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iPhone 3G Survival Guide



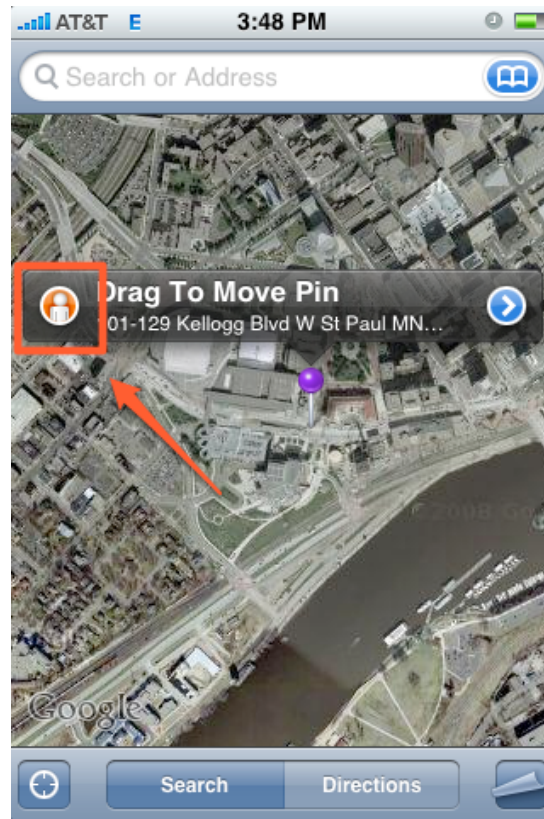
It's my favorite gadget, possibly of all time. Yes I like it that much but it's not perfect. Far from it in fact. I've learned to live with its foibles however and so can you if you just follow a few simple "rules of the road". Some of the tips you'll find here are pure conjecture and may have no basis in fact or reality but I've found them to work for me. Understand that most everything here is based on anecdotal evidence only. If I post anything "Official" from Apple or other well known authority I'll make sure and let you all know.

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How do you invoke Google Street View?

We struggled with this as well but it's pretty simple, if not straight forward. First, navigate to the place you want to view in Street View. Tap the little upturned page icon located in the bottom right of the map and drop a pin. Give it a second and you'll see the orange person silhouette icon will darken. Then simply tap the orange icon and there you go!



What are some ideas for extending battery life?

Speaking of batteries, my iPhone has been suffering progressively worsening battery life. I'd start the day off fully charged and by supper I'd be at or getting close to 20% left. This was odd as I'd not overly taxed the phone. I'd probably use an hour or so of Talk Time, checked my email every hour or so and brought up iCal 10 or 15 times. I'd also take a trip to Twitterland via Twiterrific (now replaced by [Tweetsville](#) by the way) and maybe use a few other apps along the way but did nothing that I felt should be running the battery down that fast.

A visit to [Apple's support forums](#) has hopefully nipped this issue in the bud. Seems that although lithium-ion batteries like the ones in iPhones and iPods don't suffer from "memory" problems like NiCad batteries do (we all knew that) they do benefit from completing complete charging cycles. Apparently this tunes the charging circuitry so that your phone knows when it's fully charged and when it needs charging.

That day I let my phone discharge completely, to the point that it was at 5% and would only offer me the option to make an emergency call or charge the phone. I plugged the phone into a

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wall outlet for 5 or 6 hours and now everything seems to be back to normal.

Here's a link to the [myriad battery charging threads](#) in the discussions forums. Apple also posted this interesting and useful lithium-ion [battery tips page](#) as well as this [iPhone specific battery tips](#) page. I believe much if not all of this info is contained in one of my many owners manuals but who reads those things? Er, maybe I should. Nah!

For those too lazy to click on links, here are the iPhone specific tips Apple suggests. The ones in bold and underlined were news to me:

- Minimize the use of location services
- Fetch new data less frequently
- Turn off push mail
- **Auto-check fewer email accounts**
- **Minimize the use of third party applications**
- Turn off WiFi
- Turn off Bluetooth
- **Use Airplane mode in low or no coverage areas**
- Adjust brightness
- **Turn off EQ**
- Turn off 3G

Ok, lets get real. The reason I own an iPhone is solely (almost, I do use the phone for "phoning" people occasionally) for using third party applications so that one is just ridiculous. Also, putting the phone in Airplane mode kind of defeats the purpose of having a cell phone, doesn't it?

