


The meeting on Monday 8th June
2015 will be at
TigerTiger
29 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4SP.



 n Monday 8th June 2015

WWDC 2015 LMUG Special Event

June 8th @ 17:30 - 20:00

£5 (refunded on the night for members)

We would like to invite you to an exclusive showing of the WWDC keynote on June 8th.

Come watch the WWDC Keynote and you could also win a Apple WATCH. We will be giving away a voucher for a £299 watch as part of the raffle prize.

June 8th 2015, 5:30pm at TigerTiger: Yet again we are really excited to bring you something very special for the Apple keynote at this year's WWDC.

We are going BIG, BIG Screens x 2 and Bigger Sound.

So make Time for the keynote:

In room bar

Happy hour prices with bottled beer £3 and wine £9 a bottle.

Keynote bingo with prizes

State of the art sound system!

To help cover the event costs and to keep track of numbers and we will be asking for £5 with each RSVP. This will be refunded to all existing LMUG members. Anyone who upgrades on the night to full LMUG membership will be entered into the Apple Watch Raffle.

Existing LMUG members can also join the raffle.

[Click here to see some reviews of previous events...](#)



Last month there was a summary of the Chairman's report, but because it covers so many aspects of LMUG it is worth reading in full if you were not present when Steve gave it and its still worth re-reading and keeping for future reference, so now it is attached to this newsletter as a supplement to read and even keep in your archives. The full report from the Chairman is attached to this edition of SoundByte.

Michael Evans wrote concerning his piece on page 3:

"still relevant and even more relevant since the arrival of the Apple Watch. I don't need to get the iPhone 6 Plus out of my pocket as often during the day. Previously I would hear a beep and would have to have a look. Now I can glance at the watch and see the message, deciding whether or not I need to do something about it. And, of course, I can use the Watch to make and receive calls. Magic."



"Take Control of Security for Mac Users" Ready for Everyone

After serializing Joe Kissell's "Take Control of Security for Mac Users" week by week for TidBITS members over the past few months, we're pleased to announce that the final version of the 159-page book is now available for \$15 (see ""Take Control of Security for Mac Users" Streaming in TidBITS," 2 February 2015). So if you aren't a TidBITS member who has already read every chapter, now's your chance to get it; TidBITS members can keep reading on the TidBITS site, or can pick up a copy in PDF, EPUB, and Mobipocket (Kindle) formats for 30 percent off — click through to the Take Control site from your Member Benefits page to load the coupon.

Put simply, no Mac is an island — our Macs are constantly connected to the outside world and store our most important data: financial records, email communications, personal photos, and goodness knows what else. Allowing an Internet hacker, malware app, or Wi-Fi sniffer to compromise the security of your Mac and its data could have far-reaching consequences in your real life. Happily, with some common sense and appropriate precautions, you can increase your security without undue inconvenience. Topics in "Take Control of Security for Mac Users" include:

- Determining your risk level (from 1 to 4)*
- Implementing essential quick security fixes*
- Controlling access to your Mac via a firewall*
- Managing local access to your data with user accounts*
- Sharing Mac resources like screens and files safely*
- Securing your home network and working securely on other networks*
- Protecting your Mac's data from snoops and thieves*
- Keeping your iCloud data (such as email and photos!) safe*
- Deciding whether to use anti-malware software*

Perhaps most important, you'll also find advice about what to do if something bad happens, with suggestions about how to recover from data loss, a malware or phishing attack, a network intrusion, or identity theft.

Because security and privacy often blur together, we've also just published the second edition of Joe's "Take Control of Your Online Privacy" (135 pages; \$15). Concern about privacy is a spectrum, and we all hit it in different places.

But it's a fact that your online activities are being tracked and analyzed. Some of that is good — if you're going to see ads, you'd probably prefer they were for products that interest you, but that targeting could result in you being charged higher prices or reveal an embarrassing medical condition. That's just one example, but Joe has distilled all the questions we normal people have about privacy — and what you can do about them! — into this book.

Because they go together like chocolate and peanut butter, if you buy both "Take Control of Security for Mac Users" and "Take Control of Your Online Privacy," we'll knock 20 percent off the price, dropping your cost from \$30 to \$24.

To read Joe's full security and privacy trilogy (adding some creamy nougat!), you can include a copy of his best-selling "Take Control of Your Passwords" (normally \$10 for 105 pages) in your order and save 30 percent, bringing the \$40 cost down to only \$28. This book also just received a minor update to keep it fresh for 2015, so you'll get all the latest advice on building your password system.

There are now over 50 "Take Control" ebooks that can be downloaded from the TidBITS website. The subjects covered range over very many aspects of Mac computer use including:

- Take Control of Your Passwords,*
- Take Control of the Cloud,*
- Take Control of Upgrading to Yosemite*
- Digital Sharing for Apple Users:*
- A Take Control Crash Course,*
- Take Control of Security for Mac Users*
- Take Control of Apple Mail*
- Take Control of the Cloud*
- Take Control of Automating Your Mac*

They all go into their particular subject most thoroughly, covering almost every aspect any user would want. Being ebooks they are easy to store and file so that they can be consulted very quickly and easily



Size Matters: The incredible shrinking iPhone 6 Plus

You know what? My iPhone 6 Plus is shrinking. Every day it gets smaller and now it looks perfectly dinky in its dark grey silicone case. I have had it about my person for all of two months and the size shock has well and truly subsided. Like a pricked balloon. Instead, the 5.5in screen is the new norm. I've even compared it with friends' "small" iPhone 6 devices and, frankly, there isn't that much difference, certainly not enough to make me feel that the 6 is in any way superior.

