

A Newsmagazine for Apple Technology Users

MUGTALK

Ocala Macintosh User Group

Helping Users Since 1991—

Happy Valentine's Day!

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Next Meeting February 12th, 3 PM

Newest and greatest apps for the iMac, iPad, and iPhone
Speaker— Burt Stephens, OMUG

FEBRUARY '20

My 20 Favorite Apps for 2020

by Marilyn Kennedy

Is it possible to be in love with apps? I suppose not, but would we want to live without some of them? Here are 20 apps that I would hate to be without.



Contacts and **Mail** are very special to me. How would I ever be able to effectively communicate with my OMUG friends and my Derby Farms homeowners? I never would be able to remember all those phone numbers and email addresses!

My granddaughters only know how to text, so it seems. **Messages** is very necessary when I want to talk to them. They never answer a regular phone call. Messages is also great for letting me know when UPS packages are delivered after I've settled in for the night. (Got to give credit to those dedicated drivers, especially at holiday time.)

Without **FaceTime**, I'd be afraid that our grandson would forget us. My husband and I have limited our trips north because flying is such a hassle. At least we get to see Grandson Dylan once a week via FaceTime, and he knows who Grandma and Grandpa are.

Since my iPhone is usually with me, the **Camera** is always ready to add to my **Photos** collection of 8,704 pictures and 627 videos. No more picture albums for me! I still have 18

heavy albums taking up valuable space in a closet.

Pages is great when I need to write these President's messages. I use **Numbers** for spreadsheets to keep my bowling scores, golf results, and horse expenses for each year. Most of my Derby Farms treasurer duties rely on Numbers.

Evernote easily stores receipts, manuals, and articles to use in my President's messages. **Paprika Recipe Manager** is a handy place to keep 221 of my favorite recipes. The **Safari** browser stores many bookmarks for websites I often visit.

Whenever I'm driving to an unfamiliar place, **Maps** helps me get there without a problem. I don't know how we ever managed to get where we were going before the GPS was introduced.

I rely heavily on **Sandvox** to create and update websites. My websites include some videos that I create using **iMovie**. Besides my personal Christmas Greetings website, I manage one for Derby Farms Property Owners Association. It's a valuable resource for our homeowners.

For keeping my Macs in good working order, I use **CleanMyMac X**. I wouldn't feel as secure without this app.

For keeping track of my 235 login passwords, I depend on **1Password 7**. I also store 40 secure notes and some software licenses. I keep finding more uses for my 1Password.

Life should not be all work and no play so I have a few apps that are just for relaxation and

keeping my brain functioning. When I want to get lost in a book, I go to my **Kindle** app. It also helps the time go by when waiting in a doctor's office. In the morning, I like to do **Words With Friends** and then spend some time doing **Magic Jigsaw Puzzles**.

I know **Facebook** doesn't have a very good reputation, but I do visit it every day mainly to find out what family members are up to in the wilds of New England.

I hope you enjoyed reading about my 20 favorite apps. Maybe some of your favorites are the same as mine.

Since Valentine's Day is celebrated this month, I want to leave you with this cute saying—

"I don't understand why Cupid was chosen to represent Valentine's Day. When I think about romance, the last thing on my mind is a short, chubby toddler coming at me with a weapon."

Author Unknown

Happy Valentine's Day!

Marilyn Kennedy.

OMUG President



How To Recover From Browser Hijacking — *Browser hijacking is when a program forcibly redirects your browser to a location that will produce some kind of monetary gain.*

The software usually makes it onto your computer in one of two ways: Either a hacker tricks you into installing it via an email or a malicious link, or it's bundled with some legitimate software by a developer who uses it as an additional source of revenue.

If you've ever had your web browser hijacked, you know that it can be a pain to reset your browser so that it doesn't go back to the hijacking target.

It's important to periodically check to make sure your browsers are updated to the latest versions. Safari is usually updated at the same time as macOS is updated. Chrome and Firefox are updated automatically when you quit and restart the browser.

If you are the unlucky target of a browser hijacking, here are things you can do to return your computer to a healthy state.

Run Malwarebytes

The first thing is to run the **Malwarebytes** program, which can often find and remove the hijack program. Malwarebytes has both free and premium (paid) versions. When you first install the program, you get a limited trial of the premium version—it will revert to the free version after the trial period. Most people only need the free version, but you must remember to run it periodically.

After you run the program, reboot your computer. If this doesn't work, follow the instructions below.

Safari

Force Quit Safari

- 1 Click the Apple icon at the left end of the menu bar.
- 2 Select **Force Quit** from the menu.
- 3 Select **Safari** from the list.
- 4 Click the **Force Quit** button.

