SWIPE

iPhone

NEWS • REVIEWS • TIPS

CHRISTMAS ON iOS

33 APPS TO HELP THE HOLIDAY SEASON RUN SMOOTHLY

PLUS: GREEN LIVING APPS

SWIPE
iPhone mag
NEWS • REVIEWS • TIPS

Welcome

A note from the editor

Good tidings, Swipe readers!

It's that time of the year again – the final issue of Swipe before Christmas!

As such, we've prepared a huge roundup of festive delights to check out this holiday season. Head over to the **Reviews** section for our selection of the very best apps to help you through the festivities – from picking gifts to entertaining guests and even deciding what to cook.

But as the year draws to a close we're also looking at how to improve our impact on the world. This issue's main **Feature** explores the various ways your iPhone can help you live a greener, cleaner, lifestyle. These apps won't single-handedly save the planet, but they might make you a more conscientious consumer.

This issue's **News** section is a packed one too, as we look at the apps and games Apple chose as its favorites of the year. It's an interesting list, especially when compared to the most *downloaded* apps of the year, a list which isn't exactly swimming in quality entries.

Finally, our **How-to** section shows you how Family Sharing can spread the digital love this Christmas – and how you can build a website from scratch with nothing but an iPhone!

A very sincere thank you to every one of our readers! I hope you have a wonderful holiday no matter what your plans. Our next issue is due in the first week of 2020 – see you then!

Tom Rolfe
Editor-in-Chief

Follow Tom

Meet the team

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Engineering Lead

Follow Mark

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Founder

Follow Jon

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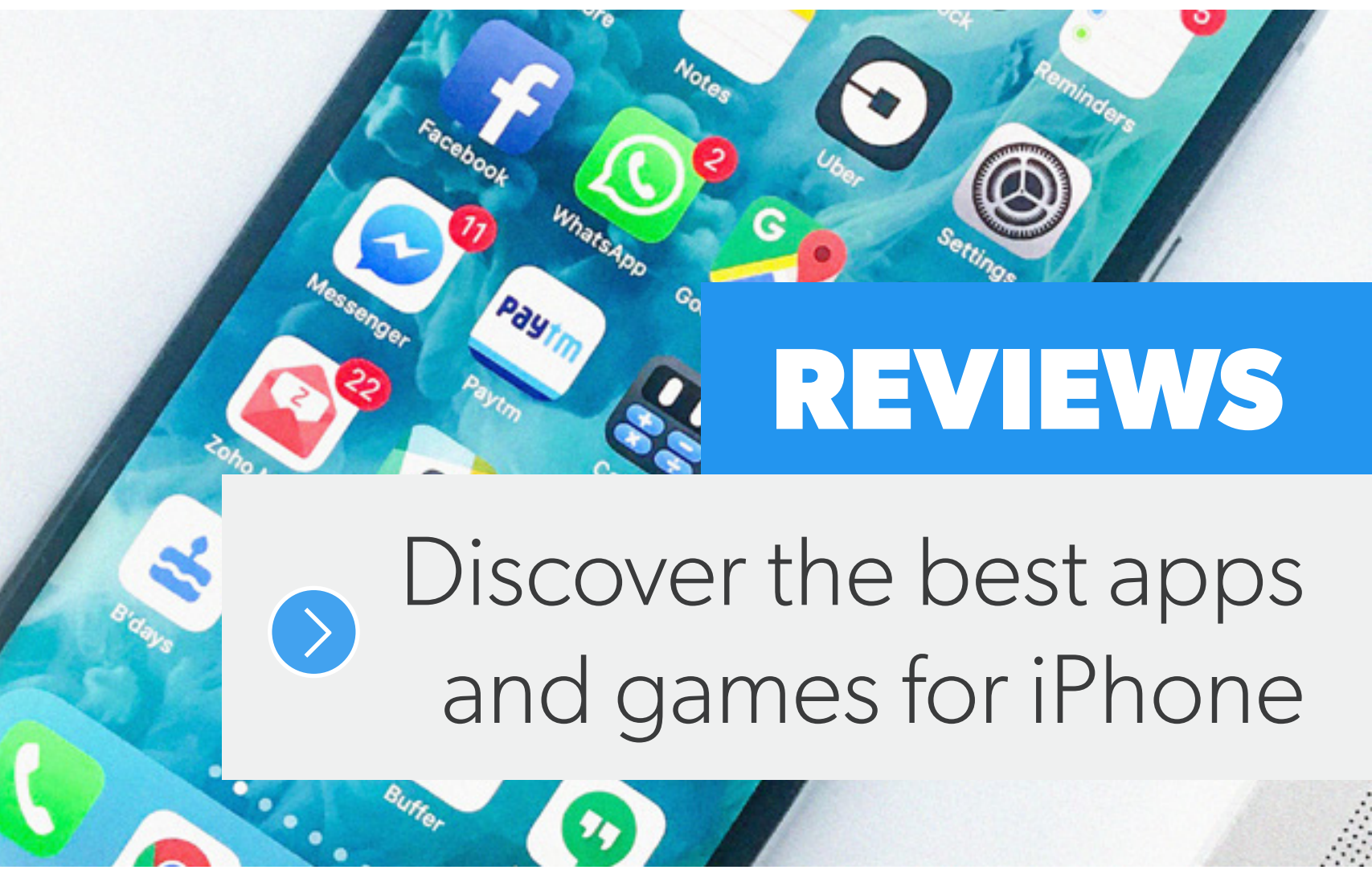
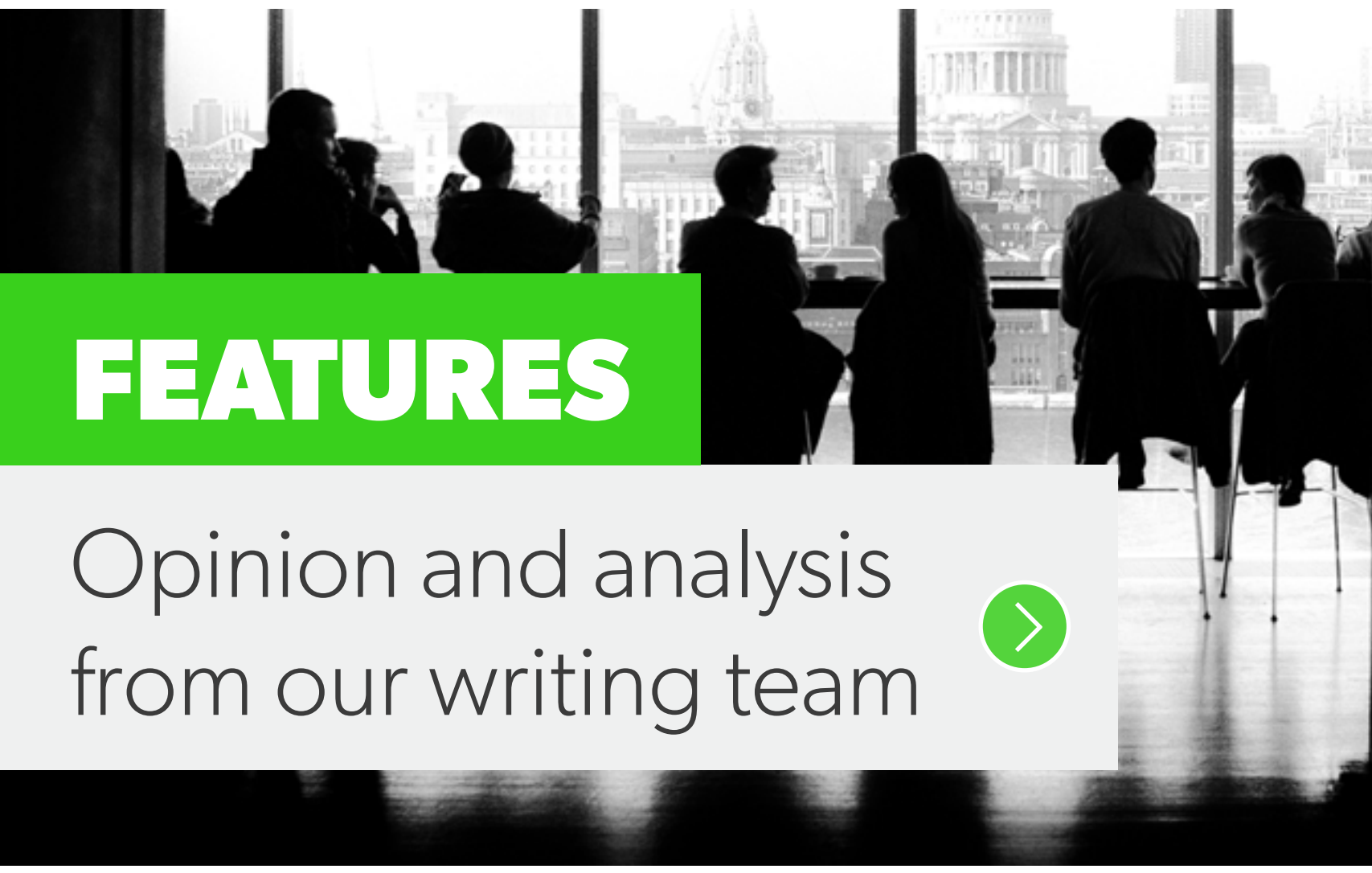
NEWS

