
Mobile Apps News from Nicole Hennig

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Mobile Apps News

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Hi everyone,

Welcome to the 39th issue of Mobile Apps News! I hope you'll enjoy this newsletter and spread the word to your friends and colleagues. Feel free to get in touch if you have any suggestions or comments for topics you'd like to hear more about.

This issue includes:

- news of several interesting new apps — such as **Prisma** for unique edits to photos, **Lisn** for listening to music simultaneously with friends far away, and **a Facebook bot** for sending messages to the president
- practical tips on charging your smartphone, using Siri, and sharing your Kindle books
- stories about how China is taking the lead in mobile technologies
- several thought-provoking articles, some interesting statistics, and articles about the future
- A 20% discount code for my book, [Apps for Librarians: Using the Best Mobile Technology to Educate, Create, and Engage](#).

[Buy it direct from Libraries Unlimited](#) with this code: **Q31620**

- and lots more....

So read on, and enjoy!

App News

New apps

Prisma (iOS, Android, free)

Prisma adds offline mode to its crazy popular art filter app.

The very popular Prisma app transforms your photos into works of art using the styles of famous artists:

Van Gogh, Picasso, Levitan, as well as world famous ornaments and patterns. There is now an Android version and it's just been updated to work offline as well as online.

Pantone Studio (iOS)

Hunt for Colors with Pantone's New Eyedropper App.

For artists and designers, create Pantone swatches from colors in the real world that you point your camera to. Use basic version for free, or subscribe for \$8/mo to use eyedropper tool (cheaper than Pantone's color guides which cost up to \$660).

White House bot in Facebook Messenger (multi-platform, free)

The White House's New Facebook Messenger Bot Makes It Easy To Send A Message To Obama.

"You open up the **Messenger** app on your phone (or the chat feature in Facebook.com) and type in "The White House" as the name of the "friend" you want to message. Alternatively, you can go to the White House's Facebook page and click the "Message" button. Either way, a series of screens (the bot) will appear that let you fill out a message to the president. Press "send" and the message goes straight to the Office of Presidential Correspondence—the White House department that collects and processes all communications from citizens."

Lisn (iOS, free)

Lisn to Music with your Friends in Real Time

Listen to the same song at the same time with friends far away. Requires a Facebook account to sign up (other methods coming later). Gets the music from your Spotify and Soundcloud accounts.

Unidos (iOS, free)

New Voting App Aims to Improve Turnout of Young Latinos.

"Unidos encourages Latino millennials to register and vote. And it will help them become informed voters." "Immigrant voters, especially Latinos, played a key role in the last 2 presidential contests, and are expected to be similarly pivotal in 2016. But while Hispanics have voted in record numbers in recent years, their turnout rate continues to lag behind whites and blacks."

App updates

Paper, Dropbox's answer to Google Docs, now has apps for iOS and Android.

Paper is Dropbox's app for collaborative note-taking. Now in open beta, it also has a web app.

Instagram Launches Instagram Stories: Everything You Need to Know on Instagram's Excellent New Feature.

In Instagram you can now post photos and videos that expire in 24 hours (similar to Snapchat). "Instagram Stories appear in a bar at the top of your feed — and all Instagram accounts will be able to share stories, from your best friends to your favorite popular accounts. "

Pocket Casts 6 for iOS (iOS and Android, \$3.99)

Pocket Casts is my favorite app for listening to podcasts. The iOS app now has the ability to trim silence from podcasts to save time. They've also added "volume boost" for noisy environments. The Android version already had both of these features.

Castro 2 Brings a New Way to Manage Your Favorite Podcasts. (iOS, \$4.99)

Castro 2 review: Podcast app for iOS keeps episode volumes down to a dull roar.

I just might switch to this app, because I like their new features. "The app organizes podcasts simply into three views: Queue, Inbox, and Archive. The Queue contains all episodes to which you've noted you want to listen; the Inbox shows a full list of all episodes from subscriptions along with a short text snippet (the one also used for iTunes episode taglines); and Archive offers access to the favorited and played episodes along with the back catalog of all podcasts in the queue or subscribed to."

AgileBits Launches 1Password Subscription Service for Individuals at \$2.99 a month.

I love the web access feature of this password manager. "You can access and browse your entire 1Password vault(s) using a browser by logging in at <http://my.1password.com>. This way, if you're on a friend's, colleague's or a 3rd-party device, you won't have to manually type out passwords when logging into to websites or apps." I signed up for their six month free trial and I like it, so I'll subscribe when the trial ends.

