

The meeting on Monday 9th May
2016 will be at
The Artisan gastropub
53 St John's Square, Clerkenwell,
EC1V 4JL

SIG groupings (Beginners, Photos, All things Apple)
Announcements
Newsbyte Paul Foster
Q&A
Demonstration of the File Browser app for iPhones and iPads by the British Developer, Stratospherix.
Raffle Prize - A Bluetooth Speaker!

AGM report - Chris Mahon, Chairman

LMUG held it's AGM last month, in April, a month later than planned due to Apple's special live event in March where we saw the iPhone SE unveiled. The AGM was very productive with much valued input from members. The committee was re-elected with some changes. I'm delighted to welcome Craig Jobbins onto the committee. He has now taken the post of webmaster. A big thanks was given to Steve Naybour for his excellent time as chairman during big changes for LMUG and to Paul for acting as chairman for the past months.

More meetings for more of our members

You told us you wanted a quieter venue and you wanted more time for socialising and learning. The clubs finances are in good shape but our membership is slowly falling. The committee wants to encourage more members and keep our events big enough to keep landlords happy. We need to make our meetings more attractive to members.

Ch-ch-ch-changes in 2016-17

We agreed to try to tackle all these issues this year:

We are making it free for non-members to attend their first meeting (as long it's not the Christmas party!) People new to our group are likely to find it through iPhone applications like Meetup, where LMUG advertises its meetings. Most Meetups are free, so if we charge for entry we are likely to put off potential members. But if they come and they like it, we think they would be happy to join.

The committee is on the hunt for a new



The Artisan St John's Square Clerkenwell

venue. Our requirements are ; a private space, with good food and beer, a big screen or TV and great wifi or 4G signal. Oh, and as close to free as possible. The closest we have found is the Artisan where we are having our May meeting. So far, it is very quiet on Monday nights and we have the Mezzanine exclusively to ourselves. It isn't a completely private space however, so any suggestions will be welcomed. Come along on May 9 or the June WWDC Special Event and try their delicious menu and craft beers.

Our time zone means we are probably the best placed Mac User Group in the World to host Special Events to watch live Apple's announcements. Modern technology means we are now able to stream the video from Cupertino in high quality on a big screen. This means between 3 and 4 meetings each year are special events. This is a great way to attract new members, but it meant one of our best meetings, Special Interest Groups became a rare event last year. No more. From May, every meeting that is not a Special Event will be built around SIGs. We will still have special guests and show and tell, but SIGS will be the core and bookends of each meeting, where we can sit, share, explain, drink, eat and learn together.

We look forward to seeing you all at one, more or all of our new format meetings in the coming months!

Chris Mahon

iPad Pro Charges Faster with MacBook Adapter and New Cable

by Julio Ojeda-Zapata: julio@ojezap.com

2 comments

As one who makes heavy use of the 12.9-inch iPad Pro, and laments how slowly it charges using its 12-watt power adapter, I perked up when Apple unveiled its USB-C to Lightning cables.

Like others who rely on the larger iPad Pro, I made a mental leap to the 29-watt USB-C Power Adapter that comes with the 12-inch MacBook. Using the MacBook charger and one of the new cables with the big iPad Pro would mean shorter charging times, right?

That is, indeed, the case. In my tests, charging times are reduced by nearly half, from about 4.5 hours to about 2.5 hours, with the iPad Pro in a sleep state and in airplane mode.

This is possible because of a fast-charging capability that kicks in on gear that supports it, as Apple notes on its product pages for the 1-meter and 2-meter USB-C to Lightning cables:

This USB-C cable connects your iPhone, iPad, or iPod with Lightning connector to your computer's USB-C port for syncing and charging. You can also use the cable with an Apple 29W USB-C Power Adapter to take advantage of the fast charging feature on the 12.9-inch iPad Pro.

My charging tests with the iPad Pro screen cranked up to full brightness and placed in airplane mode were also illuminating. With the MacBook's adapter and the 1-meter USB-C to Lightning Cable, I achieved a 95 percent charge in about 4 hours (though charging at

that point slowed to nearly a standstill). With the iPad Pro's standard 12-watt adapter, 24 hours of continuous charging got the battery to no more than about 25 percent.

Some might wonder why this is a big deal. For those charging a sleeping iPad overnight, after all, there is no practical difference between the two methods. The device will be fully charged in the morning regardless of whether 2.5 hours or 4.5 hours are needed to pull this off.

Besides, the gear for fast charging is not cheap. The 29-watt USB-C Power Adapter costs \$49, with the 1-meter USB-C to Lightning Cable running \$25 and the 2-meter cable going for \$35. This means paying between \$74 and \$84 for all the pieces.

But for some hardcore iPad Pro users, it might be worth it. Some use their iPads as primary productivity devices, and need all the power they can get at all hours. Such people often like to plug in the tablets at their desks to charge while working on the devices, and even here the iPad Pro's default charging gear is problematic.

Depending on what you're doing on the iPad Pro, you could actually see the battery level go down when using it while it's plugged in. I've seen this happen and have worried about the implications for when I have to remove it from power and start relying on the battery.

This is when I grasped the magnitude of Apple's error in bundling a 12-watt charger with the iPad Pro. With the 29-watt charger, it's possible to work on the tablet while its battery level rises steadily – more slowly than if the device were idle, to be sure, but a better situation than next-to-useless “trickle” charging.

