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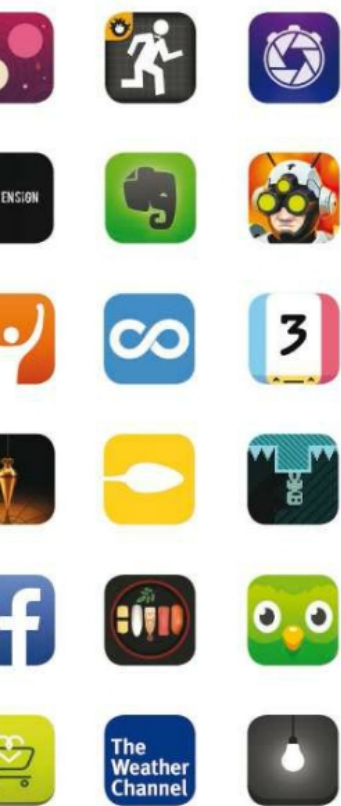


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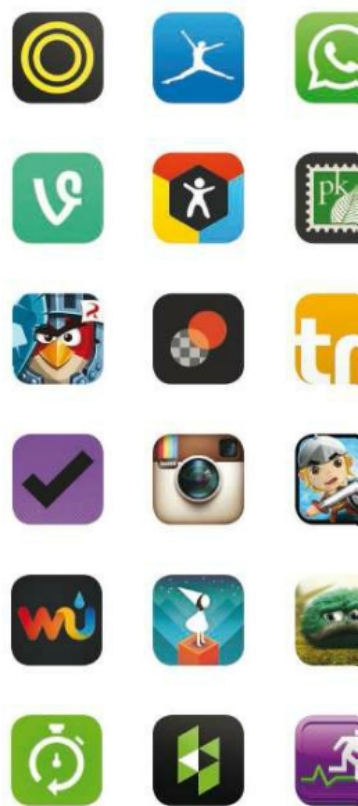
iPhone ^{+iPad} Life

Best Apps • Top Tips • Great Gear

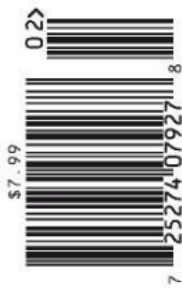
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BEST APPS EVER



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Editor's Message

An Ode to Apps

To me, apps are like poetry—artfully created, simple, and elegant. In the digital world, a website is like a sonnet and an app a haiku that's satisfyingly self-contained and to the point. Companies invest a lot of time and resources into streamlining their offerings into bite-sized mobile software that's intuitive and convenient for the end user. However, apps don't always get the credit they deserve, which is why we've decided to shower them with appreciation in our dedicated app issue!

One of the greatest things about apps is that you don't have to carve out time in your day to use them; you can check off your to-do items in your downtime, on your way to work, in line for coffee, or during *Parks and Recreation* commercial breaks.

Apps have a way of making even the most tedious tasks strangely enjoyable. Perhaps it's the reassuring feeling of step-by-step visual guidance or the gratification of controlling the screen with your fingers. While I usually find creating a budget about as fun as trying to stick to one, I've somehow fallen in love with budgeting apps. Seeing my income, expenses, and balances color-coded and visually represented makes me feel organized and proactive.

For better or worse, apps also mean I don't have to be as prepared in life. I can order food, arrange a cab, or keep an eye on traffic with a tap of a button. Instead of studying a map before embarking on a trip, I navigate on the fly. When I go the farmers market only to realize I didn't bring my purse (don't judge me), I can quickly launch my PayPal app and pay on the spot.

We all have our own reasons for loving apps. And even if you don't yet, you'll find tons within this issue, which promises to improve your life with apps in key categories, from productivity to travel and everything in between (pg. 36).

A New Digital Direction: Become a Mobile Tech Insider

I'd like to take this opportunity to share a bit about our latest endeavors at *iPhone Life*. As a company, we've been thinking a lot about new ways to serve our readers. Many of you are familiar with our daily tips newsletter, which equips you each day with new ways to make the most of your iPhone's countless capabilities (find out more at iPhoneLife.com/dailytips). We're excited to bring you new digital membership options in the coming months as well. By way of video tutorials, we'll be teaching you how to take full advantage of your iPhone, from hidden tricks within iOS 8 to more in-depth guides on topics such as cloud storage and iPhone photography.

This is an exciting new divergence into multimedia at *iPhone Life*, and we're looking forward to expanding upon how we deliver great content to you. Stay tuned on Twitter, Facebook, and iPhoneLife.com as the project unfolds. 



Donna Schill Cleveland

Editor in Chief

iPhone Life magazine, donna@iphonelife.com

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Apple news, tips and tricks, best apps, and more!

iPhone Life magazine



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Hottest experience of the season: MUSIC VIDEOS

WHY YOU SHOULD DOWNLOAD SALOOTE RIGHT NOW:

- ▶ Designed as the world's first collaborative community of music lovers, musicians and other performance artists, Saloote revolutionizes the way that music is made online
- ▶ Users of all skill and experience levels can connect with musicians to record, mashup, and share their cover videos of their favorite idols' songs across social media
- ▶ User-friendly. No equipment or video processing software or know how is required

Saloote is the absolute, essential app for music lovers and musicians. This app is the world's first collaborative community of music lovers and artists for streaming, performing, recording, and mashing up music videos over the web.

The app introduces music lovers and artists to a new world of digital performance and collaboration. Saloote takes the home artist from his bedroom out to the world, uniting music lovers and artists online to connect, jam out, and create music videos for the masses. Whether an enthusiast, indie or a professional, Saloote gives users access to hit songs, an active community of artists and enthusiasts, and easy-to-use tools for recording and collaborating with other users.

The sound of all the instruments and vocals are mixed, and the video can be edited to highlight different performers at different times to create a "virtual band" performance.



Download on the
App Store

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Meet Our Writers



Steve Boss
Radio Host on KRUU FM 100.1
Article page [64](#)
sboss@me.com



Abbey Dufoe
Freelance Writer
Article page [56](#)
abbey.dufoe@gmail.com



Adam Harvey
GLAD WORKS Technology Director
Article page [58](#)
adam@gladworks.com



Melissa Kravitz
Freelance Writer
Articles pages [50](#), [60](#)
melissabethkravitz@gmail.com



Siva Om
Web Designer and Writer
Articles pages [46](#), [47](#)
sivaom@iphonelife.com



Kate Palbom
Freelance Writer and Editor
Article page [42](#)
katepalbom@gmail.com



Cody Permenter
Freelance Writer
Article page [22](#)
codyrpermenter@gmail.com



Daniel W. Rasmus
Strategist and Industry Analyst
Article page [44](#)
dwrasmus@danielwrasmus.com



Rebecca Santiago
Writer and Editor
Article page [76](#)
santiago_rk@gmail.com



Sarah Sayles
PR Specialist and Writer
Article page [48](#)
sayles.sarah@gmail.com

Staff



David Averbach
Publisher and CEO
Article page [18](#)
david@iphonelife.com



Donna Schill Cleveland
Editor in Chief
Article page [68](#)
donna@iphonelife.com



Hal Goldstein
Senior Editor/Founder
Article page [80](#)
hal@thaddeus.com



Jim Karpen
Online Editor/Columnist
Article page [26](#)
jim_karpen@iphonelife.com



Sarah Kingsbury
Web Editor
Articles pages [30](#), [79](#)
sarah@iphonelife.com



Rheanne Schlee
Associate Editor
Articles pages [38-41](#), [51](#)
rheanne@iphonelife.com

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THE NUMBERS

50 PERCENT

According to the Pew Center's 2014 "State of the Media" report, half of Facebook users read news through the platform, although they often only come across it by chance.

72 PERCENT

Around 72 percent of children 8 years old and under use smartphones or tablets, according to a 2013 study by Common Sense Media. Though most children only spent 15 minutes a day on mobile devices, the figure is still triple the rate it was in 2011.

UNIQUE ACCESSORY



PowerUp 3.0 Smartphone Controlled Paper Airplane (\$49.99)

With PowerUp 3.0, you can relive your paper-folding childhood, but this time with a modern twist! Built by designer Shai Goitein, this device—which consists of a motor, propeller, and Bluetooth receiver—lets you take a basic paper airplane and transform it into a smartphone-controlled toy that can fly on command.

WHAT'S HOT IN THE APP STORE



FRICKbits Data Art

(Free)

Transform your everyday life into a personal masterpiece with this brilliant little app by artist Laurie Frick. Described by Frick as a "data selfie," FRICKbits gathers your location-based data and creates stunning watercolor-inspired artwork that's centered around you and your travels. With an app like this, you'll be inspired to cover more ground, and after a few days, FRICKbits will churn out an abstract work of art.



Angry Birds Stella

(Free)

This sassy new addition to the Angry Birds franchise is centered around Stella and her group of friends as they fight to save Golden Island from the Bad Princess Gale. And though the app has a whole new set of characters and powers, the premise of the game is the same—players catapult birds at nearby structures with a slingshot in an attempt to destroy the wicked green pigs.



Day One

(\$4.99)

Apple has showered this journaling app with awards in recent years—and for good reason! Day One is a beautifully designed cross-platform app that lets you record your thoughts and stories easily, thanks to its smart features and user-friendly interface. With each entry, you can add photos and tag them with keywords and locations.



Litely

(Free)

Litely offers a collection of authentic-looking, film-inspired filters similar to VSCOcam, as well as simple adjustment tools that let you tweak contrast, vibrance, and exposure. Litely's presets are subtle, aiming to improve your images without taking away from their natural beauty. The app comes with 9 filters, and you can purchase more from the app's collection of 48 premium presets.

QUICK NEWS



Taylor Swift Leaves Spotify

Taylor Swift, a known opponent of music-streaming services, pulled her music from Spotify after the release of her latest album, *1989*. Spotify CEO Daniel

Ek responded to Swift's decision with a lengthy blog post, in which he insisted that Spotify helps artists rather than hinders them. "We started Spotify because we love music and piracy was killing it," Ek remarked. He went on to say that Spotify had paid more than \$2 billion to artists since the service launched in 2008.



Apple Faces Lawsuit Over iMessage Issues

Those who have switched from an iPhone to an Android device may notice that Apple's messaging system blocks them from receiving further texts

from iPhone users. Now Apple is facing a class-action lawsuit in the US, which claims that the company should have made consumers aware of the problem. While Apple denies liability, it now offers an online tool for those converting to other smartphones at selfsolve.apple.com/deregister-imessage.



President Obama Takes Stand on Net Neutrality

President Obama recently voiced his support for net neutrality, suggesting the Internet should remain open and free, and that

small businesses should have the same access to bandwidth as corporations. The pressure on the Federal Communications Commission to make a decision on whether to reclassify broadband as a public utility is escalating.

PUBLISHER AND CEO

David Averbach • david@iphonelife.com

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

Raphael Burnes • raphael@iphonelife.com

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Noah Siemsen • noah@iphonelife.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Donna Schill Cleveland • donna@iphonelife.com

SENIOR EDITOR

Nina Benjamin • nina@iphonelife.com

SENIOR EDITOR AND FOUNDER

Hal Goldstein • hal@iphonelife.com

WEB EDITOR

Sarah Kingsbury • sarah@iphonelife.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Rheanne Schlee • rheanne@iphonelife.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS & WRITERS [See page 6](#)

ART DIRECTOR

Jaime Thatcher • jaime@iphonelife.com

COVER DESIGN

George Foster • george@fostercovers.com

ADVERTISING SALES COORDINATOR

Marge Enright • marge@iphonelife.com

ADVERTISING SALES SPECIALIST

Janet Joyce • janet@iphonelife.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE & SUBSCRIPTIONS

For address changes or subscription questions, visit www.iphonelife.com/customer-service, email customerservice@iphonelife.com, or call 847-763-4940.

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PRINTER

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CAPTION CONTEST



Illustration by Mikaila Maidment, mikailamaidment.com

YOUR CAPTION HERE

Send us a clever caption for the cartoon above, and we'll feature our favorite entries in the next issue. The winner will receive a \$25 iTunes Gift Card! Send all captions to comics@iphonelife.com.



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015 CAPTION WINNER

"Hurry! Before they clear our cookies!"

Submitted by Steve Negron

RUNNERS-UP:

"New Year's resolution—delete cookies."

Submitted by Bob Kielhorn

"Too many calories and not enough sleep, but who's tracking?"

Submitted by Daniel Riordan

Thanks to everyone who sent in their funny captions!

AROUND THE IPHONE LIFE OFFICE

How Will You Use Your iDevice to Create Better Habits in the New Year?



Rheane, Associate Editor: No matter how many times I tell myself I'm going to start working out, I end up getting too busy. This year I plan on using **CAR-ROT Fit** (\$2.99) to get back in shape. Its workouts are intense but quick, and the app's snarky encouragement will be just what I need to stay motivated.



David, CEO: I just started using **Plant Nanny** (free) to keep an eye on my daily water intake—it's like Farmville meets iHealth! Hopefully the Apple Watch will be available soon to help me track my health metrics as well.



Donna, Editor in Chief: I'm excited to try **Happify** (free) so I can start out the new year on a positive note. I tend to move too fast, and this app's research-based exercises will help me learn to be more in the moment.



Sarah, Web Editor: I've been using the **Pedometer++** app (free) to build the habit of moving more throughout the day. This app simply counts your steps, but it's made a big difference for me. I went from a maximum of three thousand steps to over eight thousand per day after installing it on my phone.



Hal Goldstein: I use the **Habit List** app (\$2.99) for habits I wish to cultivate. My current daily goals are to set a daily intention, exercise for 15 minutes, forgo dessert, think of 5 things to be grateful for, and write for 30 minutes. The app's interface is clean and intuitive, with options to set notifications and reminders.



Marge, Ad Sales Coordinator: I am using **Ibotta** (free) to shop smarter. It's a great non-couponing app that earns me cash and rebates when I go shopping for groceries, electronics, or clothes.

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MARTIAN MONARCH



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IPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY

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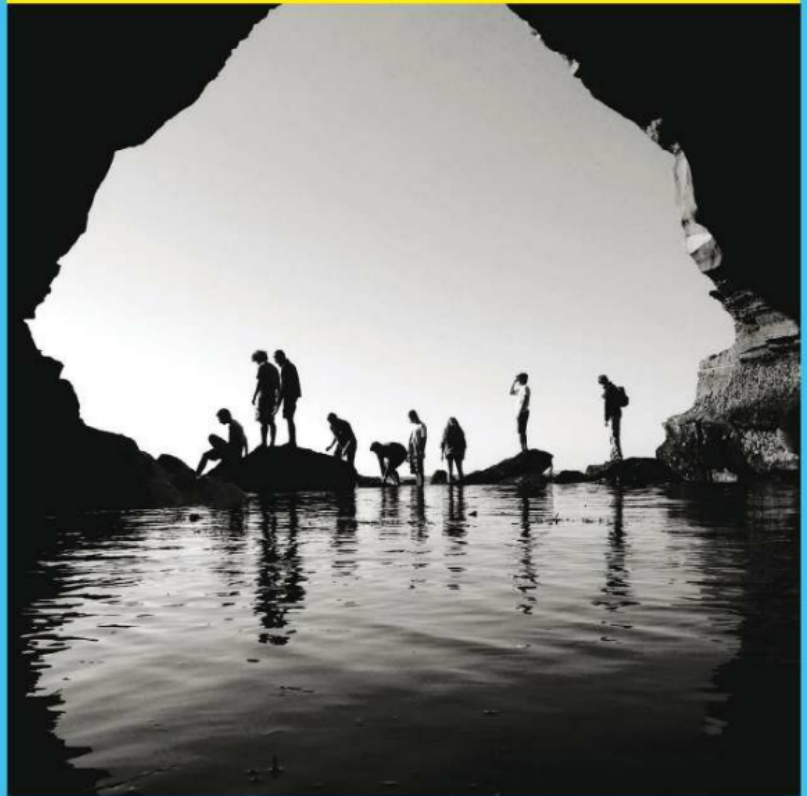


An olloclip Quick-Flip iPhone case (\$49.99 value, olloclip.com).



An olloclip Quick-Connect lens solution for the iPhone and iPod touch that includes fisheye, wide-angle, and macro lenses (\$69.99 value, olloclip.com).

Photo Contest 1st Place



By Collin McQueen, Instagram [@lucid1502](https://www.instagram.com/lucid1502)

2nd Place



By Andrew Pritchard

3rd Place



By Aniruddha Banerjee

CONTEST WINNERS



Reader's Choice



By Gabriella Benally

Want to see your photo featured here? Enter your best shots at iPhoneLife.com/contest for a chance to win. Our editors choose the top three entries, and our readers choose our fourth and final winner by voting for their favorite images on Facebook. Prizes include the olloclip Quick-Connect Lens and Quick-Flip Case as well as a spot in an upcoming issue of *iPhone Life* magazine.