Remove Extensions

Some pop-ups are created from extensions and add-ons installed on your browser.

- 1 Open Safari
- 2 Select **Safari > Preferences**.
- 3 Click the **Extensions** tab. Click on **Uninstall** for any extensions you don't recognize.
- 4 You will get a confirmation window. Click on **Uninstall** to confirm the removal.
- 5 If a new tab opens up, you can close it by hitting the X.

Extensions are gone, but you may have to restart your browser for it to take effect. If you removed a malicious extension, it might have changed your homepage.

Modify Homepage Settings

Your web browser's homepage settings dictate the websites that load when it opens. If you see an unfamiliar link in the settings that should be removed, then follow these steps.

- 1 Open Safari.
- 2 Select **Safari > Preferences**.
- 3 Select **General**.
 1. Set Safari opens with: **A new window**.
 2. Set New windows open with: **Empty page**.
 3. Set New tabs open with: **Empty page**.

Chrome

Open a Specific Page

- 1 Open Chrome.
- 2 Select **Chrome > Preferences (Settings)**.
- 3 Scroll down to the **On Startup** section.
- 4 Enable the **Open the New Tab Page** option. You may want a specific page set to open by default. In that case, select the **Open a Specific Page** or **Set of Pages** option instead.

Reset Chrome Settings

Note: Resetting Chrome disables extensions, deletes cookies, removes pinned tabs and reverts home pages and search engine settings to their default. However, your bookmarks, browsing history, and saved passwords are still kept intact.

- 1 Open Chrome.
- 2 Select **Chrome > Preferences (Settings)**.
- 3 Scroll down and click **Advanced > Reset Settings**.
- 4 Click **Restore Settings to their original Default**.
- 5 On the pop-up box, click **Reset Settings**. You have an option to **Help make Chrome better**.

Reinstall Chrome

If resetting Chrome doesn't work, it's time to reinstall the browser. This removes all data, including bookmarks, browsing history, and saved passwords. So, you may need to consider signing into Chrome and syncing them to your Google Account.

Note: Click the Sync option within the Chrome Settings screen and select the items that need to be synced, before removing the browser.

- 1 Uninstall Chrome completely using **App-Cleaner** (free) or **CleanMyMac X**. If you just drag the Chrome icon to the trash it will leave several supporting files that must be deleted.
- 2 If you use **drag to trash**, you must remove any remaining files that have been left behind. To do this:
 - 1 In the Finder Menu, click **Go** and then **Go to Folder**.
 - 2 Enter `~/Library/Application Support/Google/Chrome~`
 - 3 Click **Go**.
 - 4 **Select** all the folders, and drag them to the Trash.

Firefox

Force Quit Firefox

—continued on page 4

How To Recover From Browser Hijacking —continued from page 3

- 1 Click the Apple icon at the left end of the menu bar.
- 2 Select **Force Quit** from the menu.
- 3 Select **Firefox** from the list.
- 4 Click the **Force Quit** button.

Block Phishing and Malware.

- 1 Open Firefox.
- 2 Select **Firefox > Preferences** from the menu bar.
- 3 Select **Privacy & Security**.
- 4 Change **Browser Privacy > Enhanced Tracking Protection** to **Strict**.

- 5 Check all the boxes in **Browser Privacy > Security > Deceptive Content and Dangerous Software Protection**.

Disable Add-ons

- 1 Click **Tools** at the top of your browser window and select **Add-ons**.
- 2 Look through the list of add-ons and disable any you no longer use or do not remember installing.
- 3 Highlight the **add-on** and click the **blue slider** on the right to disable it.
- 4 To remove it completely, click the **3-dot icon** to the right of the blue slider and click **Remove**.

Update Firefox

- 1 From the opened Firefox browser, pull down the Firefox menu and choose **About Firefox**.
- 2 Click the **Update Now** button if it's available, if you see **Firefox is up to date** then you're already on the latest version.

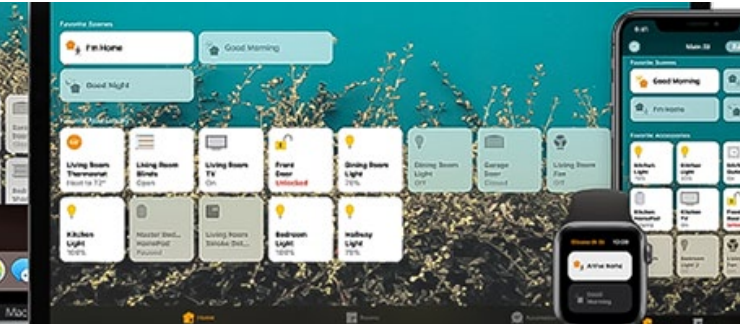
Final Thoughts

If none of these tips work, then it is time to either:

- 1 Restore your computer from a bootable clone backup made before the problem started;
- 2 Wipe your drive using Recovery Mode and Disk Utility, then reinstall macOS. Obviously you will need a good Time Machine or Bootable Clone backup to keep from losing everything. 🌸

Apple, Amazon, Google, and Zigbee Alliance to Develop Open Standard for Smart Home Devices

From MacRumors by Joe Rossignol



Apple, Amazon, Google, and the Zigbee Alliance today announced a new working group that plans to develop and promote the adoption of a new IP-based connectivity standard for smart home products, with a focus on increased compatibility, security, and simplified development for manufacturers.

Zigbee Alliance board member companies such as IKEA, Legrand, NXP Semiconductors, Resideo, SmartThings, Schneider Electric, Signify, Silicon Labs, Somfy, and Wulian will also contribute to the project.

The so-called “Project Connected Home over IP” aims to make it easier for device manufacturers to build devices that are compatible with smart home and voice services such as Siri, Alexa, Google Assistant, and others by defining a specific set of IP-based networking technologies for device certification.

The new standard will incorporate existing smart home technologies, such as Apple’s HomeKit and **Google’s Weave and Thread**: *We’re contributing two of our market-tested and open-source smart home technologies, Weave and Thread. Both are built on IP and have been integrated into millions of homes around the world. Weave, an application protocol, works over many networks like Thread, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth Low Energy, and even cellular. Even when devices are on different networks, Weave allows them all to securely work with each other.*

The new connectivity standard will be open source and royalty-free, with code to be maintained on GitHub. The working group has a goal to release a

draft specification and a preliminary reference implementation in late 2020.

For consumers, this should ultimately lead to more smart home accessories that support multiple platforms like HomeKit and Alexa. 🌸

Wendy gets airline privacy by creating her own book covers on her Mac



Everything you thought you knew about Apple is wrong

—Hageloh is author of “Live from Cupertino” —
Minor edits. Editor’s Note: the conversation style is the author’s.

Yes, Apple has a sales team.

Once people know that I was at Apple for 22 years, they’re fascinated. Everyone wants the inside scoop on the most creative company in the world. And I’ll be honest: Half the time, they don’t want to believe the true secrets behind Apple’s success. (It’s a big part of what compelled me to share those secrets in my book *Live from Cupertino*, released late 2019).

Case in point: “Apple products sell themselves.”

(The number one fact that shocks people about Apple, over and over, is that they have a sales department. *That they need one at all.*)

This couldn’t be further from the truth. Yes, Apple has a sales team. I know, because I was on it.

Even a prior Apple CEO shared this common misperception. One of a string of nondescript executives that marched through leadership during the sad “beige box” days when we forgot who we were, the then-head of the company actually stood in front of the *global sales organization*, gathered in New Orleans for our annual conference that year, and declared:

“You know, these things sell themselves. *You just have to get out of the way.*”

Stunned silence. And then... Well, you can imagine how his words instantly made Generic CEO #3 that much more popular with the cool kids. (Not that anyone’s ever accused me of being the cool kid. The guy at the front of the band, not the drummer, gets the girl. And I am a drummer.)

It was an amazingly *energetic* meeting from the CEO’s declaration on. Let’s just say, thank God the alcohol was free.

Let me put this into context for you. The iPhone and its predecessor, the iPod (*remember that?*), weren’t even revolutionary glimmers in Steve’s eyes yet. Heck, the Internet was barely a thing.

For most of my time at Apple, I was part of Higher Education sales, the business line that kept the company alive during the dark years, before its thrilling turnaround after the return of Jobs. I had the glamorous role of sitting across the desk from decisionmakers who would say, “Yeah, but we’re all Windows. We don’t care about Apple. Why should we care?”

My job? To translate. To get the person on the other side of the desk to understand why they should care.

And that’s the thing. Whether you’re looking for funding for your startup, or interviewing for a job, or going anywhere in life, you’ve got to be able to translate the why. You’ve got to sell the idea, without selling. (Because no one likes to be sold to.)

No matter how compelling the marketing is — and for sure, Apple represents *groundbreaking marketing* — when you go from marketing to sales, you have to translate the vision into why. The customer’s why.

And it took a large sales force to get it done, an orchestra of individual master artists. A band, so to speak.

Steve Jobs understood translating the vision better than anyone. He was a master salesman. He took people to a place they did not even know they wanted to go — and conveniently, when you got there, there were his products.

For me, sitting across from those decision makers at universities and higher education institutions, it meant connecting Apple’s why (think

differently, with innovative technology—tech that also happened to be expensive, and didn’t always play well with other tech they had), with their why. With solving their problem. What does the customer need? How can we partner with them to make it happen?

