🎄 December 2013 🎄

Welcome to Volume 4, Issue 12 of iDevices (iPhone, iPod & iPad) SIG Meetings

Need Help? Go to the iDevice FORUM, click HERE

To find Apps that cost money but are FREE only today, click HERE

Wierd Holiday Gifts

======OOOOO=======

Apple releases 12 Days of Gifts app for iPhone and iPad, will give you free apps, iBooks, movie rentals, TV episodes from December 26 to January 6

By Rene Ritchie, Monday, Dec 9, 2013

Apple has just released this year's 12 Days of Gifts app for iPhone and iPad. Download this free app, and every day at midnight local time, between December 26 and January 6, you'll get offered a free gift from iTunes. Gifts can include apps, iBooks, music, movies and movie rentals,

and TV show episodes. The exact content and availability will likely vary by region, but hey - presents and presents, right?

Full FAQ below, and grab the app now via the link below!

- Free - 12 Days of Gifts

12 Days of Gifts FAQ

I'm travelling outside of the country or region in which I have my iTunes store account. Does that affect the countdown and when new gifts arrive?
Because the countdown and new gifts are based on the timezone associated with your account, new gifts will be available at midnight in that timezone.

How do I download my gift?
To download a gift, tap View Gift and then tap Free. To download gifts, you must be signed in with your Apple ID. To download books, you must have the free iBooks app installed. Content availability may vary per region.

Where can I find the gifts I've downloaded?
On your computer, you can find your music, TV and film content in your iTunes library and books in your iBooks library. On your iOS device, you can find your music in the Music app, your TV episodes and films in the Videos app, and your books in the iBooks app. Apps will appear on your home screen.

AT&T Mark the Spot updated with iOS 7 support

By Joseph Keller, Monday, Dec 9, 2013

AT&T has updated it's Mark the Spot app to finally support iOS 7, though anyone awaiting an interface refresh will be disappointed. Customers can now get more updates about reported issues. AT&T says that notifications about reported areas will arrive more promptly, letting you know when your issue has been addressed.

There are other improvements in this release. Push notifications have been enhanced, and the app now auto-caches reports in the event of a bad network connection. When you open the app with a good connection or on Wi-Fi, it will send off any reports that it had cached. Feedback and surveys have also been improved.

You can download this update to Mark the Spot from the App Store now.

- Free - Download Now

New Macs   Macs + AppleCare   Storage   Closeouts & Refurbs   iPad Price Guide   Apple TV & AirPorts   Auction

ne of best ways to offset the cost of your new Apple or electronics product is to use one of the
ayback services listed below to sell your used electronics in exchange for cash or gift cards. To
d out how much your old device is worth, simply use the links to the various services below to
quest a quote for your old device.

What's the difference between iPhones?

By Rene Ritchie, Sunday, Dec 8, 2013

IPHONE BUYERS GUIDE: EXPLAINING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN IPHONE 5S, IPHONE 5C, AND IPHONE 4S, AND HOW TO FIGURE OUT WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU

While 'iPhone' often sounds like one, iconic thing, Apple has fielded many different models, and an incredible array of variants over the years. This year there's the state-of-the-art iPhone 5s, the pop-art iPhone 5c, and the held-over iPhone 4s. Sure, 5 sounds higher than 4, but what's the real difference between all these models? Does more money really get you more features, does saving up-front cost you in the long run, and how much phone do you really need? If you're looking to get your first iPhone, or looking to get one for family or friends, figuring it all out can be confusing. Here's what you need to know!

- Read the complete iPhone 5s review
- Read the complete iPhone 5c review
- Read the complete iPhone 4s review

Products and price points

Apple's 2013 iPhone lineup consists of 3 different models, the iPhone 5s, iPhone 5c, and iPhone 4s. Here are the models and price points, both on and off contract.

- $0/$450 - iPhone 4s 8GB
- $99/$549 - iPhone 5c 16GB

- $199/$649 - iPhone 5c 32GB

- $199/$649 - iPhone 5s 16GB

- $299/$749 - iPhone 5s 32GB

- $399/$849 - iPhone 5s 64GB

Yes, the 32GB iPhone 5c is the same price as the 16GB iPhone 5s. One has more storage, the other higher specs. Price, it turns out, isn't the only factor!

	iPhone 4S (2013)	iPhone 5c	iPhone 5s
Code Name	N94	N48	N51
Model Name	iPhone 4,1	iPhone 5,3	iPhone 6,1
OS	iOS 7	iOS 7	iOS 7
Screen Size	3.5-inch IPS 960x640 at 326ppi	4-inch 1136x640 in-cell IPS LCD at 326ppi	4-inch 1136x640 in-cell IPS LCD at 326ppi
System-on-chip	Apple A5	Apple A6	64-bit Apple A7, M7 motion coprocessor
CPU	800MHz dual-core ARM Cortex A9	1.2GHz dual-core Swift (ARM v7s)	TBD
GPU	PowerVR dual-core SGX543MP4	PowerVR triple-core SGX543MP3	TBD
RAM	512MB	1GB	TBD
Storage	8GB	16GB/32GB	16GB/32GB/64GB
Top Data Speed	HSPA 14.4	LTE/DC-HSPA	LTE/DC-HSPA
SIM	Micro	Nano	Nano
Rear Camera	8MP/1080p, f2.4, BSI	8MP/1080p, f2.4, BSI	8MP/1080p, f2.2, BSI, 1.5μ
Front Camera	VGA	1.2MP/720p, BSI	1.2MP/720p, BSI
Bluetooth	Bluetooth 4.0	Bluetooth 4.0	Bluetooth 4.0
WiFi	802.11 b/g/n (2.4GHz)	802.11 b/g/n (2.4 and 5GHz)	802.11 b/g/n (2.4 and 5GHz)
GPS	aGPS, GLONASS	aGPS, GLONASS	aGPS, GLONASS
Sensors	Light, accelerometer, proximity, compass, gyroscope, infrared	Light, accelerometer, proximity, compass, gyroscope, infrared	Light, accelerometer, proximity, compass, gyroscope, infrared, fingerprint scanner
Mic	Dual	Triple	Triple
Connector	30-pin Dock	Lightning	Lightning
Size	115.2 x 58.6 x 9.3 mm	124.4 x 59.2 x 8.97mm	123.8 x 58.6 x 7.6mm
Weight	140 g	132 g	112 g
Battery	1440 mAh	1507 mAh	1570 mAh
Colors	Black/White	Green/Pink/Blue/Yellow/White	Gold/Silver/Gray (2-tone)
Price	$0 on contract	$99/$199 on contract	$199/$299/$399 on contract

Storage

You can get and iPhone 5s with 16GB, 32GB, or 64GB of storage. It's the only iPhone that currently offers a 64GB option so if you need the most space, this is the one to get.