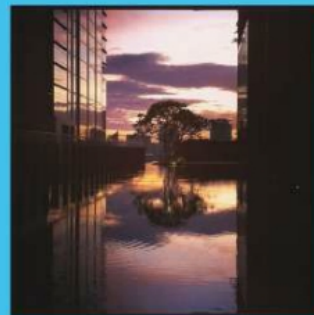
Photo Contest Finalists



By Jenna Seitz



By Natalie Forbes



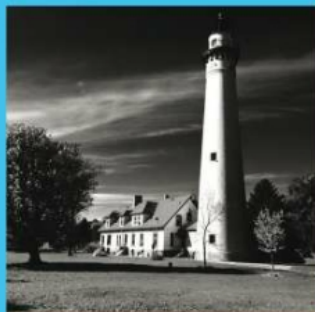
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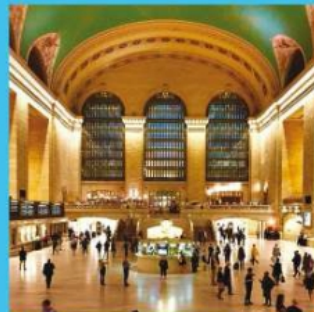
By Amanda Riley



By Roldan Castillo



By Paul Jackel



By Stephanie Chen



By Luanne Luca



The iTunes Gift Card Challenge

How would you spend a \$50 iTunes Gift Card to help keep your New Year's resolutions?

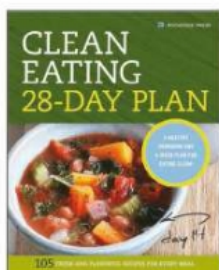
WINNER

Donna Schechter
Westbury, NY

RESOLUTION

"I want to start eating healthy, unprocessed foods."

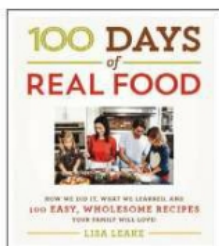
BOOK



The Clean Eating 28-Day Plan
(\$6.99)

This cookbook and meal planner will help me choose the right foods to eat.

BOOK



100 Days of Real Food
(\$14.99)

This collection of recipes by Lisa Leake will help me to continue eating healthily once I've

finished the 28-day plan.

TV SHOWS



Walk to the Hits
(\$9.99)
Exercise video personality Leslie Sansone's high-intensity cardio mix

set to party songs will help keep me on pace during my walks.

TV SHOWS



3 Mega Miles
(\$9.99)
I will mix it up a little with another Leslie Sansone video that will help me work on my flexibility.

TV SHOWS



Flat Belly Diet Walk Off Belly Fat
(\$7.99)

I used to walk five miles a few times a week, and this workout video

by Ellen Barrett will help me start exercising again.

TOTAL: \$49.95

THE NEXT CHALLENGE

Tell us how you would spend a \$50 iTunes Gift Card to plan your perfect date night. To enter, send us a list of four to eight apps, movies, books, songs, or TV shows that add up to close to \$50. Email your responses to challenge@iphonelife.com by January 5.

The winner will receive a \$50 iTunes Gift Card and will appear in the March/April issue of *iPhone Life* magazine!



HOW DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING IF YOUR SMARTPHONE IS BURIED IN YOUR BAG?



Getting from Point A to Point B can be easy with today's GPS-enabled smartphones. Easy, that is, except for when you need your hands on the wheel and your attention on the road. Square Jellyfish has a solution. Our Car Vent Mount is designed to hold your phone within easily viewable and audible distance right on the dashboard of your car. In an instant, your smartphone becomes an onboard navigation system, a streaming music player and a hands-free phone. Our tiny mount can be attached or removed in a matter of seconds so you can use it in all your personal vehicles and even rental cars. Get the Square Jellyfish Car Vent Mount on Amazon for \$17.95 and know where you're going.



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THE NEW IPADS:

PERFECTION
IS BORING

BY DAVID AVERBACH





During Apple's iPad Air 2 announcement in October, CEO Tim Cook asked, "What do you do when you make the best tablet in the world? How do you make it better?" Apple executives have asked this same question every year just before they unveil the next generation of a device with revolutionary new features. This year's announcement was slightly different, however; the question felt less rhetorical and more like a real concern that Apple was struggling to address.

I can just imagine Jony Ive, Apple's Senior VP of Design, saying to his team, "No, seriously, guys! How can we possibly improve the iPad Air?" To which one of his designers must've answered, "Well, we could make it a little thinner and a little faster..." because that's pretty much all they did. The new iPad Air 2 isn't a revolutionary leap forward, but rather a subtle refinement of an already great product—and sometimes perfecting a product isn't about adding sexy new features.

RESISTING THE URGE TO SIZZLE

In real estate, there is a concept known as the “sizzle feature.” The term is derived from the expression “sell the sizzle, not the steak” and refers to the features in a house that sound exciting to potential buyers but don’t have a lot of real value. A towel warmer in a California home may sound fancy, but if the temperature rarely drops below 60 degrees, warm towels are hardly a necessity.

The same concept applies to tech products. Marketers love to hype sizzle features, but users rarely actually use them. Take the Dynamic Perspective feature on the new Amazon Fire Phone, for example. Dynamic Perspective uses four infrared cameras on the front of the device to give the screen a slightly 3D feel. It sounds like an exciting innovation, and it grabbed a lot of headlines when Amazon released the phone, but in practice the feature adds very little value.

This is one of the things I love about Apple—it resists the urge to add features just for the sake of adding features, focusing instead on the product’s tangible benefits. The new iPad Air 2 is all substance and no fluff; it boasts a faster processor, a more vivid display, and a fingerprint sensor—all things that make for a better user experience—but it’s almost completely devoid of sizzle features, which makes it a little harder to market.

THE PRICE OF PERFECTION

I love my iPad Air, and that’s a problem for Apple. The iPad has seen explosive growth since its launch in 2010, selling over 225 million tablets worldwide, but sales have begun to decline. While it’s too early to know how successful the iPad Air 2 will be, we know that iPad sales have declined for the first three quarters of 2014, a trend that could be tough to reverse. The problem is that the iPad’s life cycle is much longer than that of the iPhone. People are happy with their older tablets and see no reason to upgrade. While the iPad Air 2 is a near-perfect device (a missing NFC chip being the only exception), I have no intention of upgrading from my iPad Air, and I imagine many other users are in the same boat.

THE DISAPPEARING MINI

One of the most surprising things about Apple’s October keynote was how little attention the company paid to the iPad mini. Last year the iPad mini 2, with its Retina display and faster processor, was all the rage. Many analysts expected it to surpass the Air in popularity and sales. This year, however, the iPad mini 3 was discussed for less than a minute of Apple’s keynote, which lasted longer than an hour. Considering the mini 3 did not receive an upgraded camera or processor, the only significant addition was that of the fingerprint sensor.

The iPad mini is most likely a casualty of the new iPhone 6 Plus. At 7.9 inches, the mini 3 is still significantly larger than the 5.5-inch 6 Plus, but both devices seem to fill the niche

for people who need large screens to work on but still desire portability. The distinction, of course, is that the iPhone 6 Plus is also a phone, and is \$100 cheaper (if purchased with a two-year contract). It will be interesting to see if this is the beginning of the end for the iPad mini or if Apple finds a way to differentiate it from the iPhone 6 Plus. But if Apple announces an even larger iPad (perhaps called the Pro?) next year, the company may decide to discontinue the mini altogether.

STILL NUMBER ONE

The incremental upgrades Apple has made to the iPad Air 2 are enough to keep it ahead of the competition. In my opinion, the iPad is still the best tablet on the market, hands down. If you don’t yet own a tablet, you’ll likely be blown away by the Air 2, but if you already own an iPad Air or even a 4th-generation iPad, you probably don’t need to upgrade.

Improving a product is not always about huge technology breakthroughs so much as a series of refinements over time. As the iPad matures, boredom may be the price we have to pay for a perfect product. 



David Averbach is the CEO and Publisher of *iPhone Life* and *Android Life* magazine. David has an obsession with all things Apple. He grew up on Macs and now has a MacBook Pro, iPhone, iPad, and an Apple TV. David enjoys traveling and Ultimate Frisbee. He has been to over 20 countries. To contact David, email him at David@iphonelife.com.

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HANDS ON:

Every year, the story at Apple follows the same arc: In the spring, rumors surface of big changes coming down the line. Then, inevitably, after the company's summer software announcement and fall product launch, there comes an avalanche of complaints—in the most recent case, of iOS 8 crashing and of the iPhone 6 Plus bending. Customer expectations were at record highs leading up to Apple's "biggest iOS release ever" and announcement of larger, faster iPhones. As the excitement dies down, the question remains—has Apple fully delivered on its promises?

INSIDE IOS 8

Since Apple's initial operating system upgrades are notorious for having bugs, I resisted the temptation to download iOS 8 until about a month after its release. By the time I installed it, reports of problems from early adopters—including Wi-Fi interruptions, freezing during downloading, apps crashing, and battery drain—had all but fizzled out, and I was greeted with some very welcome changes.

EXTENSIBILITY & CONTINUITY

With its release of iOS 8, Apple focused on creating two overarching themes that resonate throughout the entire user experience: Extensibility, which offers app developers greater access to iOS functions, and Continuity, which makes connecting all of a user's Apple devices a breeze via the new Handoff feature.

With Extensibility, using your apps within the existing Apple framework is more satisfying, thanks to extensions that offer options such as the ability to add app widgets to the Notification Center. For example, you could add the Evernote widget and, with one quick swipe down, gain access to Evernote's note-taking tool. These improvements simplify functions like photo edit-

ing and open up the door for developers to create even more extensions that will contribute to Apple's promise of a seamless experience.

The other core tenet of iOS 8, Continuity, makes it possible for all of your Apple devices to be constantly connected and working together, fulfilling the fantasy of multitaskers everywhere. This feature means that you can start to set a reminder on your iPad and finish it on your iPhone, or pause mid-thought as you write an email on your Mac and resume when you pick up your iPad. In order for Handoff to work, however, you must be logged into the same iCloud account on your iPhone, iPad, and/or Mac, and all the devices must be in close proximity to each other so they can automatically pair via Bluetooth LE.

APPLE QUICKTYPE

One of the most talked-about additions to iOS 8 was Apple's QuickType, a feature that suggests words and phrases based on whom you are writing to and what app you are using. I found the word suggestions, which appear below the text box and change rapidly as you type, to be quite distracting. Of course, you can easily turn this feature off or switch to a third-party keyboard, such as the popular Swype text, thanks to Extensibility.

IOS 8 & THE IPHONE 6 & 6 PLUS

BY CODY PERMENTER

TESTING OUT THE IPHONE 6 AND 6 PLUS

The most drastic changes to the new iPhone 6 and 6 Plus are the dimensions of the phones, which, according to Apple, are “Bigger than bigger.” With 4.7- and 5.5-inch displays on the 6 and 6 Plus, respectively, the phones live up to Apple’s promise. They are also the thinnest iPhones ever made, with the iPhone 6 coming in at 6.9 mm and the 6 Plus at 7.1 mm.

The phones sport a curvier design, making gestures easier and smoother across the screen. The sleep/wake button is now located on the side, presumably so smaller fingers don’t have to strain to reach the top of the now-larger device. And while there aren’t any huge changes to the camera on either of the devices, both now come with optical image stabilization, which measures motion data to reduce shaking.

#BENDGATE

The release of two new iPhones and iOS 8 was overshadowed by customers who took to social media sites with complaints that the iPhone 6 Plus was easily bendable. I visited an Apple store in Houston to ask Apple employees if they thought people’s concerns were valid. “Everything bends,” one Apple employee told me. “If you apply enough pressure it is going to bend—no doubt about that.”

I expected the coy response, considering Apple’s official statement insisted that only a handful of devices were affected. And while the online world may have exaggerated the extent of Apple’s cover-up, using

the term “Bendgate” in reference to the controversial issue on social media, the fact that the phone bends when enough pressure is applied to it isn’t necessarily a design flaw—it all depends on your definition.

Take the observations of Lewis Hilsenteger of Unbox Therapy, for instance, who performed bend tests on the iPhone 6, iPhone 6 Plus, and a number of other aluminum- and plastic-cased smartphones. He found that while the 6 Plus bent significantly when he applied pressure with two hands, so did other aluminum-based phones, like the Galaxy Note 4, albeit to a lesser degree. If bending is a concern for you, it might be best to opt for the iPhone 6, which bends far less easily than the 6 Plus.

THE VERDICT

Inevitably, when Apple introduces new products, critics come out of the woodwork to wag their fingers at any small flaw they can find. Although the initial public reaction was tainted by complaints of iOS 8 glitches and bendable iPhones, stellar features—like Extensibility and Continuity for iOS 8 and a sleeker design and bigger screen for the iPhones—illustrate that the good far outweighs the bad in Apple’s latest offerings. [⤴](#)



Cody Permenter is a freelance writer whose work has been featured in publications like the *New York Times*, *USA TODAY*, and the *Daily Dot*. His specialties include social media, mobile technology, and convincing people that Millennials aren’t so bad after all. Find him on Twitter [@somecody](#).

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NEWS



AT&T ANNOUNCES NEW iPad DATA PLANS: \$5/DAY, \$25/3 MONTHS

For those who only need occasional connectivity, such as during a day trip, AT&T has announced a plan that's \$5 per day for 250MB of data that can be used over a 24-hour period.

APPS



TOP 5 PHOTOGRAPHY APPS FOR THE iPhone AND iPad

Out of a crowded field, I've distilled a list of my top 5 iPhone camera apps, ones that I've put to continual use, and they've consistently performed well. Read on, some of my top picks may surprise you!

TIPS



TIPS & TRICKS FOR LESSER KNOWN FEATURES OF iOS 7

Humans use only 10 percent of their brains. Actually, that's a myth, but it's probably not a myth that many of us utilize only about 10 percent of our iPhone's capabilities.

GEAR



NEW RUGGED BLUETOOTH SPEAKERS: THE BUCKSHOT AND SLINGSHOT

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APPLE'S FUTURE



DOES THE IPAD AIR 2 SIGNAL THE DAWNING OF A POST-MOBILE ERA?

BY JIM KARPEN

The iPad Air 2 and iPad mini 3 have arrived on the scene during a time of transition for Apple, the world's most highly valued company. But now that the once-revolutionary tablet market that Apple spawned is maturing,

sales of the iPad have slowed. And once the iPhone penetrates far-flung regions around the world, its market may also begin maturing. Apple's 2014 events show the way forward as the tech giant moves into the post-mobile era. Looking ahead, we see a future that promises the Internet of things, a mobile payment revolution, and the integrated function-

ing of diverse devices.

While shy of revolutionary, the iPad Air 2 is at the least a worthy addition to Apple's fleet. It's not only the thinnest iOS device on the market, but it also comes with Touch ID and sports an anti-reflective surface, an improved A8X processor, and faster LTE.

DECLINING IPAD SALES

It remains to be seen whether the Air 2 will be able to reverse the trend of declining iPad sales. In the first three quarters of 2014, iPad sales were down compared to the same quarter a year earlier. But according to CEO Tim Cook, concerns are overblown. During Apple's iPad event last October, he reminded us that Apple has sold 225 million iPads since the product's launch in 2010. In the past year alone, he said, Apple has sold significantly more iPads than the top four PC makers combined have sold PCs.

However, the overall tablet market is in decline, which could be a tough trend for Apple to counteract. Part of the reason is that tablets simply have a longer shelf life than smartphones. And as iPhones have gotten larger and laptops thinner, the iPad has less of a niche.

Of course, Apple is intent on continuing to grow the iPad market, and it took a major step in that direction by partnering with IBM last July to develop specialized iPhone and iPad apps for businesses. In addition, rumors suggest that Apple may debut a 12.9-inch iPad in 2015, which could also stimulate sales in the enterprise market.

THE IPAD AIR 2 & IPAD MINI 3

Market trends aside, the iPad Air 2 is an exquisite device. It's less than a quarter inch thick and comes with a faster processor, better camera, and faster wireless than the previous model—as well as being equipped with Touch ID, an anti-reflective display, and a barometer.

The A8X processor in the iPad Air 2 is 40 percent faster than the previous A7 and has been engineered to be more efficient, meaning the thinner battery can still provide long life. The new graphics chip is 2.5 times faster.

