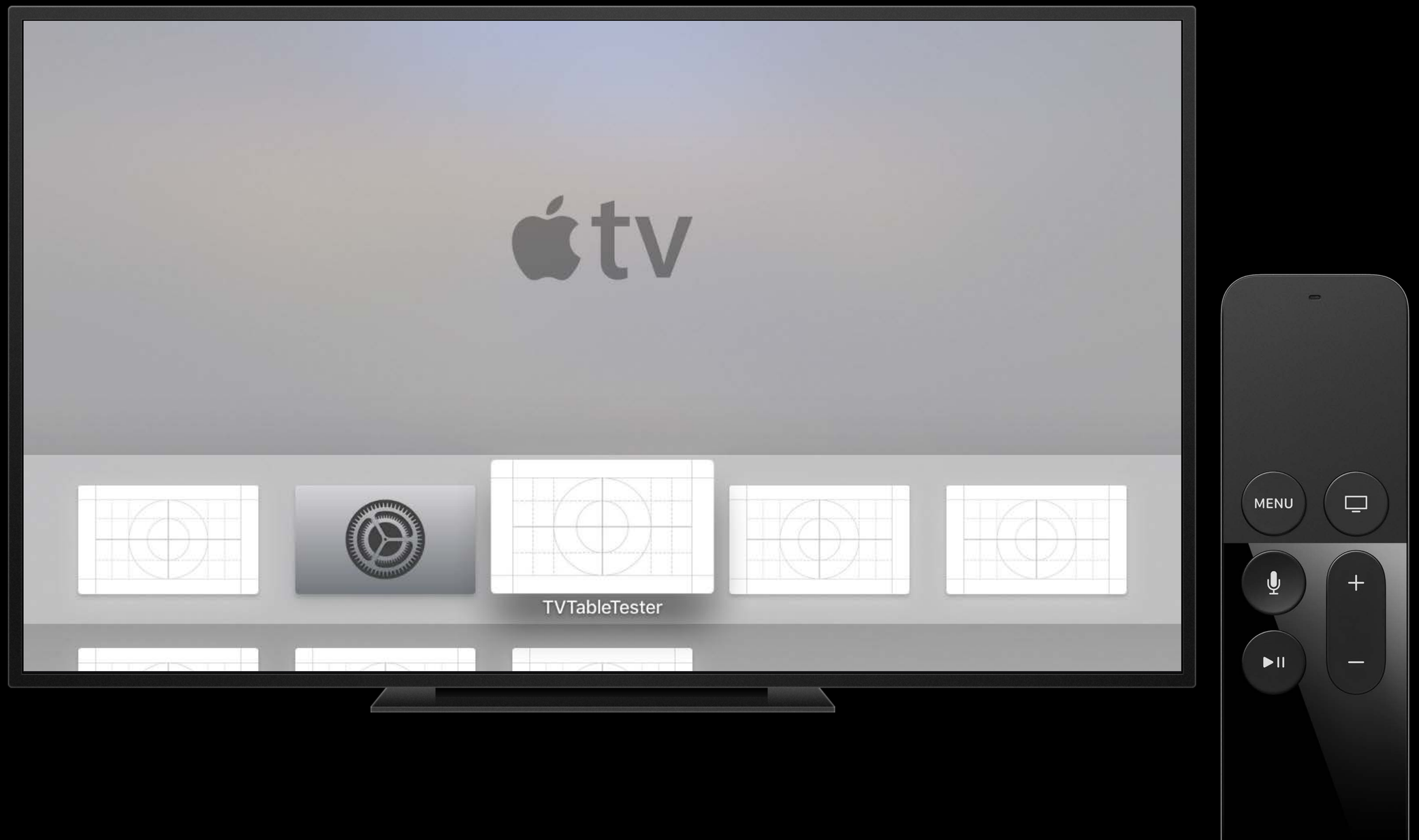
tv
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MENU

Demo

```
func application(_ application: UIApplication, open url: URL,
                 options: [UIApplicationOpenURLOptionsKey: Any] = [:]) -> Bool {

   if let (session, action) = Session.sessionFromURL(url) {
      UIView.performWithoutAnimation {

         let navController = self.window?.rootViewController as! UINavigationController
         navController.popToRootViewController(animated: false)

         let topVC = navController.topViewController
         topVC?.performSegue(withIdentifier: "showDetail", sender: session)

         if action == "play" {
            let detailVC = navController.topViewController
            detailVC?.performSegue(withIdentifier: "showPlayer", sender: nil)
         }
      }
   }
}
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Summary

Take the user to the linked content immediately

Give the user a predictable way to get back

More Information

https://developer.apple.com/wwdc17/246


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