You can get an iPhone 5c with 16GB or 32GB of storage. So, if you don't need an extreme amount of storage, you can get a 32GB iPhone 5c for the same price as a 16GB iPhone 5s.

You can get an iPhone 4s with 8GB of storage. Frankly, we can't recommend this amount of storage for anyone. If you plan on downloading any amount of apps or media, it'll just end in frustration.

Colors

The iPhone 5s comes with two difference choices of faceplates and three metallic finishes, including white and gold, white and silver, and black and space gray. Verging on jewelry, they all look very high-end, and very premium.

The iPhone 5c comes in five combinations of black faceplates and bright, candy-colored plastic shells, including yellow, pink (salmon), green, blue, and white. Like pop-art, they're fun and coordinate incredibly well with the wallpaper and background on the software.

The iPhone 4s comes in either white or black. Single-toned, unlike the newer iPhones, they're also glass front and back which means there''s no safe side to drop them on.

Displays

The iPhone 5s and iPhone 5c have gorgeous, widescreen 4-inch displays at 1136x640 that makes it look like apps, images, and videos are painted inside the glass. They also have excellent viewing angles. These are both bigger *and* better.

The iPhone 4s has a great looking 3.5 inch display at 960x640 with an excellent viewing angle. These days it almost looks a little cramped.

Size and weight

The iPhone 5s is the thinnest and lightest iPhone. It's so thin and light, it almost feels like they forgot to put anything inside it. It's 4.87 inches (123.8 mm) x 2.31 inches (58.6 mm) x 0.30 inch (7.6 mm) and weighs in at 3.95 ounces (112 grams). If you want something that disappears into your pocket, this is it.

The iPhone 5c is slightly thicker and heavier, thanks to its bigger plastic shell. It's 4.90 inches (124.4 mm), 2.33 inches (59.2 mm) x 0.35 inch (8.97 mm) and weighs 4.65 ounces (132 grams). While bulkier, it is by no means bulky.

The iPhone 4s is the squattest and heaviest of the iPhones, thanks to its shorter screen and thicker body. It's 4.5 inches (115.2 mm) x 2.31 inches (58.6 mm) x 0.37 inch (9.3 mm) and weighs 4.9 ounces (140 grams). Compared to newer iPhones, this one feels weighty in

the hand.

Power

The iPhone 5s is powered by the 2013 Apple A7 chipset and Apple M7 motion coprocessor. It's the same 64-bit, Open GL ES 3.0 chip that's inside the latest iPads, and the most powerful processor ever put into a phone. (It could just as easily drive a netbook. Which is insane.)

The iPhone 5c is powered by the 2012 Apple A6 chipset. It has no coprocessors but is still capable of good performance.

The iPhone 4s is powered by the 2012 Apple A5 chipset. It's still capable of driving the phone, but it's nowhere nearly as future proof as current chipsets.

Sensors

The iPhone 5s is the only iPhone with Touch ID, a fingerprint identity sensor that lets you unlock and purchase apps with the touch of a finger. It also includes a three-axis gyroscope, accelerometer, proximity sensor, ambient light sensor.

The iPhone 5c and iPhone 4s include three-axis gyroscopes, accelerometers, proximity sensors, and ambient light sensors.

Carriers and LTE

The iPhone 5s supports the most LTE bands of any single phone in history. You can get it GSM unlocked, which means you should be

able to use it pretty much anywhere and everywhere.

The iPhone 5c has the same great LTE and carrier support as the iPhone 5s. You can likewise get it unlocked and use it just about anywhere.

The iPhone 4s has 3G carrier support. You can also get it unlocked and use it in most places. Because CDMA 3G (Verizon and Sprint) is much, much slower than GSM 3G (AT&T, T-Mobile), iPhone 4s performance can vary greatly between those networks.

Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and location

The iPhone 5s and iPhone 5c support up to 802.11n Wi-Fi on both 2.4 and 5GHz. They also both support Bluetooth 4.0 as well as GPS and GLONASS.

The iPhone 4s supports up to 802.11n on 2.4GHz only. It also supports Bluetooth 4.0 as well as GPS and GLONASS.

iSight rear-facing cameras

iPhone 5s, iPhone 5c, and iPhone 4s all have iSight cameras with 8 megapixel stills and 30fps 1080p video, backside illuminated sensors with 5-elements, hybrid infrared filters, geotagging, face detection, auto- and tap-to-focus, auto stabilization, and panorama modes.
The iPhone 5c has an f/2.2 aperture and dual true-tone flash. The iPhone 5c and iPhone 4s both have f/2.4 apertures and single LED flashes.

The iPhone 5s and iPhone 5c both have sapphire crystal lens covers, 3x digital video zoom, and the ability to take still photos while shooting video.

The iPhone 5s can also record 120fps slow-motion video. It's one of the best camera phones on the market, and the absolute best camera on a 4-inch or under phone.

FaceTime front-facing cameras

The iPhone 5s and iPhone 5c both have 1.2 megapixel, 720p FaceTime HD video cameras with backside illuminated sensors.

The iPhone 4s has a VGA (480p) camera.

Battery life

The iPhone 5s and iPhone 5c both support up to 10 hours of 3G talk time, LTE or Wi-Fi web browsing, or video playback, up to 40 hours of audio playback, and up to 250 hours of standby. Depending on how much or how hard you use them, both will last you the day.

The iPhone 4s supports up to 8 hours of 3G talk time, up to 6 hours of 3G or 9 hours of Wi-Fi web browsing, up to 10 hours of video playback, up to 40 hours of audio playback, and up to 200 hours of standby.

Connectors

Both the iPhone 5s and iPhone 5c use the new, intelligent Lightning connector. That means they'll work with all the latest accessories and peripherals, now and into the future.

The iPhone 4s uses the old 30-pin Dock connector. That means it'll work with older accessories, but not new ones.

Software and services

The iPhone 5s, iPhone 5c, and iPhone 4s all run iOS 7 and connect to iCloud. That means you can run all the latest software from the [App Store](http://www.imore.com/app-store - over 1 million apps and growing - as well as manage all your email, calendars, contacts, backup your data, and more.

Bottom Line

The iPhone 5s is something from the future. It includes the Touch ID sensor, one of the best cameras ever to grace a phone, and the highest storage option. If you want state-of-the-art, you want the iPhone 5s.