For example, for the University of Florida, the faculty’s research was stymied by a lack of funds. So, I helped them win a \$130 million-dollar research grant for a high magnetic field laboratory. And which happened to create millions in Apple business at the same time.

Later, that meant positioning iTunes as an educational tool through a unique partnership with Duke University.

And finally, I helped launch Apple’s original student Campus Representative Program — i.e., an on-site *sales team* driven by students who were passionate about Apple products. It’s a program that’s now copied by every major global tech manufacturer.

The point of all this is not to tell you how great I am, the point is that: Apple *sells*. They require people who sell. Do they have a selling culture? No, *as I discuss here*. There is no “push” to the sales, rather: collaboration, creativity, and relationships. And from those elements, those very human elements, the sales flow effortlessly.

So, no, my friends, these things do not sell themselves. 🌸



If the human eye was a digital camera it would have 576 megapixels

Source: K4KNOWLEDGE

And The Rest Of The Story—

*Editor's comment— Last month, you'll recall, we took a look at the **television commercial that Apple ran heavily during the holiday period of an "epic snow fight"**. The info accompanying the video boasted that the video was shot using iPhone 11 Pro phone units. Of course, there is more to the story.*

As has been said many times over in photo blogs, "Just because you buy a fancy camera and lenses, it does not mean that you will instantly become an award-winning photographer. It is the person behind that equipment that makes the difference." Similarly, consider this, "Hey, if I buy a new pen, I'll be as good a poet as TS Elliot!" Not!

J. Christina, a blogger, did some digging. While some might find his video coming across as somewhat cynical, it does serve to show an informative view of what went on behind the scenes. That said, I think you may indeed enjoy it.

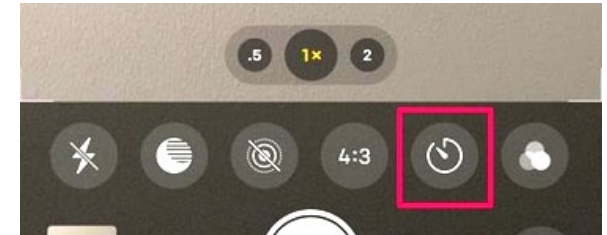


J. Christina recently reviewed Apple's promotional video showing a great video of a kid's snowball fight that looked like a Jackie Chan movie. "Fortunately this time they also released the **behind the scenes video of the shoot** which included a professional director, professional stunt trainers, professional riggers to get the various iPhones attached to sleds and other paraphernalia. Bottom line - it was a great video AND it showed that with all this professional expertise one could shoot a great holiday video. Good luck to those who bought an iPhone 11 hoping to get equally stunning results."

It's still the workman, not the tools. View here! 🌟

How to Take Timed Photos with iPhone 11 & iPhone 11 Pro Camera App— by osxdaily.com – edited

Want to know how to take timed photos on the iPhone 11, iPhone 11 Pro, and iPhone 11 Pro Max? You're in the right place.



Apple's latest and greatest iPhone models are equipped with an all-new double camera or triple camera system that comes with a slew of new features. In order to accommodate all the new features that the iPhone 11, iPhone 11 Pro Max, and iPhone 11 Pro cameras had to offer, Apple redesigned its Camera app from the ground up. The new camera UI is fairly different compared to what people may be used to seeing on prior iPhones. This could confuse some iOS users who've upgraded to the latest iPhone 11, iPhone 11 Pro, and iPhone 11 Pro Max, and you might not be sure where to find certain camera functions, like the self-timer, that used to be **more easily accessible on prior iPhone models**.

The Camera Timer is one of those existing features that's now buried deeper within the Camera app.

The timer camera feature is pretty handy if you want to take a group selfie, or a snap a picture of yourself using the more powerful rear camera without having to bother anyone.

Go here for the full step-by-step "How-To" for using the timer on iPhone 11 models. 🌟

Apple acquires Spectral Edge to boost iPhone camera performance

It looks like Apple might have just made another move to improve image quality on its iPhone camera. Bloomberg reports that according to filings made public in the U.K. on Thursday, Apple has acquired the Cambridge, U.K.-based startup Spectral Edge Ltd.

Spectral Edge has developed a technology that can improve detail and color on digital cameras by taking an infrared picture and merging it with a conventional color photo using machine learning. Apple is already using AI in some of its camera algorithms, for example, to improve low light images, so using AI to improve other aspects of image quality would fit nicely into the concept.

The Spectral Edge technology can be applied via software or baked into hardware which would allow Apple to integrate it into a custom image signal processor.