The Wi-Fi is 2.8 times faster than before, and models that support LTE wireless are now capable of up to 150 megabits per second and have

reprogrammable SIM cards so you can switch between carriers. The only exception is Verizon, which still requires you to purchase a SIM card from a Verizon store.

The new 8-megapixel iSight camera includes a panorama feature, burst mode photos, improved face detection, time-lapse and slow-motion video, and better noise reduction. The new sensor captures images in 3264 x 2448 native resolution and 1080p HD video. The front-facing FaceTime HD camera has improved, with a new sensor, larger pixels, and larger aperture that lets in 81 percent more light for improved performance in low-light conditions.

The Retina display also saw a major upgrade. In addition to boasting more vivid colors and greater contrast, the anti-reflective coating reduces glare by 56 percent, which means you can see the screen better in bright light or outdoors.

The iPad mini 3, on the other hand, only saw a minor upgrade. Other than the addition of Touch ID, it's basically the same device as the previous iPad mini with Retina display.

WHY THE SALES DECLINE ISN'T AN ISSUE

In the end, a mature iPad market may not be an issue. Sure, we lust after ever-greater gadgets, but the era of dizzying growth in mobile devices may be over. The question is whether Apple can move on to the next thing and continue to reinvent itself, which is something many companies fail to do. If Apple can succeed in taking the next step—that is, going beyond the era of mobile devices—then a decline in iPad sales hardly matters. It will continue to be an important niche in its lineup of offerings, but won't be necessary to further growth.

APPLE'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Essentially Apple is creating an intelligent environment—in the home, on one's wrist, and now, at the point of purchase.

Apple is dipping a toe in the smart-home pool with HomeKit, which establishes the foundation for living in a home with a panoply of integrated gadgets.

The Apple Watch is Apple's first wearable, and given all of the company's recent hires of top-level people in the fashion industry, it's probably the first of many. With its health-tracking sensors, the Apple Watch is ushering in the era of big data, in this case to quantify health.

Apple Pay is not only convenient, fitting seamlessly into the Apple ecosystem, but it's also highly secure. We've seen so many major security breaches among major retailers this year, and Apple Pay makes them much less likely. Retailers never see your credit card number, or even your name, thanks to single-use security codes.

Apple's greatest strength, though, is how every product in the company's ecosystem works together. The company is breaking new ground in cloud computing with features such as iCloud Photo Library, which finally makes photo storage easy, friendly, and useful. The new Handoff feature available on Macs and iOS devices is stunning: you can be working on a document on one device and take it up on another device with just the tap of an icon.

At the end of the October event, Cook said of Apple's lineup of products, "They're designed to be incredible products individually, but they're also designed to work together seamlessly. And because we create both the hardware and software, we can deliver something that no one else can do—a simple, intuitive, and, yes, a magical experience for our customers. This is our vision of personal technology, and we are just getting started." 



Jim Karpen, Ph.D., is on faculty at Maharishi University of Management in Fairfield, IA. He has been writing about the revolutionary consequences of computer technology since 1994. His Ph.D. dissertation anticipated the Internet revolution. His site, jimkarpen.com, contains selected regular columns written for *The Iowa Source*. jim_karpen@iphonelife.com.

FEATURED iUSER: *Jeremy McGinty*



Age: 35

Location: Chicago, IL

One-Line Bio: Jeremy is an air traffic controller in Chicago and an iOS enthusiast. He's the founder of iOS Etc. (iosetc.com), a website on which he shares app reviews and iOS-related news as "the Critic."

WeatherBug: Keeping an eye on the weather is easy with WeatherBug. This app holds all the information I need to plan my day.

Box: I had no need for cloud storage until I started my website. Box gives me access to the files I need in one place from any device.

SnipSnap: Snipping coupons is a thing of the past with SnipSnap. This app lets me easily save coupons and access those saved by others.

Day One: While Evernote is for business, Day One is for pleasure. I'm able to jot down notes and reflect on my day while Day One automatically captures the date and my location.

Tadaa SLR: I leave my digital SLR camera at home now, thanks to TadaaSLR. This app is usually my final destination for photo editing.

1Password: In our digital world, passwords are a necessity. I had a hard time creating and remembering unique passwords until I downloaded this app.

Apps Gone Free: My retirement funds would be in jeopardy if it weren't for discounted apps. Armed with Apps Gone Free, I keep my eyes open for apps on sale.

Expires: This app ensures that I never forget to renew my license or passport again, providing a countdown and alerting me when items I've entered are about to expire.

Hyperlapse: I love taking photos and videos with my iPhone 6 Plus. With Hyperlapse, I'm able to create amazing time-lapse videos like never before.

Camera+: I've rescued numerous mediocre iPhone photos because of Camera+. With so many options, sometimes it's hard to make a final editing decision.



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(\$69.95)

The newly arrived Dry Skinz case for the iPhone 6 raises the bar when it comes to delivering a lightweight, waterproof case

to consumers. Dry Skinz delivers a flawless performance—and at just \$69.95, the price clearly blows the competition out of the water!

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Superior acoustic quality.

Enjoy:

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Fluid screen performance via the scratch-resistant window.

Shock Absorbent:

Sustain from drops and mishaps.

Access:

To all ports, buttons, and the Touch ID fingerprint sensor.

Available in five colors, the case has a clean, distinctive look that accents the design of the iPhone. It is also incredibly comfortable to hold and grip in your hand and can be completely submerged for up to an hour in 6 feet of water. Dry Skinz offers complete waterproof protection for your iPhone 6, so that wherever you may be, you'll be protected... "just in case." Learn more at dryskinz.com.

TOP 10

TIPS & TRICKS

FOR IOS 8

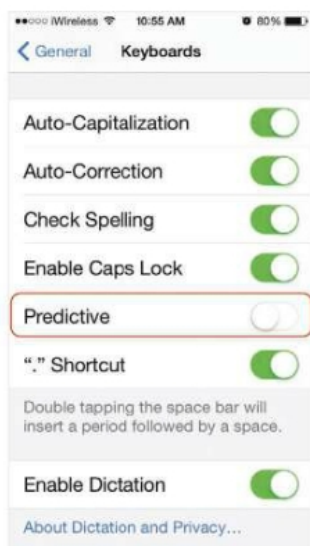
Understanding Apple's Latest OS

by Sarah Kingsbury

W

hile iOS 8 is not as dramatic a redesign as iOS 7 was, Apple's latest mobile operating system includes a host of exciting new features. Some, like predictive text and the ability to use third-party keyboards, are ones users have been requesting for years. Others, like the ability to browse the web more securely or to send audio messages, are delightful surprises. Here are 10 of our favorite iOS 8 tips.

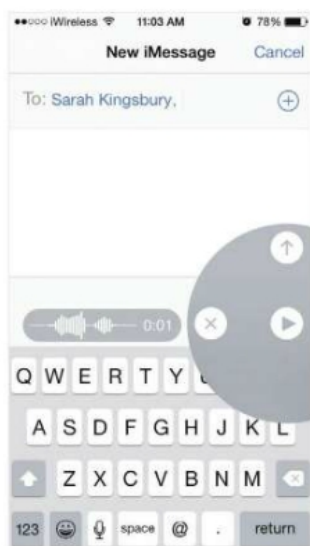
If you enjoy these tips, sign up at iPhoneLife.com/dailytips to get our "Tip of the Day" newsletter.



1

Hide or Turn Off the New Predictive Text Feature

If you find Apple's new predictive text feature to be more of a distraction than a convenience, you'll be happy to know that you can temporarily hide the feature by swiping down on the predictive text field to collapse it. If you change your mind, just swipe up and you'll bring the field back. To banish predictive text completely, go to Settings > General > Keyboard, and toggle Predictive off.



2

Send Audio Messages

Why type "Happy Birthday" when you can send an audio message of yourself singing it to a fellow iPhone user? In Messages, tap and hold the small microphone at the right of your iMessage, and your phone will immediately begin recording. When you're done speaking (or singing), raise your finger and the recording will stop. Tap the play icon to listen before you send, the X to delete the message, or the up arrow to send.



3

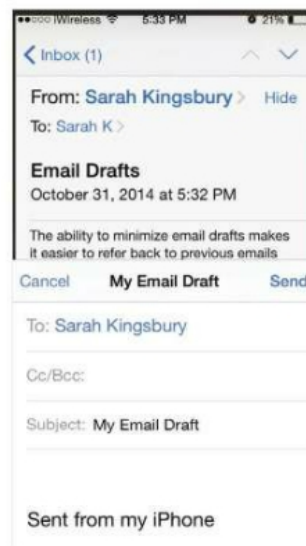
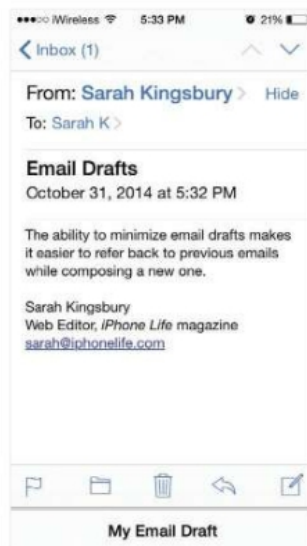
Browse the Web Privately with DuckDuckGo

Apple included a number of new security enhancements in iOS 8, including the ability to browse the web without being tracked. Most search engines collect user information to serve personalized search results and ads. If you want to avoid that, you can now use DuckDuckGo, a search engine that won't profile you the way your default web browser does.

4

Switch Between Emails and Drafts

When composing an email, it's helpful to be able to refer back to other emails for information. You can do this easily by swiping down on the title of the email you are working on to minimize it. All but the title of the draft will disappear from view. To return to your draft, tap on the title located at the bottom of the screen, and finish writing your email.



5

Recover Deleted Photos

Find and recover accidentally

deleted pictures in the Recently Deleted album in the Photos app. Deleted images are stored for 30 days, with each thumbnail showing how many days are left until that photo will be permanently deleted. To recover an individual picture, tap on the image and select Recover. Undelete all the images by tapping Select followed by Recover All.





6

Monitor Battery Usage by App

See how much battery power individual apps are using by going to Settings > General > Usage > Battery Usage. If an app you use infrequently is taxing your battery, this may be a sign that the app isn't working properly or that you need to adjust the app's settings to prevent the running of background processes like frequent data fetching.



7

Recover Recently Closed Safari Tabs

We've all accidentally closed a tab before we were finished with it. Fortunately, recovering recently closed Safari tabs is easy. Tap and hold the "+" icon in the Safari navigation bar (which is normally used to open a new tab). You will see a list of the five most recently closed tabs. Tap on the tab you want to revisit to reopen it.



8

Add a Third-Party Keyboard

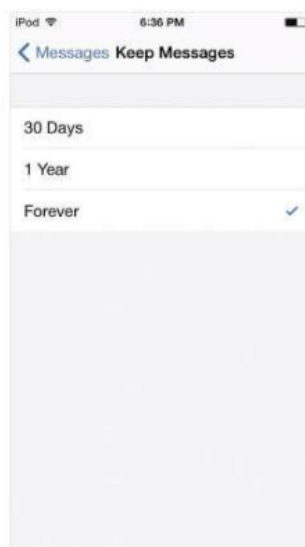
If you're looking for features beyond what the native iOS keyboard has to offer, consider adding a third-party keyboard. First, download a keyboard app in the App Store, such as **Swype** (free). Then go to Settings > General > Keyboard. In Keyboard settings, go to Keyboards > Add New Keyboard, and tap on the keyboard you've downloaded. To use the new keyboard, tap on the globe

icon in the native keyboard, and select your preferred choice.

9

Turn Off Calls on Your Mac and iPad

Let's face it—not everyone loves Apple's new Continuity feature. Having every Apple device you own ring each time you get a phone call is a bit over the top. Plus, if you share an Apple ID with your spouse or children, their devices may also ring when you get a call. To turn the feature off, open FaceTime settings on the iPad or Mac you don't want to ring, and turn iPhone Cellular Calls off.



10

Set Messages to Delete Automatically

Believe it or not, all those messages that you never delete are hogging your iPhone's storage—storage you could be using to download more games and shoot more photos. To solve this problem, simply set your messages to delete automatically by going to Settings > Messages and then tapping Keep Messages. Select 30 days or 1 year, and your iDevice will delete messages older than your chosen time period. If you want to save a special message, take a screenshot of it before it disappears.



Sarah Kingsbury is the web editor of iPhoneLife.com. She goes almost nowhere without her iPhone and is the main contributor to the site's Tip of the Day column. She has over a decade of experience writing and editing for online and print publications.

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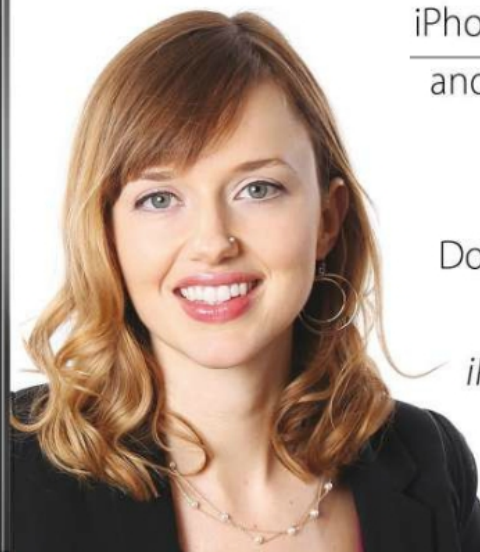
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FEATURED iUSER: *Petrina Hamm*



Age: 41

Location: Apex, NC

One-Line Bio: Petrina is a video blogger, personal trainer, and owner of an online fitness-coaching business at petrinahammfitness.com. She's a dog lover, busy mom to four active children, and home-workout junkie.

Awesome Note: With four kids and a growing business, I have a lot to balance throughout the day, and this note-taking app helps me keep on top of it all.

Vidstitch: I can patch together still images and videos to craft compelling social media posts. This comes in handy for exercise demonstrations and makes creating photo or video collages quick and easy.

RockMyRun: This app's MyBeat technology matches the music to my pace when I run and pushes me to go faster. I can even filter my music by genre, BPM, length, and lyrics.

Earth Fare: Earth Fare is my favorite place to shop for healthy, whole foods, and armed with this money-saving app, I can save on grocery items you don't typically get coupons for, like meat, cheese, and produce.

Cartwheel: I'm frequently hypnotized by the Target bullseye, so it's nice to plan ahead and check off Cartwheel items to save on.

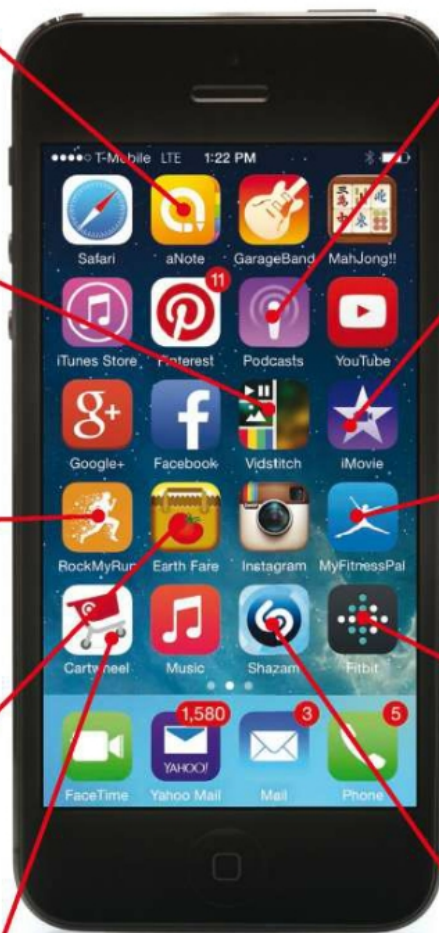
Podcasts: I use this app to squeeze my favorite podcasts in—from *Body IO FM* to *Freakonomics Radio* to *This American Life*—while shuttling kids around or taking my daily walk.

iMovie: This simple and intuitive editing tool makes dressing up my YouTube videos with music, text, and sound effects a breeze.

MyFitnessPal: Not only can I use this app to track my own food intake each day, but I can keep tabs on my clients' habits when they allow me access to their food journals.

Fitbit: My fitness accountability buddy! This app works with my Fitbit to help me keep track of calories burned, steps taken, and even my quality of my sleep.

Shazam: I'm often intrigued by the music playing during commercials or over loud speakers in stores. I love that I can open Shazam and instantly know the song title and artist.