Anyway, the tips are good and along with following the monthly charging cycle tip I'm hoping to get more out of my iPhone's battery. One more little tidbit I hadn't even thought of:

Make sure your computer is on while charging iPhone via USB. If iPhone is connected to a computer that's turned off or is in sleep or standby mode, the iPhone battery may drain. That's

a quote straight from the iPhone Battery tip page. I knew it wouldn't charge when the computer is turned off (duh!) but didn't know about the sleep or standby mode thingy. That's some good info!

How do you stay on top of newly added iPhone apps?

Simple: subscribe to Pinch Media's [Recently Added iPhone Applications](#) RSS feed. Once you subscribe you'll be notified daily of any new apps that have been added to the iTunes apps store. Pinch Media also maintains feeds for:

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[Recently Updated Applications](#)
[Top Paid Applications](#)
[Top Free Applications](#)

To subscribe, just click on one of the above links then bookmark the page in Safari. Easy!

When syncing or backing up, just leave it alone!

After you start a sync or backup, walk away from your Mac and just leave it alone. Don't even look at it while iTunes does this important stuff. Alright I'm being a bit facetious here but I would suggest you not mess around with iTunes during a sync. I had a really nasty iPhone freeze at the gray Apple logo that I thought I wouldn't be able to recover from. I eventually was able to start up the iPhone in "Recovery Mode" and restored it from scratch (my backup was corrupted. Nice!). Since that pleasant adventure I've been very good at just leaving iTunes and the phone to their business. They'll let me know when they've finished.

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Restart in Recovery Mode

If you have to do this, things have gone really bad and hopefully you've got a pretty recent, non-corrupted backup. When your phone freezes on the gray Apple logo screen this is what you have to do ([link to an Apple Discussion thread](#)). Here's how you do it:

1. Press and hold both the Home button and the power button until the phone turns off.
2. While still pressing the Home button, plug the phone into your Mac.
3. Hopefully iTunes will recognize that your iPhone is in recovery mode and take over from there. Just let it do its thing.
4. You may have to power down and restart/re-plug more than once. Keep at it until you get iTunes to recognize the iPhone.
5. See this [Apple Support article](#) for more info.

If this doesn't work and you've tried multiple times, you're in deep doo-doo and it's time to call Apple or go talk to a genius.):

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Taking control of apps

If you're like me and just can't stand not to have 50 apps installed

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on your iPhone, soon enough you'll get tired of rearranging them all each time you add an app or two. This is a fairly obvious tip but get into the habit of doing it right away and you'll spend less time rearranging iPhone app screens.

I organize my apps on screens of related categories of apps. I have three screens of productivity type apps: Phone, Calculator, [MyWeather Mobile](#), [Car Care](#), [Units](#), Calendar, [iXpenceit](#), etc. The next two pages are populated with all the games I've got installed. The page after that hold apps that don't quite fit into any other category: [AOL Radio](#), [Shazam](#), [Bible](#), etc. The last page is where I put those "now that we have an app store with hundreds of apps to choose from and now we don't need you anymore" Apple apps: Notes, Stocks, Weather and YouTube. Why you can't delete them I don't know but I needed to put them somewhere as they were taking up valuable screen real estate.

Okay, so that's all pretty straight forward. It took me a few tries to get things just right but now I think I've got it under control. The next thing to do, however, is to make sure you have ample space on each screen to accommodate future app store purchases. At a minimum, I'd suggest leaving 3 or 4 spaces on each screen. For me that works out to 12 more productivity type apps and about 10-12 more games. This should be enough for a while.

No doubt there will come a day when I run out of space and I'll have to add another Productivity screen or Game screen. I'm really hoping that Apple comes up with a better way to organize by that time. Perhaps an "insert blank screen here" option? That be sweet! Until then we'll just have to suffer through the hard labor that keeping our iPhone screens really is.

:)

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Updating Apps

Although I don't have any definitive proof, updating your apps from the App store app on your phone is a bad idea. Instead, always update from iTunes and then sync your phone. I've had much less trouble in general doing it this way. If you search the [Apple Support Forums](#) you'll also find plenty of folks that believe this to be true. Your milage may vary and no doubt there are plenty of folks out there that don't have any issues when they update from their phone.

Happy Apping!

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