

A Busy Baby Boomer's Life

by Cindy Downes

Albert Einstein was once asked how many feet are in a mile. He answered, "I don't know. Why should I fill my head with things like that when I could look them up in any reference book in two minutes?" Like Einstein, I'd rather not keep everything in my head either. Unlike Einstein, I don't have to look it up in a book—I've got an iPhone in my pocket!

My iPhone is simple to use, easy to carry, and extremely functional. I use it to manage my personal, college, and business life. I start my morning with the iPhone, use it throughout the day, and it's often the last thing I look at before going to bed at night.

First thing in the morning

I live in Oklahoma, where the weather can change drastically in a matter of hours. First thing in the morning, I check the weather so I can decide what to wear and whether or not to water the lawn. To do this, I use the **Weather Channel Max** app (\$3.99, free version also available; weather.com/mobile/pda/iphone). It's accurate and it features an in-motion weather map that helps me locate tornadoes in the area—another necessity when living in Oklahoma!

While I eat breakfast, I read the news on my iPhone using the **iNews** app (\$1.99; ptgdi.com/gdplus/iNews). It provides news from a variety of sources and viewpoints. With this one app, I receive news feeds from *USA Today*, *CNN*, *Fox News*, and *BBC News*; articles from *Scientific American* and *Macworld*; and feeds from blogs such as *MacRumors*, *Seth's Blog*, and others..

I try to read the Bible on a daily basis. I do this using my iPhone and an app called **Bible** from LifeChurch.tv (Free; youversion.com/iphone). Several different versions are available with this app, including KJV, NIV, Amplified, and the Message. The app allows me to bookmark passages for later reference.

Finally, I review my tasks for the day using **Ultimate Todos** (\$0.99; mmdesoft.com). This app helps me keep track of writing projects and class work. I can organize my tasks in category folders and can even add voice notes. This makes it easier to add details since I don't have to type them using the iPhone's keyboard. Best of all, Ultimate Todos syncs with Toodledo on my Mac, so my task list is always up-to-date and available, whether I'm at home or on the go.

On the go

When I finish reviewing my task list, I'm out the door. The iPhone Clock feature keeps me on schedule with its alarms. I have it set to chime Marimba alarms throughout the day to remind me when it's time to head to class, keep an appointment, or get back to writing!

Because I'm on the go so much, I often need to find a place for lunch. **AroundMe** (Free; tweakersoft.com) is my favorite app for locating a place to eat. It not only recommends restaurants, but it also shows me how to get there. And when I have time, I invite a friend to join me; an easy thing to do with my iPhone. I just give them a call!

Staying in touch

Like most of my Boomer friends, I spend a lot of time complaining that I don't hear from my kids enough, now that they've moved out. Well, I've found the answer—text messaging! Since I got my iPhone and added text messaging to my repertoire of skills, I hear from my kids almost daily. Yes, it's usually short bits, like "Got an A in Geology!" or "Have to work this weekend." But I occasionally get "Want to go for coffee?" or "I miss you guys!" I



My morning routine involves checking the Weather Channel, reading iNews and Bible.

Ultimate Todos (left) lets me keep track of writing projects and class work. AroundMe (right) helps me find a good restaurant.