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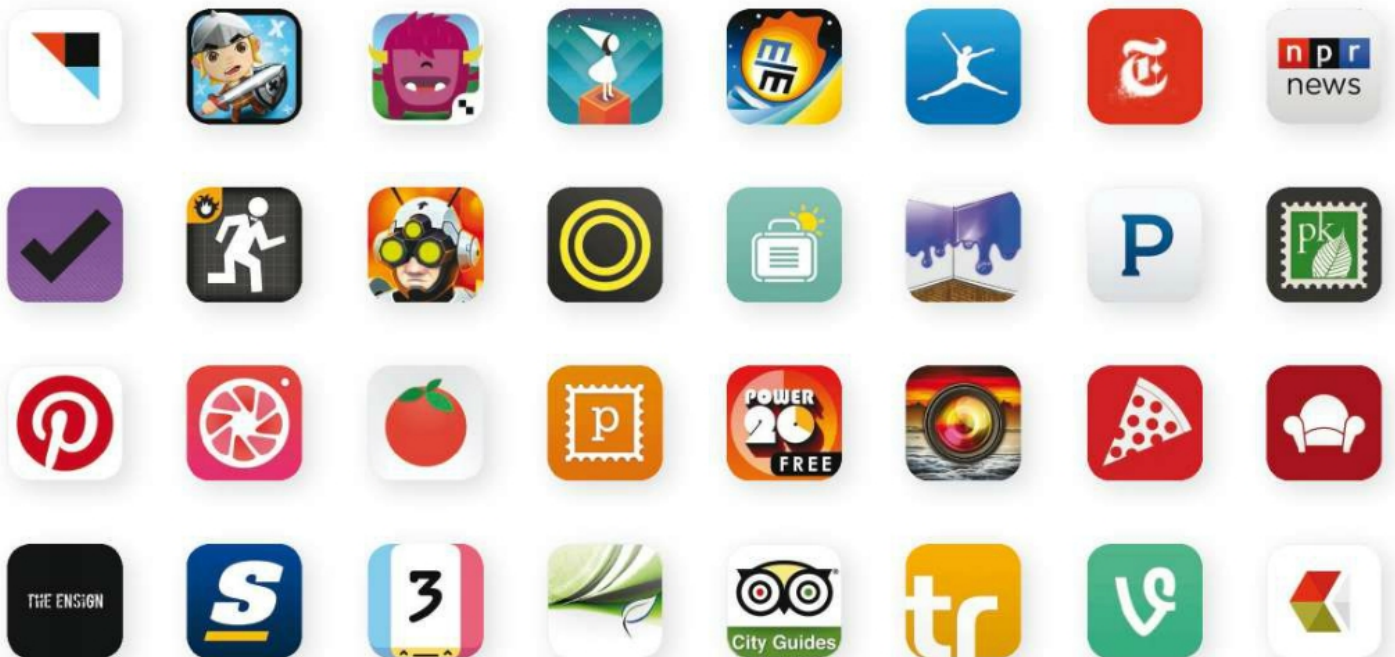
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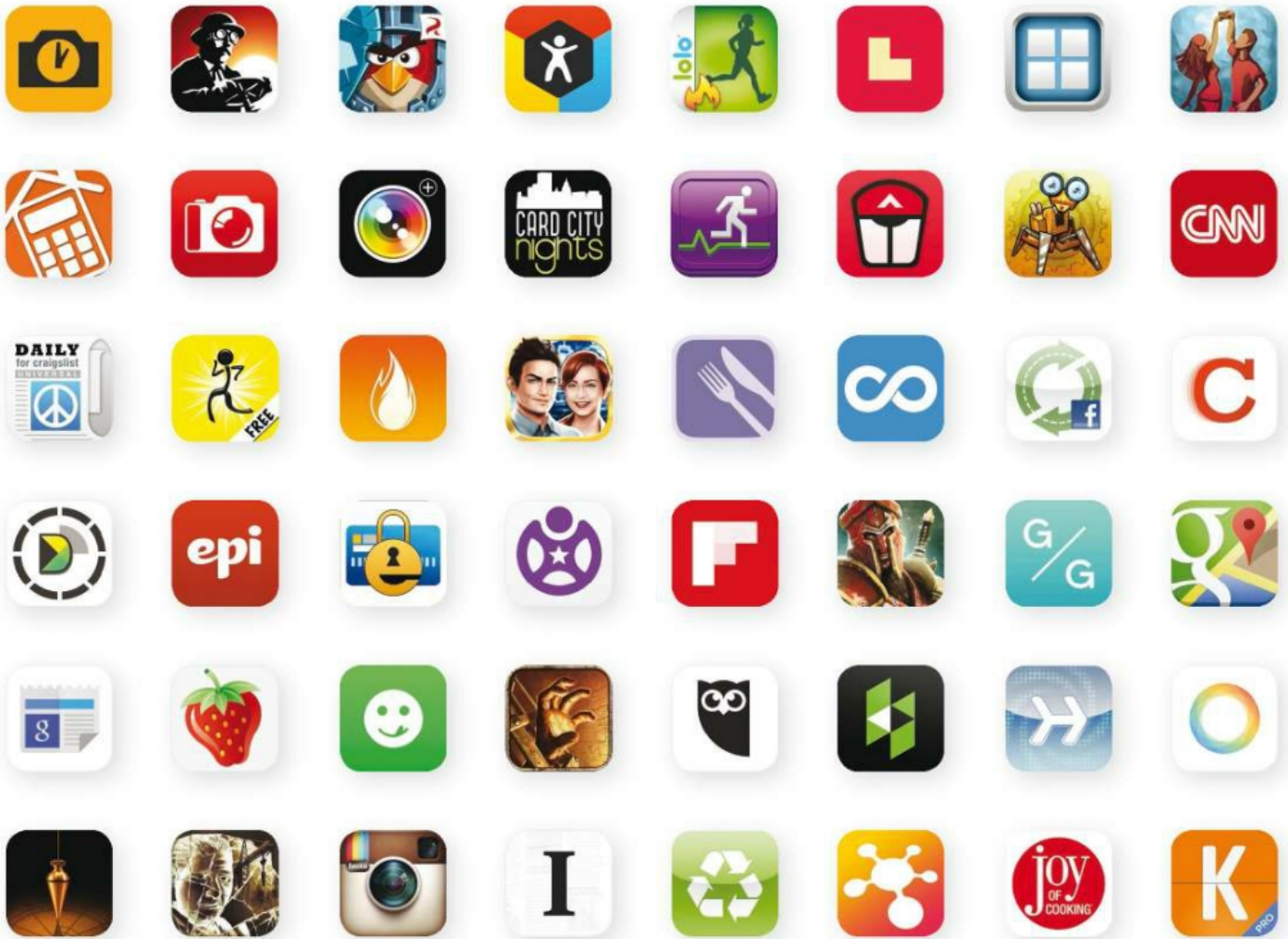
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THE APPS ISSUE

YOUR DEFINITIVE GUIDE





W

e all have certain apps we love; they improve our lives in tangible ways and are consistently reassuring, like a favorite sweater. And like the creatures of habit we are, we tend to stick to what's familiar.



There are more than a million apps in the App Store, a number increasing by as much as 60 thousand per month, according to advertising analytics firm Adjust. Yet the average person only uses a couple dozen apps, according to consumer research



firm Nielsen. So if you suspect you're missing out on a world of cool apps, it's probably because you are!



To help you solve this problem, we've compiled a comprehensive guide of our all-time favorite apps, from mind-sharpening puzzlers to productivity-inspiring picks, plus the top 10 essentials no iPhone user should live without. Try bringing something new into your usual app rotation—you won't regret it!



BEST APPS

THE ESSENTIALS

BEHIND THE SCENES



Instagram (Free)

When Stanford graduates Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger launched Instagram in 2010, they had no way of knowing how huge an audience the photo-sharing app would gain. After gathering 25,000 users in the first 24 hours, however, they began to suspect its potential. The popular app allows users to capture pictures, apply filters, and share their finished product with fellow photo enthusiasts. Within three months of its

release, Instagram's user base had exploded to one million, and it continues to grow by leaps and bounds. Unsurprisingly, the startup soon grabbed the attention of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, who purchased the profitless app for a total of \$1 billion.



THE BASICS



Pandora (Free)

Pandora's Internet radio app is a staple for iPhone owners, allow-

ing them to customize stations according to their tastes from a database of over 1.5 million tunes.



The Weather Channel (Free)

The Weather Channel is a functional app for staying up to date on the

forecast, featuring an elegant interface, weather-related news, and a detailed 10-day forecast.



Dropbox (Free)

Dropbox is a widely recognized file-hosting service—and for good

reason. This app is perfect for backing up your iPhone's irreplaceable photos, documents, and videos.



Google Maps (Free)

Google's app offers voice-guided GPS navigation, detailed business information, and, best of all, auto-

matic rerouting based on traffic.



YouTube (Free)

Subscribe to your favorite channels and spend hours watching

everything from cuddly kittens to useful tutorials with this popular video-sharing app.



Evernote (Free)

This app's sophisticated note-taking software and ability to manage

content with tags and notebooks make it a must-have for those who are looking to get more organized.

GET SOCIAL



Facebook (Free)

Over one billion people actively use Facebook to share photos, post

status updates, and keep in touch with friends, making it the most downloaded app in the App Store.



Twitter (Free)

This popular social media app lets you use photos, videos, and

brief 140-character posts to connect with others and stay informed about what's going on in the world.



Pinterest (Free)

Test out a new recipe, get crafty, or brainstorm interior design ideas

right from this image-based sharing app that allows users to create boards filled with visual bookmarks.

"When it comes to being active and on the go, the iPhone/iPro Lens combo is perfect!"

OMAR SALAZAR – PROFESSIONAL SKATEBOARDER

"The iPro add-on lenses make me feel that my still and video images have an extra something."

DANNA KINSKY – CINEMATOGRAPHER

"It's like my iPhone transformed into a Cellular DSLR"

DANIEL MCELDERRY – ACTION SPORTS VIDEOPHOTOGRAPHER



Take Pro Photos & Video Wherever You Take your iPhone or Galaxy S4

The idea behind the iPro Lens System is not to offer you another camera, but to enhance the one you already have – Your iPhone or Galaxy S4. Each lens easily bayonet mounts and lets you capture more in every shot.



The pocket-sized lens case securely protects your lenses, doubles as a universal tripod mount and also makes a comfortable handle. And the rugged phone case is specially engineered to effortlessly accept the lenses and tripod mount. Try our systems for iPhone 4 through 5S, Samsung Galaxy S4 and iPads. Suddenly, your smart phone is even better than you thought it was.

iPro Lens
system™



Macro



Fisheye



Super Wide



Wide Angle



2X Tele

www.iProLens.com

See us at CES LVH #50018 & MacWorld/iWorld Expo #908

Schneider OPTICS

BEST APPS

PHOTO & VIDEO

BEHIND THE SCENES



Little Moments (\$1.99)

What started as a personal weight-loss blog became Australian native Chantelle Ellem's inspiration for her hit photo-editing app, Little Moments. In 2012, the blogger began to gain a large following for her "Photo A Day" challenge on her site, fatmumslim.com. And though photo prompts weren't new to the blogging world then, making them into monthly challenges with a hashtag attached was uncommon. A year and a

few thousand fans later, the mother of two decided it was time to create an app to aid her photography protégés. She crafted an app that provides daily inspirational prompts, as well as offers filters, quotes, and designs from a collection of creative artists.



VIDEO APPS



Hyperlapse (Free)

This standalone app by Instagram converts videos as long as 45 minutes

into smooth, time-lapse recordings that are up to 12 times faster than the original.



Magisto (Free)

Turn your iPhone videos into basic movies by trimming frames, ap-

plying filters, changing transitions, and even adding your own music and sound effects.



Vine (Free)

This Twitter-owned app lets you produce, edit, and share six-second

looping videos. You'll be surprised by how much you can convey in just a few seconds!

CREATIVE CAMERA TOOLS



Slow Shutter Cam (\$0.99)

This app is designed to capture beautiful trailing lights, blurred subjects

in motion, and sharp images in low lighting with its extended exposure settings.



Pro HDR (\$1.99)

Pro HDR lets you create dynamic photos by taking two separate shots

of the same scene—one overexposed, the other underexposed—and combining them into a single image.



ProCamera 8 (\$3.99)

Trust us, iPhoneographers, you won't regret this purchase. ProCam-

era 8 offers advanced editing capabilities and vivid HDR settings that put your built-in Camera app to shame.



Camera+ (\$2.99)

Camera+ is easy to master and packed with tons of great features,

including a quality digital zoom and the ability to set your exposure and focus separately.



Camera Noir (\$1.99)

There's something so timeless and classy about black-and-white

photography. Camera Noir now lets you apply shades of gray to your images in real-time!



IFTTT (Free)

When you take pictures with your Camera app, you can tell IFTTT to

automatically back up all your shots to a cloud service such as Google Drive.

EDITING & EFFECTS



VSCO Cam

(Free)

Looking for an editing tool that celebrates the classic look of film?

You'll love VSCO Cam, with its authentic-looking filters, minimalist design, and high-quality exports.



Pomelo

(Free)

Watch out, VSCO Cam! This popular competitor offers a collection of

professional filters, a smooth interface, and one-tap adjustment controls.



Diptic PDQ

(\$0.99)

You don't have to blow up your Facebook feed with dozens of pictures

in a row. Diptic lets you combine multiple images into one to create collages that say it all, with your choice of layouts and borders.



Union

(\$1.99)

All the tools you need to create stunning double exposures and super-

imposed images are at your fingertips with this powerful image-blending app. Simply upload your images, layer them, and make adjustments as needed.



Snapseed

(Free)

You can't go wrong with this easy-to-use photo editor. Enhance specific

parts of your image with Snapseed's quick adjustment tool, and employ creative filters and sharpening techniques to bring your photos to life.



Over

(\$1.99)

Want to emulate those trendy text-overlaid images you keep seeing

everywhere? Add beautiful typography to your photos with this app's original designs—or create your own!

TRAVEL

APPS FOR PLANNING AND EXPLORING



PackPoint

(Free)

With PackPoint, you'll never have to worry about forgetting your

camera or hiking boots again! This app lists what you need to pack based on your destination and plans, suggesting everything from toiletries to clothing.



TripAdvisor City Guides

(Free)

Traveling into the unknown with no clue of where to go once you

reach your destination? TripAdvisor offers thousands of user-based reviews and informational tidbits, as well as self-guided tours of many major cities.



Kayak Pro

(\$0.99)

Use this go-to travel app to manage your itineraries, track your flights,

and find the best deals available on plane tickets, car rentals, and hotels. Also included are a currency converter and terminal maps for over 100 airports.



Trover

(Free)

If you enjoy discovering beautiful locations and unique establishments

all over the world, then you'll love this visual guide brimming with enthusiastic explorers. Offer tips, tag locations, and share inspiring photos.



WhatsApp Messenger

(Free)

By using your iPhone's Internet connection, WhatsApp lets you send

unlimited text messages, pictures, videos, and audio notes to fellow WhatsApp users all over the world—without additional international charges!



Touchnote Postcards

(Free)

Transform the vacation pictures on your iPhone into memorable post-

cards that can be delivered right to your loved one's mailbox. Simply upload your photo, write a message, and Touchnote sends it off for you!

HEALTH & FITNESS

BEHIND THE SCENES



MyFitnessPal (Free)

Gone are the days of counting calories and tracking workout reps by hand. Health and fitness apps are everywhere, letting you enter and store data effortlessly on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch. At the top of the health-app heap is none other than MyFitnessPal. Programmer Mike Lee invented this juggernaut after he and his wife resolved to lose weight for their beach wedding. Daunted by the task of researching

each meal using a book with thousands of nutrition listings, Lee was sure there was a simpler way to search and track foods on the go. He began by launching a calorie-tracking website in 2005, and, with the help of his brother, developed an app for iOS in 2009. MyFitnessPal now claims to have helped over 65 million people lose weight.



FOR STRENGTH & RESISTANCE TRAINING



Cody (Free)

Train with the world's best coaches via video. Try yoga, strength training, and power lifting with programs for beginners and elite athletes alike.

ing, and power lifting with programs for beginners and elite athletes alike.



Power 20 (\$2.99)

Great for travelers, this app's equipment-free, full-body workouts help

you build strength and muscle in just 20 minutes a day.



Fitocracy (Free)

Connect with coaches and fellow fitness buffs, gain access to free

workouts, stay motivated with "props" from fellow users, and track your performance.



EveryMove (Free)

Enjoy the support of a global fitness community to help motivate you

to change your habits. Track your activity, join challenges, and earn discounts on apparel.



Tabata Trainer (\$1.99)

Push your body with high-intensity, high-interval training based on

the Tabata method. This app guides you through intense bursts of activity with plenty of routines to choose from.



Argus (Free)

Whether you're running, biking, sleeping, or eating, Argus tracks it all.

This app is making waves by analyzing biofeedback data for improved health.