The latest stories from the world of Apple



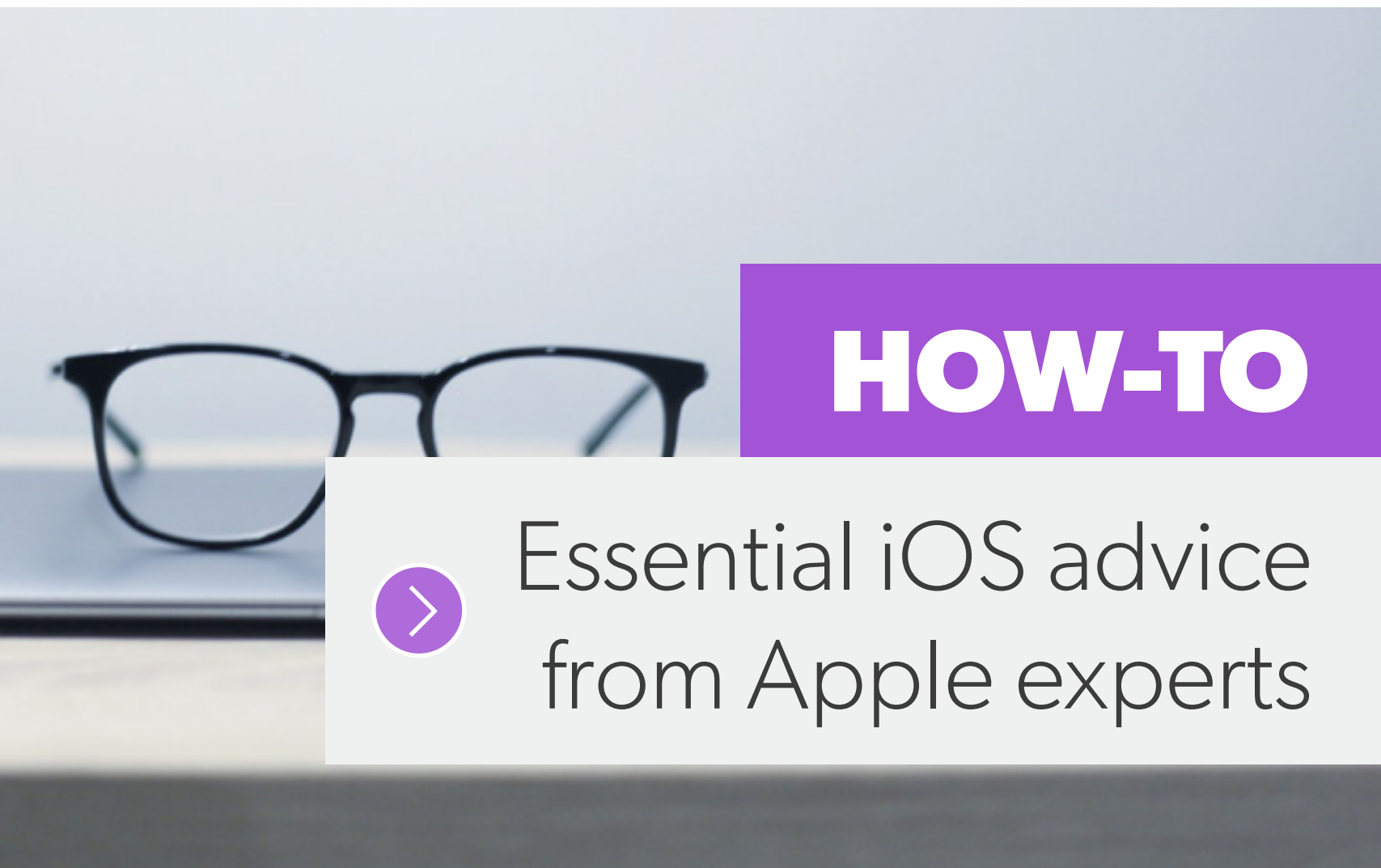
REVIEWS

Discover the best apps and games for iPhone



FEATURES

Opinion and analysis from our writing team

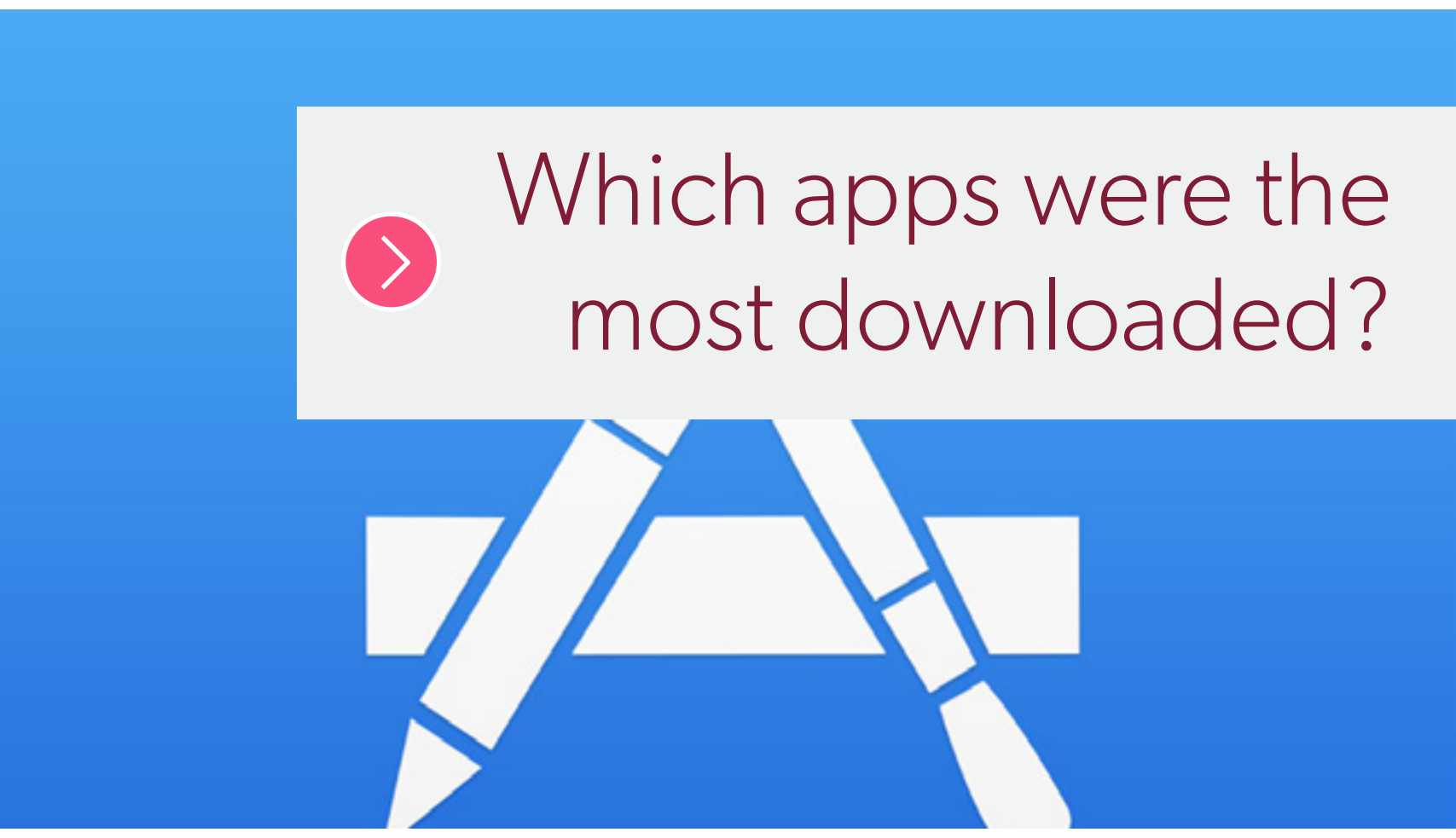


HOW-TO

Essential iOS advice from Apple experts

NEWS

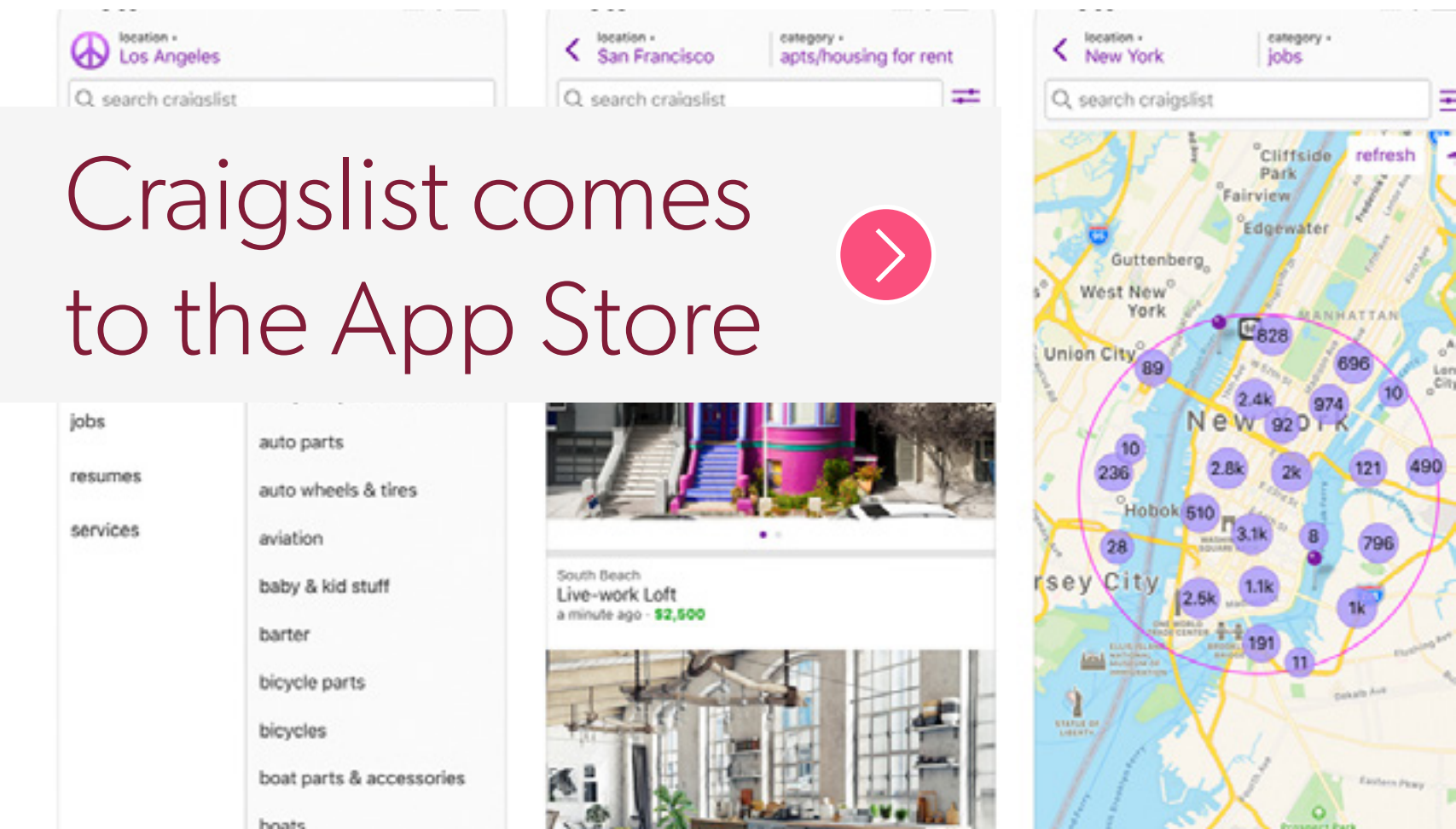
Apple's favorite apps of 2019



Which apps were the most downloaded?

3 welcome changes in iOS 13.3 update

5G iPhone coming soon



Craigslist comes to the App Store

App Store
Best of 2019

Best of 2019

Apple celebrates its favorite apps of the year

Apple has announced its editors' picks of the best apps and games of the year across multiple platforms.

In a buzzword-filled press release, Apple says that "apps made their mark by reflecting the zeitgeist of our society and sitting at the nexus of digital and pop culture." In short, mobile software is more important than ever in our everyday lives.

Apple's picks are all exemplary titles, many of which we've reviewed over the past year. These are apps you won't want to miss, so read on for the full list.

Best Apps of 2019

iPhone App of the Year:
Spectre Camera (Lux Optics)

This AI-powered app leverages a dizzying amount of tech to let anyone take stunning long-exposure photos.

iPad App of the Year:
Flow by Moleskine (Moleskine)

Draw and sketch in this elegant digital notebook app, whose graphite pencils, chisel-tipped markers and more have been meticulously tuned to mimic the real thing.

Mac App of the Year:
Affinity Publisher (Serif Labs)

With its elegant user experience and remarkably reasonable price point, Affinity Publisher makes pro-level design accessible to everyone, whether you're creating a photo-rich coffee table book or a flyer for your second grader's play.

Apple TV App of the Year: The Explorers (The Explorers Network)

This groundbreaking app was designed to support the community of explorers, scientists and artists working toward a common goal: To create a comprehensive "visual inventory" of the natural world through photo and video.

App Trend of 2019:
Storytelling Simplified

In 2019, a groundswell of apps helped us fill the proverbial blank page with our memories, dreams, images, and voices—and did so with more power and personality than ever. With apps like Anchor (Anchor FM), Canva: Stories & Video Maker (Canva), Unfold (Unfold Creative), Steller (Expedition Travel Advisor), Spark Camera (Dayworks), Over (Over, Inc) and Wattpad (Wattpad Corp), anyone can express themselves through moving podcasts, one-of-a-kind novels, and true-to-life photo collages in an easier way than ever before.

