

## My Favorite Apps for the iPhone & iPad

**750,000 apps!** Apple rightly takes a lot of pride in the size of its App Store—more than three quarter million applications (apps) are available for the iPhone and iPad. And we all are using the App Store – forty Billion downloads, half of these last year alone! But the risk of having such a massive emporium for mobile software is that the sheer volume of not-so-hot apps pushes the truly great offerings out of the spotlight. Not to worry, though: Plenty of iOS apps still combine great design and must-have features to help you get even more out of your iPhone and iPad. I'm listing **my forty favorite Apps** that remind us how the App Store is about quality, not just quantity.

### Find My iPhone

Part of iCloud, Find My iPhone needs to be installed and properly activated on your Apple device. ***It's crucial.*** Why? If your device is lost or stolen, Find My iPhone can locate your iPhone or iPad physically, on a map, to show you precisely where it is. If you misplace your phone and think it might be in the hands of someone you trust, you can log into the iCloud website from any computer and send a message that will flash on the screen. If you think you misplaced it somewhere nearby, you can log in and force the phone to play a loud tone, even if it's set to silent. If your iPhone or iPad is stolen you can wipe all your personal data off in an instant. Don't worry, if you subsequently get it back, you can easily restore everything from iCloud. If you don't have Find My iPhone, you are not taking advantage of one of the best free features of iOS 6. Be sure to read the few bits of information regarding set up and usage, as you have to enable geolocation and a few other settings for it to operate properly. **Free**

### Google Maps

Apple Maps is just not ready for prime time and while there are lots of good expensive map/navigation Apps on the App Store for your iPhone, Google Maps is free and worth a download. It has the best sources for points of interest and this new version offers turn-by-turn voice navigation as well as street view, plus accurate traffic updates. With it returns reliable and accurate directions by car, train, bus, subway, and foot, among many other features. In many ways it puts Apple Maps to shame. Sadly at this point though it's not native to iPad yet. **Free**

## **Evernote**

Everyone will tell you to download Evernote, but few are able to put into words why it is such an amazing service. The problem with convincing someone of Evernote's worth is it is a uniquely personal tool. Everyone uses it differently. To summarize, the free iPhone/iPad app synchronizes notes of all kinds, like text notes, audio recorded notes or voice memos, and pictures, and then makes them all highly searchable. It doesn't sound exciting, but the moment you figure out your own use case for Evernote, you will never look for a replacement. The app excels as a pared-down word processing program, and Evernote integrates with dozens of other iOS apps. When it comes to staying organized, keeping track of ideas, and writing things down, Evernote for iPhone/iPad does the heavy lifting for you. Evernote has become one of the most distinctive and durable iOS apps. **Free**

## **GoodReader**

Apple might have forgone a file system on its iOS devices, but sometimes you still need one. GoodReader fills that role and more, offering the ability to organize files into folders, easily share them, and secure them with encryption. It's also great for reading files—you can annotate PDFs, add bookmarks, and convert PDFs into plain text. You can load text files, audio, video, images, and anything else iOS natively supports. You can also transfer files via iTunes File Sharing, or services such as Dropbox. GoodReader isn't just good—it's great. **\$5**

## **iPhoto for iOS**

iPhoto for iOS, is a viewing, editing, and sharing utility for the iPad and iPhone. It may not match the Mac program feature-for-feature, but its overall functions are so similar that users will instantly recognize its conventions and capabilities. Deep and complete, it has a huge number of creative functions, and is easy to learn and use. You'll find tools and controls for nondestructive cropping and straightening, fixing exposure and color, and applying special effects. An Auto-Enhance button—just like the one in the desktop version—is a one-stop-fix. Maintenance tasks such as flag, favorite, and hide photo are also available, and you can summon contextual coaching tips with a single tap. Apart from its impressive degree of photographic detail and sophistication, iPhoto for iOS is drop-dead gorgeous. **\$5**

## **Camera Awesome**

Camera Awesome is available on all iOS devices and is inspiring many of us to snap better pictures with our iPads and iPhones. Many reviewers feel it is superior to the pre-installed iPhone camera and other third-party photography apps. **Free**

### **iBooks**

Apple's iBooks lets you read ePub-format books and PDFs on iPhones and iPads. You can purchase books from Apple's iBookstore, organize your books, create collections, and delete books you no longer want. Apple also offers support for interactive multimedia textbooks created through iBooks Author on the Mac. You buy the books, the app is **Free**

The **Kindle** App is another great option if you own a Kindle device. You can buy and read books, magazines and newspapers directly from Amazon, and sync publications across devices. You can start reading on the iPad and pick up where you left off on a PC, Mac or Kindle. **Free**