The iPhone 5c is all about today. It's less expensive but arguably even more fun. If you want pop-art, you want the iPhone 5c.

See a List of All Apps Installed on an iPhone / iPad with Spotlight

Dec 9, 2013

It's easy to wind up with a lot of apps installed on our iPhones and iPads, and if you've ever wanted to see every single app on an iOS device you have probably noticed there isn't any obvious way to do so without connecting to iTunes or looking at the Storage Usage list in Settings. Well, obvious is the operative word there, because it turns out there is **a very simple trick to list all apps installed on any iOS device** with the help of Spotlight, and the list will include both third party apps downloaded from the App Store as well as the Apple defaults that come preinstalled on all iOS devices.

1. Summon Spotlight by tapping and holding on the iOS home screen and pulling down

2. Enter any single character, like a slash (/), dash (-), or a period (.) to see the application list

The screen shot demos this with a forward slash /, but you can use just about any of the special characters accessible through the '123' key to display the same thing:

This will show a complete list of every single app installed on any iOS device, and, if the app is located in a folder, it even **includes the folder name** to the right of the app name. They don't appear to be displayed in any particular manner, and they're certainly not alphabetical or in the order placed on the home screens, but it's a full list nonetheless.
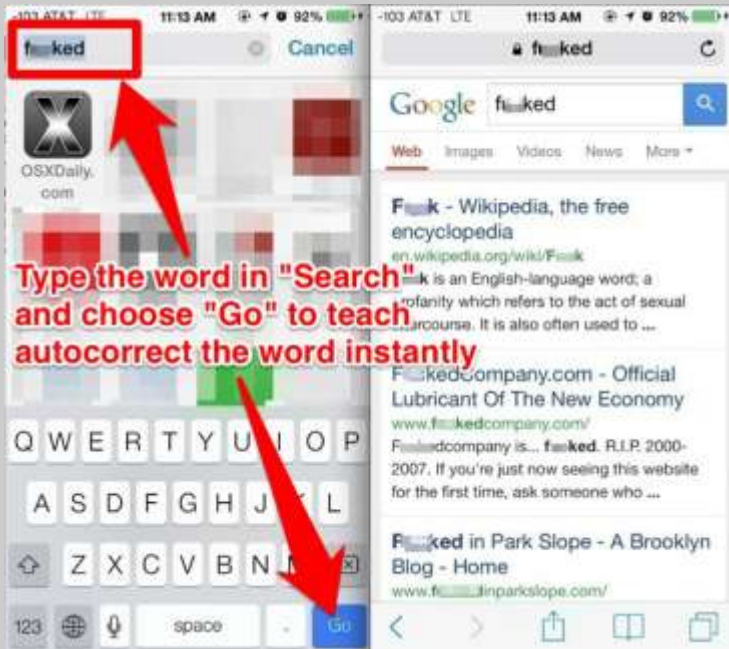
Tapping on any of the apps will launch it instantly, which makes Spotlight search a fairly effective way at opening apps buried within iOS folders. Outside of launching apps, this list is not actionable, which means if you're looking for a way to manage apps you'll want to turn to iTunes on a computer, or the Settings > Usage screen, which offers the ability to uninstall apps that way.
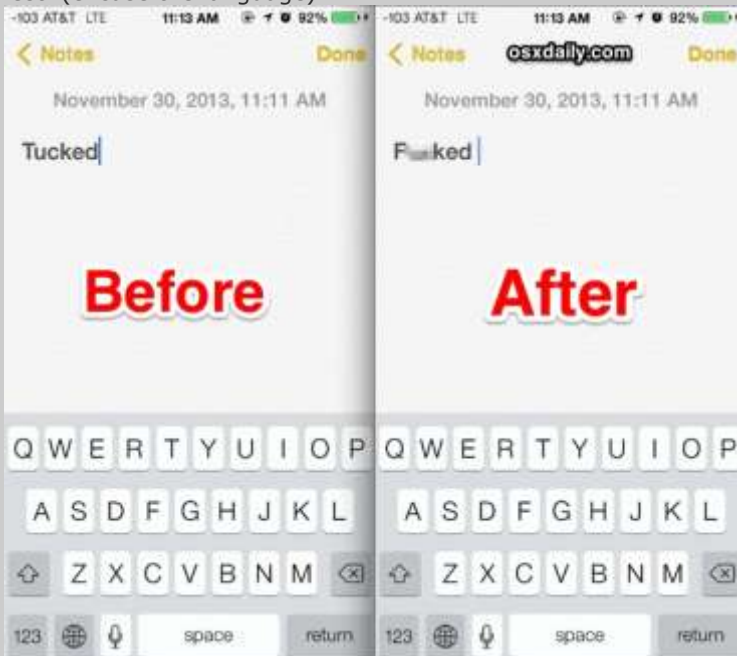
Train Autocorrect to Stop Correcting Specific Words

he **iOS** Autocorrect feature is notorious for being very aggressive in correcting certain words, particularly 10se words with colorful, offensive, or controversial meanings – basically any curse word. If you get fed up ith autocorrects persistent mouth (finger?) soap, you can either **use shortcuts to automatically replace 1e words that autocorrect struggles with**, try to force learning with **word repetition**, or, perhaps asiest and new since iOS 7; use the excellent Safari Search trick outlined below to train autocorrect to stop orrecting specific words, and to also learn new words:

Open Safari in iOS (yes, the web browser) and open a new window / tab

2. Tap in the topmost "Search" box and type the word you want autocorrect to stop correcting, then tap on "Go" to search for it

3. Now go back to any text editor, Messages, etc, to type the originally intended word – no more autocorrecting it!

This is extremely effective if you've been struggling with the iPhone / iPad autocorrecting certain names, or the many infamous curse word corrections of duckings, tucks, ducks, shots, ships, bass wholes, and all the rest. (excuse the language)

If you put a typo into the Safari search box and now autocorrect is making things even worse, you can

always start over again by **resetting the entire autocorrect dictionary**within iOS to the defaults, just keep in mind that *everything autocorrect related* will be cleared out and all of your typing corrections and learning will start from scratch with that approach.