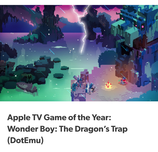
Best Games of 2019

iPhone Game of the Year:
Sky: Children of the Light (thatgamecompany)

Fly across sweeping landscapes to help celestial beings find their way back to the heavens in this groundbreaking social quest.

iPad Game of the Year:
Hyper Light Drifter (Abylight S.L.)

A dazzling, action-packed reimagining of classic 16-bit adventure games, "Hyper Light Drifter" blends dreamlike exploration with fight-for-your-life survival.



Apple TV Game of the Year:
Wonder Boy: The Dragon's Trap (DotEmu)

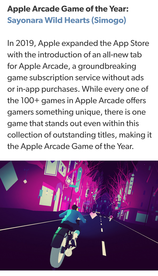
Developed by Lizardcube with the cooperation of series creator Ryuichi Nishizawa, "Wonder Boy" — the beloved game from the '80s, in which a lone half-lizard adventurer sets off on the challenge of a lifetime — gets a reboot with hand-drawn animation and a re-orchestrated soundtrack.

Game Trend of 2019:
Blockbusters Reimagined

This year, game developers worldwide burst onto iOS with a wave of world-renowned brands, all featuring leading-edge technology, bold design and innovative features that delivered a level of depth and quality never thought possible on mobile. Hits like "Mario Kart Tour" and "Dr. Mario World" (Nintendo), "Minecraft Earth" (Mojang), "Pokémon Masters" (DeNA Co), "Assassin's Creed Rebellion" (Ubisoft), "Gears POP!" (Microsoft Corporation), "The Elder Scrolls: Blades" (Bethesda), Alien: Blackout (D3PA) and "Call of Duty: Mobile" (Activision Publishing) aren't mere remakes or tributes — they are original releases that breathed new life into the most beloved franchises in gaming history.

Apple Arcade Game of the Year:
Sayonara Wild Hearts (Simogo)

In 2019, Apple expanded the App Store with the introduction of an all-new tab for Apple Arcade, a groundbreaking game subscription service without ads or in-app purchases. While every one of the 100+ games in Apple Arcade offers gamers something unique, there is one game that stands out even within this collection of outstanding titles, making it the Apple Arcade Game of the Year.



"Sayonara Wild Hearts," developed by Simogo and published by Annapurna Interactive, is a hopeful, gorgeous and unique game — the kind that gets your adrenaline pumping and makes your spirit soar. Prepare to race motorcycles, wield swords and break hearts at 200 mph.

Most Popular 2019

These are the most downloaded apps of the year

Alongside its editorial picks for the greatest apps and games of 2019, Apple has published ranking lists for the most popular App Store downloads of the year.

The lists make for an interesting read, illustrating just how difficult it can be for new apps to break into the mainstream. In fact, only one of the top 20 free apps was released this year, with the list primarily made up of ever-present big players like YouTube and Instagram. If you're curious, that one newbie is the teen-oriented anonymous Q&A app YOLO.

YouTube: Watch, Listen, ... Videos, Music and Live Stre...	VIEW
Instagram Photo & Video	VIEW
Snapchat Real friends. Real you.	VIEW
TikTok - Make Your Day Real People. Real Videos.	VIEW
Messenger Text and Video Chat	VIEW

The paid app charts are a little more varied, but as expected to feature a bunch of apps that have been around for a while. Amongst the list is a handful of our personal favorites like Procreate Pocket, Things 3, and TouchRetouch.

Facetune The Original Selfie Editor	VIEW
HotSchedules Business	VIEW
Dark Sky Weather Weather	VIEW
The Wonder Weeks The Wonder Weeks	VIEW
AutoSleep Track Sleep o... Auto Sleep Tracker & Monitor	VIEW

Moving onto games, the free charts make it abundantly clear that popularity doesn't always mean quality. Big names like Mario Kart Tour, Call of Duty, and Fortnite make the cut, joining a sea of extremely simplistic freemium games that exist purely to rinse players for cash. It's true that even those existing franchises have joined the freemium movement, but they at least can lean on solid core gameplay and a raft of features.

Mario Kart Tour Race around the world!	VIEW
Color Bump 3D Bump Up the Jam!	VIEW
aquapark.io Best water slide game	VIEW
Call of Duty®: Mobile Visceral Multiplayer!	VIEW
BitLife - #1 Life Simulator The addicting simulation ga...	VIEW

On the premium side of gaming, the paid charts reveal a much better selection. Here, there's a combination of ports from PC and console with creative indie hits designed for iOS – but like the apps selection, few of these were released recently. Both free and paid lists pale in comparison to Apple Arcade, which arguably has the most exciting mobile releases of 2019. Seeing the alternative on the App Store really makes that $5 monthly subscription seem like amazing value.

Minecraft Create, explore and survive!	VIEW
Heads Up! Trivia on the go	VIEW
Plague Inc. Can you Infect the World?	VIEW
Bloons TD 6 Mega Popular Tower Defense	VIEW
Geometry Dash Games	VIEW

We've shown off the top fives here but if you want to dig deeper into this story, check out the full listings that comprise 80 titles in total: Top Apps of 2019 / Top Games of 2019. ■

iOS 13

iOS 13.3 Update

Three welcome changes in the latest release

iOS 13 has had a shaky start, with considerably more bug-fixing updates than usual since their arrival in September.

Now the worst of the bugs have been dealt with, Apple is free to update some of its features in this latest update. iOS 13.3 is now available and comes with the following notable changes.

Firstly, Apple has added some new parental controls to the Screen Time section of Settings. This is a welcome change and one parents have been asking for – they'll now be able to limit communication apps more precisely and manage their kids' contacts remotely.

Secondly, it's now possible to turn off the Memoji stickers section from the iOS emoji keyboard. Since the stickers were introduced earlier this year, they've been at the forefront of the emoji section. Though the stickers can be pretty fun, a great many users never use them and would rather have the old layout back. That can now be done from Settings > General > Keyboard > Memoji Keyboard.

The last change that made us smile is the decision to restore an old capability to iOS – when editing a video clip, you now (once again) have the option to keep the trimmed clip alongside the original instead of overwriting it. This may sound like a minor change but its removal was a pretty frustrating one, so it's nice to see Apple rolling back the clock.

Of course, there are the usual smaller fixes too – and you may notice some new layouts in News and Stocks. But the above three are the changes we're most pleased to see.

As ever, Apple has also released an iPadOS 13.3 update to address similar issues on its flagship tablet.

How to update

To get iOS or iPadOS 13.3, simply follow the instructions in ***Settings*** > **General** > **Software Update**. Then simply follow the instructions to download and install the update.

These days, you don't need much storage space free to update – your device will intelligently offload apps while it installs the update and then put them right back again when it's finished.

It's generally a good idea to back up your device before a big iOS update, to ensure your data is safe in case anything goes wrong – the easiest way to do this is using **iCloud Backup** in ***Settings***. ■

5G iPhone

Qualcomm confirm the next-gen iPhone is coming ASAP

We're almost due for the next big leap in cellular communications. The 5G standard began rolling out this year and is already available in dozens of cities – and that number is set to increase massively over the next few years as carriers work to spread 5G coverage as wide as possible.

Compared with 4G, this new protocol will boast much faster download speeds and lower energy usage for a seamless and speedy connection. The improvement from 4G to 5G is comparable to the switch from 3G to 4G in 2008. Of course, like that previous switch, the last-gen technology will likely stick around for a long time to cover the blind spots where the new tech doesn't reach. So there's no need to throw out your old iPhones just yet.

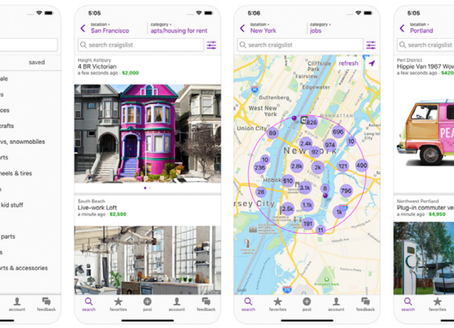
In fact, hardly any smartphones are compatible with 5G yet, with zero Apple devices currently supporting the protocol. That's been long-rumored to end, though, with a 5G-compatible iPhone supposedly on the horizon.

Well, now we have proof that Apple is working on a 5G iPhone, and working as fast as possible. The head of chip-maker Qualcomm confirmed a multi-year partnership with Apple in which it will be developing various parts like modems and antennas to help the iPhone support 5G.

"Priority number one of this relationship with Apple is how to launch their phone as fast as we can," said Qualcomm's president. "That's the priority."

Of course, it's interesting to note that he doesn't commit to a specific timeframe here, but it's probably safe to assume Apple is aiming for a 2020 release if at all possible. The scale at which iPhones are made, and the fact that Qualcomm admits its somewhat late to starting work on 5G components, might make it too much of a challenge for everything to fall into place by next September.

But for those interested in living on the cutting edge of communication, the good news is that we shouldn't be waiting too much longer for a 5G iPhone. ■



Craigslist

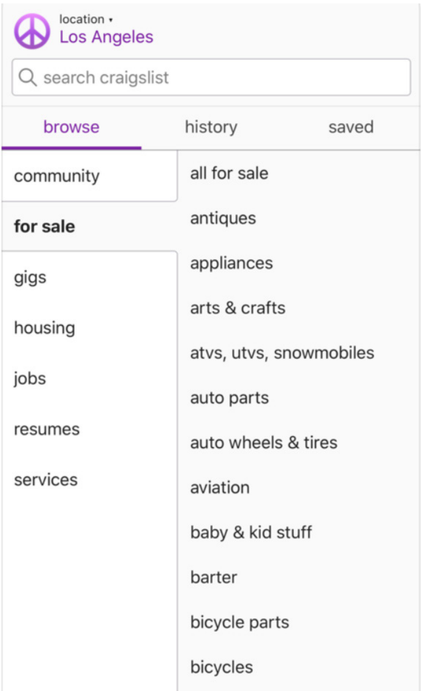
Veteran ads site comes to iOS

Craigslist has long been known as the king of classified adverts, in the US and Canada at least. Its website has been helping people find local jobs, sell their old junk, and even move house since 1995 – but it's somehow taken Craiglist until 2019 to release an official app for its listings. **It's free on the App Store**.

The app utilizes the same simplistic interface as the website. It's not flashy, but importantly it's easy to navigate and ensures even those not particularly tech-savvy should be able to find what they're looking for.

But there are a few nods to the modern age, like swipe gestures to add posts to your favorites. You can also save searches and set search alerts if you're on the hunt for something elusive.

Craigslist is split into familiar categories to help users find what they're looking for, and provides an easy way to post your own classified ads if you're looking to sell rather than buy.



Overall it's a welcome addition to the App Store, and something we're surprised wasn't around from the beginning.