No purchase price has been reported but last year Spectral Edge said it raised more than \$5 million in funding.

We should not expect the technology to be integrated into the next iPhone generation but in the medium and long term, it will be interesting to see if Spectral Edge can help improve smartphone imaging. 🌟

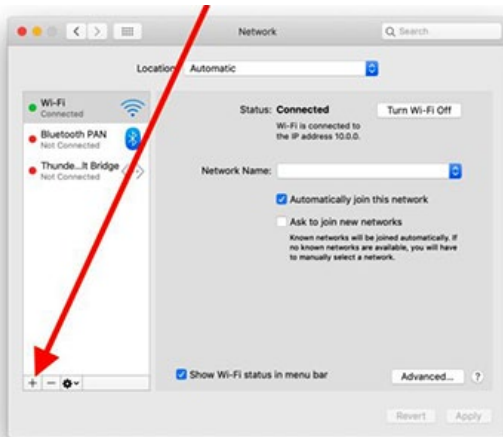
How To Setup A VPN On A Mac—

VPN stands for Virtual Private Network, and VPN services are often used by businesses, enterprises, agencies, and individuals for a wide variety of purposes. Often consumers will use a VPN as a means of improving privacy, security, or being a bit more anonymous online, or to protect data that is being transferred from the Mac to the internet. Basically how a VPN works is that, when enabled, it routes data going to and from the computer to the internet through the VPN, wrapping it in an encrypted layer. This is sometimes necessary for accessing internal networks for jobs and schools, and some users rely on VPN for privacy purposes.

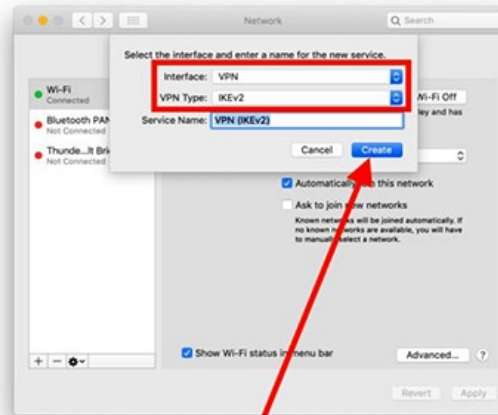
We're assuming you have a VPN to set up and connect to, with VPN information from the provider or enterprise offering the VPN service. If you don't have a VPN provider, you can either find one or skip this article as it may not be relevant to you.

Setup and connection

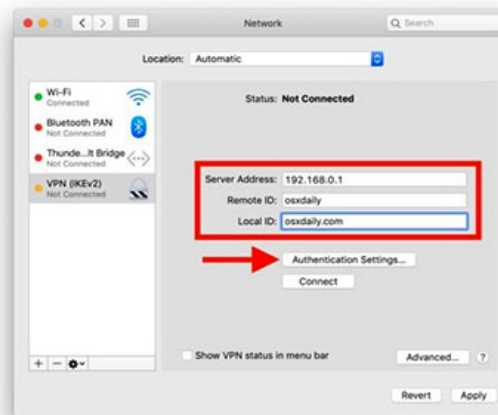
1. Pull down the Apple menu in the top left corner of the screen, then choose "System Preferences"
2. Select "Network"
3. Click the plus "+" button in the bottom left corner of Network preferences



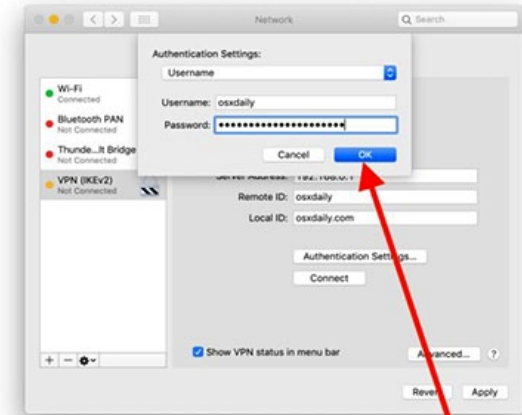
4. From the 'Interface' dropdown options, choose "VPN", then set the "VPN Type" to what the VPN provider has designated and give the VPN a name, then click "Create"