Correct How SIRI Pronounces Names in iOS

ov 29, 2013 - **1 Comment**

While <u>Siri</u> is great at pronouncing some common names, Siri can also completely blunder on others, rning a first or last name into an almost unrecognizable mess of noises that barely resembles the way the name actually ounds. Fortunately, <u>iOS</u> now makes it very easy to correct Siri directly and verbally, so the next time Siri messes up you ca stantly fix the pronunciation and get her to speak the right way. Or you can preempt any mistake, and with names that you nticipate Siri to mispronounce you can correct before the <u>virtual assistant</u> has a chance to screw it up by teaching **her (or !)** the right way to say a name.

orrecting Siri Name Mispronuncations

se this trick after Siri has messed up a name:

Summon Siri as usual, either by holding down the <u>Home</u> button or the earbud button

Tell Siri "That's not how you pronounce [name]"

Provide the proper pronunciation for the name in question

Let Siri provide three alternate pronunciations for the name based upon your verbal input, listen to the three, and choose "Select" for the most accurate method of pronunciation

Teach Siri How to Properly Pronounce a Name

Would you rather teach Siri of the proper way to pronounce a name?

1. Summon Siri and say: "Pronounce the name [name] as [pronunciation]"

2. Let Siri confirm the name from the contacts, choose "Yes" or "No" as needed to move to the next step

3. Select the best of the three options Siri has offered as the pronunciation based upon your speech

If the three pronunciation examples that Siri provides are way off, tap on "Tell Siri Again" to offer the proper way again. For the most part it will offer a close-enough option in at least one of the initial three, but if Siri completely fails then tap the Tell Again option and annunciate each distinct syllable a bit closer.

Repeat this as necessary for names that Siri is mispronouncing, and you can also choose to correct either the first name and last name, or go all in one and correct the entire names pronunciation if the assistant is butchering the whole thing. Fixing the pronunciation is also important for improved name recognition for contacts with **defined relationships**, and just natural language commands in general.
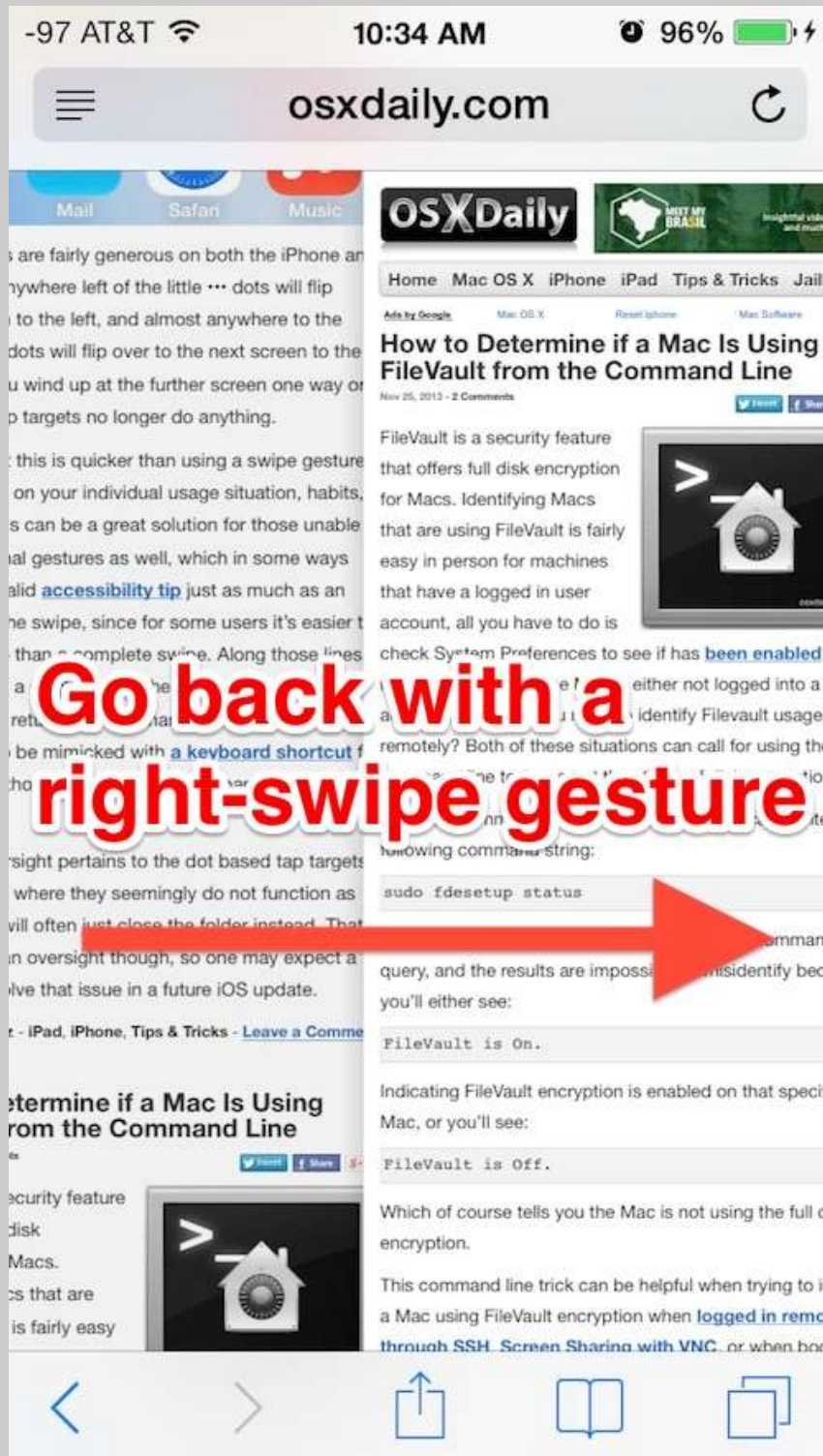
Use a Swipe Gesture to Go Back in Many iOS 7 Apps

Go Back with a Swipe

iOS 7 has introduced a new gesture-based method of navigating back to prior pages, screens, and panels throughout many apps on the iPhone. Essentially, this gesture can be used to replace the "Back" button, and though not all apps support the swipe-to-go-back gesture yet, plenty of Apple defaults do. For now, you can definitely use the trick for going backwards in Safari to a prior web page, back in Settings panels, App Store screens, within the iTunes Store, and a handful of others too. It's a simple swipe back gesture similar to what would be used to navigate around the home screen panels of icons, but it does require a tad more precision and thus may take a little bit of practice to get right:

- Navigate within a compatible app so that a "Back" choice is optional, be it to a new web page or deeper in a Settings screen panel

- **Swipe to the right from the edge of the display to go back, try to make the swipe as horizontal as possible**

The right-swipe gesture must be initiated from the outside edge of the screen, or almost perfectly horizontal, to trigger the back movement, otherwise you'll likely scroll slightly down or up instead. Either of those tricks works, but the outside edge method may be easiest for most users.