Readers from elsewhere in the world will have to find other options for their classified ads – **Facebook**'s marketplace dominates around much of the world, and **Gumtree** is a popular choice in the UK. ■

REVIEWS

ROUNDUP

The best apps for a smooth Christmas

APPS & GAMES

Golf Battle

Brisk online mini-golf

FoodNoms

Smart meal tracker

iVerify

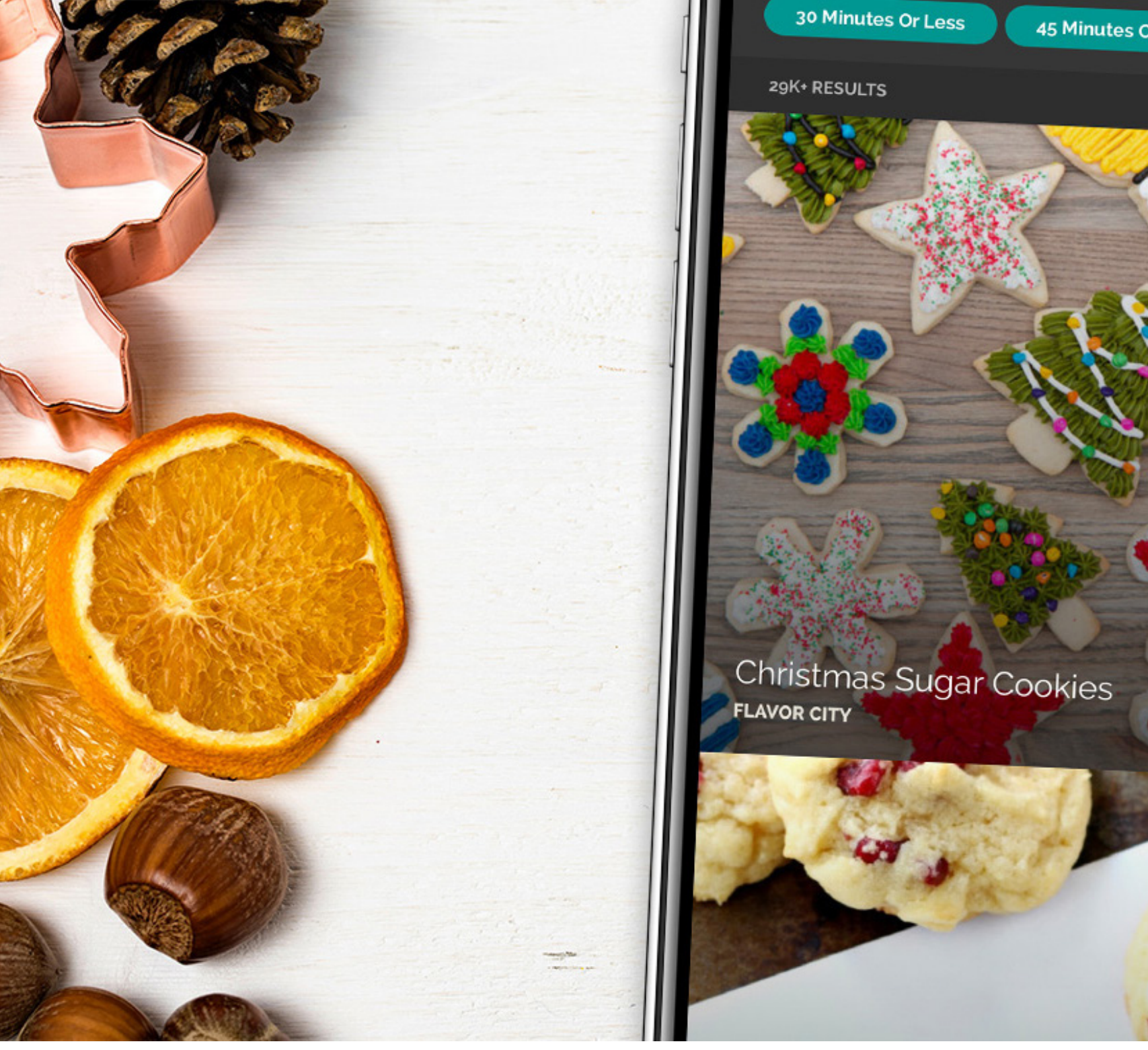
One-stop security app

Freedom

Block work distractions

PLUS

More from the App Store



Christmas on iOS

The best apps for every stage of the festive season

Christmas is barreling toward us with all the intensity of a herd of stompy reindeer. Fortunately, your iPhone and iPad can help you stay on top of things – if you have the right apps installed.

This roundup covers the entire holiday period in six stages. From planning the festivities to picking the right gifts, your device can help. And if you're visiting others or hosting a shindig yourself, our selection of travel and cooking apps can things run smoothly. Finally, to make the night itself one to remember we've got the perfect apps and games to keep the kids entertained while having some festive fun yourself.

Seasons greetings!

The best apps for making plans

Right, then, we first need apps that enable you to dump your brain somewhere and make sense of the chaos. You need to figure out and track gifts, and what food to buy, and to make notes of important things before they fly out of your ear and into the ether. These apps will help you keep track of your plans this Christmas!

CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 27.9 MB **VERSION:** 19.4.3

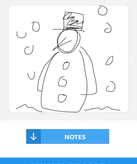
Probably the most important thing to track is how far away Christmas Day is. Most such apps are garbage, but Christmas Countdown (2019) is actually fun. There are no ads, varied options for the countdown itself, and an advent calendar with daily backgrounds and treats (like tips and links to festive things to make). Go premium for $2/£2 and you unlock a Today view widget, and extra background tunes so you can belt out Jingle Bells until everyone demands you stop.

XMAS COUNTDOWN

NOTES

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 1 MB **VERSION:** 1.3.3

The current iteration of Apple's Notes moves far beyond text. You can now use it to create checklists, add photos and scans, build tables (if you're really organized), and save tappable shortcuts from Safari and Apple Maps. Notes can be shared with friends and family when you need to team up during planning. And when it all gets a bit too much, you can even add really bad sketches of snowmen.



NOTES

WUNDERLIST

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 109 MB **VERSION:** 3.4.22

Ah, but what if people you need to share lists with aren't armed with an Apple device? Horrors! And what if you're also the kind of person who needs to be a wee bit more organized than just using the odd checklist, and therefore wants lists within lists, reminders, and a view of what you must absolutely be doing right this minute? Well, for that there's Wunderlist. It even allows commenting on tasks, so you can call someone a dolt for forgetting to buy the turkey. (Sadly, Microsoft's shuttering this superb app in May 2020, so don't get too attached. But it's good for one more festive season.)

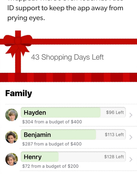
WUNDERLIST

MAGPIE

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 82.2 MB **VERSION:** 1.5

If you're visually oriented when planning but feel Notes doesn't cut it, try Magpie. The app comes across like an offline Pinterest. Each note is designed to have one or more snaps assigned to it, and you can add a few lines of text, a price, a link, and even a map. Top stuff, then, for your own wish list, and keeping track of everything from gifts you've bought for others to cool decoration ideas you fancy trying when you get home.

Gift Ideas



MAGPIE

THE CHRISTMAS LIST

PRICE: $3/£3
SIZE: 37.8 MB **VERSION:** 3.1

Specifically designed for tracking gifts, The Christmas List enables you to select people from your Contacts list, assign a budget, and then track gifts you've bought for them. The app's interface is a bit weird at first, but once it clicks, you'll find it easy to filter lists by person or store, and to quickly check which gifts you've bought, received and wrapped. There's even Touch ID/Face ID support to keep the app away from prying eyes.

THE XMAS LIST

PENNIES

PRICE: $4/£4
SIZE: 73.5 MB **VERSION:** 5.9.3

Although primarily designed as an ongoing expenses tracker, Pennies is useful for one-off runs of spending – like when buying Christmas gifts. Plug in your budget, add your receipts as you go, and Pennies will keep tabs on your running total. Background colors will warn if you're spending a bit too rapidly when it comes to a daily average, but the big number's the main thing to keep an eye on. And once the holidays are done, keep using Pennies to spend wisely over the next year.

PENNIES

The best apps for gift shopping

Buying stuff is such a hassle. You have to leave your house, and mooch around stores so crowded with people that you fear you might all get wedged in and have to be crowbarred out by an angry mall employee dressed as a snowman. But it doesn't have to be this way. If you shop online. Without further ado, here are our favorite apps for present (and card) shopping – and also budgeting for those things!

AMAZON

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 170 MB **VERSION:** 13.21

Give it a few years and there will be no shops — only Amazon. Help usher in this shopping dystopia by buying all your gifts from the comfort of your iPhone. The app makes it easy to browse, or to search for specific items. In fact, by the time you've ordered a few items, our wallet might argue the apps makes everything a bit too easy.

AMAZON (US)

AMAZON (UK)

EBAY

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 211 MB **VERSION:** 5.38.0

Most people think of eBay as the place they sell their tat and then buy new tat that they subsequently sell on eBay again. But in reality it's also become a shopfront for a whole range of outlets, from the smallest indies to the largest stores. It offers a place to find a great bargain, but do take care to check shipping times before you buy something, lest your sister's amazing gift not arrive until the middle of January.

EBAY

ETSY

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 115 MB **VERSION:** 5.38

Away from the corporate claws of Amazon lies Etsy. It's also a global marketplace, but one that encourages handmade goods. Here, you can find all kinds of unique items, crafted by creative people from all around the world. Even if someone's gift isn't an Etsy, it's worth a look — when we browsed, there were some seriously lovely iPhone stands available.

ETSY

LYST

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 52.6 MB **VERSION:** 6.30

Whether someone's said "just get me something nice to wear," or you fancy something yourself but have no idea what to ask for, Lyst is ready and waiting to aid you. Outline the style of whoever you're shopping for, select brands you think they might like, and you'll be served up a bunch of options that can be sorted, filtered by price (sorry, grandad, but you're not getting those $200 jeans), and hurled at a wish list for later perusal.

Which of the looks below best reflects your style?
Pick as many as you like.

LYST

NOTONTHEHIGHSTREET

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 57.6 MB **VERSION:** 5.4.3

This app's name gives you an idea of what you're going to find. It's about heading off the beaten track, to find something a bit different from the norm. So whether you fancy getting dad that urban beekeeping experience he's always dreamed of, or your kid a world map pillowcase they can color in, you won't be disappointed with this app's gift selection.

MOONPIG

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 49.9 MB **VERSION:** 7.59

There's something deeply impersonal about many cards you can buy in stores. Pre-packaged, canned verses and generic imagery don't get across your wishes in a sincere manner. So try Moonpig, which enables you to personalize cards with your own images and messages. It's also handy for sending cards to other countries when you've missed the last post from your own.

The best apps for travel and weather

There's extra stress when traveling during the holidays. The last thing you want is to be going precisely the wrong way down a very long road when you were due to meet the in-laws for Christmas drinks an hour ago. So get some apps to ensure you know where you're going – and what it'll be like when you get there. There are a ton of travel and weather apps out there, but for our money, these are the ones you should definitely install before yo-ho-ho becomes yo-oh-no.

GOOGLE MAPS

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 246 MB **VERSION:** 5.32

There's no longer anything inherently wrong with Apple Maps, and we quite often use it for driving directions. However, it's pretty poor at enabling you to search for locations, terrible with public transport, and also doesn't allow you to save chunks of a map for offline use. Fortunately, Google Maps ably deals with all those things, and is entirely free.

GOOGLE MAPS

WAZE

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 166 MB **VERSION:** 4.57

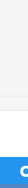
We've already mentioned Google Maps as your best companion for getting where you need to go, but you might need a second opinion, especially when traveling by car. Waze is also worth having installed, because it's packed full of to-the-second data crowdsourced from loads of users. And so when you're on the way to the in-laws, with a car loaded down with gifts, you'll get a heads-up about any traffic incidents on your route, and can take action accordingly.

WAZE

WEATHER UNDERGROUND

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 125 MB **VERSION:** 6.0.1

Mapping apps will give you a sense of how long journeys will take, but it's worth planning well in advance, in case the weather decides to put in an appearance of the disruptive kind. Weather Underground is one of the most comprehensive weather apps around, with a broadly accurate forecast for the coming week, loads of data, and even webcam links. Before you make that cross-country trip, loaded with children and gifts, check out whether you should add an hour or two to deal with snow.