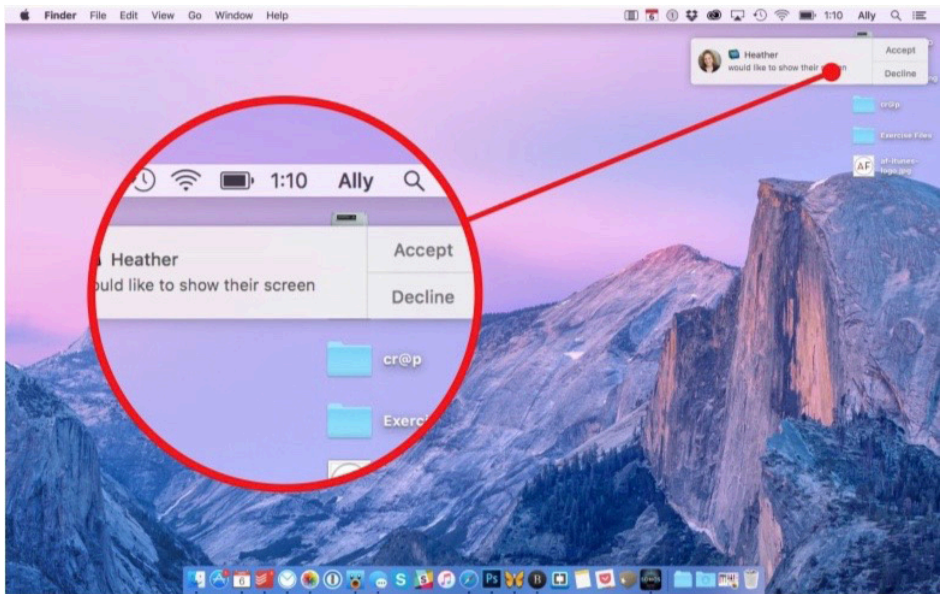
This is why, for users of the 12.9-inch

Continued on page 4

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Webpage: <http://appleusergroupresources.com/special-offers-with-codes/>

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Help a Friend: Share screens via iMessage

April 15, 2016

by Jason Murray

I have at least two good friends, both living abroad, who frequently call for help with their Macs. A patient soul, I try my best to keep the friendship going. But telling someone which key to press and what to move where is something akin to snagging a bar of mouldy old chocolate in one of those seaside grabber booths. The little crane never seems to snare the goodies.

Screen-sharing software is the answer, I know. But it has been a relatively complicated, geeky thing up to now.

Apple has now made it possible to share screens through an little application that everyone has on their computer and which everyone uses and is familiar with. It is iMessage. This is a relatively little-known feature but it is one that deserves a wider audience.

Cult of Mac has a blow-by-blow beginners' guide to launching screen sharing from within iMessage. This is going to be useful for me and will help remove the angst from remote genius barring.

Apple's iPhone teetering on the brink of disaster... yet again

April 11, 2016

by Jason Murray

Apparently none of you guys realize how bad of an idea a touch-screen is on a phone. I foresee some pretty obvious and pretty major problems here. I'll be keeping my Samsung A707, thanks. It's smaller, it's got a protected screen, and it's got proper buttons. And it's got all the same features otherwise. (Oh, but it doesn't run a bloatware OS that was never designed for a phone).

This gem was written in 2007 just after the launch of the original iPhone. And since then the naysayers have not stopped. Every year the critics pile in to complain that Apple is no longer innovative, that this or that competitor is going to kill Cupertino's finest before the end of the season. So far, every year the iPhone has confounded the pundits and brought home the dollars to Apple's warchest. Now veteran commentator Walt Mossberg, formerly the Wall Street Journal's resident Jobslicker and all-round Apple evangelist, is sounding the knell of doom when referring to the 2016 upgrade to the iPhone: "That smartphone better be great."

Techopinions has gathered together a staggering list of misinformed iPhone commentary from many sources over the past nine years.

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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continued from page2

iPad, buying a 29-watt charger and USB-C to Lightning cable may be money well spent.

Out of curiosity, I did similar charge tests with the newer 9.7-inch iPad Pro. The results were far less dramatic. Though the 29-watt power adapter charged the smaller tablet a bit more quickly than the 12-watt variant, both did so in just over 3 hours.

There's a reason for this: the smaller iPad Pro does not support fast charging like its bigger brother.

My testing procedures were far from scientific, so I was happy to see others achieving similar results with more rigorous methods.

MacStories' Federico Vitici, for instance, saw how much faster the 29-watt brick charges the 12.9-inch iPad Pro, and wondered if there was a way to "benchmark the 29W and 12W adapters to obtain averages for different charging conditions in a series of 10-minute samples?"

He goes on:

I asked Marco Arment if I could use his battery level monitoring tool that he built to observe the performance of Overcast for version 2.5 of the app. Marco was kind enough to send me a build of an app which, by using IOKit (with private APIs not meant for App Store distribution), reports changes in battery level over time for both gain and loss of energy.

Vitici ultimately found that "fast charg-

ing with the new 29W adapter trumps regular charging with the 12W model in every test."

He elaborates:

The performance gap between the 29W and 12W power adapters is simply too big to ignore: every iPad Pro user would want to spend less time charging their device and end up with more battery, more quickly. The 12W power adapter essentially brings glorified iPhone charging to the iPad Pro — a subpar experience that, at this point, is barely acceptable. If you use a 12.9-inch iPad Pro as your primary computer every day, I strongly recommend getting the 29W USB-C power adapter and USB-C to Lightning cable. It's money well spent.

This all raises the obvious question of why Apple didn't bundle a better charger with the large iPad Pro in the first place. It could have been a Lightning adapter instead of a USB-C one, but with the same charging capabilities. The 12W adapter is inadequate for the job, which is unacceptable with an \$800 tablet.

I suspect Apple has already seen the error of its ways, and likely will make an adjustment for the next 12.9-inch iPad Pro update. In the meantime, I have migrated permanently over to the 29W MacBook adapter with the USB-C to Lightning Cable — it's the only way to go for power users like me.