[Pinterest acquires Instapaper because it wants you to pin more than just photos.](#)

For now Instapaper (for saving articles to read later) will stay a separate app, but reviewers suggest that it may be rolled into Pinterest in the future. This doesn't make sense to me, since I think of Pinterest as all about the images... but who knows?

Hardware

[Comparing iPad Pro Technologies and Intangibles.](#)

If you're on the fence about which new iPad Pro to get — (9.7 inch or the 12.9 inch), this article will help you decide. I'm leaning towards getting the 9.7 inch at the end of this year.

[What Is Alexa? What Is the Amazon Echo, and Should You Get One?](#)

I love mine! Wirecutter always has excellent in-depth reviews. Read this to learn all about the Echo. "Using nothing but the sound of your voice, you can search the Web, create to-do and shopping lists, shop online, get instant weather reports, and control popular smart-home products—all while your phone stays in your pocket."

[iPhone/iPad/iPod Buyer's Guide](#)

I've been using this guide for years. You can recommend it to anyone you know who is deciding when to buy their next Apple device -- make an intelligent decision based on release cycles.

App lists

[Take note, these iOS apps keep your thoughts at hand.](#)

Excellent list of note-taking apps.

[The 10 Best Photo Editing Apps For iPhone \(2016 Edition\)](#)

From one of my favorite sites, iPhone Photography School.

Next online course & a discount on my book

[Organize Your Personal & Professional Life with Apps - eCourse - ALA Store](#)

\$199

Have you been too busy to make best use of your mobile devices for organizing your life? Maybe you've lost or forgotten passwords or left important information on a computer at home. Or perhaps you're concerned about privacy and security and hesitant to use cloud services. If so, then this course will benefit you.

Begins Nov. 7 and runs for 5 weeks.

[Organize Your Life with Mobile Apps - self-study edition](#)

If you prefer to work on your own, try the self-study version of this course. Use this coupon to **get it for only \$40 (usually \$95).**

<http://www.udemy.com/org-your-life-with-apps/?couponCode=HENNIG1>

From one of my students: "This is a worthwhile course, even if you consider yourself pretty sophisticated in using cross platform apps and applications. My goal is to increasingly "go paperless" and be able to access tons of info wherever I am. this course has really sent me on my way." - Doug Rovira

Book: [Apps for Librarians: Using the Best Mobile Technology to Educate, Create, and Engage](#).

This book is a handbook and guide to apps on many topics — so you can recommend the best apps to your users as well as use them yourself.

Get it for 20% off, using this code: Q31620.

“Hennig compiles here a practical guide on mobile apps that hits the target audience of “librarians from all types of institutions.” This well-organized, thorough list, confidently navigates the cluttered world of mobile apps..... Verdict: An essential reference tool for any librarian looking to stay relevant.”

– **Paul Stenis**, Pepperdine Univ. Library. [Full review in Library Journal](#).

Just for Fun

[The Mr. Robot Game is a Paranoid Nightmare, and I can't look away](#).

If you're a fan of the TV show [Mr. Robot](#), you'll enjoy this game.

Tips

- [How to Share Kindle Books with Your Friends and Family When You Don't Have Amazon Prime](#).
- [Siri Tips & Tricks: 21 Useful Things You Can Ask Siri](#).
- [This site lists all the Siri commands you'll ever need](#).
- [You've been charging your smartphone wrong](#).
- [How to Make Night Shift Mode Less Orange](#).
- [Everything To Know About Your iPhone Camera](#).
- [How to deal with chatty group messages on iOS](#).

Accessibility

[Paralyzed Patients Learn to Walk Again Using Virtual Reality](#).

“A groundbreaking new experiment shows that brain-machine interfaces, when used in conjunction with exoskeletons and virtual reality, can trigger partial recovery in patients recovering from spinal cord injuries.”

[First Cyborg Olympics Will Celebrate How Technology Can Help Disabled People](#).

“The hottest live sports ticket of the year for technology lovers will be the first cyborg Olympics in Zurich this October. Bringing together research groups from 25 different countries, scientists and engineers at the Cybathlon will equip competitors—referred to as pilots—with the latest hardware designed to make the lives of disabled people easier.”

[Library Services for People with Memory Loss, Dementia, and Alzheimers](#).

Good advice about how to support library users with memory loss issues.