It does take a bit of practice, but usually after a few tries you'll perfect it rather quickly, even if it's not nearly as forgiving as some of the other iOS 7 gestures, like **the one to quit an app**. It's likely more strict to avoid

accidentally triggering, but it does give it a slight learning curve to master.

iOS 7.0.4 has been released by Apple for compatible iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch models, with a build of 1B554a. The update includes several bug fixes and improvements, and addresses an issue with FaceTime calling that caused video chat and **voice calls** to fail continuously under some circumstances. Other small feature changes may be present, but have not been specifically mentioned or discovered yet.

The iOS 7.0.4 update is small but users are still advised to backup their iOS devices to iCloud or iTunes, if not both, before installing the update on their respective hardware. The update is available for iPhone 4, iPhone 4S, iPhone 5, iPhone 5S, iPhone 5C, iPad 2, iPad 3, iPad 4, iPad Air, iPad Mini, Retina iPad Mini, and the iPod touch 5th gen. Additionally, iOS 6.1.5 is available for the iPod touch 4th gen, which resolves the same FaceTime issues for that device.

Download iOS 7.0.4 with OTA

For most users, the easiest way to get iOS 7.0.4 on their devices is to use the over-the-air update mechanism:

Open "Settings" and go to "General", then to "Software Update"

Choose "Download & Install" and agree to the terms and conditions to begin the update

Users must be on a wi-fi network to be able to download the update through OTA, despite the delta update size being about 18MB. It may sit on "Preparing Update…" for a while before completing, this seems to be routine for just about every iOS device, just let it sit and it should complete eventually.
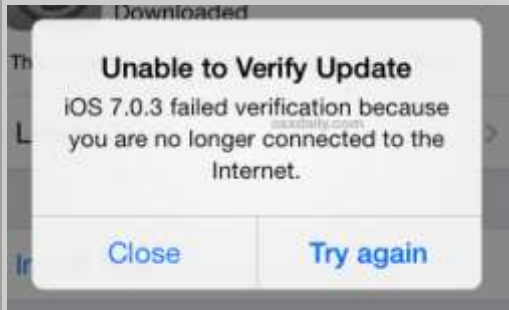
Fixing the "Unable to Verify Update"

Error in iOS

Nov 15, 2013

It seems that an "Unable to Verify Update" error message arrives at random for some users with just about every single iOS software update, perhaps unsurprisingly, the problem has resurfaced for some when trying to download and install the recent 7.0.4update. The error seems to be exclusive to using **OTA** (Over-The-Air) updates, and sometimes it reports an improper iOS version as being available, or tell you that an update "failed verification because you are no longer connected to the Internet" – despite having an active entirely functioning wi-fi connection. If you happen to encounter this error when trying to download and install any iOS update, you'll be able to fix it in a minute or two using one of these two tips.

1: Kill the Settings App & Relaunch

Before anything else, try just simply quitting out of the Settings app and reopening it.**Quitting apps** in iOS 7 is done with a simple gesture trick:

- Double-tap the Home button to bring about the multitasking screen

- Navigate to "Settings" then swipe up on the Settings app to send it off the screen, thereby quitting

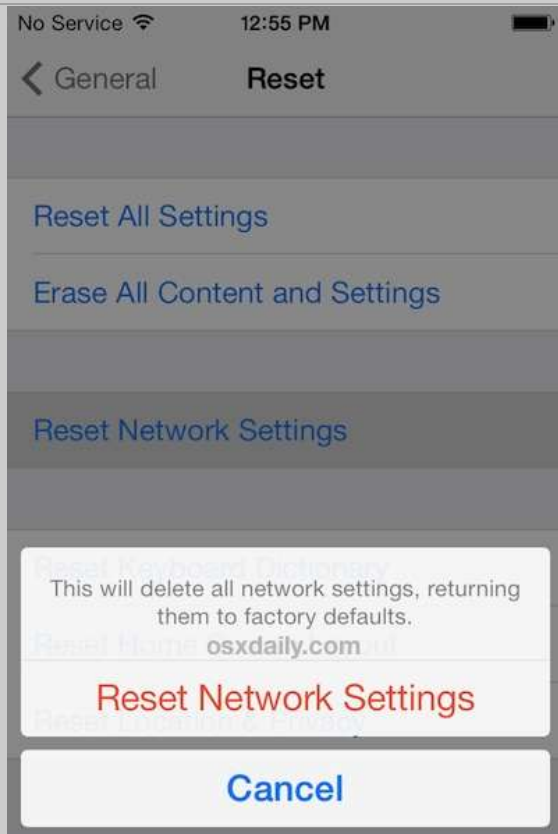- Go back to the home screen, relaunch Settings, and try to download the updateagain

Update downloading and installing now? Good, just killing and relaunching Settings will resolve the issue for many users.

If you still see the "Unable to verify update" error message, or you get the "no longer connected to the internet" error, you will probably have to reset your network settings to resolve the problem, which we'll cover next.

2: Reset Network Settings & Reboot

If killing Settings didn't fix the problem, you'll need to trash network settings, which also restarts the iOS device in the process. This isn't a big deal, but it does require you to re-enter wi-fi passwords, so jot them down down beforehand if that's a problem:

- Open Settings and go to "General" followed by "Reset"

- Choose "Reset Network Settings" and tap the red text to confirm the reset – this will trash the network configuration and restart iOS

- When booted back to the home screen, reconnect to a Wi-Fi network through settings

- Install the iOS update as usual

A peculiar bug and error, but one of these two tricks should resolve it quickly enough.

Having encountered this twice earlier when updating an iPhone 4S and iPhone 4 to the latest release with OTA, iOS erroneously reported an older iOS version available as being the update available, and then, unsurprisingly, refused to install that improper update with the aforementioned "Unable to Verify Update" error, claiming the perfectly workinginternet connection wasn't connected.

The solution in this specific instance was to reset network settings, total elapsed time from problem to resolution was about 3 minutes. Not too shabby, and certainly beats some of the more complicated troubleshooting tricks to resolve software update

problems.

Finding the missing iPad apps: Best weather, stocks, calculator, voice memo, compass, and phone for iPa

By Rene Ritchie, Tuesday, Dec 10, 2013

APPLE DIDN'T INCLUDE VOICE MEMO, WEATHER, CALCULATOR, PHONE, COMPASS, AND STOCKS APPS ON THE IPAD, BUT THE APP STORE HAS GREAT ALTERNATIVES FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE!

iPhone owners who pick up an iPad are often surprised to find that, while many things about iOS are the same, the built-in apps are not. Apple's Weather, Stocks, Calculator, Compass, Phone, and Voice Memo apps, all front-and-center on the iPhone, are nowhere to be found on the iPad Air or iPad mini. The why - that Apple perhaps didn't feel the interfaces scaled well to the big screen, or simply didn't think they were as absolutely necessary on a tablet as they are on a phone - doesn't really matter. What does matter is that the App Store has us more than covered with several excellent weather, calculator, stock, and voice memo apps for iPad to choose from. Which ones are the very best, however, and more importantly, the best for you?