NUTRITION & WELLNESS



CARROT Fit (\$2.99)

Part app, part sadist, CARROT Fit threatens and ridicules you into

shape, featuring a short but deadly "7 Minutes in Hell" workout.



Lift (Free)

Reach your potential by choosing goals and sticking to them. Lift

combines coaching, community support, and data tracking to help keep you motivated.



HealthyOut (Free)

Dining out is the downfall of most dieters.

HealthyOut helps you find healthy dishes at restaurants near you, filtering by cuisine type, nutrition, and max calories.



ShopWell

(Free)

The grocery store can be hazardous for those on a weight-loss, vegan, or gluten-free diet, but ShopWell helps you find foods that fit your needs.



Harvest

(\$1.99)

Find in-season fruits and vegetables in your area, and get tips for choosing and properly storing produce. You can also check pesticide levels in foods.



Lose It!

(Free)

Lose It! members have collectively lost over 35 million pounds by tracking calories, building personalized meal plans, and making smarter choices.

RUNNING & CARDIO TRAINING



Beat Burn Treadmill/Outdoor Trainer

(\$3.99)

Beat Burn is a personal trainer and DJ in one that coaches you while playing tracks with a beat that matches your running pace.



Cardio Smackdown!

(Free)

A unique spin on your standard pedometer, Cardio Smackdown! connects to Game Center so you can challenge friends to real-time cardio races.



Daily Cardio Workout

(Free)

This portable personal trainer delivers daily 5–10 minute workouts complete with video demonstrations anytime, anywhere.



RunKeeper

(Free)

This hit running app features easy-to-follow programs, tracking your routes with GPS and recording your pace, distance, and calories burned.



MapMyRun

(Free)

Track your run in detail, from route to distance to minutes per mile. Great for travelers who want to share their routes from around the world.



DailyBurn

(\$9.99/month)

Choose from over 100 video workouts, from strength training to aerobics to yoga. A wide variety of programs and trainers keep things interesting.

Tactio Health App

Track Your 2015 Healthy Resolutions

The Tactio Health App coaches you to lose weight, sleep better, be physically more active, lower your blood pressure. It even helps manage pregnancy or diabetes.

Healthy. Active. Connected.

Download on the App Store

SlimClip

SlimClipCase.com

Can Your iPhone Case Do This?

With SlimClip Case by theWTFactory you can Run, Jump, WorkOut, Hand-Stand, Look Great & Be Great! Don't deal with awkward armbands or bulky traditional clip cases. Forget about bra stuffing your iPhone, putting it down to workout, or holding it in your hand while you get fit.

SHARE on or from SlimClipCase.com for 25% OFF your order

PRODUCTIVITY

BEHIND THE SCENES



iThoughts (\$9.99)

This mindmapping app helps users work toward their goals intuitively, whether they're planning a day in the country or writing their next great novel. App developer Craig Scott of toketaWare founded iThoughts as a hobby in 2008, seeing an opportunity to harness the iPhone's colorful touch interface. "There is something visceral about physically manipulating your thoughts and ideas with your fingers," he said. "The

ubiquity of iPhones and iPads make them perfect for mind-mapping, as people's best ideas often happen when they are away from the desk." Six years and over 140 software updates later, Scott now works full time on iThoughts from his home in the UK.



MANAGING YOUR LIFE



Asana (Free)

Collaborate on everything from sales to publishing schedules

with this project manager that offers free accounts for small businesses and individuals.



Hootsuite (Free)

Manage all your social media interactions in one place, be it for personal communication or a social media campaign. You can even schedule posts in advance!



eWallet (\$9.99)

It's hard to remember the variety of passwords we need these

days. The eWallet app keeps track of everything, from passwords to credit card numbers to passport information.



OmniFocus 2 (\$29.99 for iPad, \$19.99 for iPhone)

Use this personal task manager to plan your

daily errands, set reminders, and optimize time by organizing your life around projects and contexts.



Google Drive (Free)

This file-storage service lets you back up all your photos, videos, and

documents in one secure place. View files offline, search files by name, and even share folders with friends.



Pomodoro (\$1.99)

Balance is an essential ingredient for productivity. Structure your work-

day with 25-minute intervals of work followed by rest, fashioned after the Pomodoro Technique.

GATHERING NEWS & INFORMATION



Instapaper (Free)

This go-to app is perfect for capturing content from the web and other

apps and saving it for later perusal. The premium version even indexes and reads to you from the web.



LinkedIn Pulse (Free)

Easily stay up-to-date with the latest stories you care about using

this specialized news app that helps track and organize content that's tailored to you.



Flipboard (Free)

Flipboard takes content from across the web and transforms it into

beautiful magazines of social media feeds and information that you can easily like and repost.

Get Gift Inspiration Sponsored by GiftShopper



GiftShopper

(\$1.99)

Never forget to buy a loved one a gift for a special occasion again! GiftShopper is a stylish app for collecting, organizing, and sharing your gift ideas. It tracks your purchases and ensures that you stay within your gift-giving budget. It's ideal for Christmas, Thanksgiving, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, graduations, and other special events. Easily create, manage, and edit lists with this fully iOS 8-compatible app. Add recipients directly from your iPhone Contacts, tag gifts as "Purchased" or "Not yet purchased," and snap photos to accompany gift ideas. GiftShopper is your best companion when it comes to gift shopping and collecting gift ideas!



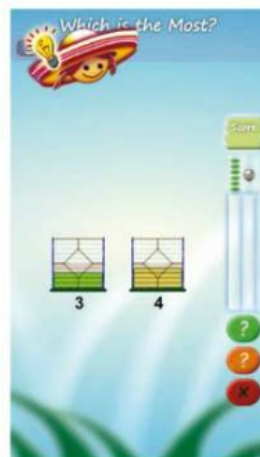
Teach Children Math Sponsored by KidsCalculate



KidsCalculate Math Basics

(Free)

KidsCalculate Math Basics is a brand new app that uses the methods of exploration, visualization, and practice to teach children ages 4 to 9 mathematical concepts that are the foundation of all quantitative reasoning. KidsCalculate developer Marius Versteegen has come up with an innovative new system that expands upon the traditional Abacus, Montessori stacking, and number line methods. This highly recommended cross-platform app features a number of difficulty levels, colorful animations, and prizes to help children develop confidence in counting, addition, subtraction, multiplication tables, and learning numbers.



Productivity Solutions Sponsored by iCubemedia

For Businesses



Invoice Manager

(\$4.99)

This app suite is an all-in-one business solution. Create invoices and time sheets, track receipts and inventory, and more with no monthly fees.



iWord Processor Pro

(\$4.99)

Use this powerful word processor with a built-in file manager to create, edit, and manage documents, and annotate PDFs and record audio.



Receipt Scanner

(\$3.99)

Scan your personal and business receipts, log your mileage, create time sheets, and generate and email expense reports.



PDF Professional With Word Processor

(\$4.99)

Create and edit PDF documents. Draw, sketch, or add text to fill in forms and sign your documents. Includes highlighters, or sticky notes, and stamps.

For Students



NoteScribe

(\$5.99)

Toss out all your other note-taking apps! NoteScribe lets you dictate notes using Siri, take handwritten notes, and much more.



Super Scanner

(\$4.99)

This handy app lets you quickly and efficiently scan, store, and share any document in high-quality PDF format.



Expense Tracker & Easy Budget

(\$2.99)

Use this app to track expenses and incomes for multiple users, and set separate profiles for different types of projects or activities.



Audio Notes - Recorder, Notes, Memos, Photos

(\$2.99)

Quickly record and edit voice memos, add background music, and attach text notes with photos to your recordings.

BEST APPS

NEWS & INFORMATION

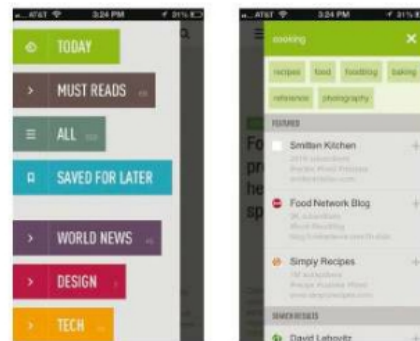
BEHIND THE SCENES



Feedly (Free)

This brilliantly crafted news reader, chock full of practical and useful features, sources content from over 40 million web-sites, suggesting feeds to users based on their search and follow history. Feedly got its start in 2008, but it wasn't until Google cancelled Reader in 2013 that it really took off, multiplying its user base from 1 to 15 million. While it partially has

Google to thank for its success, Feedly's Content and Community Manager Josh Catone says the company has worked hard to earn its success. "We put a lot of effort into the design and user interface of Feedly, and we think that the reading experience is the best on the market."



STAYING INFORMED



Google News and Weather (Free)

Showcasing top headlines and local forecast

at a glance, this intuitive app delivers personalized content in a streamlined, minimalist way.



theScore (Free)

Never miss out on the game! Whatever your favorite sport, this app

delivers all the latest updates, including goal and player alerts.



NPR News (Free)

This app does an excellent job of delivering NPR's insightful, eclectic,

and far-reaching headlines, covering everything from local to international news.



CNN (Free)

CNN is a trusted source for up-to-the-minute coverage of current

events. The app delivers world-class reporting, plus live TV for those with cable or satellite accounts.



Weather Underground (Free)

Pioneering a new trend in hyper-local weather reporting, Weather Un-

derground features community-sourced reports from users and independently owned weather stations.



Readability (Free)

What started as a way to strip down articles for improved readability is

now a full-fledged platform for discovering, bookmarking, and sharing interesting articles.

DID YOU KNOW?

Smartphones Drive Eyewitness News

Thanks to the wide adoption of mobile devices, citizens are making contributions to news coverage by taking photos or videos on their smartphones as events unfold. According to the Pew Center's 2014 "State of the Media" report, 1 in 10 social network users have shared a video or photo they took of a current event, such as the Ukrainian uprising or riots in Ferguson, MO.

EDUCATION

FOR LEARNING ON THE GO



Coursera

(Free)

Lifelong learners will love Coursera—it offers over 600 free online

courses from more than 100 universities and learning institutions around the world. Study everything from music to medicine, whether you're at home or on the go.



TED

(Free)

An excellent source of inspiration for learners of all ages, this app

presents more than 1,700 TEDTalk videos from some of the world's most interesting people in business, music, tech, medicine, and education.



Lumosity

(Free)

Train your brain and challenge your attention with this intellect-

strengthening app. Designed by neuroscientists and used by over 60 million people worldwide, Lumosity is the perfect 15-minute workout for your brain.



Khan Academy

(Free)

Whether you're studying modern chemistry, reading up on Medieval

Europe, or prepping for the SATs, Khan Academy's 4,200-plus videos and articles can help you learn about most anything for free.



Duolingo

(Free)

Learn new languages on the go with a fun assortment of mini games

designed to test your writing, reading, and speaking skills. You can play solo or against friends, and pick up where you left off on other devices.



Bitsboard

(Free)

Bitsboard is a great freemium learning tool, aimed primarily at

elementary, middle, and high school students. Interactive games and flash cards combine with a platform that remembers your answers and tailors gameplay accordingly.

We'll purchase your no-longer-used PDAs, smartphones, iOS devices, and laptops!

**We buy and sell
IN VOLUME!**

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Buying & Selling used mobile devices since 1985

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GAMES

BEHIND THE SCENES



Revolution 60

(Free)

This movie-length adventure game combines outlandish animation with an excellent story, pitch-perfect voice acting, and challenging battles. "It's the game I've always dreamed of making," said creator Brianna Wu. Her all-woman design team at Giant Spacekat came together more by chance than intention, she said. "They ended up being the people who got the feeling we wanted." The creative process, which involved build-

ing scenes and getting the music just right, as well as the collaborative company culture at Giant Spacekat are what make game development Wu's passion. After nearly three years, her team's vision and determination culminated in this must-own action game.



GET PUZZLING



Threes!

(\$1.99)

This unassuming puzzler is taking iOS gaming by storm. The simple

premise of combining similar numbers is, in fact, deceptively hard and seriously addicting.



Kiwanuka

(\$1.99)

Use your group of tiny, colorful people to build towers, bridges, and

more in this mad-world puzzler where the challenge is simply to reach the exit.



LEX

(\$0.99)

Can a word game make your heart pound? With only ten letters, strict

usage limits, and no duplicates allowed, LEX does just that!

STRATEGIZE THIS!



Angry Birds Epic

(Free)

The birds are back, wearing silly costumes and brandishing odd

weapons as they battle evil pigs in a new role-playing adventure version of the popular series.



Final Fantasy VI

(\$15.99)

This touchscreen-optimized installment of the 1994 console favor-

ite painstakingly recreates the artwork and gameplay of the original.



OTTTD

(\$4.99)

Quite possibly the best tower defense game for iOS in years, OTTTD

crams in everything you'd ever want, from creeps to squads to a compelling sci-fi storyline.



Card City Nights

(\$1.99)

Part adventure, part custom-combat game, Card City Nights is an

epic card-trading battle against the underworld for eight legendary cards.



Supernauts

(Free)

Both family-friendly and social, this well-designed, colorful game

has you build an epic world in order to save the last survivors on earth.



Hellraid: The Escape

(\$2.99)

Don't lose your head just because you're stuck in hell. You'll need

your wits about you to break free in this part-escape, part-adventure game.

FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS



FarmVille 2: Country Escape

(Free)

Endlessly charming and chock-full of fun tasks, this popular resource-management sequel is great to play with the whole family.



LEGO Star Wars The New Yoda Chronicles

(Free)

Choose your side and make your mark in the Empire. Play through fast-paced mini-games, and join either Yoda or Vader to determine your fate.



Monsters Ate My Birthday Cake

(\$4.99)

In this delightful game, you awake to find that your birthday cake has been eaten by monsters! Now you and your trusty wiener dog have to find the culprits.

ADVENTURE TIME



Godfire

(\$2.99)

Legends come alive in this gorgeous free-exploration adventure game. Battle monsters and immerse yourself in this epic storyline with awe-inspiring visuals.



Leo's Fortune

(\$4.99)

Fluffy Leo has lost his gold, and you must lead him through some of the most beautiful scenes ever created for iOS to help him find it.



Wayward Souls

(\$6.99)

From its detailed pixel art to randomly generated dungeons, this mobile rogue will more than satisfy your need for battles, booty, spells, and rewards.



VVVVVV

(\$2.99)

This award-winning atmospheric explorer is the much-awaited iOS version of one of the best PC games of 2010.



80 Days

(\$4.99)

Create your own path in an intuitive and rich narrative gameplay experience that turns Jules Verne's classic tale on its head.



In Fear I Trust

(\$2.99)

Survival horror gets a much-needed reboot in this dark, psychological escape that's equal parts thriller, adventure game, and logic puzzle.

THE BEST OF THE INDIES



Monument Valley

(\$3.99)

A dreamworld of beautiful artwork and challenging puzzles make this Escher-esque game an instant classic.



CLARC

(\$3.99)

A helpful robot makes his way through a hand-drawn landscape of complex puzzles in an attempt to save his factory from an invading spaceship.



The Ensign

(\$0.99)

Discover how you really ended up on the planet in the first place. The minimalistic prequel to the popular game Dark Room plays more like a turn-based RPG.



Sometimes You Die

(\$1.99)

What if the point of a game is to die? With 80 levels, hidden content, and strange expectations, this clever game will leave you wondering if dying is the answer.



Dismantlement Sushi

(Free)

Armed with nothing more than a screwdriver (cleverly disguised as the tip of your finger), tap and tilt your way through the riddle of your sushi dinner.



Doggins

(\$3.99)

An adventure of epic cuteness, Doggins will take on a squirrel, space, and time travel while looking dapper and behaving like the gentleman he is.

BEST APPS

FOOD & DRINK

BEHIND THE SCENES



SideChef (Free)

Kevin Yu, the creator of SideChef, wasn't always a good cook. It was Yu's own haphazard cooking adventures that led him to the idea for SideChef, an app aimed at making recipes easy to master with step-by-step instructions and how-to videos. By its release in August 2014, SideChef had already culled over 100 recipes from a variety of blogs. The app is not only helpful, but fun, allowing you to share and

rate recipes of other users and keep a photo journal of successful creations. As it turns out, today's tech-based food culture emulates the essence of cooking in the past—bringing people together, whether online or around the table.



DINE IN, DINE OUT & DELIVERY



Doughbot (\$0.99)

Got a hankering for a gooey glazed doughnut? This app locates the

nearest doughnut shops in town, then lets you upload photos and rate the confections.



Urbanspoon (Free)

In a new city and unsure of where to dine? Consult Urbanspoon—it lets

you read restaurant reviews, browse menus, and even make reservations right from the app.