### **Reader**

Once you start relying on Apple's Reader, you'll wonder what took you so long. The idea is simple: Reading on your iPad and iPhone while relaxing in a chair is much more pleasant than reading on your Mac's screen. Reader strips out all the navigation, social networking modules, and Flash advertisements. You're left with just text and images, and you control the font and all that other good stuff. Reader is Apple software preloaded into Safari in both iOS and Mac OSX. **Free**

### **Netflix**

It feels almost like science fiction when you first use the **Netflix** app to stream movies and television shows to your iPad. You can browse your 'Watch Instantly' queue or search for other titles, and begin playing any of them in seconds, streaming the video over the Internet! Caution - have a reasonably fast WiFi connection and don't use cellular. If you have a subscription to Netflix's video service, this app is a no-brainer. Browse TV shows and movies in HD wherever you are. Search, queue lists, recommendations, & subtitles are all there. **Free**

### **PCalc Lite Calculator**

Though the iPhone's Calculator app works fine, it simply doesn't exist on the iPad. PCalc Lite works on all iOS devices, and it looks great on the iPad. Beyond that, it adds tons of functionality beyond simple arithmetic, including a scientific calculator, unit conversions, constants, reverse Polish notation (RPN), multiple un-dos and re-dos, and themes. The \$10 Pro version comes packed with features, but if you start with the free Lite edition, you can upgrade to the paid version with an in-app purchase. **Free**

## **CNN**

Lots of other news reading apps exist, but no news app offers quite the polish of **CNN** on the iPad. The app combines videos and cleanly displayed articles to keep you abreast of all the news that's fit to consume. The app is very visual, with lots of photographs, easily readable text, and high-quality video to keep you informed. You can even watch the network live within the app. **Free**

The **USA Today** App is a quick reading newspaper alternative with their infamous short versions of news stories so you finish quick. **Free**

## **Audible**

Audible.com is an Amazon company that sells digital versions of 'books on tape'. Almost all Amazon's selections of bestselling novels are available. If you see me out walking in the morning around the Ridge, I will have headsets on intently listening to my latest book and might not even see you! The books cost between \$5 and \$15, less if you buy a yearly plan. You can listen through this app on an iPhone only or with Apple's own iTunes music app on both iPhone & iPad. **Free**

## **Dropbox**

Dropbox, a free Web service, lets you create a folder on your Mac that syncs automatically with whatever other computers you tell it to. The iPad app isn't pretty, but it gives you access to all the files and folders you store in your computer's Dropbox folder. You can upload your saved photos and videos to your Dropbox folder, or open saved files in compatible apps on your iPad—including word processing documents, PDFs, images, and MP3 songs. **Free**

## **Reeder**

Reeder is a RSS reader, and if you're not yet on the RSS bandwagon, you should be. The app, which syncs via Google Reader, presents a gloriously elegant interface for reading the latest articles from your favorite Websites. Tap on a headline, and the article slides into view. If the feed in question shows only a summary, Reeder's built-in Readability support can help: Tap the Readability button, and Reeder quickly loads the rest of the article automatically. Reeder makes it easy to email links, post them to various social networks, and more. There's a separate iPhone version of Reeder, too, but the iPad incarnation is simply glorious. You'll never want to catch up on your RSS feed subscriptions with anything else. **\$3**

### **Flipboard**

Flipboard takes content you're interested in and presents it in an impressive magazine-inspired layout. Gorgeous, compelling to touch, and with a great selection of content, Flipboard assimilates all kinds of things you want to read—from online magazine articles to news to social updates from your network—and puts them into a winning format. You can sign up to receive articles from a good range of diverse sources, such National Geographic, The Economist, The New Yorker, and many others. Originally developed for the iPad and only later ported to the iPhone's smaller screen, this app schools most other apps in design. **Free**

### **TED**

Attending the annual TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design) conference involves a long application process and a nearly \$8,000 fee. Thank goodness then, that the TED app has talks from Stephen Hawking to Steve Jobs for free. It's not all new stuff, but seeing as the app includes TED's entire back catalogue and is constantly being updated, it remains a must-have. Talks can be viewed offline and it supports AirPlay to view on your Apple TV. **Free**

### **Khan Academy**

Touchscreen devices will revolutionize education in the years ahead. Salman Khan has uploaded his library of more than 3,500 lesson-specific educational videos to iOS. The Khan Academy app enables users to easily navigate their way through comprehensive and engaging tutorials on subjects that range from basic math, to raising venture capital, to the Baroque period in art history. Khan Academy also lets users view the transcripts from each lesson, and easily find and drill down on passages that are most insightful. **Free**