Best weather apps for iPad

Since there's no iPad version of the built-in iPhone and iPod touch Weather app, if you want to find out the temperature or check the forecast on the big screen, you need to turn to the App Store. But there you run into a second problem - too many great weather apps to choose from. It's one of the most popular app categories on the store, and developers and designers have had a field day making the perfect weather apps to suit a wide range of needs. So many, in fact, choosing just the right one to suit *your* needs can be almost overwhelming. That's where we come in. From minimalist or power-packed, here are our favorite weather apps for iPad!

- Best weather apps for iPad

Best Stock Market apps for iPad

Even though the iPhone's built-in Stocks app is nowhere to be found on the iPad, it's still is an amazing tool for managing your finances either at home, at work, or on the go. From checking on your investments, to monitoring trends, to knowing when to buy and when to get out, when to short and when to stay long, there are ton of apps that help you do just exactly that. Which stock apps is best for you? Here are our favorites!

- Best Stock Market apps for iPad

Best calculator apps for iPad

Apple doesn't include a Calculator app on the iPad the way they do on iPhone and iPod touch, so if you want to tally up your numbers or do complex equations, you need to go to the App Store. And that's a good thing, because there are several excellent - and different - calculators to choose from. The question is, whether you need simple arithmetic, scientific or engineering equations, or full-on graphing, which is the best calculator app for you? Here are our favorites!

- Best calculator apps for iPad

Best voice memo apps for iPad

Whether you're a student attending lectures or a professional with a need to record meetings or conference calls, voice memo and audio recording apps are a must have for lots of people. While the iPhone has one built right in, the iPad does not. Luckily, the App Store more than makes up for it with plenty of very good voice memo alternatives. From basic recording to advanced annotation, which one is the best, and more specifically, which one is the best for you? Here are our favorites!

- Best voice memo apps for iPad

Best compass apps for iPad

Unlike the iPhone, the iPad doesn't come with a built-in Compass app. That might sound fine, since you're more likely to be out and about and in need of finding your way with an iPhone. However, the iPad is a great travel companion as well, whether you're on a business trip, out hiking, or out on the high seas. And if you have it, why not use it? Luckily the App Store is full of great compass apps for iPad, the only problem is figuring out which is the best one for you. That's where iMore comes in! These are our favorite compass apps for iPad!

- Best compass apps for iPad

Best phone apps for iPad

Apple hasn't ever included a Phone app on the iPad, and maybe that's just as well. Do we really need to see people with 7.9- or 9.7-inch devices propped up to their heads? Yet iPad owners may certainly need to make calls too, and like the giant conference phones of old, in some cases, bigger really can be better. So, if you absolutely, positively need to get your call on, and the iPad is what you want to use, you'll need to check out some alternatives. Luckily, there are several excellent voice calling apps to choose from, and one is even built-right in!

- Best phone apps for iPad

Different Articles I Have Found That May Be of Interest to You

Just click on the title to go to that article on the Internet

Give Safari a Speed Boost on Older iOS 7 Devices by Ditching Web Javascript

Use a Swipe Gesture to Go Back in Many iOS 7 Apps

Tweetly for iPhone: A great Twitter client for beginners and pictures takers

How to Instantly Mark All Email As Read in Mail for iOS

See & Control What Apps Have Microphone Access in iOS 7

Check the Weather for Multiple Locations at the Same Time on iPhone

How to Show the List View in Calendar for iOS 7

How to Merge Contacts on the iPhone from iOS

Navigate Through the Home Screens of iOS with a Quick Tap

Remove Alarm Clock Clutter on the iPhone with Siri

Stop iOS 7 Wallpaper from Resizing & Stretching Background Images

THE IPAD AIR IS ALL-NEW, AND ALL-THIN, BUT ITS BATTERY SHOULD STILL LAST YOU EVERY BIT AS LONG. HERE'S HOW TO MAKE SURE IT DOES!

The iPad Air may be smaller and much thinner than any full-sized iPad before it, but Apple still promises the same great battery life. That translates into up to 10 hours of web surfing or video watching on Wi-Fi, 9 hours on cellular (if you have a cellular model), and a whopping 24-hours as personal hotspot. In other words, a lot. In our early tests - we've only had the iPad Air for a few days so far - it's predictably living up to those levels. However, if your iPad Air isn't getting the battery life you expected, if it's not matching the levels you got with your preview device, or simply not working the way it should, here's how to fix it - and how to get the most out of it!

.. Test battery life on standby (put your iPad down)

As soon as you get a new iPad it's only natural not to want to put it down. It's a new toy, and there are a ton of new features to try out. If its your first iPad in particular, there's so much new to learn and discover, you can spend hours exploring the built-in app alone. iOS 7, with its fancy physics engine, is also just plain *fun*. And every time you knock the live wallpapers around, stare at the parallax scrolling, fling away multitasking cards or Safari tabs, spin the compass, or do any one of a hundred other funtastic things, the screen will be lit up, the radios will fire, and the battery will drain. Likewise, every app can multitask now, and while iOS is as smart as smart can be about managing how and when they all update, they're all updating.

The point is, it's almost impossible to realistically assess a change in battery life if you've also changed your usage pattern. In other words, if you're battery feels like it's only lasting half as long, the first step to fixing it is figuring out if you're using it twice as much first.

Before you do anything drastic, put your device down for a few minutes and then check the battery change. If there isn't a big change while in standby, you're probably okay and your battery life will return to normal when your usage returns to normal (after the novelty wears off). If your device continued to drain, and drain fast, even when you weren't using it, there's a problem. Also, if it feels unusually hot, even when you're not playing games, tethering, or doing some other high-power activity, there may be a problem as well.

2: Check for iOS 7 software problems

If, in general, your battery life is consistently short and you're basically just watching the indicator drain down before your eyes, here are some things to try, in order of how easy they are to do.