Thought-Provoking

[Apple's New Privacy Technology May Pressure Competitors to Better Protect Our Data.](#)

"Differential privacy provides a way to mathematically guarantee that statistics about a pool of data collected from many people can't be used to reveal much about the contribution of any one individual. Apple has built it into the new version of its mobile operating system, iOS, for iPhones and iPads to be released this fall."

[Can Twitter Fit Inside the Library of Congress?](#)

On the difficulties of archiving and preserving every tweet ever posted.

[The era of constant photography.](#)

[On the Constant Moment.](#)

Two interesting articles on photography as the curation of moments from a constant stream of recordings. It's the world we're moving towards.

[WeChat's world](#)

Interesting description of WeChat use in China and how it's the "one app to rule them all."

[China, Not Silicon Valley, Is Cutting Edge in Mobile Tech.](#)

China is on the cutting edge with mobile tech and U.S. companies are copying them.

[On Not Banning Laptops in the Classroom.](#)

10 good reasons, with good advice on how to meaningfully incorporate tech devices into learning.

[Why Audio Is Better Than Print.](#)

Reasons why listening to a book is equal to reading it, and in some ways can be better.

[As Far As Your Brain Is Concerned, Audiobooks Are Not 'Cheating'.](#)

"As far as the mental processes are concerned, there really isn't much difference between reading and listening to a book."

[iPad and Aviation Apps Helping to Decrease Private Plane Crash Fatalities.](#)

iPads for pilots are giving much better weather information, along with other benefits.

[It Makes No Sense That Word Processors Are Still Designed for the Printed Page.](#)

Interesting history of word processing and why the focus on formatting takes away from the real task of writing.

Interesting Statistics

[63% of web traffic originates from a smartphone.](#)

(In the U.S.) And as of last year, more than 90% of American adults own a cell phone.

[China now has 710m internet users, and 656m mobile internet users. \(About a of them quarter on iPhone\).](#)

According to Benedict Evans of Andreessen Horowitz. I enjoy his [podcast about technology: A16Z](#).

Internet Access

Internet access is still a huge issue. Here are some solutions.

- [Tired of Waiting for Corporate High-Speed Internet, Minnesota Farm Towns Build Their Own.](#)
- [Locally Owned Internet Is an Antidote for the Digital Divide.](#)
- [Seeking to help low-income families, Denver Public Library adds WiFi hot spots to items patrons can check out.](#)
- [How White Space Wi-Fi Could Bring Internet to the Rural Poor.](#)

The Future

[Rufus CEO: 'We won't need smartphones in 10 years'.](#)

On the move towards wearables.

[Passwords Are on the Way Out, and It's about Time.](#)

"... biometric approaches can be both secure and easy because they recognize us, not memorized strings of text."

[The digital identity dilemma.](#)

"Think of a portable digital identity as something akin to a digital passport that could not only identify you to known locations, but unknown situations, as well. Want to be able to get immediate access to your Spotify account while using grandma's PC? As long as she has internet access, no problem. One of the most obvious benefits of this type of digital ID would be the eventual abolition (at least, in theory) of passwords."

[Digital is Just Getting Started.](#)

"A summary of Kevin Kelly's Seminar 'The Next 30 Digital Years', presented as part of The Long Now Foundation's Seminars About Long-term Thinking."

[The Next Must-Have Smartphone Feature.](#)

"Tango uses sensors, computer vision, and image processing to give phones a much better comprehension of space and motion." "... because Tango makes devices so adept at understanding their position, it's much more than the equivalent of indoor GPS. It will let phones interact with their surroundings or with virtual objects in novel ways."

[MIT shows off a smart tattoo that can turn your skin into a touchpad.](#)

"The MIT Media Lab and Microsoft Research set out to create on-skin user interfaces using gold leaf, which is commonly found in craft stores, as a conductor. Piggybacking on the trend in body-art and metallic jewelry-like temporary tattoos, the team decided to repurpose gold leaf because it is 'robust to movements and skin deformations during motion...[and] both workable and aesthetic in appearance.'"

[India will have 730 million internet users by 2020 and is already in a 'Post-PC' era.](#)

"India's 1.3 billion people never really had their PC revolution moment. Instead, the smartphone is increasingly becoming the country's primary choice of computing platform, leapfrogging the PC age entirely."

[Beyond Siri, The Next-Generation AI Assistants Are Smarter Specialists.](#)

Research on knowledgeable chatbots, designed for very specific tasks, like shopping, banking, travel, and more.

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