5. Fill in the Server Address, Remote ID, and Local ID, then click "Authentication Settings"

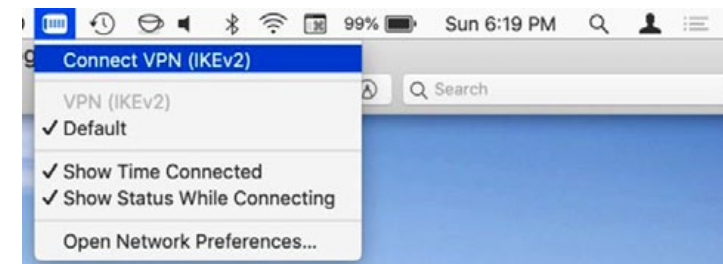


6. Choose the Authentication Settings type (certificate, username) and fill in the details as appropriate and click "OK". (See top next column.)
7. Choose "Connect" to connect to the VPN
8. Optionally but recommended, set "Show VPN status in menu bar" to make it easier to see when connected to the VPN and to connect and disconnect from VPN on the Mac



9. Click "Apply" and close out of System Preferences. Assuming you have everything configured properly, you should now be connected to and using the VPN on the Mac. You can always confirm this by checking your external IP address through Google or a third party service.

Now that the VPN is configured, and assuming you enabled the VPN status in menu bar, you can easily connect and disconnect from the VPN by clicking the VPN menu bar item and choosing "Connect" or "Disconnect".



You can also toggle settings in the VPN menu bar to show the time connected to the VPN, just in case your VPN has a time limit or allotment, or if you're just curious how long you've been connected to the VPN.

If you use a VPN often on the Mac, you may find it useful **auto-connect to VPN on Mac boot or log in as detailed here.** —go to top pg. 9



How to Answer Phone Calls on AirPods—

from [osxdaily.com](#)



Handling phone calls with AirPods and AirPods Pro is a wonderfully convenient feature to use. If you're wearing AirPods and receive

a phone call, you might wish to answer a phone call while wearing the AirPods earbuds. And of course, you can also hang up phone calls with AirPods too, so you're not going to —more, [link 1](#)

Backup iPhone or iPad to Mac in macOS Catalina with Finder—

osxdaily.com

Since iTunes is gone, even the most experienced of iPhone and iPad users can be thrown for a loop when they come to back up their devices after updating a Mac to macOS Catalina. With the loss of iTunes, everything has changed, and now —more, [link 2](#)

How to Delete a VPN from iPhone or iPad—

from [osxdaily.com](#)

If you're using a VPN with iPhone or iPad you may wish to eventually delete that VPN from your device, perhaps because you are no longer using the VPN service, or if the VPN is no longer needed. For example, maybe you used a VPN while traveling and are back home and no longer find

Important note— for those of you not using a pop-up ad blocker, when accessing hot links you may see an ad for MacKeeper, **DO NOT CLICK ON IT!**

—more, [link 3](#)

Keep Up With AARP Tech Guides—

from [osxdaily.com](#)

Did you know Apple has an overhauled Photos app and new privacy features for iPhone and iPad, including controls for limiting who knows your location? You can keep up with changes with AARP tech guides. For 40 percent off, click on Que Publishing and type in discount code AARP at checkout. —go here, [link 4](#)

Automatically Close Safari Tabs on iPhone & iPad—

from [osxdaily.com](#)

The more you browse the web, the more you're likely to find that you're drowning in a sea of open tabs. We all do it, and it can be a real nuisance on iPhones and iPads where we're tapping links left and right and scrolling through endless open Safari browser tabs. But with the latest —more, [link 5](#)

Connect Xbox One Controller to iPhone or iPad—



from [appleinsider.com](#)

You can now use an Xbox One controller with iPhone or iPad for gaming. We've been able to use some select Bluetooth game controllers with iPads and iPhones for years, but for many gamers, they don't have the same feel as a classic gaming controller, like

the Xbox One offers. It's just hard to compete —more, [link 6](#)

How to Change What AirPods Pro Stems Do When Squeezed—

from [osxdaily.com](#)

When Apple released AirPods Pro it changed the way they are controlled compared to standard AirPods. Whereas tap controls of the earbuds handled playback controls and Siri of AirPods, AirPods Pro now have a squeeze gesture. This new gesture can be used to either toggle active noise cancellation (ANC) and transparency modes, or invoke Siri —more, [link 7](#)

Enable iCloud Music Library on iPhone & iPad—

from [osxdaily.com](#)

We don't always listen to music on a single device. Depending on what we're doing, we often switch between our smartphones, tablets, computers and even smart speakers. This is why popular music streaming services offer apps on a variety of different devices. If you're an iPhone or iPad user, there's a pretty good chance you —more, [link 8](#)

How to Use Ultra-Wide Camera on iPhone 11 & iPhone 11 Pro—

from [osxdaily.com](#)

Wondering how to use the new ultra-wide-angle lens camera on iPhone 11 and iPhone 11 Pro? It's quite easy, and it can look fantastic for many photographic situations.