And here's another thing. Despite also buying a full-size iPad Air 2 "for use around the home", I find it is the convenient iPhone 6 Plus that has become my default pick-up device. For instance, at first I would take the Air 2 up to bed so I could read a few chapters on that wonderful, large screen. Then I found myself preferring the 6 Plus. It is lighter and just so much easier to hold. I now invariably read books and news on the 6 Plus and do not miss the larger screen. Magazines

Reading magazines is certainly possible on the iPhone 6 Plus but more rewarding on an iPad. The long format of the iPhone screen is not ideal for publications such as this and results in wasted space top and bottom. Reading magazines is certainly possible on the iPhone 6 Plus but more rewarding on an iPad. The long format of the iPhone screen is not ideal for publications such as this and results in wasted space top and bottom.

The only time when I feel it better to open the Air 2 is when viewing magazines in the Readly app. In order to get the best out of magazines, the larger screen of the Air 2 makes it possible to read a full page without feeling tempted to zoom in or, perhaps, split the page into two.

Admittedly, some popular applications, especially writing and productivity apps, do still work better on the iPad. In particular, there was initially a lack of support for landscape use in many products. Gradually, though, this impediment is being removed as more developers come to realise that the iPhone 6 Plus is nothing less than a small iPad. There will soon be no real difference between iPad and iPhone apps. Cannibals

It isn't surprising to read that the

new iPhones are beginning to cannibalise sales of iPads, especially the mini. Or that users are consuming more content on the new iPhones. Owners of the iPhone 6 now view content 72% of the time on the new device compared with only 55% of the time with the old 5 and 5S. And those fortunate individuals who chose the 6 Plus are happy to view content 80% of the time on the larger screen. I would say that these figures neatly mirror my own experience.

As I said, every day the iPhone 6 Plus appears more normal and less of an odd-ball. I am sure many people who felt the Plus was too big now realise it was a mistake to settle for the smaller iPhone 6. I have certainly not regretted opting for the Plus, despite a couple of minor quibbles.

Quibbles of the true addict

First, I am now less inclined to leave the 6 Plus in a pocket all the time, especially when around the house. The 5S was the perfect pocket size; the 6 Plus is just a tad long. This brings me to the second, connected quibble. Because the bigger phone is not always in my pocket it is easier to forget to pick it up when leaving home. This happened occasionally with the 5S but, invariably, I had always an iPad mini in my bag and could manage a day without the phone.

Now, because the 6 Plus combines the talents of both phone and tablet, I have occasionally found myself setting off with absolutely no way of keeping in touch. Call me an addict, but I cannot manage a day without electronic communications, especially now an Apple device of one sort or another represents my only access to books and news. I am seriously considering sticking a pay-as-you-go SIM card in my old 5S and then leaving the phone at the bottom of the bag for emergency duties.

Apple has never been afraid of cannibalisation and I imagine the evidence of iPhone 6 Plus sales harming iPad numbers is hardly causing a blip on Cupertino's radar. After all, the 6 Plus is more expensive than the Air 2 and, with the demise of the 32GB middle memory option, there has been a significant shift to 64GB, something that will benefit Apple's bottom line in a big way.

After two months living with the new iPhone, my advice is unequivocal: Get the iPhone 6 Plus if you possibly can.

All the articles on this page come from Michael Evans www.macfilos.com. These and many others are well worth reading.

SoundByte is the newsletter of the London Mac User Group.

It is produced solely by, and for, LMUG members.

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Best Mac tips

Do unit conversions in Spotlight

As well as being able to do calculations in Spotlight, in Yosemite it gets an extra trick: unit conversions. You can do specific unit conversions if you need to – "13 stone in lbs", say – but it's also intelligent enough that in many cases if you just give it the amount and unit you want to convert, it will suggest not just the likely conversion but also plenty of alternates. Type in '\$1299' and you'll immediately be told what that is in Sterling (based presumably on what's set as your native currency in the Language & Region pane of System Preferences), and then when the window folds down to show more results, you'll see Euros, Yen and so on.

Talk to and listen to your Mac!

In OS X 10.8, the Mac's ability to listen to you as well as talk is really impressive. Although these are sometimes framed as being accessibility features, they can be useful for everyone. For example, it's a good idea to read through any important text before you send it off, but it's easy to skip mistakes when you're reading your own work. Instead, select the text and go to Edit > Speech > Start Speaking. You can control the speed and pick from a range of different voices (our favourite's the Scottish 'Fiona') in the Dictation & Speech System Preference pane.

If you find you use the feature often, you should enable the option to trigger speaking aloud using a keyboard shortcut - the default is

Option+Esc, which you can change in the Dictation & Speech pane. (If you do have restricted vision, investigate the VoiceOver feature in the Accessibility pane of System Preferences too; this can read aloud buttons and other on-screen items, and more.)

Your Mac is just as good a listener as it is a talker, though. Not only can you control your Mac using Speakable Items (check the Accessibility pane) but in OS X 10.8 you can also dictate text anywhere you would type. By default you just press the Function key twice and then start talking.

Type exotic characters

As well as letters and symbols you see on your keyboard, you can type a bewildering array of special characters. You may already be familiar with typing accents such as for café (in that case you either type Option+E then E again or, on OS X 10.7 or later, hold down the E until you get extra options) but you'll find there are many more.

Go to the Edit menu of most apps and you'll see Special Characters at the bottom. This panel gives you access to a huge range of symbols you can drag into your documents. Not all apps or operating systems support them, but these are mostly part of the cross-platform Unicode standard. There are probably more than you see at first, too; click the cog to reveal more.

Emoji (those fun, colourful characters available in OS X 10.7 or later) are a notable exception to this cross-platform world. They're not Apple-only, but your recipient might not be able to see them.