Seamless (Free)

Use Seamless to place your takeout order with one of more than

12,000 participating restaurants and get your food delivered right to your door.



Push for Pizza (Free)

Have your favorite pizza delivered right to your home with this easy-to-

use app created by a team of hungry New Yorkers. Simply enter your info, and wait for the pie to arrive!



Cover (Free)

Splitting the bill with friends is a cinch with this new pay-by-phone

restaurant app—you don't even have to wait for the check before you walk out!



Drizly (Free)

Drizly transforms your iPhone into a personal, on-demand liquor store,

delivering wine, beer, and liquor to your doorstep in just 20–40 minutes.

COOKING IN THE KITCHEN



Epicurious Recipes & Shopping List (Free)

Epicurious features over 30,000 editorially tested

recipes, as well as voice command for hands-free cooking and a shopping list tool to keep you organized.



Joy of Cooking (\$6.99)

The *Joy of Cooking* cookbook is brought to life with this color-

ful, interactive app featuring a trove of classic recipes, interactive tools, and illustrations.



New York Times Cooking (Free; iPad only)

As well as hosting over 15,000 recipes and im-

ages, this app lets you search meals by ingredient or cuisine, save your favorite dishes, and watch tutorials.

MUSIC

FOR LISTENING



Spotify

(Free)

Spotify's friendly user interface, organized playlists, and catalog

of over 20 million songs make it one of the top music-streaming apps in the industry.



SoundCloud

(Free)

Discover new music among a community of rising artists, follow your

favorite musicians, and upload your own recordings for others to enjoy.



Shazam

(Free)

Identify songs on the radio simply by opening Shazam and tapping a

button to have it listen. Once the app recognizes the song, download it in iTunes or favorite it in Spotify or Rdio!



Beats Music

(Free)

Offering millions of tracks and handpicked playlists, Beats Music

lets you create your own mixes based on your mood and activity.



Slacker Radio

(Free)

Slacker Radio makes up for having a relatively small music library by

providing diverse station offerings, including sports and comedy channels.



Rdio

(Free)

This app pays attention to songs you like and dislike to deliver

personalized stations over time, pulling content from a huge catalog of over 30 million songs.

FOR PLAYING



GarageBand

(\$4.99)

Transform your iDevice into a high-tech recording studio complete

with instruments with this app that lets you create your own music and share it with others.



djay 2

(\$9.99; iPad only)

Serious DJs will love this easy-to-use app that lets you remix music

from iTunes and Spotify. You can create your own mixes, record on the fly, or enable Automix mode.



Hum

(\$1.99)

Inspiration can strike at the most inconvenient times! Hum lets you

record audio and produce notes on the go so you can better keep track of your song ideas.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Rise of Free Online Music Streaming

Spotify cofounder Daniel Ek was only 23 years old when he and Martin Lorentzon started the popular music-streaming service in 2006. By 2008, Spotify launched its app, and by 2014 Spotify was estimated to be worth over \$8.3 billion, offering 1.5 billion playlists to over 40 million active users worldwide. The service continues to grow by leaps and bounds, adding over 20,000 songs to its database daily.

SPONSORED APPS

FEATURED



ATracker (Free)

If you've ever wanted to make better use of your time, then you'll love this brilliant time-tracking app. ATracker's minimalist user interface makes managing your time and boosting productivity a breeze. To start or stop recording an activity, simply tap a task from the list of your predefined tasks on the main screen. You can define unique tasks with names or icons, as well as with color-coding and timers. ATracker creates beautiful

pie charts, bar charts, and reports for specific time periods for your analysis. You can also export your data in CSV format.



My Singing Monsters (Free)

Think you've seen and heard it all when it comes to world-builder games? Think again! My Singing Monsters is an addictive, imaginative mixture of resource- and time-management gameplay, filled with catchy songs that you'll be humming all day long. You collect and breed dozens of cute characters that dance, chow down on treats, and most importantly, sing! Each island has its own unique song that becomes more impressive as you grow your monster orchestra. Even though you can speed your progress along with

in-app purchases, all of the game's characters and worlds are available entirely for free. If you love music, monsters, and nonstop fun, this is definitely the game for you!



SPOTLIGHT



Motto Dots (Free)

We've all wondered what our life purpose is at some point in our lives.

With Motto Dots, you can define what that purpose is among a community of fellow seekers and encourage one another along the way. Users write out their mottos—personalized with pictures and fonts—and then post them to Motto Dots for others to enjoy. This app is one of the few social networks with a real social purpose, aiming to create positive change on an individual and global level.



Sports Betting (Free)

Millions of sports fans use this app to place bets on their favorite

games—from baseball to football and everything in between! Sports Betting covers thousands of sporting events all over the world, with the latest betting odds, reduced juice (low vig), and multiple betting options (parlay, straight bets, and teasers). You can even see upcoming game schedules and receive loyalty rewards. Experience the thrill of sports betting no matter where you are.



Life Inventory (\$9.99)

Cultivate a greater understanding of your personality with this app that has you record and analyze your reactions to the world around you.



6 takes! (\$1.99)

Collect as few bullheads as possible and place your cards to force your opponent to complete rows as you advance through three levels of difficulty.



iNutrients (\$3.99)

Save information about the food you eat. iNutrients not only keeps track

of your food intake, but collects data concerning your meal's vital nutrients.



MAPS.ME Pro (Free)

MAPS.ME Pro offers offline access to detailed maps of every country

in the world and gives you the option to search, bookmark, and create routes.



Bloom Box (\$1.99)

Create a chain reaction by blowing up all the boxes in each puzzle and unlocking bonus levels. If you're a puzzle lover, Bloom Box is an obvious choice.

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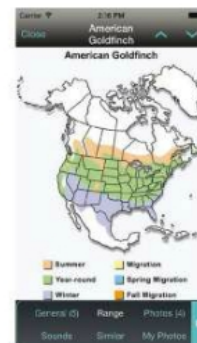
FEATURED



iBird Ultimate Guide to Birds (24.99)

This is the newest, most feature-rich app added to iBird's flock of bird identification apps. The unique "Birds Around Me" feature uses GPS to show you the birds in a specific radius and season. The field marks give the extra edge needed when identifying a tricky species. It includes a new search tool that narrows your choices as you search for a precise result. All 940 North American species are presented with comprehensive

identification, behavior, habitat and ecology information, hand-drawn illustrations, professional photographs, range maps, and playable calls in an absolutely stunning interface. iBird Ultimate has officially raised the bar for reference and field guide technology.



Barcode Scan to Web (\$2.99)

Scan to Web may seem like your basic web browser, but don't be fooled! This app lets you forgo the frustrating process of typing searches and instead provides you the ability to scan product barcodes directly into web fields, whether you're on Google or Wikipedia. You can even scan barcodes into Google Docs or your personal website, making this app a great business tool. Many BYOD operations use the Scan

to Web app with Enterprise Resource Planning software to track shipping and receiving, cycle counts, and inventory. The utility of Scan to Web is similar to the successful Scan to Spreadsheet, another barcode scanning app from Berry Wing LLC.



SPOTLIGHT



Habits Pro (\$4.99)

Habits Pro not only allows you to customize goals to your heart's

content, but also lets you track your habits, emotions, weather, and weight. Featured in *MacLife* and recommended at the International Society for Technology, this app allows you to create tasks, view interactive graphs, and even group items into categories like Live a Healthy Life, Be Social, and Exercise Your Mind. Best of all, you can back up your information via Dropbox or email.



Phrase Party! (\$1.99)

If you are looking for a fun party game to keep family and friends entertained over the holidays, Phrase Party

is that app. Similar to Catch Phrase and Heads Up, this game instructs players to take turns describing the phrases on their screens so teammates can guess the answer. But what separates Phrase Party from the competition is its intuitive design, hilarious phrases, unique turn-based online mode, and addictive single-player mode.



Brainjogging for Kids (\$3.99)

Travel around this island obstacle course filled with thought-provoking

challenges with this educational app for the whole family. As you progress, the games get faster and more complex. Children who play will gain the skills and confidence essential for success in areas like math, language, and coordination. Beautiful graphics and professional voiceovers make for fun, brilliant playtime that helps them grow. Why not play with them? Parents can learn too!



Greenit! (Free)

Looking for a way to add eco-friendly designs to your iPhone pictures?

This must-have app lets users add green icons to your photos.



Find the City (Free)

Find the City is a geography game for kids of all ages. Have fun while

you improve your geography knowledge. Play alone or challenge others.



Glow Puzzle (Free)

Looking for a casual puzzle game to pass the time? Glow Puzzle offers

hundreds of connect-the-dots inspired puzzles that are fun for everyone.

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Finder's Keep (Free)

They say nostalgia ain't what it used to be. But Finder's Keep—an old-school, dungeon-crawling RPG—feeds your gaming nostalgia while serving up an updated spin on the genre for good measure. After a short tutorial, you're plunged into the game with all its looty goodness. From weapons to gear to mysterious, sometimes humorous relics, the loot here is crazy good and mucho plentiful—and managing your spoils

and leveling up your gear is surprisingly addictive. Combat is turn-based, the controls simple. Truly, there's a lot of content here, with challenges doled out in easily-digested morsels. It's a perfect (and addictive) time-killer!



The Wanderful Collection (\$29.99)

The Wanderful Collection includes all nine of Wanderful's award-winning apps bundled into one! This collection features animated adaptations of storybook characters like Arthur, the Berenstain Bears, and many other familiar faces your children have grown to love over the years. Each interactive app provides hours of fun and learning, filled with hilarious surprises. Children improve their reading skills and vocabulary as they read along. These storybooks have long been favorites of children, parents, and teachers

worldwide, and are considered to be classics that cultivate a love of language in young minds.



SPOTLIGHT



Anytune Pro+ (\$14.99)

This app aims to help musicians learn faster and practice more effectively by slowing down songs so that you can better learn them.



Solitaire Whizz Compendium

(Free; iPad-only)
This collection has 28 card games to choose

from, complete with high-resolution graphics and on-screen instructions.



Portrait Painter (\$1.99)

Transform your photos into timeless works of art using this painting app that automatically adds color, light, and texture to your images.



Mikas Mazes (Free)

"Help Mika find ways through the mazes in this cute, fun, addictive game. Avoid gum, and use UPs, bubbles, and secret doors to win."



Textkraft Pocket (\$3.99)

If you've ever thought you would benefit from having a full-blown word processor in your pocket, you should have a look at Textkraft Pocket.



NearZone (Free)

This must-download app lets you chat with people nearby using Bluetooth technology. Use NearZone to find a cab share, study partner, or even a date.

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8 FREE APPS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS

BY ABBEY DUFOE

Y

er, more sustainable you.

our iPhone may not be capable of saving the planet, but it can provide some useful tools to help you tread a little lighter on the earth. With so many green-living guidelines, sometimes you need assistance sorting through the information overload. With the help of these free apps dedicated to recycling, buying cleaner products, and helping you shrink your carbon footprint by reducing emissions, you'll be on your way to becoming a green-



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GoodGuide (Free)

We all go shopping, so why not buy more environmentally conscious products? Whether at home or on the go, GoodGuide helps you find the best eco-friendly food, hair and skin care products, makeup, pet food, and household items. You can use the app's extensive database of cataloged items to research before your trip to the store or scan items in the aisles to see their GoodGuide ratings, which are based on health, environmental, and social impact factors. Now you can be sure that your purchases live up to your new green standards!



PaperKarma (Free)

Not only is it a hassle to deal with all of the catalogs, fliers, and credit card offers that show up every day in your mailbox, but that unwanted mail also contributes to loads of paper waste each year. Luckily, PaperKarma wants to eliminate all those annoying mailings for you. Just take a photo of the offending piece of mail and the app will unsubscribe for you, normally in just 12–24 hours. You can even track the status of the mail you've submitted.



iRecycle (Free)

If you're interested in recycling but aren't sure if your town accepts certain items or even has a pickup service, look no further than iRecycle! This app provides a visually pleasing resource for pinpointing where to recycle everything, from common items like glass and metal to more specific materials, such as compact discs, antifreeze, and paint strippers. iRecycle allows you to search for recycling locations on the main screen by keyword and category and bases search results on your current location.



Dirty Dozen (Free)

If you want to avoid ingesting pesticides and herbicides, then the Dirty Dozen app by the nonprofit Environmental Working Group is for you. This app provides a list of the 12 produce items most likely to contain pesticides, as well as the "clean 15," fruits and veggies you generally don't have to worry about thanks to their low residue levels. The app also lists 48 produce items for your perusal, ordered from most to least contaminated, and includes background information about each item.



Seafood Watch (Free)

This one is for all you seafood lovers! Seafood Watch helps you navigate the often-murky waters of ocean-friendly seafood, providing information on how your fish was caught and where it came from so you can determine whether or not you want to eat it. The search feature lets you quickly look up items, which you can then sort into lists titled "Best Choice," "Good Alternative," or "Avoid." If you want to help other users out, you can add restaurants and stores serving sustainable fish to the app's new crowdsourcing feature, Project FishMap.



Commute Greener (Free)

Everyone gets to the office somehow, and for a lot of us, traveling by car is the most convenient. With Commute Greener, you can help make the ride more eco-friendly. This app makes mapping your journey to work fun, letting you collect points for decreasing your carbon emissions with transportation improvements such as ridesharing, biking, or taking public transportation. If you want to make a game of your new lifestyle, you can even compete against your friends on Facebook. The app is based in Europe, so it uses the metric system, but if you're metric savvy, it's a great way to help lower pollution.



Skeptical Science (Free)

If you are already environmentally conscientious and often find yourself arguing with people about environmental issues, then you might want to check out Skeptical Science by Shine Technologies. The app allows you to search or browse by categories of skeptical arguments and supplies answers based on peer-reviewed scientific journals.

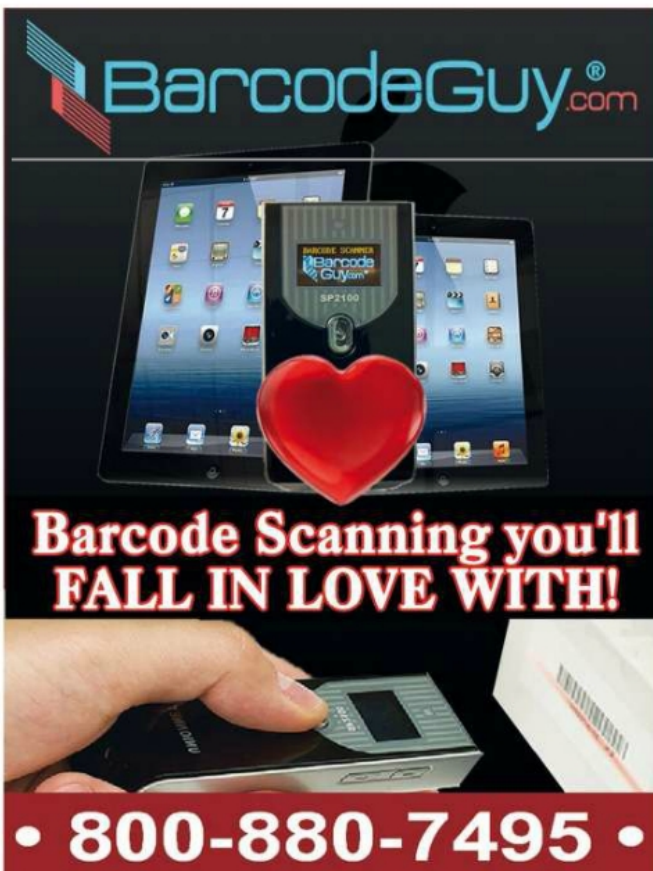


Green Tissue Guide (Free)

This app's rating system helps you determine which paper products are a responsible choice and which ones you should avoid. The app provides a catalog of 150 facial tissue, toilet paper, paper towel, and napkin brands. Green Tissue Guide rates its paper products as either "green" (made from 100 percent recycled paper), "amber" (less than 100 percent recycled paper but Forest Stewardship Council certified), or "red" (containing no recycled paper). 



Abbey Dufoe is a graduate student in environmental journalism. Her friends call her the "app monster," and she's always itching for the newest iOS gadget (current favorite—the iPad Air). She loves concerts, the environment, and ice hockey, but loves tweeting about them even more. Follow her on Twitter @abbeydufoe or visit her blog at abbeydufoe.com.



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HOW TO CONQUER HOME PROJECTS LIKE A PRO

by Adam Harvey

A

nyone who has ever owned a house knows that sometimes you have to take home-improvement matters into your own hands. Whether you're tackling a complete kitchen overhaul or simply slathering on a fresh coat of paint, you'll find fantastic apps out there designed to inspire, offer detailed instructions, and help you manage your projects. Grab your phone and your working clothes—it's time to fix some stuff!