### **TuneIn Radio Pro**

Not only does this App give you more than 50,000 radio stations from around the world — from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe — but also lets you record radio shows, sports, news & songs you like to listen to at a later time, and also play, pause & skip around programming like a DVR. **\$1**

### **National Parks by National Geographic**

National Parks combines a great travel guide with incredible photos that show off the beauty of the U.S. national parks. It provides the basic info you need to know about visiting a park: fees, the best time to visit, hiking conditions, and more. This app is available for the iPhone, but it really excels when viewed on an iPad with a Retina

display. At this writing, this free app includes basic details for 22 parks with full details & photos available at \$2 each or \$10 for all 22. **Free**

### **Angry Birds**

Evil green pigs have stolen a flock of flightless birds' eggs, and the birds want revenge. In this clever physics-based puzzle app—or its multitude of App Store follow-ups—you need to slingshot several uniquely talented birds towards the pigs' fortifications, utilizing each bird's ability in an attempt to clear the stage of pigs before you run out of avian ammo. The bestselling game app ever produced. **Free or \$1**

### **Crosswords**

Need a ten-letter word for the best iOS crossword puzzle app around? Crosswords draws puzzles from multiple sources, including local newspapers, Newsday, People Magazine and, if you've got a subscription to the *New York Times*, the Gray Lady herself. The ability to quickly grab all the latest puzzles, support for "ink" or "pencil" entries, and syncing between iOS device make this app an easy solution. Pricey, but worth it to a crosswords puzzle junkie. **\$10**

### **Uni Sudoku**

There are lots of versions of Sudoku in the App Store, but this version ported over from Mac computers, is my favorite way to waste ten minutes while standing in line. 10,000 puzzles, five levels of difficulty, auto-fill and the ability to un-do an entry, this app has it all. **\$3**

### **Words With Friends**

Fans of word games will love this Scrabble-like game, which lets you play multiple games—with friends or complete strangers—simultaneously over the Internet. When it's your turn in any game, the app uses an iOS notification to alert you and has an in-game chat feature to let you trash talk (using big words, of course). **\$3**

### **Pandora**

Pandora has all but become synonymous with Internet radio over the past decade. For those unfamiliar, Pandora is an automated music discovery service that is built on the Music Genome Project, an initiative to catalog music using various elemental analyses with intent of being able to recommend music you might like based on music you select at the start. Sounds complicated, but it's not – it just works. I have three different jazz stations, both a rock and classics channel and during the Holidays I can listen to purely instrumental Christmas music. Try it and it might just replace your iTunes library! And for \$35 a year you can ditch the commercials. **Free**

### **Shazam**

Whenever I'm out and about and hear an interesting song that I just can't recognize, I no longer have to wallow in ignorance. I just whip out my iPhone, launch Shazam, and tap the app to capture a snippet of the song. Within a few seconds, Shazam returns the name of the song and artist along with a link to track in iTunes and—in some cases—lyrics. The free version of Shazam is where to start, but the paid version lets you tag an unlimited number of songs. **Free & \$6**

### **1Password Pro**

This utility enables you to securely save usernames, passwords, credit card and other account information—anything you want to keep from prying eyes. All you need to remember is your 1Password Pro password to save and access sensitive information. Combine it with the desktop software for Windows and Mac, which can store credit cards, passport details and even personal notes, and you have the ultimate password solution. Pricey, but indispensable. **\$15**

### **WeatherBug Elite**

Apple's Weather app for iPhone is pretty bare bones, so for more information turn to WeatherBug Elite. With support for severe weather warning and alerts, detailed forecasts, local weather cams, and—best of all—multi-layer maps, this app should satisfy even the most dedicated meteorological enthusiasts **\$1**

On the iPad, I prefer **The Weather Channel** for their 'big picture' look of the ten-day forecasts plus video feeds from their TV channel. **Free**

### **W&Y Pages**

Who uses a phone book anymore? Try this app and get to search all the white and yellow page directories for the whole country. The best feature is the reverse number lookup – find out who called your iPhone and didn't leave a message. Careful to type the app's name right. **Free**

### **Facebook**

With Apple's iOS 6, you can use some features of Facebook right from your phone, like post a photo taken with your iPhone to your Timeline, without even installing the app. The dedicated Facebook app, however, will keep you connected to your social network more fully. Even if you're not enthralled by Facebook, many of your friends and family probably are, and they use it to share important information that you might need to know. The app helps you keep up with friends. **Free**

