

iOS 6

Apple's newest operating system for iPhones & iPads

iOS 6. The latest Apple operating system introduced in September 2012 for your mobile Apple devices packs in a lot of new features. Here are just some of the highlights. The 'How To' photos are in the attached Keynote slide show.

Siri is fantastic! This artificial intelligence system from Stanford Research Institute (hence the name) uses your own voice to send messages, schedule appointments, check the latest sports score or find the nearest Starbucks. Introduced last year in iOS5, Siri just keeps getting better. Now you can open Apps ("open Angry Birds") or get the movie times at your local theatre. Siri can set Reminders ("Call Bob at 6:00PM") or alarms ("Wake me in an hour").

A subset of Siri is the new **Dictation App** built into iOS6. Press the little microphone in a new email or text message and simply talk - it will magically (and often perfectly) translate this dictation into text. Works in Notes and Pages too. Requires Internet connection.

Apple's new Maps App that replaces the Google Maps App (these two giant computer firms are squabbling) has some great new features and a few problems that Apple is frantically working on correcting. The new **Turn-by Turn Navigation** will give you graphic directions as well as spoken instructions ("Turn left in 400 feet onto Maple Ave"). **Flyover** gives you amazing photo realistic images of major cities (fly around the Empire State Building).

But there are problems. The **Traffic Conditions** page doesn't always work and the routing on the navigation screens is not as good as Google quite yet. You can really see this is a **beta** by some of the funny images (type in Hoover Dam and look at the sagging bridge in the 3D image!). Apple will be sending out some updates.

Do you use **FaceBook**? If so, you will appreciate their new tight integration with Apple. You can add your FaceBook friends' photos to your Contacts and their birthdays automatically to your Calendar. You do it by adding FaceBook as a new account on your computer under System Preferences/Mail, Contacts & Calendars.

AirPlay, with the addition of a \$99 Apple TV box and your new flat screen HD television, allows you show your videos. Or stream your latest vacation slideshow during a dinner party. **AirPlay Mirroring** allows you to watch YouTube videos or to demo Mac programs like I do at our meetings.

FaceTime is a fun way to hold those Sunday morning photo calls with your grandchildren. We demonstrated it last spring. But now you can make FaceTime calls over cellular in addition to WiFi connections. So, you ask, what does that do other than run up my cell phone bill? Now you can be at the store and call your spouse and ask their opinion on a potential purchase ("does this tomato look ripe, or do you like this lamp?").

Apple is sneaky at times. Just last summer they dropped MobileMe and the ability to share photos easily with friends and family. Well now the capability is back through **Shared Photo Streams**. Select photos from your Photo App and click on Share. Friends using iCloud on a OS6 device or Mountain Lion on a Mac will then see the photos automatically in their Photos App or iPhoto. Friends with PCs will be able to view the photos on the web.

Messages is Apple's texting App and allows you to send and receive text messages from fellow Apple users (iPhones, iPads, Macbooks, etc.) for free. Just be sure their text bubble is blue!

Can't answer a call? Slide up on the handset icon and chose to reply with a message (I'll call you later, I'm on my way, etc.) or set a reminder to call back (in an hour, when I get home, etc.). Location reminders are based on GPS for your home, office, etc.

Want to stop your iPhone from ringing late at night or while you're in meetings? Simply turn on **Do Not Disturb** on the Settings App and block calls from say 10:00PM to 7:00AM. If you want, accept calls from your Favorites list or repeated emergency calls.

The **Mail** App now has a new category you set for your **VIPs** (family, BFF and your boss) and highlights these emails so you don't miss them in the deluge of your daily email junk. You can also now add a photo from within an email you are composing instead of having to start out in iPhoto. And to check for new messages or **refresh** your inbox, simply swipe down from the top of the list.

Safari also got some new tricks to make surfing the web easier on the small screen of an iPhone. Turn your phone to landscape and tap the small double arrows in the lower right to enter **Full Screen** mode that drops the menu bars and makes the webpage larger. To really cut the clutter, tap on **Reader** in the menu window to strip away everything but the story (no more ads). See an article you want to read later? Simply click on the arrow in the box next to the menu window to save the full story to your **Reading List** to view later. This **Share Button** also allows you to share the story with others via email, text or FaceBook.

Reminders is Apple's new 'To Do' App that allows you to organize your tasks complete with reminders based on your GPS location (pickup the milk at the grocery store when you enter the store parking lot) or a future time (call Peter at 10 AM Friday).

The **Camera App** just keeps getting better and better and the newer iPhones have up to 8 Mg resolution. All newer iPhones now have the software upgrade to use autofocus, autoexposure and grid lines – as well as edit on the screen for Red Eye or to enhance the images. The new **Panorama mode** is amazing, tap and hold as you turn up to 240 degrees for really wide angle photos. Is there any question why iPhones are now the most popular 'cameras' in the world - used twice as much as any camera brand for uploading!?

In all there are over two hundred new features in the new operating

system, I cover a few more in my slide show such as WiFi Syncing, Passbook, Calendar Updates, Notification Center, Newstand, free texting in Messages, Multi Tasking Gestures, higher security (Find My Phone), etc, etc. You can find a more comprehensive list on Apple's home page at: <http://www.apple.com/iphone/ios>

There are now 425,000 iPhone Apps and another 275,000 iPad only Apps, a total of over **700,000 Apps for iOS 6**. The new operating system (iOS 6) is available on all iPhones from the 3GS forward and all the iPads, including the new iPad Mini. But some of the processor intensive Apps, like Siri only operate on the newer models.

More questions? Be sure to check out our new RMUG webpage at: <http://rmug.weebly.com> to see the slide show - and all the presentations from the past two years of our monthly meetings. And as always, I am usually available to assist you with questions and challenges you might encounter with your new iPhone, iPad or Macbook. Contact me at: douglindal@gmail.com

Doug Lindal
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