Howcast (Free)

The Howcast app features thousands of fun and useful how-to videos on topics ranging from fixing leaky pipes to priming walls for painting (as well as tons of non-home-related videos). Aside from searching for specific clips, you can also shake your phone to get a surprise video from Howcast. Other features include a Favorites list, so you can save videos you'll want to watch again; History, so you can see what you've viewed in the past; and the ability to share videos with friends via email.



Houzz (Free)

Brimming with over two million high-quality photos, the popular Houzz app is essentially a giant scrapbook of interior design ideas and inspiration. You can organize the photos by room or design style and save your favorites to an Ideabook. See something in a photo that you like, such as a cool-looking office chair or the perfect paint color for your dining room? Houzz helps you identify the item's source so you can make it your own. The app also has helpful how-to articles, discussion threads for users in need of advice, and a location-based "Find a Pro" feature in case you get in over your head.



Paint Tester (Free)

Have you ever purchased a can of paint, started putting it on the wall, and then thought to yourself (or yelled to your spouse), "This is *not* good!"? I imagine everyone has made at least one unfortunate paint choice at some point in time—and it can be a real bummer. Next time you're about to paint a room a new hue, try Paint Tester. The app helps you visualize what a color is going to look like on the walls before you start slapping on the first coat. You can either take a photo of a color you'd like to try or select one from the app's color palette.

BEST APPS

Then, take a photo of the room you're going to paint and use the smart paint bucket tool to virtually paint on the new color.

If you'd prefer to use a paint-simulation tool with colors that correspond precisely to paints you can purchase, try out apps from specific paint brands, such as **Color Capture** (free) by Benjamin Moore, **ColorSnap** (free) by Sherwin-Williams, and **ColorSmart by BEHR Mobile** (free).



Home Improvement Calcs (\$1.99)

I'm not kidding when I say that you could probably build an entire house using this app. It contains more than 115 calculators and conversions of every kind imaginable for things like concrete and brick, lumber, electrical, framing, heating and air conditioning, interiors, yards, and much more. Don't know how many bags of mulch to buy for your yard? No problem. Want to estimate heating for your furnished basement? Piece of cake. Don't sweat spending \$2 on this handy app—it's a do-it-yourselfer's dream!



iHandy Carpenter (\$1.99)

Sure, your iPhone can organize, schedule, and record just about anything, but can it replace the tools in your toolbox? Yes, thanks to iHandy Carpenter! The app's carpenter kit contains five

tools: a plumb bob, a surface level, a bubble level bar, a steel protractor, and a steel ruler. The first three tools mentioned require calibration before you can use them, but once it's completed, these super-handly gadgets are good to go. Bonus: Not only does this app help out with little jobs around the house, but it's also visually appealing, with realistic-looking wood-grain backgrounds and dramatic lighting effects.



My Measures and Dimensions (\$2.99)

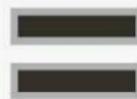
Over four million users can't be wrong! This app has a list of accolades a mile long, and for good reason—it offers a seriously handy way to store and share object dimensions. Simply take a photo of an item, area, or room, and add arrows, angles, text, or notes to the photo for reference. You'll never have to sketch an object or guess a dimension again, because you'll have your photos with precise measurements stored right in the app. 



With a background in systems architecture, database development, programming, e-commerce, search engine optimization, social media, mobile development and all things technical, Harvey lives life on the edge of technology. He is at the forefront of his field as Principal and Technology Director at GLAD WORKS, a full-service creative agency located in Pawtucket, RI.

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THE SCIENCE OF SHARING

WHAT MAKES A COLLABORATIVE ECONOMY WORK

BY MELISSA KRAVITZ

S

everal months ago, Lena Dunham—creator, writer, and star of HBO's *Girls*—unwittingly pointed to a larger trend when she tweeted, “To be clear: I can't drive and as I've aged it's gone from cute to pathetic to intriguing to tragic #strandedforlife.”

While Dunham jokes about her ineptitude behind the wheel, as the so-called voice of her generation, she represents a massively growing number of twenty-first century Americans who don't want to drive their own car, do their own laundry, or make expensive purchases. Instead, they collaborate to get where they need to go. Access, rather than ownership, has become a consumer's new goal. Why drive or even own a car when you can borrow a vehicle or driver at a fraction of the cost?

While cab services, rental car companies, and hotels still bring in tons of business, some people are eschewing those standard services for a more collaborative, grassroots approach (and one that saves big bucks). Thanks to technology, we can share with people whom we've never met with the mere swipe of a touchscreen. People around the country are lending cars, apartments, clothes, and outdoor gear to their neighbors—or even to complete strangers. This willingness to share valuable possessions with likeminded peers represents an unprecedented shift in how people interact in the world.

For those wondering how this new trend has developed, look no further than successful services such as Airbnb for vacation rentals, Lyft for ridesharing, TaskRabbit for errand sharing, Rover for dog sitting, or Poshmark for fashion. You'll find a common thread: intelligent use of mobile technology to facilitate reliable interactions and to create an environment of safety for customers.

This new phenomenon—known as the sharing economy or collaborative consumption—was born out of a simple realization: people own far too many possessions. And when people aren't using their surplus of stuff, the goods are essentially useless. Why let your car sit in a driveway all day when you can make money by allowing someone else to use it? Why leave your home empty during your vacation when you can profit by renting it out?

"SLEEPING IN A STRANGER'S BED DOESN'T FEEL SO CREEPY WHEN YOU SEE THAT YOU AND THE HOST HAVE MUTUAL TWITTER FOLLOWERS".

Zipcar, a subscription-based car-sharing service launched in 2000, is often credited for the growing success of the collaborative economy. Zipcar, which is still popular today, lets members reserve nearby vehicles quickly and affordably, just by going online. Since 2010, ridesharing services such as Uber and Lyft have built upon Zipcar's success, disrupting the taxi industry in major cities around the world. Uber and Lyft, however, require a higher level of trust than Zipcar, requiring you to hop in the car with a stranger who's often driving his or her own private car.

What makes ridesharing services work is that both parties feel in control, making the experience more comfortable. Drivers

have the credit card information of passengers before they even enter the vehicle, ensuring fair payment. And both the driver and passenger can see the identity and ratings of the other through the app interface, helping both to feel safer.

An August 2014, *New York* magazine profiled four female Uber drivers who felt drawn to the job because of its flexible hours and greater level of transparency, which the traditional, male-dominated taxi industry doesn't provide. "I pick up a lot of school kids on the Upper East Side and the Upper West Side; their parents trust them to ride with me by themselves," said Sugey "Raquel" Ramos, a 38-year-old female driver.

People using Airbnb, whether to list their own home or apartment or to book a place to stay while on vacation, report a similar assumption of safety. "I chose Airbnb during a trip to Europe because I was going for an extended period and staying in a real person's apartment made it feel like home," said Alice Preminger, a recent Brown University graduate. Yet Preminger admits that it was still a leap of faith.

Technology helps to make this leap of faith more palatable. Letting someone use your most expensive possessions is easier when the other person is held accountable. Peer reviews, such as on sites like Yelp, eBay, and Airbnb, help drive this new level of trust; real people submit recommendations or criticisms, and sometimes you can even contact those reviewers for more information. While some suggest that social media breeds narcissism, it also leads to greater transparency and a more magnanimous spirit toward strangers. Suddenly, sleeping in a stranger's bed doesn't feel so creepy when you see that you and the host have mutual Twitter followers.

"This is the reason that Airbnb works," said David Nour, author of *Relationship Economics*. "There's sense of shared responsibility, a presumption that you'll treat [the borrowed item] like [it's] your own." He also notes the advantage of being able to find bookings on your own time and on the device of your choice.

This is just the beginning. With entire industries becoming passé as technology rapidly progresses, there are increasing opportunities to break into the sharing economy and revitalize once-dying trades. "Now we have the opportunity to make people think differently about what they're doing and how they're doing it," said Nour.

It's easy to blame mobile technology for causing people to forgo real-world interactions in place of virtual ones. But the sharing economy is telling a different story, proving that when we use technology to create a solid infrastructure for sharing, people can safely interact and connect with each other in the real world in extraordinary new ways. 🔌



Melissa Kravitz is a writer living in New York City. She freelances for various newspapers, magazines, and websites, and is working on a novel. She likes reading, going for long walks, cooking, and ordering food from various apps. You can find her on Twitter @melissabethk.

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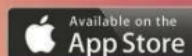
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Calling All Culinary Masters!

The Making of Chefs Feed

by Steve Boss

Food lovers often go to great lengths to find their next exceptional meal. For Californian Jared Rivera, his lust for good cooking led him along with his then-girlfriend (now wife) Jennifer Olsen on a six-month nationwide tour in 2011 during which he visited more than 500 restaurants, including 100 in New York. He returned home to San Francisco “a chubbier version of himself with a cane,” remarked his brother and business partner Steven Rivera—30 pounds heavier with gout in his ankle and toe, to be precise.

Later that year, Jared’s gluttonous expedition paid off. The brothers, after establishing a strong network of chefs, launched the iPhone app and website for **Chefs Feed** (free).

The Riveras’ idea for the app was simple: help people find the very best dining experiences by asking those in the know—the chefs themselves. While at launch the app only listed restaurants in the San Francisco area, a few weeks later it added New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. Today, the Webby Award-winning app is in 24 markets and boasts more than a thousand members, including Wolfgang Puck, Stefanie Izard, Roy Choi, and hundreds of other veritable giants of chefdom.

A Chef-Centric World View

Jared and Steve’s inspiration for Chefs Feed was hardly random. As

the founders of Rivera Public Relations in San Francisco, the brothers were constantly culling restaurant recommendations from their chef clients, asking where they ate in the Bay Area outside of their own kitchens. Many of the recommendations ended up being hole-in-the-wall joints where chefs hung out after hours.



Steve (left) and Jared (right) Rivera, brothers and co-founders of Chefs Feed, dine with chef Chris Cosentino at one of his favorite spots in San Francisco, Yummy Yummy.

One day a light bulb went off when the boys realized they were spending more and more time helping chefs and restaurateurs blunt the effects of negative blogger reviews. "All of the meetings with our clients started with them venting to us about a Yelp review that got them riled up," said Jared.

The concept of Chefs Feed then began to gel: the Riveras envisioned an app that could change the review space and redefine who was perceived as a relevant reviewer.

"We thought we could really make a difference by pulling everyone [the

chef community] together, as there is strength in numbers," said Jared. "These people know all about food, they make the best food, and they can probably help you find the good food. It just makes sense."

An Idea Worth Sharing

In early 2011, while continuing to run their PR firm, the brothers decided to chase their dream. To help get the word out, Jared and Jennifer shot an eight-minute video on her iPhone featuring Bay Area chefs talking about their favorite places to eat. Jared showed it to Virgin America. "I said, 'fly me around the country so I can meet more chefs, and I'll create these documentaries that you can air on your in-flight entertainment system.'" The airline took the bait.

Next, they put together a network of food editors in major North American markets. The editors compiled lists of their regions' most influential chefs and rising stars. With the master list in hand, the couple set out on their epic odyssey to expand the network of professional participants. After the app launched, the recruitment process soon reversed as calls began flooding in from chefs looking to join. Today, the only way for a chef to become an active participant is to secure a recommendation from an existing Chefs Feed member.

The advantage of Chefs Feed for consumers is clear—to find out where chefs like Eric Ripert or Thomas Keller go to eat. And, more importantly, what the best dishes are, from the chicken liver rigatoni at Osteria in Philly to the roast chicken at Barbuto in New York City to the panang curry at an off-the-strip spot in Las Vegas.

For chefs, the overwhelming reason to participate is to gain control of the conversation. Proactive chefs recommend a dish at a restaurant, and through the backend they can see how many people have taken or plan to take their recommendations. "Now they have a sense of, wow, my word carries weight," Jared said. "They want to be part of this community, which is very validating for us."

And now, a new partnership with Foursquare is increasing the value of the app for both restaurants and users. Recommendations from chefs are listed within Foursquare, users can click through to read more from Chefs Feed, and when you're in the vicinity of a chef-recommended dish, the app will buzz and prompt you to, for instance, "Try the crispy pig ears."

The Chefs Feed Recipe for Success

The Chefs Feed team of about 20, with former Zinio CEO Rich Maggiotto at the helm, has raised their Series A financing and aims to expand to 15 new markets within a year. While the team's business know-how will be important to their growth, at the heart of Chefs Feed is a reverence for chefs and their craft. "There are very few people who have such an impact on a community as a chef does," Jared remarked. "Think about it—the best way to someone's heart is through his or her stomach, right?" 🍴



Steve Boss is the host of *Great Taste*, a weekly radio show about food on KRUU 100.1 FM in Fairfield, Iowa. The show streams at kruufm.com on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. CT and Fridays at 7 a.m. CT. If you have any favorite food apps, drop him an email at greattaste@kruufm.com.

Using Chefs Feed

Location: Pick your "Home" city.

Dishes: Pick a city and search by dish or restaurant. Tap for more detailed info (address, phone, hours, map) and chef reviews.

Feed: Check out what's trending with chefs; choose chefs to follow.

Home Screen: View Dishes Nearby, Featured Dishes, Featured Chefs, Recent Videos, Featured Stories.

Chefs: Choose any city to browse a list of its member chefs and their favorite dishes.

Profile: Find your personal food info—what you have eaten or plan to eat, who you are following.



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OUR FAVORITE GEAR FROM SUPER MOBILITY WEEK POWERED BY CTIA

BY DONNA CLEVELAND

Every year, *iPhone Life* travels to the craziness that is Las Vegas to try out thousands of the world's best tech wares during Super Mobility Week powered by the Wireless Association (CTIA). As we circulated the conference hall at its latest event, it was compelling to meet the people behind the products and to hear their stories of how they turned an idea for a product into a reality. What follows is a roundup of the devices that lured us in the most, from handmade iPhone cases to brand-new fitness trackers to paper-light solar chargers. Check them out for yourself!

BEST ALL-AROUND COLLECTION

**Otterbox/Lifeproof**

When scouring the show for the strongest all-around collection, Otterbox stood out with its polished and well-made line of adventure-ready iPhone cases. Otterbox has long dominated the rugged iPhone and iPad accessory marketplace, but until recently, there was one corner of the market it hadn't mastered—waterproof gear. That all changed when Otterbox acquired waterproof-case kingpin Lifeproof in May 2013.

BEST HEALTH & FITNESS ACCESSORY

BEST OF IZONE

**JayBird Reign Fitness Tracker** (\$199.95)

We've loved JayBird's brilliantly designed sport earbuds for a long time. So naturally, we were excited to learn of the company's latest invention, the Reign activity tracker. The Reign's coolest feature, aside from it being waterproof, is that it takes the guesswork out of when and how to work out. The bracelet measures your heart rate variability to tell you when you should push yourself and when it would be healthier to rest.

MOST VERSATILE CHARGING ACCESSORY

**Solpro Helios** (\$159)

Of all the solar charging accessories I've seen, Solpros are the most practical and stylish. The heavy-duty Solpro Helios not only contains a 4,500 mAh lithium-polymer battery, but it also unfolds to reveal a fully functional solar panel. Weighing in at less than a pound, the Helios will charge in about 4 hours when placed in direct sunlight. Solpro's pocket-sized, 2800 mAh Gemini, on the other hand, weighs less than a quarter of a pound and comes in fun color combinations.

BEST SCREEN PROTECTOR

**BodyGuardz ScreenGuardz Pure Anti-Glare Glass Screen Protector** (\$39.95)

No matter how practical they are, it's hard to cover up a beautiful iPhone screen with plastic screen protectors. Screen-cover veteran BodyGuardz helps solve the problem with its discreet, chemically fortified glass covers. The matte finish on the company's new anti-glare offering combats finger smudges and complements the flat design of iOS 8 beautifully.

MOST LIFE-CHANGING PRODUCT

**Blood Donor App by American Red Cross** (Free)

This recent effort from the American Red Cross demonstrates what's possible when we use technology for worthy causes. The new Blood Donor app makes it easier and more rewarding to donate blood, sharing personal stories, such as how contributions helped accident victims, cancer patients, or children with blood disorders. Through the app, you can schedule appointments, receive regional alerts of shortages, and even track your blood from donation to delivery.

BEST SPEAKERS

**GGMM M-Freedom** (\$349.99)

Right away, GGMM won style points with *iPhone Life*, with products ranging from a coffee cup-shaped speaker to a battery designed like a sports car. While the retro M-Freedom sound system is beautifully designed with a genuine leather covering, it's also sure to hold up under the scrutiny of serious audiophiles, as it displays little to no sound distortion while wirelessly streaming music via AirPlay.