The iPhone 11, iPhone 11 Pro, and iPhone 11 Pro Max all include an ultra-wide camera lens, this article will detail how to use the camera —more, [link 9](#)



iPhone 11 – Complete Beginners Guide—

by [osxdaily.com](#)

This iPhone 11 Beginners Guide covers everything about the iPhone 11, iPhone 11 Pro, iPhone 11 Pro Max as well as iPhone XS & iPhone X. This



complete YouTube Video Guide has everything you need to become an iPhone 11 Expert. —more, [link 10](#)

Record Video Using QuickTake on iPhone 11 & 11 Pro

by [osxdaily.com](#)

The iPhone 11 family makes it easier than ever to quickly capture video clips. If you've used popular social networking apps like Instagram and Snapchat, there's a good chance you're well-aware of the "Stories" feature —more, [link 11](#)

Excerpts from—

MacRumors Newsletter

Apple May Launch Backlit Smart Keyboard Alongside 2020 iPad Pros—

Apple may release a backlit Smart Keyboard with a scissor-switch design for its next-generation iPad models, expected to be released in the second half of 2020, according to hit-or-miss website DigiTimes. The current Smart Keyboard has unlit butterfly keys covered with rubber domes.

The report also claims that a new 13-inch MacBook Pro with a scissor-switch Magic Keyboard is due for release in the first half of 2020, following in the footsteps of the 16-inch MacBook Pro last year. [Read Full Article](#)

Calcularium – Reactive Calculation Environment (Descriptive, Editable, Reusable, Gesture-Based & Voice-Controlled)—

Have you ever typed an equation on a mobile calculator only to mistype one number, throwing off the entire problem? Or have you ever wished you could save an equation so you don't have to type the same digits over and over?

That's where the Calcularium comes in, giving you everything and more that you've ever wanted for your phone's calculator.

Calcularium is a unique product for small touch screen devices that really unleashes the Power of Touch Interface. One can define the way you do your calculations by using functions, aliases, and editable/reusable history calculations.

In Calcularium one can set an expression as a variable to reuse in other expressions and custom-name the components of the calculation to make them self-explanatory and consistent at an unlimited number of nesting levels.

The Design Language is based on Tokens and Micro-Interactions. All tokens are of the same structure: the left part shows a type of the ele-

ment, the right part has a result or an entered value and its name on top.

As for the data entry modes, there are many: make a photo of the math problem, speak it up, or type it on the keyboard. [Try Calcularium today.](#)



Tim Cook Invested in Nebia Shower Head After Stepping Under a Prototype in His Local Gym—

Back in 2015, Apple CEO Tim Cook invested in a water-efficient shower

head called Nebia.

This week, Nebia unveiled a new version of its shower system, and some of the interesting backstory behind Cook's arguably left-field investment choice has also come to light.

The short version of the story is that Nebia co-founder Philip Winter managed to persuade fitness centers in Silicon Valley to run pilot tests of the eco-shower, and after installing the prototypes he would wait outside locker rooms to get feedback. That's when he met Cook.

Winter said Cook invested a "significant" amount of his own money in the eco-shower head and advised Nebia on suppliers. He also [pushed the startup to prioritize user experience, design, and sustainability.](#) [Read Full Article](#)

Apple Reportedly Dropped Plans for End-to-End Encrypted iCloud Backups After FBI Objected—

More than two years ago, Apple informed the FBI that it planned to roll out end-to-end encryption for iCloud backups, according to Reuters. Apple ultimately dropped the plan at some point after the FBI objected, although the report notes that it is unclear if the federal agency was explicitly a factor in the decision.

A former Apple employee told Reuters that

the company did not want to risk scrutiny from public officials for potentially protecting criminals, being sued for making previously accessible data out of reach, or encouraging new legislation against encryption. [Read Full Article](#)

Apple Likely to Drop Adobe Flash Support in Next Version of Safari—

As noted in our coverage of Safari Technology Preview 99, Apple has removed all support for Adobe Flash. Safari Technology Preview is basically a beta of the next version of Safari proper, all but confirming that Apple is officially ditching support for Flash in the next version of its native Mac browser.

The elimination of Flash support should not heavily impact users, given that most other popular browsers have already moved away from the format. Likewise, iPhone and iPad users won't be affected because Apple's mobile operating system has never supported Flash.

Back in July 2017, Adobe announced plans to end-of-life its Flash browser plug-in. Adobe said it was ceasing development and distribution of the software at the end of 2020, so its removal from Safari was to be expected.

It's a good moment to reflect on the Steve Jobs letter ["Thoughts on Flash."](#)

Apple Shares Release Dates for Upcoming Apple TV+ Series—

Apple this week shared release dates for several of its upcoming Apple TV+ shows that are set to launch during the spring and summer of 2020, such as the sci-fi anthology series "Amazing Stories," executive produced by Steven Spielberg.