‣ **Quit power hungry apps**. Double-click the Home Button to activate the multitasking car view, hold your finger down on power-hungry apps, and then fling them off the screen to close them - here's how to quit and kill apps in iOS 7. This is key for apps like VoIP (like Skype), streaming audio (like Pandora), or navigation (like TomTom). Anything running all the time will drain battery. That's how batteries work. Some apps can also fail to sleep properly when not in use. If quitting Facebook stops your battery drain, quit Facebook. After some experimentation you'll find occasional and chronic offenders alike.
‣ **Restart/reset your device**. If you haven't rebooted in a while, give it a try. There could be a rogue process or something else doing what it shouldn't be doing, and a restart can often fix that. Here's how to reboot)
‣ **Power cycle**. About once a month, and certainly if you think you're having problems, you should completely drain your iPad's battery -- drain it until it shuts down on its own -- and then charge it back up to full. That re-calibrates the battery indicator and you'll get a more realistic idea of what your levels are.
‣ **Check your cell signal**. If you're using a cellular iPad in an area of weak signal, or at the edge of LTE or 3G support, your radio could be screaming away on full power just trying to stay on the network, or switching between connection types, and wasting a lot of power. Good LTE signal is more power efficient than good 3G signal (because the radio can fire up, do its job, and power down much, much quicker), but bad LTE signal is

just as bad as bad 3G, which is terrible. If you're at the edge of LTE, switch to 3G. If you're almost off the grid, turn off the radio unless and until you need it. Then get back to world as fast as you can!

‣ **Go to the Apple Store**. Sometimes you do get a lemon, or your iPad develops a real problem that only Apple can solve by either swapping it for another device or otherwise figuring out a fix.

3. Restore your iPad as new (not from backup)

The single biggest cause of battery life problems with iOS devices occurs when they are restored from backup - especially backups of other/older devices - and not set up as **new** devices. Whether it's cruft or corruption, bit rot or simply bad bits, a clean install as a new device -- incredible pain in the butt though it may be -- is usually the best fix for any battery life issues. This is the nuclear option. You will have to set up absolutely everything again, and you will lose all your saved data like game levels, but in most cases your battery life will be better than ever.

‣ How to restore and set up your device as new

4. Turn off what you're not using

If your battery life is normal but you still find yourself needing extra power on some occasions, there are a few things you can do. Firstly **plug in your device**. At home, at work, in the car, there are plenty of opportunities to top up your battery. Otherwise, anything running on your iPad uses up the battery. So if you've tried everything else and it turns out you're just using your device more than the battery will allow for the length of time you need to use it, you'll need to make some hard choices. You'll need to stop using some of the features you don't really need in order to keep using the ones you do. The more you turn off, the longer your batter will last -- but of course the less you'll be able to do. It's a balancing act but one that can help you squeeze out a little extra juice when you really need it.

‣ **Turn off Background app and content refresh**: Don't waste power downloading things when you don't explicitly need to. Settings, General, Background App Refresh shows you everything you can turn off. Also go to Settings, App Store and turn of automatic app and content downloads.

‣ **Turn off Location Services**. Go to Settings, Privacy, Location Services, and turn off any app and system service you really don't need tracking or using your location. Including the new Frequent Locations tracker!

‣ **Turn off Push Notifications**. Likewise, go to Settings, Notifications, and turn off any app you don't care to be alerted about.

‣ **Turn of Notification Center widgets**. Stocks, and particularly weather in Notification Center seem to be causing our readers some battery grief. Since weather can be location-based now, the potential is there for more battery abuse.

‣ **Turn off Spotlight indexing**. It will cramp your search style, but if you don't need the index process running right now, turn it off.

There are some old tricks you can try when you're in a jam as well, and the newControl Center makes it really easy to do many of these really quickly now!

‣ Set Auto-Lock to 1 minute

‣ Turn off any extra sounds, like keyboard clicks

‣ Turn off the iPod EQ

‣ Use headphones instead of the speaker if you have to listen to audio or music

‣ Turn down the screen brightness

‣ Turn off Bluetooth when not using it

‣ Turn off Wi-Fi when not using it

‣ Set all email, calendar, and contacts accounts to "Fetch" (turn off Push)

5. Airplane mode!

If you're really desperate, put your iPad into Airplane Mode and save the radios for when you need them.

Having issues getting AT&T data on your new iPad Air or iPad mini with Retina display? Here's what to do!

If you're having issues getting an AT&T data plan added to your iPad Air or iPad mini with Retina display, you aren't alone! Lots of people have expressed frustration with the built-in account management tool that comes stock on all AT&T model iPads. We've reached out to AT&T and done a little homework ourselves. So if you're having issues, follow along and we'll help you get up and running in no time!

Stay away from the built-in account management

feature if you can

Back when Apple first launched a cellular model iPad, AT&T was the exclusive carrier and there was only an option for post-paid plans that you managed yourself without any help from AT&T. Since then, the built-in account management tool remains on AT&T cellular model iPads but doesn't seem to play very nicely for some and in a lot of instances, flat out just doesn't work.

Beyond that, if you ever have issues with your service, the tool itself doesn't actually show anything to in-store employees. This means they have very few resources at their disposal to actually help you beyond logging in on your iPad with you and trying to see if they can figure out what you can't. Their system doesn't show them anything about your plan or let them make any changes. To do so, they'll have to change your plan type anyways, which is why we recommend not using it anymore. It just wasn't maintained by Apple and AT&T the way it should have been.

Our advice, and AT&T's - stay away from the built-in tool and choose one of the options below instead that best fits your situation.

Already used the built-in account management feature?

If you've already set up your new iPad and successfully got a data plan added with the built-in account management feature, that's okay. Just keep in mind that you'll need to either have your iPad present or know your login if you ever have to visit a store in order to troubleshoot your account.

If you ever want to merge your session based plan that you've set up through your iPad to a post paid account, you should be able to do so via the following link:

‣   AT&T DataConnect Account Management Login

Existing AT&T customers with Mobile Share plans

If you currently have an AT&T Mobile Share plan, just add your new iPad to your AT&T account when you purchase it. You should be able to do this at any AT&T location or Apple Store. If you've already purchased it and it wasn't activated, just stop into your local AT&T store.

It's the cheapest option and allows you to simply share the data with all the other devices on your

plan for only $10 a month and a one time $36 activation fee. That's it, you're done. Sure, you have to make a trip to the AT&T store, but in the long run, it'll create far less of a headache, and probably save you some cash. Not to mention, employees can actually see your account and help you if you run into issues, unlike the self management tool.

Existing AT&T customers without a Mobile Share plan

If you are an AT&T wireless customer but don't have a Mobile Share plan, that's okay. You can still add your iPad to your account. Since you bought your iPad outright, there is no contract to sign. You're simply adding a data plan of your choice to your existing plan and you pay for it in 30 day increments. For example, if you choose the 3GB plan for your new iPad and your AT&T bill was previous $150 plus tax, your bill will now be $180 plus tax.