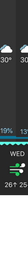


WEATHER UNDERGROUND

CARROT WEATHER

PRICE: $5/£5
SIZE: 153 MB **VERSION:** 4.14

This weather app also provides a forecast for the coming week, but adds immediate conditions – and plenty of snark. If you fancy attempting to burn off a bit of your Christmas dinner with an evening constitutional, use CARROT to see whether it's going to pour down over the next hour first. And if a downpour is imminent, CARROT will, in seasonal fashion, cheerily note something like: "At least it's not acid rain ." It's like Santa's right there in the room with you!



CARROT WEATHER

The best apps for food and drink

Whether it's your turn to cook, or you just fancy offering a helping hand, there are some superb apps to use in the kitchen. Here's our pick of the best ones to have installed this Christmas. It's like having a little gaggle of chefs in your pocket. If only they could do the actual cooking, too!

KITCHEN STORIES

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 111 MB **VERSION:** 18.2.3

This is our favorite cookbook app, mostly because it's so elegant and well thought out. Not only does the app tempt with gorgeous photography, but recipes provide step-by-step photo instructions, so you know what everything should look like at each point. How-to videos give you basic tips, too, if you're caught on the hop and asked to assist in getting Christmas dinner ready.

★★★★☆
59 votes

KITCHEN STORIES

TASTY

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 67.8 MB **VERSION:** 2.25.1

To some extent, Tasty comes across like Kitchen Stories for people with low attention spans. In place of minimalism, there are splashes of vibrant color. And rather than tastefully shot photography (although Tasty does have some of that), you get super-fast videos of each dish being made alongside step-by-step instructions. The videos are certainly a useful way to nail a technique, though, even if they do look like a close-up of a TV chef's efforts being played back in fast-forward.

Strawberry Santas

99% would make this again
Ready in **under 30 minutes**

Ingredients
for 15 santas

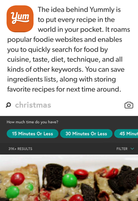
strawberry, frozen will work too if fresh are not available	1 box

TASTY

COCKTAIL FLOW

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 124 MB **VERSION:** 1.3

Turkey? Fine. Potatoes? Whatever. If your idea of food and drink tends towards the latter during the holidays, grab a copy of Cocktail Flow. This free app provides hundreds of recipes, including a Christmas collection (such as Chocolatini, Jingle Juice, and, er, Russian Santa). And if you're feeling contrary – or just freezing cold – head to the poolside options, don some earbuds, blast summer music into your ears, and pretend you're on a beach somewhere.



Christmas
Festive drinks to get you in the holiday spirit!

Irish Coffee	Alexander
Light	Medium

COCKTAIL FLOW

YUMMLY

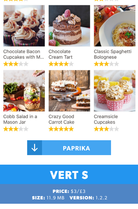
PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 241 MB **VERSION:** 6.0.3

The idea behind Yummly is to put every recipe in the world in your pocket. It roams popular foodie websites and enables you to quickly search for food by cuisine, taste, diet, technique, and all kinds of other keywords. You can save ingredients lists, along with storing favorite recipes for next time around.

christmas

How much time do you have?
15 Minutes Or Less | 30 Minutes Or Less | 45 Minutes

200 RESULTS | FILTER



YUMMLY

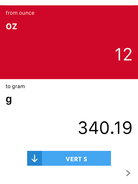
PAPRIKA

PRICE: $5/£5
SIZE: 46.8 MB **VERSION:** 3.4.3

Another option for when you need to unleash your inner chef during the holidays, Paprika is a full-fledged kitchen organizational tool like no other. It lets you roam your favorite foodie websites and pilfer interesting recipes. These can then be stored, edited, and later referred to when you get cooking. Timers, meal plans, and schedules top off the tastiest cooking app on iOS for anyone who wants to feel more in control of recipes they can't make sense of.

All Recipes ›

Search



PAPRIKA

VERT S

PRICE: $3/£3
SIZE: 11.9 MB **VERSION:** 1.2.2

Some cooking apps are good at dealing with conversions, but some aren't. If you find yourself staring quizzically at ounces or grams, use Vert S to quickly convert units. If you use specific conversions frequently, you can save them to the app's favorites tab.

from ounce
oz
12

to gram
g
340.19

VERT S

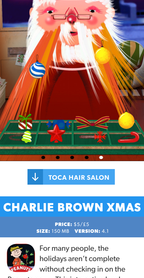
The best apps to keep the kids quiet

You can tell it's no longer summer when your kids start demanding to know how long it is until Christmas – every single hour of the day. As the big day draws near, keep them distracted with games and apps!

TOCA HAIR SALON

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 35.4 MB **VERSION:** 1.0.10

If we're honest, Santa's look's getting a bit old, and it's time for something a bit different. In Toca Hair Salon, you can restyle his beard and hair, adding some vibrant color and entirely unnecessary Christmas decorations. And because it's Christmas, you can do precisely the same to Topzy, an oddly sentient and grumpy Christmas tree. (Or perhaps he only got grumpy because we painted him orange.)



TOCA HAIR SALON

CHARLIE BROWN XMAS

PRICE: $5/£3
SIZE: 150 MB **VERSION:** 4.1

For many people, the holidays aren't complete without checking in on the Peanuts gang. This interactive book reimagines the 1960s classic cartoon for the touchscreen, enabling you to interact with animations, play small games, and read along with the narrative. It's really sweet and even the odd bug on current versions of iOS (the clock never seems to go away) doesn't really spoil the fun.

CHARLIE BROWN

BOGGA XMAS TREE

PRICE: $4/£4
SIZE: 22.6 MB **VERSION:** 1.1.0

You might balk at spending a few bucks on a virtual Christmas tree, but it's a good bet for kids. First, it might stop them wrecking your real tree through regularly 'redesigning' it. Secondly, a premium app means no hideous adverts interrupting things every eight seconds as per most of Bogga's rivals. And finally, you can make custom baubles from photos of anything in front of your iPhone's camera, including your own gurning face. Perfect!

BOGGA XMAS TREE

DR PANDA AR

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 180 MB **VERSION:** 1.11

This app reasons you don't need a real Christmas tree cluttering up the place when you can have a virtual one. Here, you decorate in AR and place your tree anywhere you please. Sort of. The floor-scanning bit is in fact a touch flaky. But when it works, this is a fun take on decorating, with new ornaments provided daily from a built-in advent calendar. Neatly, the app also caters for multiple kids, since six different trees can be stored.

DR PANDA AR

LEGO DUPLO WORLD

PRICE: $3/£3
SIZE: 4.57 MB **VERSION:** 1.5.0

There are three distinct scenes in the "Winter Holiday" section of this app. The first finds a Duplo Santa and reindeer in front of what's presumably Santa's house. Lob gifts off of the screen and elves helpfully bring new ones. Next door, an ice skating rink has little figures sliding about. The best bit, though, is a virtual Duplo set you can use to build a festive snow figure – all without later painfully treading on one of the bricks.

LEGO DUPLO WORLD

SLEEPS TO XMAS 2

PRICE: $2/£2
SIZE: 97.8 MB **VERSION:** 1.3.1

The countdown app mentioned earlier isn't exactly aimed at kids, what with its weird neon tree and explosions. Sleeps to Christmas 2 Premium, though, is bang on. This is basic stuff – Santa or some other grinning wintry character stands next to a sign that states how far away Christmas is. Initially, it displays 'sleeps'. But if your kid demands precision, you can have the sign count down the seconds until the big day.

SLEEPS TO XMAS 2

The best apps for festive fun

The wrapping paper's been torn off in strips, some of which still linger in the air. You've eaten more potatoes and turkey than you thought possible to fit inside yourself. And now you just want to melt into the sofa to the point that you may very well fuse with the fabric. Have your iPhone or iPad help you unwind with these apps and games.

CHRISTMAS RADIO

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 42.9 MB **VERSION:** 12.6

There are of course loads of radio apps for the iPhone. But imagine the horror on Christmas Day if you were to accidentally stray from the relentless stream of carols and classic Christmas hits! Even the family dog, now sporting a natty jumper with an oddly knitted reindeer, might turn against you. So check out Christmas Radio, which only plays Christmas stations, every day, all year!

CHRISTMAS RADIO

HEADS UP!

PRICE: $1/£1
SIZE: 188 MB **VERSION:** 4.1.76

This is that old party game where you hold to your head a card with a famous name written on it, and try to guess their identity from clues yelled your way. The difference here is it's played at speed, with you zooming through a deck of cards in double-quick time. And if you feel like an idiot holding an iPhone to your forehead, get your own back by using the app to record the people giving you clues, and upload their hopeless efforts to Facebook.

HEADS UP!

PIC COLLAGE

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 257 MB **VERSIONS:** 7.58.1

Oh no – you've forgotten to send any cards! Don't worry – pretend you were being eco-conscious and instead use Pic Collage to send digital ones. The app's pretty great for fashioning customised efforts, whether you want to use card templates, or compile a bunch of photos into a framed collage. For free, you can export your handiwork, but a watermark is burned in; a single $2/£2 IAP banishes watermarks forever.

PIC COLLAGE

JIBJAB

PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 68.7 MB **VERSION:** 5.5.1

When you've decided someone you know needs some kind of festive greeting that's simultaneously personalized and terrifying, reach for JibJab. Shoot your face, and it's then automatically inserted into the app's selection of occasionally risqué cards and videos. (Some options require you to "cast" multiple people – although you can always have several yous to properly freak friends out.) Some cards will require you to splash out on a $3/£2 monthly IAP, but, hey, that's a small price to pay for art, right?

JIBJAB

A GOOD SNOWMAN

PRICE: $5/£5
SIZE: 219 MB **VERSION:** 1.1.0

If you want a bit of solo gaming downtime, and have a desire to keep your brain engaged while the TV's doing its best to fill your head with vacuous rubbish, try A Good Snowman. A wintry variant on Soko-Ban, it finds an adorable monster rolling snow around a maze-like garden, in order to create balls large enough to make some icy friends. If that concept doesn't melt your heart, you're probably the monster.

A GOOD SNOWMAN

REVIEW by JON MUNDY

GOLF BATTLE

DEVELOPER: MINICLIP
PRICE: FREE
SIZE: 129 MB
VERSION: 1.9.1
PLATFORM: IPHONE & IPAD

Like someone stuffed a French synth-twiddler into your device and had them play – forever

Golf is the gamiest of sports. It tasks you with getting to the end of a series of twisty, obstacle-strewn 'levels' as efficiently as possible through a series of skillful bounces and rebounds. It's basically Super Mario, but with dimpled balls.

Game makers have exploited this kinship to great effect over the years. And while Golf Battle isn't as tight as Super Stickman 3 or as imaginative as Golf Club: Wasteland, it does provide a very fun game of casually competitive mini-golf.

The color-coded control system is highly intuitive

The game it bears most resemblance to, at least conceptually, is Golf Blitz. Just as in Noodlecake's masterpiece, the idea is to sink putts at the same time as your online opponents. You don't just need to be accurate with your chip-and-putt game, but also quick.

Finishing first gives you the edge in a tie-break situation, and it also starts a countdown for your opponents to finish. There's even a dedicated Rush mode where speed is everything, and finishing one hole hurries you on to the next regardless of your opponent's position.

There are often multiple routes to success

The main difference between Golf Battle and the aforementioned Golf Blitz is the perspective. This one is fully 3D, and you can pan the camera around simply by touching and dragging left and right. The graphics are bland but crisp and colourful, as Miniclip's games tend to be.

Control is similarly on the nose: a simple matter of touching and dragging away from the ball to set your power, then releasing to give the ball a good thwack. You'll gradually accrue and upgrade clubs that will let you hit further and more accurately, but the onus is on you to play the right shot and keep the ball in bounds.