BEST PORTABLE SPEAKERS

**Scosche boomBOTTLE H2O** (\$99.99)

Though bikini season is months away, you can use this waterproof poolside pal as a snowboarding companion until summer returns. Its upward-facing speaker blasts music in all directions, and can play for up to 11 hours nonstop between charges. Its stylish IP67-rated rubber covering relentlessly keeps dust out and can play in up to 3 feet of water.

BEST BATTERY CASE

**mophie space pack Case** (From \$149.95)

In the competitive world of iPhone battery cases, there's nothing quite like mophie's acclaimed space pack. It's not only a 1,700 mAh battery, but a 16–64 GB storage device as well! You can double your battery life and offload movies, photos, songs, and documents onto the case using mophie's **Space** app (free). This is a great option for battery case lovers who want offline access to their files and who prefer local storage to the cloud.

BEST BATTERY PACK

**ChargeWorx Power Bank** (\$89.99)

The power bank, a significantly slimmer and more light-weight option than others in its class, packs a whopping 9,000 mAh battery. This stylish external battery pack can triple your iPhone's battery life and charge several devices at once with its three USB outlets and micro-USB port.

BEST MINIMALIST CASE

**Evutec Karbon Sleek Air Series** (Price TBA)

Just because a case is minimalist doesn't mean it won't stand out from the crowd. The Sleek Air's distinctive cutout pattern, reminiscent of chain mail, highlights the natural metallic sheen of the iPhone. And thanks to the extreme sturdiness of the DuPont Kevlar fiber from which the case is constructed, all you need is a very thin layer to shield your phone from harm.

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MOST INNOVATIVE CASE



Moshi SenseCover for iPhone 6 (\$45)

I wish I'd known about this amazing full-body case before my iPhone screen became riddled with scratches. You can answer calls with the front flap closed, thanks to Moshi's SensArray technology, as well as view the date and time through the peek-a-boo window. With the new iPhones' larger screens in mind, Moshi has incorporated a folding stand design so you can prop up your device for media viewing.

MOST INNOVATIVE IPAD CASE



Moshi VersaKeyboard (\$99.95)

If you want to use your iPad Air like a laptop, this versatile product is a must, combining the functions of a keyboard, display cover, and stand all in one. The super-slim Bluetooth keyboard slides off the back of the case, and works within 30 feet of your tablet. The foldable VersaCover works both in landscape or portrait orientation for ultimate flexibility.

MOST PROTECTIVE CASE



Trident Kraken A.M.S. Case (\$49.95)

The toughest of Trident's cases, the Kraken A.M.S. Series has passed military protection standards for everything from drops to dust to rain. A tough polycarbonate outer shell and flexible thermoplastic second skin keep your phone safe, while its pointed ridges and geometric cutouts make for a distinct and edgy look. The sturdy kickstand adds the finishing touch for media viewing on the go.

BEST IPAD CASE



Lifeproof frē (From \$99.99)

The frē's classy design looks more like a classroom or office accessory than one made for watery, outdoor adventures. Lifeproof has fully tested the frē, which can withstand being dropped 4 feet and submerged in 6 feet of water. When it comes to waterproof protection for your iPad or iPad mini, Lifeproof is the star of the show, fully sealing in your tablet while keeping it slim and lightweight.

BEST KIDS' ACCESSORY

**Griffin KaZoo MyPhones (\$19.99)**

With these loveable penguin and frog companions, Griffin has come up with a product both parents and kids will feel good about. The volume-limiting feature on the headphones mean parents can enjoy peace and quiet while their kids play, knowing their children's ears are protected.

BEST HOME AUTOMATION PRODUCT

**MiPow PLAYBULB Bluetooth Smart LED Speaker Light (\$160 for pair)**

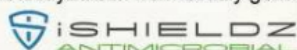
Products like the PLAYBULB remind us that the era of the smart home is dawning. With a set of these LED bulbs, you can dim the lights and set mood music from your iPhone using the **PLAYBULB** app (free), and even set a schedule for when you want the lights to turn on and off during the day.

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BEST CAR ACCESSORY



Nite Ize Steelie Car Mount Kit (\$34.99)

We need our phones in the car for GPS and hands-free calling, and Nite Ize offers a simple and effective mounting solution to help us keep our eyes on the road. The Steelie is a magnetic ball-and-socket kit with pieces that stick to your dashboard and to the back of your phone. A big selling point of the Steelie is that it works whether or not you use a case, and once it's mounted on your phone, the socket will also adhere to other metal surfaces.

BEST PRODUCT DESIGN



Evutec

Evutec's innovative designs and intelligent use of materials earned the company bonus points in our book. Eschewing plastic altogether, Evutec makes its cases from wood and DuPont Kevlar, an incredibly lightweight and strong fiber used in body armor. In the Wood Series, the company uses 100 percent Forest Stewardship Council-certified wood. The smart choice of materials lends an air of quality and refinement to each case the company produces.

BEST NEW PRODUCT



GGMM Cuckoo Earphones (\$99.99)

Ideal for music listening and hands-free calling alike, GGMM's new high-end earbuds feature durable anodized metal and flattened, tangle-free cords encased in textured rubber. The earbuds fit snugly, minimizing outside noise and delivering clear, powerful sound with their 9.2mm drivers.

HIDDEN TREASURE AWARD



Toast

Charming in name and form, Toast is comprised of nine team members, some of whom etch the company's wood and leather covers with a variety of whimsical designs. The Portland-based company uses 100 percent renewable energy in its facility, where the team scores thin sheets of wood to precisely fit every contour of the iPhone, using a strong (but removable!) adhesive to attach to the surface.



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SUIT UP!

SHARP NEW CASES FOR THE IPHONE 6 & IPAD AIR 2

BY REBECCA SANTIAGO

The good news: the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus are here, and they're just about the sexiest things ever to happen to mobile technology. The bad news: um... the 6 Plus bends?! Yikes. Even the bravest and most coordinated users must admit that these are probably ones worth buying cases for. With that in mind, I've rounded up a few of my favorites, and threw in some iPad Air 2 cases for good measure. Suit up, people!

FOR THE IPHONE 6 & 6 PLUS



i-Blason Transformer for iPhone 6
(\$19.99)

Yo, I heard you like robots, so I put a robot on your robot and—well, it's not actually a robot, but a robot-like hard-shell holster case, and it comes with a handy kickstand and belt clip. The case's rubberized, texturized exterior wards against expensive, butterfingery mishaps, and its slim profile allows you to protect your phone without adding too much bulk.



Adopted Leather Wrap Case for iPhone 6 Plus (\$44.95)

I will only shut up about Adopted cases when you buy, like, seven of them, so you can swap them out like day-of-the-week underwear. Available in a handful of color combos—from the respectable Pewter/Gunmetal to the delightfully Liberace-esque White/Gold (not knocking it; it's my case of choice)—these sharp covers feature a handsome but substantial bumper that protects the front edges of your phone from nicks and cracks.

top: i-Blason; bottom: Adopted

FOR THE IPAD AIR 2



Otterbox Commuter Series Wallet for iPhone 6 (\$44.90)

Back in college, when I was chugging a lot of stale keg beer and, relatedly, losing all of my belongings, I had to get crafty about how I transported my phone and other essentials. That meant using my phone case as a makeshift wallet, wedging a \$5 bill and my ID in the space between gear and case. I now carry my essentials in a bag like a functional person, but continue to respect the phone-case-as-wallet. Otterbox makes a killer one for the iPhone 6: it's durable, as all Otterboxes are, and a satisfying "click" closure reassures you that your valuables are stowed safely away.



Verus Crystal Mixx for iPhone 6 (\$17.99)

Here's one for the folks who love the look of a naked phone, even as they're fully aware of all that could go wrong with the minimalist look. This sleek, affordable case by Verus is barely there—although you can opt for a mint-green or hot-pink bumper, if you so choose—but it's still protective. The case's front side protrudes a few millimeters from the iPhone's screen, allowing you to place your encased phone facedown on a table without

fretting about scratches. Plus, it's under \$20! You can't beat that.



Speck Candyshell Grip for iPhone 6 (\$34.95)

This, my friends, is one fresh case. I love how its rubber ridges improve grip while doubling as a kicky design element. The case has both hard and soft layers for maximum shock absorbency and features rubberized button covers—divisive, I know, but I really hate when gunk sneaks into the crevice between the button and the phone. It's available in six different two-tone combinations, my favorite of which is the vaguely nautical white/river blue.



M. Craftsman Day Tripper for iPad Air 2 (\$44.90)

This gorgeous iPad Air accessory is pretty much the dictionary definition of chic. In fact, I may very well upload a photo of this gorgeous flip-cover case to the Wikipedia page for "chic" sometime in the near future, because it's a free country and, besides, it's an accurate description. The sleek leather case comes in a variety of snappy colors, features a magnetic closure, and conveniently

converts to a stand for easy Netflix watching.



Cygnett Paradox Lux Folio Case for iPad Air 2 (\$69.99)

Cygnett's flexible iPad Air 2 case is basically the tech-accessory industry's answer to the art of origami. Crisscrossed with a series of grooves, the case bends and crunches into several different positions, which is good for people like me, who occasionally like to read on their iPad in bed and have hitherto needed to awkwardly stack pillows to achieve desired readability. A screen cover with a microfiber lining protects the iPad from scratches.



ClamCase Pro for iPad Air 2 (Price TBA)

A brief confession: I was a Blackberry loyalist for years. It's true! I was wary of switching over to the iPhone because, as was pretty normal at the time, I really liked having keys. Obviously, I'm a convert now, and I've grown accustomed to swiping this way and that, but for professional purposes, a keyboard

is an absolute must for me. If you can relate, you should look into ClamCase's sleek aluminum and polycarbonate case for the iPad Air 2. It fits like a glove, and its matchy-matchy, light-weight design combines the best of form and function.



Pad and Quill Contega Case for iPad Air 2 (\$99.99)

A fact about me: I am as drawn to luxe materials as I am prone to clanging my expensive belongings around. Bless Pad and Quill for anticipating my personal brand of glamorous disaster with their Contega case. The case is simple but gorgeous; it's crafted from Baltic birch wood and available in two rich shades of Spanish leather (black and brown). If iPads had been around in the 1920s and '30s, the Contega is totally the cover that Hemingway and his expatriate ilk would have swaddled their iPads with as they chain-smoked, philandered, and wrote haunting short stories in Parisian cafes. Fancy!



DODOcase iPad Air 2 Flat Vernacular (From \$74.95)

Sometimes, I spend days on end fiddling with cases and researching their specs before deigning to recommend them to you dear *iPhone Life* readers. Other times, I zoom in on something and clutch it close while hissing, "My preciousss..." This is one of those cases, and it is my precious, and it is so cool and gender-neutral and chic that I don't even want to share it with you. I shouldn't even be writing this. (Can you tell I'm an only child?) It's easy to use, has a convenient prop, and have I mentioned that it's so, so pretty? 



Rebecca Santiago is a New York-based writer and editor, with bylines at *Architectural Digest*, *Glamour*, *Bustle*, *Boston magazine*, and more. She is an alumna of Tufts University. Follow her on Twitter at [@rebsanti](https://twitter.com/rebsanti).

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b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside Mail)		
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions	9,430	9,180
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions	30	30
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	15,313	21,832
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(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies	304	307
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f. Total Distribution	27,947	35,969
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b. Total Requested and Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Requested/Paid Electronic Copies	66,870	72,589
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18. Signed, David Averbach, CEO.

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BANDOLIER IPHONE CASE

While there are plenty of belt clip cases for iPhone cowboys and armbands for athletic iOS users on the market, until now, a hands-free option for iPhone fashionistas has been hard to come by. Enter the Bandolier case, a purse-like enclosure that makes wearers look chic while keeping their iPhones close and their hands unfettered. With a stylish shoulder strap and two convenient slots for cash, ID, or credit cards, it's perfect for nights out, when lugging a larger purse would be a hassle.

Whether leather, snakeskin, or a touch of metallic is your thing, you'll find ample material and color options to match your personal fashion sense. The newest styles offer adjustable straps, something missing from earlier designs. But beware—the convenience of constant iPhone access can lead to nonstop texting, website surfing, and picture snapping.

When we first tested the Bandolier, we loved it. But there was one big downside. The same metal clasps that allowed for easy removal of the shoulder strap sometimes worked their way open unintentionally, putting the wearer's iPhone at risk of falling or getting left behind. We're happy to say Bandolier has since updated the case with sturdy clasps that guarantee worry-free enjoyment of this elegant case.

Bandolier iPhone Case

(From \$40)

Pros: Perfect option for traveling light; stylish; offers quick access to iPhone.

Cons: Difficult to slide credit cards or driver's license out.

Final Verdict: We love the stylish functionality of this case, and now that the makers of the Bandolier have addressed the unreliable clasps that put your iPhone in peril, we can recommend it without reservation.

iPhone Life Rating: ★★★★★





iPhone 6 Plus: Overcoming First Impressions

As soon as Apple announced the iPhone 6 Plus, I couldn't wait to get my hands on one. Sadly, I live 150 miles from the nearest Apple Store, which meant I had to wait three weeks for my FedEx delivery. When the Plus finally arrived, I was underwhelmed. The phone looked big, boxy, and without character. Needless to say, it was not love at first sight.

Apple's Got the Touch

Funnily enough, it was the way the iPhone 6 Plus felt, not the way it looked, that eventually won me over. Though skeptical at first, I soon began to enjoy holding the Plus and would addictively pick it up just to feel it in my hands. Its surface reminded me of a cool, flat stone—the kind you skip across the water.



Apple went to great lengths to create a pleasing tactile experience for the end user. By binding together anodized aluminum, stainless steel, and curved glass, Apple's engineers managed to form a phone with rounded edges and a smooth, continuous surface.

Despite its larger size, the Plus is surprisingly comfortable to hold, offering a thin, curved design that feels no bigger than the clunkier iPhone 5. Its side sleep/wake switch and elongated volume buttons are much more intuitive than those of previous iPhones, while the finger identity sensor carried over from the iPhone 5s allows me to press and hold the Home button to take me from sleep mode, past the lock screen, and to the Home screen much faster.

More than Meets the Eye

I've used scores of handheld devices over the last 20 years, and I've always had to worry about my battery life running low. Now, with the iPhone 6 Plus's space for a larger battery, I will be glad to no longer have to compete for lone AC outlets at airport terminals.

There have been countless times, whether in my car or at home, that I've wanted to share audio using my handheld device. Although the iPhone 6 Plus's sound is still slightly distorted when the volume is turned all the way up, I appreciate not having to use headphones or an external speaker to listen to music or videos.

With so many inexpensive storage options available, such as iCloud, Dropbox, and Google Drive, many users will find the less expensive 32- or 64-gigabyte option to be sufficient. Still, I enjoy being independent of the cloud with my 128 GB phone.

The 5.5-inch display is gorgeous. Even small text displays crisply. And more display space means more words per page in the Kindle e-book reader, making the Plus a wonderful device for reading anywhere. I appreciate the improved polarizer, which makes it possible to read in the sunlight without strain.

Anyone who can point the iPhone 6 Plus camera and press the shutter button can get good results, even in low lighting. Optical image stabilization, unique to the Plus, helps the user capture clearer photos, even in challenging situations.

The Latest and Greatest

Despite the temptation to splurge on both the new iPad Air 2 and iPad mini 3, the increase in speed, extra thinness, and fingerprint security simply aren't enough to justify upgrading from the original iPad Air. And I've made another discovery—my iPhone 6 Plus phablet replaces any practical need for a mini. Despite our rocky start, I couldn't be happier with my new gold iPhone 6 Plus. It's easily the best handheld device I've ever used. 🔌

Read *iPhone Life* Anywhere!

The iPad screen shows the cover of *iPhone Life* magazine, dated JAN-FEB 2015 VOL. 7, NO. 1. The cover features the title "iPhone Life" in large black and blue letters, with "+iPad" in red. Below the title is the text "Best Apps • Top Tips • Great Gear". The central headline reads "BEST APPS EVER" in large red letters. At the bottom, it says "New iPads: Improving on Perfection PG 18". The cover is surrounded by various app icons. The top of the iPad screen shows the status bar with "iPad", signal strength, time "11:14 AM", and battery level "90%".

The laptop screen in the background displays the *iPhone Life* website, which mirrors the magazine's content. It includes sections for "Accessories for the iPad", "Great Gear", and "Getting on the iPhone 5".

The iPhone in the foreground shows the *iPhone Life* app interface. It displays the magazine cover and a "Newsstand" section at the bottom.

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