If you ever decide you want to cancel it, just call AT&T up or visit a store to remove the data plan for your iPad. You can then continue using your iPad as a WiFi only device. AT&T customers that do *not* have Mobile Share plans, but an older standard plan instead, have the following data only rate plan options for iPad:

Domestic
‣ 250 MB - $14.99/month

‣ 3 GB - $30.00/month

‣ 5 GB - $50/month

International
‣ 120 MB - $30/month

‣ 300 MB - $60/month

‣ 800 MB - $120/month

Since Mobile Share only costs $10 a month to add your new iPad and also doesn't require a contract if you've bought your new iPad outright, it may be worth taking a look at if you'd save money switching to a Mobile Share plan.

Not currently an AT&T customer?

If you aren't currently an AT&T customer, you can sign up for post-paid data only service with no contract just like AT&T customers can that aren't on Mobile Share. The prices are exactly the same, actually. Just head into any AT&T store to get set up. The rate plans are as follows:

Domestic
- 250 MB - $14.99/month
- 3 GB - $30.00/month
- 5 GB - $50/month

International
- 120 MB - $30/month
- 300 MB - $60/month
- 800 MB - $120/month

Imagining iPad 5 and iPad mini 2: iSight and FaceTime cameras, storage

ANALYZING RUMORS AND SPECULATION SURROUNDING APPLE'S 5TH GENERATION IPAD AND 2ND GENERATION IPAD MINI CHIPSET AND POTENTIAL FINGERPRINT IDENTITY SENSOR

Some of the bigger questions surrounding the iPad 5 and iPad mini 2 involve things like the lighter design for the former, Retina display for the latter, and the potential for Touch ID for both, but what also remains to be seen is what will happen with the iSight and FaceTime HD cameras, tablet editions. While not as dismal as the original iPad camera, they've still lagged enormously behind the iPhone. Will this year be any different?

iSight that can actually see

Taking photos with an iPad has become something of an internet joke. But the truth is, for people for whom the iPad is their only device, the iPad really, truly is the best camera they have with them, and their only way to capture the moments that are precious to them. Sure, it can look a little funny to see someone with a 7.9-inch, never mind 9.7-inch camera out in the wild, but what's not so funny is them taking the photo only to have it not turn out due to the inferior optics on the iPad.

The current iPad 4 and iPad mini have the same 5 megapixel cameras as the current iPod touch, and similar ones to the 2010 iPhone 4. It's not terrible, but it's nowhere approaching modern. The iPhone 5s, meanwhile, has an 8 megapixel camera that's on its third generation and can go toe-to-toe with almost any other camera phone on the market. Ultra-modern.

It's hard to see Apple giving the iPad line the same camera as the iPhone 5s, but it's not hard seeing Apple giving the iPad line an 8 megapixel camera. Worst case, it's the dated but still decent iPhone 4s camera. Better case, it's the good iPhone 5 camera currently still found in the iPhone 5c. Either way, it'll be a substantial improvement over the 2012 iPad camera.
The iPad 5 is also almost certain to get the Apple A7 chipset, which comes with a remarkable image signal process (ISP) that, optics be damned, will produce much better photos all on its own. Whether the iPad mini gets the A7 as well, or moves up only incrementally to the Apple A6 is hard to say, but even the A6 ISP would be a good upgrade.
Either way, while people might still laugh at the idea of taking photos with the iPad, they won't be laughing at how well the iSight photos turn out any more.

FaceTime HD-er

Not only did the iPhone 5s get an updated FaceTime HD camera - one that kept the same 720p resolution but added a back illuminated sensor (BSI) and larger pixel size - the iPhone 5c got it as well. It was one of only two internal updates the iPhone 5c enjoyed this year. (The other had to so with LTE radios.)
That makes it seem highly likely that both the new iPad 5 and new iPad mini 2 will get the same treatment, and be able to better capture selfies and FaceTime video calls in low-light conditions.

Because everyone needs a little FaceTime after dark, right?

128GB for one, or everyone?

Taking bigger pictures and better video means needing lots of space to either store them, or stage them until you can move them to the cloud or Mac or Windows PC. What's more, on devices like iPads, they're even more likely to be competing for that space against large games, documents, and video files.

While the iPad 4 first shipped with a maximum of 64 gigabytes (GB) of storage, last spring Apple added a 128GB option. Once you make something like that available, it's really hard to roll it back. So, an iPad 5 with 128GB of storage makes a lot of sense.

The iPad mini isn't as easy to predict. It's a tablet, like the full-sized iPad, but focused more on portability than power. It didn't get a 128GB option earlier this year - nor did the iPhone 5s last month - and Apple might be content to leave it topping out at a more affordable 64GB.

That would be one more differentiator between 7.9-inch and 9.7-inch tablets that increasingly

have less differentiation other than that between them.

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Want to trade in your old iDevice? Here's a link to compare prices

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Are you wanting to trade in your old iPhone in order to get a new iPhone 5?

This company, Technollo.com (1-888-242-1110) pays for your old phones, iPads, laptops & some digital cameras.

This is a local company (15508 Bratton Ln Austin, Texas 78728) so I took my iPhone4 to them instead of shipping it.

They pay the most I have found thus far. Ask for Armando Filoteo, tell him that I sent you, and you should get a great deal.

iPhones, iPods & iPads Class

This class meets in the CC ANNEX instead of the Cybercenter Classroom. Please bring your iPhones with you to class.

our, three-hour sessions

ee: $20.00

escription: The iPhone is the latest generation of 'smart' mobile phones perating as a small, hand-held and entirely portable computer. The iPhone omes with twenty standard 'apps', including e-mail, maps, internet, calendar, ontacts and much more. This course will introduce you to the functions of ese apps and basic operations, such as navigating the device, folders, cut nd paste, bookmarks and camera functions.

he examples used in the class are based on the iPhone 4, but approximately 0% of the content is germane to the iPad and 80% to the iPod Touch. If you ave an iPhone, iPad, or an iPod, you will learn a lot in this class.

bjectives & Course Summary: Upon completion of this course, you will e able to:

- Use the standard components of the phone.
- Understand the basic operations of the phone: touch scrolling, call answer and call dialing/return, apps location and function.
- Understand how to customize your phone in the settings menu.
- Understand the necessary requirements for installing apps.
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Time for questions, observations and special apps from the audience

The next meeting is on Wednesday, January 8, 2014

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