Holing out allows you the luxury of watching you opponents scramble

That becomes surprisingly challenging as further themed courses unlock, bringing branching pathways, precarious bridges, banked turns, slippery ice and more. The range of environmental modifiers and the variety of courses is genuinely impressive, and they encourage you to do much more than just hit and hope.

There's a fair amount of heavy-handed IAP prompts and loot box timers to wade through, though the game still leans on skill first and foremost. It's far from pay to win, even if you can pay to bolster the potency of your clubs.

Loot boxes are present

We also find it irritating that you have to login using Facebook if you want anything more than a random jumble of numbers for your user name and image.

Ultimately, Golf Battle doesn't join the very elite of the casual golf sub-genre. Golf Blitz in particular does this kind of thing much better, with more personality and nuance. But if all you're after is a simple and slick game of online 3D mini-golf, it should suit you to a tee. ■

VERDICT

Intuitive online mini-golf

THE GOOD

Simple controls
Varied courses
Emphasis on skill over gimmicks

THE BAD

Bland presentation
In-your-face freemium mechanics
Over-reliance on Facebook login

3.5 ★★★½

DOWNLOAD

REVIEW by JOE WHITE

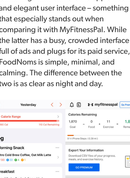
FOODNOMS

DEVELOPER: AIGEBRAIC LABS
PRICE: FREE (+IAP)
SIZE: 8.4 MB
VERSION: 8.4
PLATFORM: iPHONE & iPAD

It's well-designed and feature-rich, but how does FoodNoms stack up against the competition?

FoodNoms is a brand new food tracking app that puts a focus on design, functionality and privacy, and in doing so hopes to stand head and shoulders above the competition. But whether the free app for iPhone and iPad can best food-tracking champions like MyFitnessPal isn't so simple.

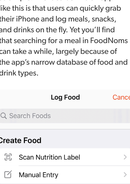
What you'll be pleased to see when launching FoodNoms is the app's clean and elegant user interface – something that especially stands out when comparing it with MyFitnessPal. While the latter has a busy, crowded interface full of ads and plugs for its paid service, FoodNoms is simple, minimal, and calming. The difference between the two is as clear as night and day.



FoodNoms (left) vs. MyFitnessPal (right)

FoodNoms encourages users to set food goals which they can monitor. An example of this might be calorie intake. FoodNoms also lets you set a range for your goal – a minimum and maximum – and warns you when you're reaching the upper limits. You can check on your progress graphically, and FoodNoms can incorporate activity data from the Health app in order to refine results.

However, when it comes to adding meals into FoodNoms, things aren't so simple. The idea behind an app like this is that users can quickly grab their iPhone and log meals, snacks, and drinks on the fly. Yet you'll find that searching for a meal in FoodNoms can take a while, largely because of the app's narrow database of food and drink types.



Logging an item

In this respect, MyFitnessPal has the upper hand – it's easy to find plenty of items there that don't appear in FoodNoms.

If you search for an item in FoodNoms and it isn't immediately appearing, all isn't lost, though. FoodNoms has a handy feature that lets users scan the nutritional information from food packaging and create a new log from it. The app does a good job of processing this information and importing it in – but this does lengthen the process of logging a snack or meal.

Scanning nutritional information

For folks living in the United States, FoodNoms also supports barcode scanning, which speeds up the process of adding unfamiliar food items. But at present, this isn't available in any international countries.

This small gripe aside, there's still a lot to love about FoodNoms. It has a strong focus on privacy – the app doesn't require you to sign up for an account, syncing is handled by iCloud, and data is only shared with the Health app if you choose to. And users have plenty of settings to customize, including default energy unit and meal labels.

Checking your progress

For a subscription, FoodNoms Plus brings an unlimited number of goals, tracking for intermittent fasting, and size estimation for portions. It'll set you back $2/£2 per month or around $17/£17 annually.

The last piece of good news is the app's price. FoodNoms is free to download and use for as long as you like without costing a dime. That should give you plenty of time to decide whether this is the right food-logger for you. ■

VERDICT

Smart meal tracker

THE GOOD
Clean user interface
Goal monitoring
Promising scanning functions

THE BAD
Limited database
Adding new food takes a while

4.0
★★★★☆

DOWNLOAD

iVerify.

REVIEW by JON MUNOY

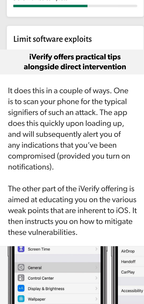
iVERIFY

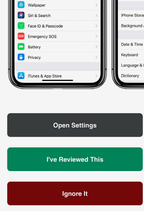
DEVELOPER: TRAIL OF BITS
PRICE: $3/13
SIZE: 46.4 MB
VERSION: 5.0
PLATFORM: iPHONE & iPAD

A comprehensive iOS security app

iPhone users like to think that we own the most secure platform in town, and to a certain extent, we do. But as Google discovered mid-way through 2019, there remain weaknesses that can be exploited by malicious parties.

iVerify is an app that looks to scan your iPhone and identify the signs of an attack, and also to help close off as many of those security loopholes as possible.

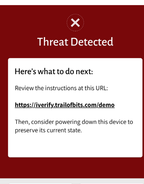




iVerify offers practical tips alongside direct intervention

It does this in a couple of ways. One is to scan your phone for the typical signifiers of such an attack. The app does this quickly upon loading up, and will subsequently alert you of any indications that you've been compromised (provided you turn on notifications).

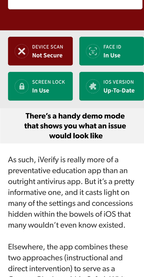
The other part of the iVerify offering is aimed at educating you on the various weak points that are inherent to iOS. It then instructs you on how to mitigate these vulnerabilities.



Tick off the security steps as you go

iVerify presents you with seven main areas of concern from the hub page, such as 'Secure your online accounts' and 'Network security (advanced)'. Tap on each section and you'll be given multiple steps to take within iOS, along with illustrated step by step guidance.

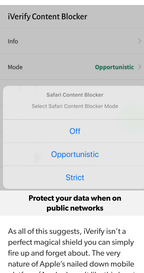
This can be as simple as advice to 'Use a Password Manager' or as involved as guidance on how to 'Look for suspicious Apple Profiles'. Once you've performed one of these steps, the app encourages you to mark them as checked. You'll then be given a rundown of how protected you are for each area.



There's a handy demo mode that shows you what an issue would look like

As such, iVerify is really more of a preventative education app than an outright antivirus app. But it's a pretty informative one, and it casts light on many of the settings and concessions hidden within the bowels of iOS that many wouldn't even know existed.

Elsewhere, the app combines these two approaches (instructional and direct intervention) to serve as a Content Blocker within Safari. With a little delving around in Apple's browser's settings, you can authorize iVerify to protect the privacy of your web usage when using a public Wi-Fi hotspot. It doesn't offer the customization of a dedicated solution like 1Blocker X, but combined with the tips and alerts it makes for a very handy one-stop security shop.



Protect your data when on public networks

As all of this suggests, iVerify isn't a perfect magical shield you can simply fire up and forget about. The very nature of Apple's nailed down mobile platform (Apple doesn't like third party apps rummaging around) means that you'll have to do much of the leg work yourself if you really want to shore up your iPhone's defenses.

But this is one of the most enlightening apps we've seen in a little-understood field. The truth is your iPhone isn't quite as secure as you'd like to think it is, but Trail of Bits's app can help you make it a lot more watertight. ■

VERDICT

Informative and handy

THE GOOD

Comprehensive security advice
Well laid out tips and reminders
Speedy system scan

THE BAD

Requires a hands-on approach

4.0
★★★★☆

DOWNLOAD

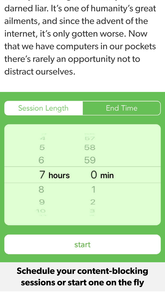
REVIEW by ANDY PRICE

FREEDOM

DEVELOPER: EIGHTY PERCENT SOLUTIONS
PRICE: $30/£30 per year
SIZE: 16.5 MB
VERSION: 3.0.1
PLATFORM: iPHONE & IPAD

Get those hours back by blocking distracting content

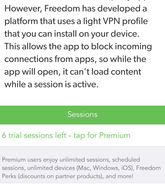
Show me one person that hasn't been a victim of procrastination, and I'll say maybe it, I'll call you a darned liar. It's one of humanity's great ailments, and since the advent of the internet, it's only gotten worse. Now that we have computers in our pockets there's rarely an opportunity not to distract ourselves.



Schedule your content-blocking sessions or start one on the fly

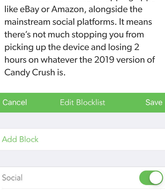
Content blockers are a resolution. And while the relatively open plains of browsers have had solutions for willingly choosing to prevent ourselves from certain productivity-vacuums such as Reddit or Facebook, apps are a little trickier in their usefulness.

For one, much distraction comes from apps on our devices, and Apple doesn't allow a third-party app to block content from another third-party app. However, Freedom has developed a platform that uses a light VPN profile that you can install on your device. This allows the app to block incoming connections from apps, so while the app will open, it can't load content while a session is active.



Your session can include blocking all websites, or select apps and custom websites

It all sounds a bit complex, but it's really not. Freedom is simple to use and you can either block content at scheduled times (e.g. working hours) or you can start a session on the fly if you really have to get immediately down to business. You can create your own blocklists, which can include specific websites manually entered by yourself, or you can use some of its pre installed settings. It has options to block all or some websites via Safari, and block apps on the device.

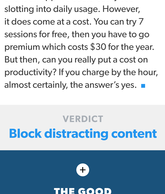


Add specific websites you know you use too often

You can toggle options on for things like dating apps, social apps, or chat apps like WhatsApp and Messenger.

You might also be concerned about your data moving through the service's network, but from what we can see the profile only blocks the incoming connection so no data is going via Freedom's servers.

A couple of drawbacks are that you can't block subdomains. So, for example, you can only block all of Facebook, so if you have a work-based Facebook page, you can't selectively use that, which other content blockers such as Focus can do. Secondly, you can only block apps from a select list which includes familiar shopping apps like eBay or Amazon, alongside the mainstream social platforms. It means there's not much stopping you from picking up the device and losing 2 hours on whatever the 2019 version of Candy Crush is.



You can block by subject too

Also, it's a little hit and miss. We found sometimes apps weren't blocked, and when we saved them to a blocklist for a session, they just wouldn't save.