## **WebMD**

The free reference app WebMD is one you hope you won't ever need to consult, but the moment you do need it, you'll be glad you downloaded it. WebMD works as a diagnosis app, contains listings for healthcare professionals and pharmacies in your area, and also contains first-aid guides, or simple instructions for dealing with all kinds of emergencies. Shouldn't everyone have an app like this on them at all times? **Free**

## **Yelp**

One of the most valuable tools available with user recommendations on restaurants, hotels and much more. While its utility varies from city to city—with even more unpredictable results beyond the urban landscape—Yelp pinpoints businesses by location, tells you if they're open right now, and gives you a rough estimation of whether they're places you need to go. Yelp's highly subjective user-written reviews should be read with a grain of salt, but don't let that keep you from reaping the value of an excellent mobile service. When you need anything and you're in unfamiliar territory, Yelp can help. **Free**

## **Google Translate**

With more than 30 languages supported and delivering impressively accurate results most of the time, the Google Translate app is one of the most remarkable programs you can load onto your iPhone. It can be amazingly useful in unexpected circumstances – like talking with your gardener or a Paris cabdriver! **Free**

## **IMDb Movies & TV**

"What was the name of that movie...?" The next time you can't remember the name of an actor, television show, or film, IMDb saves the day. One of the handiest reference websites on the planet, IMDb never fails when it comes to looking up anything that has to do with TV, film, or Hollywood. The IMDb app also lets you find which movies are playing at your local cinema, and even purchase tickets. With an IMDb account, the app provides even more features, like the ability to create a watchlist of movies you want to see. **Free**

## **Wikipedia**

Half the fun of having a smartphone is looking things up when you're in the middle of a bar bet—and hopefully being right. Wikipedia is the go-to source for fact-checking in the mobile age, and the Wikipedia app usually returns results faster than a mobile search engine. **Free**

## **Skype**

Skype is one of the best, free communication tools for the iPhone. And



the app now lets you make video calls. You can call or chat with other Skype users at no charge, or buy credit to call any other phone number, landline or mobile, for pennies per minute. Yes FaceTime also lets you make video calls, but only with other Apple users. **Free**

### **ESPN Score Center**

ESPN's free app lets you check the game quickly, and discreetly when necessary (that is, with your phone under the dinner table), for your favorite sports than most other apps. It can pull game data from baseball, basketball, football, soccer, ice hockey, baseball, and more. You can customize to feature your favorite teams. **Free**

### **Epicurious**

This is a recipe app, and among the free options, it's the best. This app from Condé Nast Publications pulls recipes from a huge catalog, including the archives of *Bon Appétit* and the defunct *Gourmet* magazine. You can search by ingredient or by the type of dish you want to make, such as appetizers and "weeknight dinners." **Free**

### **RedLaser – Barcode Scanner and QR Code Reader**

This app that turns your iPhone's camera into a barcode scanner, has long been on every new iPhone owner's list of free apps to download. Overtime, the app has only improved, and it's now a multi-functional scanner that works on QR codes, too (those squiggly squares in ads). When shopping, scan any item with a barcode, and RedLaser delivers detailed information about the product, including whether you can buy it at a better price nearby. A killer shopping app! **Free**

### **Flashlight**

Ever need a light in a dark restaurant or while fumbling for a lock in the dark? This app is for you and the price is right. **Free**

### **Kayak Pro**

Travel booking site Kayak is a wonderful multi-purpose travel app, helping you find and purchase flights, hotels, car rentals, and more. While there is a free version of the Kayak iPhone app, the Pro version is worth the dollar if you're an avid traveler. One of the perks: detailed layouts of more than 100 airports. **Free or \$1**

### **Gas Buddy**

Before you fill up your car the next time, download this app to find the nearest and cheapest gas prices. Updated frequently by the quarter million users, it is a handy resource especially when traveling. **Free**

This list of mostly independently developed apps is awesome, but don't overlook **Apple's own apps**, some built into the operating system and some you must download from the App Store. I won't take the time to review them all now, but here is a listing. Check them all out.

Built-in to iPad iOS: **Calendar, Camera, Clock, Contacts, Game Center, Maps, Messages, Newsstand, Notes, Photos, Reminders & Weather.**

Additional apps only in the iPhone iOS: **Calculator, Passbook & Stocks.**

Apple apps you can acquire in the App Store: **iBooks, iMovie, iPhotos, iTunes U, Remote, GarageBand, Cards, Pages, Keynote, Numbers, Find My Phone, Find My Friends.**

I'll leave you with one final recommendation. Go to the App Store frequently and browse the 'Featured' and 'Top Charts' sections to see what apps are new and popular. You'll soon be discovering another 40 apps you didn't even know you needed - Have fun!

**Doug Lindal    January 2013**