It was a big week for Apple TV+ news, ranging from Apple reaching a multi-year agreement with actress and producer Julia Louis-Dreyfus to fellow actress Jennifer Aniston winning a SAG Award for her performance in the Apple TV+ drama series "The Morning Show." [Read Full Article](#) 🌟



OMUG Meeting Information—

The Ocala Mac User Group meets monthly at 3 PM: check ocalamug.org for meeting day. Location — Freedom Public Library 5870 SW 95th Street, Ocala

Member Help sessions, time permitting, are selectively held in conjunction with regular meetings.

OMUG Board of Directors—

- President – Marilyn Kennedy
- Vice President – N.C. Sizemore
- Secretary – Chris Kilbride
- Treasurer – Cammie Fairburn
- Director – Tom Lee
- Director – Philip Davis
- Director – Burt Stephens
- Director – Al Sypher
- Director – Lorraine Wieskamp
- Past President – Bobby Adams

Contact Us—
ocalamug@gmail.com

(This is a monitored address— you will receive a prompt reply)

OMUG Is Your Resource—

OMUG's always evolving [website](#) will keep you abreast of *Upcoming Events* – There are *Technical Resources* with information for beginners, a full tech blog that is loaded with tips, and it just may answer that burning question you have, past meeting notes, and more – The *Member Resources* area has archives of past MUGTALK issues, Board profiles, member info, and members-only discounts.

OMUG Assignments—

- Online Services Coordinator and Apple Ambassador – Philip Davis
- Program Coordinator – Burt Stephens
- MUGTALK NewsMagazine Editor – Al Sypher
- Door Prizes – Tom Lee
- Membership – Cammie Fairburn
- Sunshine Ambassador – Don Morrison
- Refreshments Coordinator – Lorraine Wieskamp

Using a VPN can theoretically make internet usage better protected, or even possibly more anonymous, though a VPN should be not be thought of as a **TOR** alternative or anything to that effect (and remember TOR is for the web only, whereas a VPN wraps all internet traffic). Speaking of web-only traffic, the **Opera web browser has a free VPN** available specific to web traffic as well, which can be helpful for many users to access regional content or to perform other actions.

There are many VPN services out there, many are provided by a corporation or government for using specific software or to access some specific services, and there are many third-party VPN providers too that are both paid for and free (if it's free don't be surprised if the VPN is gathering your internet data for some purpose).

Highlights from OMUG's 1/08/20 Meeting

Announcements: Marilyn welcomed 29 members and 4 guests, with new long-distance members Herb Harkins and Jerry Campbell. New local memberships included Robert Paxson and Gary Stauffer from OTOW. Guests today were Jennifer Davis, Margitta Claterbox, Melanie Vittitow, and Debbie Skalka.

As a well deserved and pleasant surprise, Marilyn celebrated Phil Davis for all his work in our club over the years as webmaster, monthly Tech Tips advisor/presenter, newsletter columnist, guest presenter, Apple Ambassador, and Apple mentor to our members. Marilyn gave him a unique "The Cult of Mac" book and a special cake made in his honor.

Secretary's Report: Minutes for the November meeting were approved as published via the OMUG Forum.

Program: *Prepare Your Computer for 2020*, Phil Davis OMUG. Start the New Year right by managing various areas: Computer, Folders & Files, Backups, Passwords, Software, Cloud Service, and Digital Estate Plans. **Go here for the presentation.**

After break: Phil Davis also presented more tips: • 2020 Workshops at Senior Learners • Odds & Ends - Notification Center, iStat Menus, SpeedTest, TinkerTool, Swift Publisher • Connector Chaos USB A, B & C • **fakespot.com** – analysis of quality of product reviews.

Door Prizes were distributed by Tom Lee: This month featured • Amazon \$25 Gift Card – Lynn Barkley • Amazon \$25 Gift Card – Ruth Ingmire • 16 GB flash drive w/ eBook Take Control of Photos 2.0 – Cammie Fairburn • 16 GB flash drive w/ eBook Take Control of Your Browser 1.1 – Stan Piteau

Thank you to members helping set up/takedown of tables and chairs – much appreciated!

Next Meeting on February 12th. Topic: *Newest and greatest apps for the Mac, iPad, and iPhone* - Burt Stephens, OMUG

Meeting Highlights compiled and edited from content provided by Chris Kilbride, Secretary

Oh... and one last thing...

Agnes Smith was able to capture this image on her DSLR of a colorful neighborhood woodpecker, lacking any Apple devices, determinedly making its attempt to "GET MAIL".



Photo on cover by Reshma Chowdhury from pexels.com

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