In terms of design and usability, it is simple, with a pleasant color scheme and is an app we could easily see slotting into daily usage. However, it does come at a cost. You can try 7 sessions for free, then you have to go premium which costs $30 for the year. But then, can you really put a cost on productivity? If you charge by the hour, almost certainly, the answer's yes. ■

VERDICT

Block distracting content

+ THE GOOD

Well-designed
Range of options

− THE BAD

Doesn't always work

3.5 ★★★★☆

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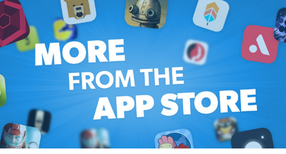
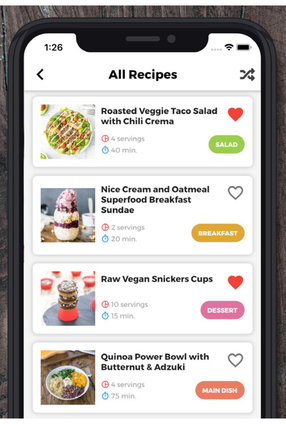


INGREDIENTS

PRICE: $4/£4
SIZE: 141 MB **VERSION:** 1.0

The adoption of plant-based diets has grown exponentially as conscientious eaters weigh up the impact of eating meat on both their health and that of the Earth. There's no shortage of apps to help out with vegan recipe ideas, but few are as slick or comprehensive-looking as Ingredients. It's from Andrew Olson of the award-winning One Ingredient Chef website, and it supplies more than 275 plant-based recipes with tasty photos, step-by-step guidance, and powerful search and organization tools. ■



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GANG OF FOUR: THE CARD GAME

PRICE: $4/£4
SIZE: 287 MB **VERSION:** 1.0

Gang of Four is a competitive card game for three or four players (human or AI), but with a unique flavor. It utilizes familiar Poker hands, with the aim of playing all your cards first rather than accruing more money. There's the usual combination of skill, strategy, and pure luck to each round. Based on a beloved Chinese card game, digital board game specialist Asmodee has enhanced Gang of Four's rock-solid core with evocative Eastern-tinged presentation. ■

DOWNLOAD

DUMB WAYS TO DASH

PRICE: $8/£8
SIZE: 121 MB **VERSION:** 13.2.2

A new game from the developer behind 'Dumb Ways to Die', Dumb Ways to Dash switches to a familiar 3D runner format. The twist is that there's a pronounced combative gauntlet-running element, as you bump and nudge your fellow racers off the edge of the course and into traps. It's a bit of a shame that your rivals are AI-controlled, but this at least enables the races to flow along at a snappy rate. The visual style is as adorable as ever, too. ■

DOWNLOAD

Green Living

How your iPhone can help you live more ethically

by CRAIG GRANNELL

So there you are, sitting with your shiny new slab of glass and metal. You're pawing at its screen, surfing the internet, finding junk to buy, downing a bottle of water, and ordering take-out, when it suddenly hits you: you're basically destroying the planet single-handedly.

Fortunately, your phone can help. Sure, you're not going to become the world's greenest eco-warrior overnight, but there are apps that can adjust your habits, ensuring that you take better care of the planet – and, in doing so, better care of yourself.

Food for thought

Although we shouldn't blame cows alone for global warming – human fossil fuel consumption is a much bigger contributor than agriculture and people eating meat – humanity cutting down on meat consumption en masse would be broadly beneficial. We'd see less deforestation for farming, and there'd also be less methane emitted by cows, if there were fewer of them.

We're not suggesting you suddenly flip to being vegan overnight, but if your diet is balanced quite heavily towards 'carnivore', perhaps take a look at apps that could help you shift towards a greater number of plant-oriented meals. **Kitchen Stories (free)** and **Tasty (free)** are excellent apps for cooking new things, with, respectively, easy to follow photo and video guides. Both offer the means to filter the list of recipes you're provided, so you can hone in purely on dishes you're not yet regularly cooking.

Green Kitchen

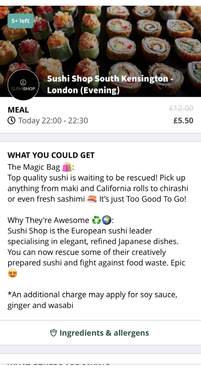
If you want more of a razor-sharp focus, **Green Kitchen ($4/£4)** is a good bet. Instead of attempting to fill its virtual pages with every suitable recipe under the sun, this one's more like a traditional cookbook, and offers just over 150 handpicked ideas, covering main courses, snacks, and drinks. Each recipe is flagged as gluten free, raw, vegan, or whole grain as appropriate, and there are built-in timers too.

If you're out and about, your iPhone can help you eat green as well. **Vanilla Bean (free)** quickly and efficiently points you at nearby restaurants that offer vegan dining. And if you don't fancy going entirely green, options exist to adjust your selection to prioritize outlets that at least sell local and organic produce, thereby ensuring ingredients in your order have been subject to fewer air miles.

Waste not, want not

Another area of food production that warrants keeping an eye on is food waste. Estimates vary regarding precisely how much perfectly edible food – or food that was edible but ignored for days – is thrown away on a daily basis, but it's a lot. We're talking many, many tons – and that's really not OK if we're looking to live in a more eco-friendly and sustainable future.

In Europe, **Too Good To Go (free)** has worked with a large number of food outlets, which alert you by way of a big green dot on a map when they will have cheap food for sale. Bakeries will offload the day's produce before it goes stale; and restaurants will at the end of a meal shift provide so-called 'magic bags' – a range of tasty treats at a knock-down price far below what you'd normally pay. So you can do your bit for the environment and get a bargain.



Too Good To Go

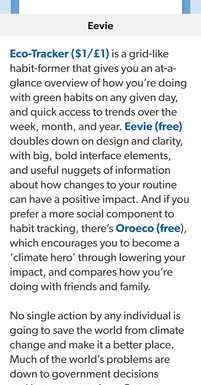
Too Good To Go perhaps works best in bigger cities – and isn't yet in the USA at all (although the organization is looking to expand). Still, that doesn't mean your iPhone can't help you cut down on food waste, even in the USA. **NoWaste (free + IAP)** is a useful app for logging food you've got at home, and tracking expiration dates. It requires effort on your part to punch in all the data, but makes it far less likely the mushrooms and broccoli you shoved to the back of the fridge, behind a massive carton of something or other, will actually be eaten rather than spoil and be thrown into the trash.

Of course, waste isn't just about food, and plenty of apps are creating local marketplaces where you can give and find things for free. **Olio (free)** is a nicely designed example, albeit one that's often not heavily populated with tons of offers; oddly, **Facebook (free)** Marketplace might be a better option for most – see if you have a local 'freebay' group you can join, submit to and collect from. Also, if you fancy getting your local neighborhood involved, why not set up a **WhatsApp (free)** group specifically for offloading items to people who might want or need them?

Habit forming

Behaviors need changing if new approaches are going to be infused into your routine. You might want to look at shopping habits – try **Good On You (free)** and **CoGo (free)** for initial stabs at aligning purchases with personal values – but also, you may find the need to track habits to fully get on board with greener, ethical living.

Popular iPhone habit trackers like **Streaks ($5/£5)** work well for this, and are a good bet if you're already using one – just add an specific eco-friendly task (like carrying reusable bags, avoiding plastic water bottles, or eating greener) until it's a part of your daily routine, and then move on to the next thing. However, if you want something specifically for tracking green habits, there are options.



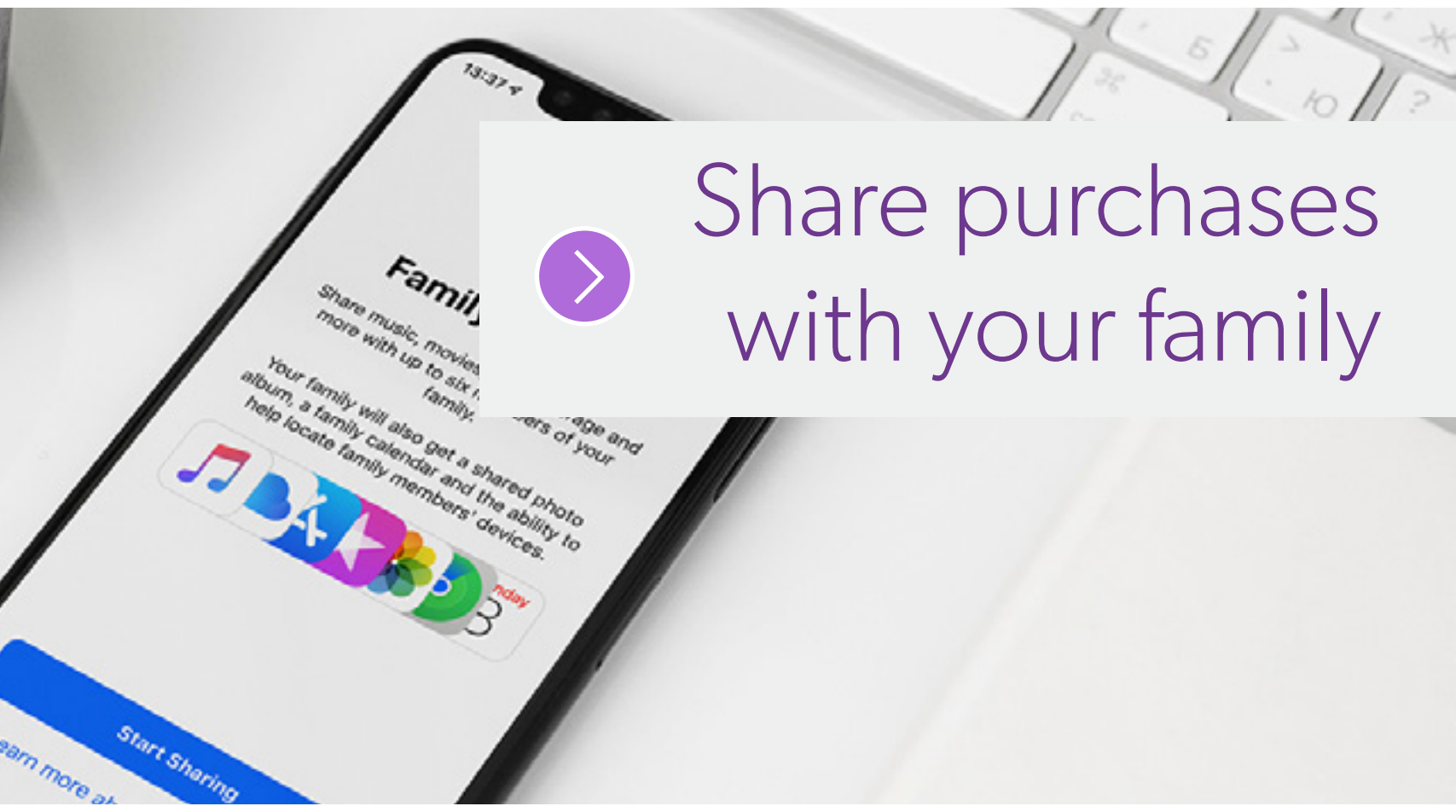
Eevie

Eco-Tracker ($1/£1) is a grid-like habit-former that gives you an at-a-glance overview of how you're doing with green habits on any given day, and quick access to trends over the week, month, and year. **Eevie (free)** doubles down on design and clarity, with big, bold interface elements, and useful nuggets of information about how changes to your routine can have a positive impact. And if you prefer a more social component to habit tracking, there's **Oroeco (free)**, which encourages you to become a 'climate hero' through lowering your impact, and compares how you're doing with friends and family.

No single action by any individual is going to save the world from climate change and make it a better place. Much of the world's problems are down to government decisions and large corporations. But you as an individual do have power – to change their own habits, and through en masse trends shift the thinking of those in charge. With the apps outlined in this feature, your iPhone can be a key component of such change. ■

HOW-TO

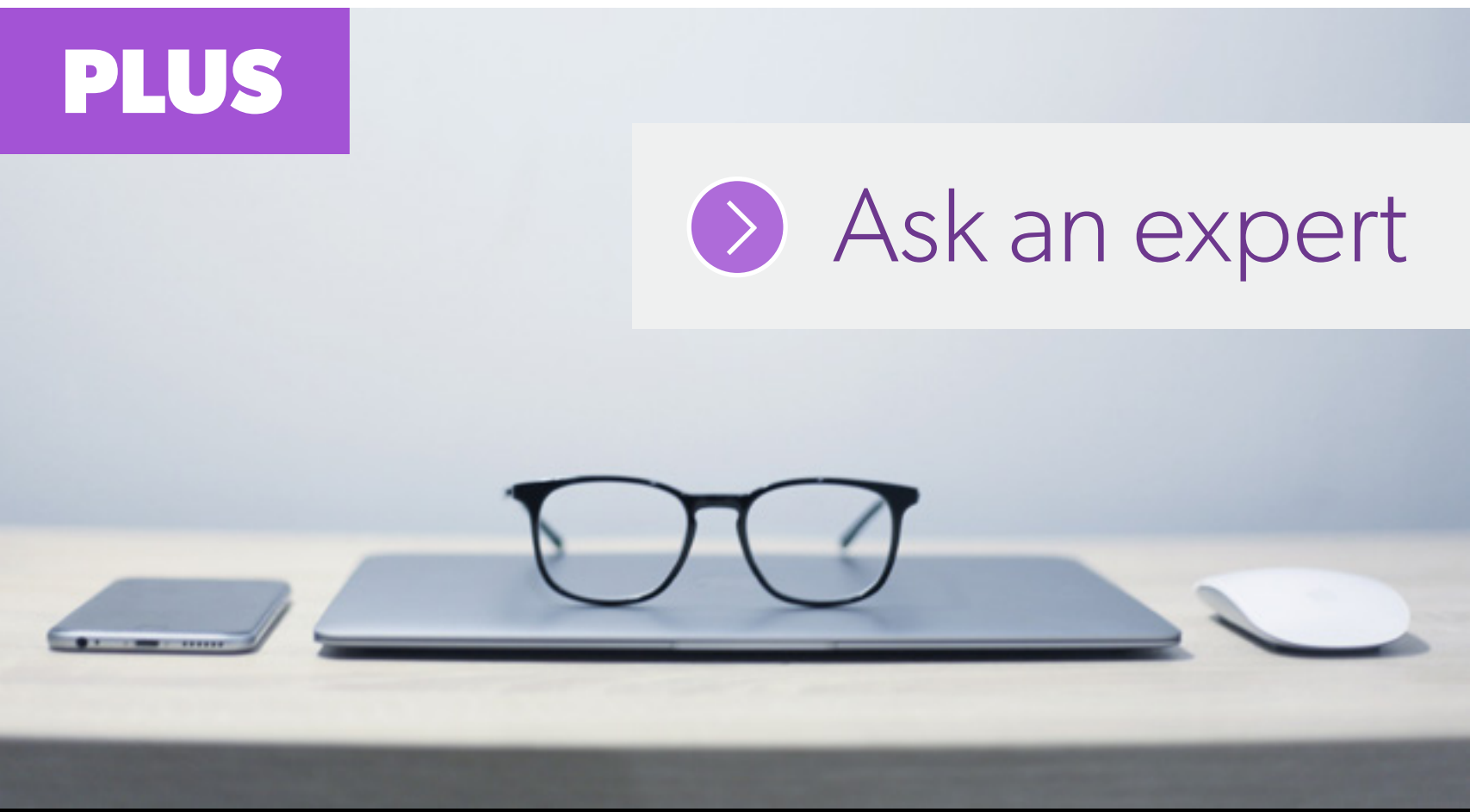
Build a website with your iPhone



Share purchases with your family

Improve productivity with greyscale mode

PLUS



Ask an expert

Making a Website

How to design and build a website with *Universe*

Gone are the days when you needed a desktop computer to get a website off the ground. These days, you can do it all from an iPhone or iPad, so long as you've downloaded a smart, free app called Universe.

UNIVERSE

Choosing your domain

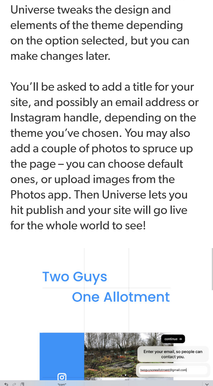
When you launch Universe, the first thing you're asked to do is choose your domain name. Domain names are the most important part of a website – they're the address people type into a web browser like Safari to navigate to your home page. Of all the options, .com domains are usually the most costly, with a slew of other domains available for different prices.

Purchasing and setting up a domain name used to be a complex process, but in Universe, you can choose and pay for a domain right in the app.

However, if you don't want to pay outright for a fancy domain, scrolling all the way down the list of options lets you choose a free one ending in .onuniverse.com. You can always choose to pay for a "proper" domain later, so picking a free domain name might be a smart choice to make while you're starting out.

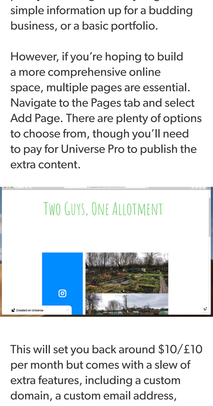
Designing your website

Next, it's time for the fun stuff – designing your website. Usefully, Universe includes an array of templates which give you a headstart when it comes to putting together a certain type of site. Scroll through the options available and select one which most closely matches the aim of your site.



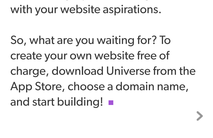
There are plenty of options – from "store," to "artist" and "influencer." Universe tweaks the design and elements of the theme depending on the option selected, but you can make changes later.

You'll be asked to add a title for your site, and possibly an email address or Instagram handle, depending on the theme you've chosen. You may also add a couple of photos to spruce up the page – you can choose default ones, or upload images from the Photos app. Then Universe lets you hit publish and your site will go live for the whole world to see!



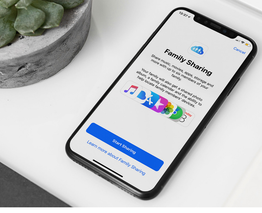
It's possible to publish a one-page website entirely free of charge in Universe. There's the free domain option (.onuniverse.com) and, so long as your site consists of one single page, you won't be charged a penny. This is a great way to get some simple information up for a budding business, or a basic portfolio.

However, if you're hoping to build a more comprehensive online space, multiple pages are essential. Navigate to the Pages tab and select Add Page. There are plenty of options to choose from, though you'll need to pay for Universe Pro to publish the extra content.



This will set you back around $10/£10 per month but comes with a slew of extra features, including a custom domain, a custom email address, site analytics, an online store, and more. Universe Pro is definitely worth considering if you want to go all-in with your website aspirations.

So, what are you waiting for? To create your own website free of charge, download Universe from the App Store, choose a domain name, and start building! ■



Family Sharing

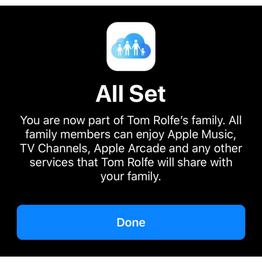
How to share your apps and purchases with your family

Family Sharing is a really useful feature, allowing up to six people to share digital purchases – apps, music, books and so on – without having to share an account. Additionally, Apple Music has reduced-rate family plans, and a family can share iCloud storage, rather than each person having to pay for a plan so they can back-up their devices and save documents.

Get started with Family Sharing

One adult must be the family organizer and invite other family members. It's important to note that this person's payment card is also used to pay for all purchases!

Kick things off by going to ***Settings***. Tap your name, and then **Set Up Family Sharing**. In the Get Started screen, choose a feature to share with your family – you can add more later – and follow the instructions to invite a family member via iMessage. They will need to respond to the link in the message to join the family.



Further members can be added using the **Add Family Member** button, and you can come back to this page any time to change which services you wish to share with your family.

Add children to Family Sharing

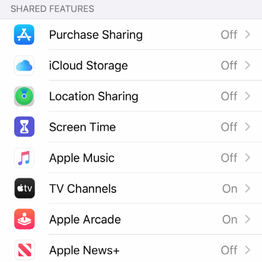
To add a child to Family Sharing, tap **Add Family Member** and choose **Create a Child Account**. Children remain with the family account until they're at least 13, whereupon they can leave the family group if they wish.

Enter a date of birth (which determines age-appropriate services/content), verify your payment card, and then add the child's name. Decide on an iCloud ID/email address for them (note that this cannot later be changed), and a password (make it secure.)

You can opt to turn on **Ask to Buy** and location sharing. With the former activated, you'll get a notification when a child tries to buy something. You can then approve or decline the purchase from your device, handy for quickly granting or denying permission even when you're away from home.

Manage Family Sharing

In the Family Sharing screen, the Shared Features heading shows what's currently being shared. You can toggle apps, Apple Music, iCloud storage and location sharing here.



The names of your group's family members are listed at the top of the screen, with the organizer shown first. Tap their name and then **Stop Family Sharing** to cancel Family Sharing. This option is disabled if children under 13 are part of the family.

One setting each also exists for other family members: you can choose to define an adult as a parent/guardian, so they can approve Ask to Buy requests; for each child, you can turn Ask to Buy on or off. ■

Monochrome Mode

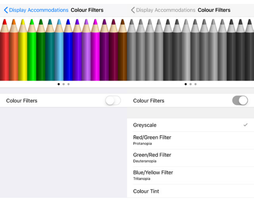
Try this sneaky productivity tip

Your iPhone is an ongoing source of temptation. All those colorful icons just beg to be tapped. During use, your device's gorgeous screen floods your eyes with vibrant imagery.

This is why it can be beneficial to make your screen greyscale instead. It's less appealing, and therefore less likely to distract when you should be doing something else. This tutorial shows how to access the iPhone's greyscale mode – but more importantly also how to trigger it in an instant.

Turn on greyscale

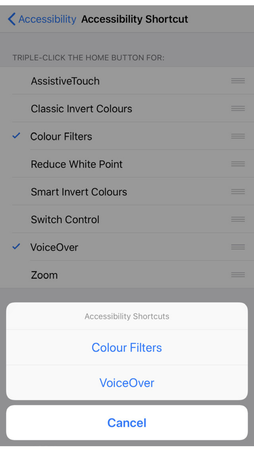
Open the ***Settings*** app and go to **General** > **Accessibility** > **Display Accommodations** > **Color Filters**.



Select **Greyscale** from the available options and your iPhone's interface will instantly be devoid of color. Toggle **Color Filters** again and the color returns.

Use the accessibility shortcut

Naturally, you don't want to have to dig deep into accessibility settings every time you want to switch your iPhone's color mode. Fortunately, there's a much faster way.

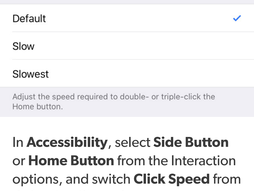


Head back to the top level of the **Accessibility** section in ***Settings*** and scroll down to the bottom. Tap **Accessibility Shortcut** and select **Color Filters** so that there's a tick mark next to it.

Now, whenever you triple-click the Side Button (or Home button on older devices), your color mode will switch. Note that should you select multiple options within the **Accessibility Shortcut** screen, you'll get a menu to choose from (rather than an instant switch), as depicted above.

Adjust your triple-click speed

Finally, if you find a triple-click tricky to implement, you can slow down how fast clicking needs to be.



In **Accessibility**, select **Side Button** or **Home Button** from the Interaction options, and switch **Click Speed** from **Default** to **Slow**. Be aware, though, that this also affects double-click speeds. ■

Ask an expert

Your questions answered

No time to drop into the Apple Store and ask the Genius Bar for help with your iPhone? Maybe our resident expert could help instead!

If you have a question, send it to **swipe-ideas@intelligenti.com** and we may include the answer in the next issue of Swipe!

Q How do I get rid of split screen FOREVER? - *Sue*

Thanks for your email. If you're not fond of the split screen feature on the iPad, or you find yourself accidentally triggering it, you can disable it entirely so it doesn't happen again.

To do this, open the ***Settings*** app and tap **General**, followed by **Multitasking**. You can then switch **Allow Multiple Apps** to the off position.

Now turn the page to see what's in your next issue of Swipe

SWIPE

iPhone mag

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