

The meeting on Monday 11th July  
2016 will be from 6pm at  
St. John Balcome  
(formerly the Hobgoblin)  
21 Balcombe Street, London  
NW1 6HE

LMUG finally has a new home, we are  
returning to our previous venue in  
Marelybone which has been renovated but  
still has its old charms.

6pm - Special Interest Groups

- Facebook
- Mac Beginners
- Tips and tricks
- Technical Table

7pm - Newsbyte

8pm - Demonstration of iPhone wireless  
charging from Bezelel

This months raffle prize is an amazing  
wireless charging iPhone case from  
Bezelel, who will be providing a  
demonstration over the Internet.

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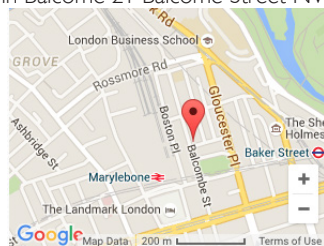
## User Group Member Special Offers

**A**s a member of an official Apple  
User group, you can take  
advantage of huge discounts from  
Apple developers and service providers.

The details on claiming these special  
offers, available only to members, can  
be found in the Soundbyte email that  
delivered this newsletter.



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- Eltima Software Multimedia products:  
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- EverWeb by RAGE Software: 50%  
Discount
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- TechTool Pro: 20% Discount
- Noteboom Tutorials: 33% Off Annual  
Memberships
- O'Reilly: 40-50% Discount
- Prosoft Engineering: 25% Off
- Que Publishing Products: 35-45%  
Discount
- SlideShark iPad PowerPoint Viewer: Free  
App plus Special Offer

# BusyCal Updates Mac Calendar Alternative, Expands to iOS

I've never made any bones about the fact that I dislike using Apple's Calendar app, and have long preferred BusyCal from BusyMac (which is run by John Chaffee and Dave Riggie; the same guys behind the venerable Now Up-to-Date calendar of yesteryear). BusyCal is faster; cleaner; and more obvious than Calendar, while providing a superset of Calendar's features.

For instance, BusyCal supports the to-do items that Apple exiles to the Reminders app, offers a menu bar companion app for quick schedule checks, provides integrated weather displays, and has a List view that can be a big help when scanning through scores of events.

BusyCal 2 shipped in October 2012, and while BusyMac has pushed out numerous

look jarring, play with the options in BusyCal > Preferences > Appearance, and don't forget to check out the numerous commands in the View menu.

Sadly, it has become a bit harder to enter event times. In BusyCal 2, you could type "830" for 8:30 AM. That no longer works, because BusyCal 3 separates the hour and month fields in the Info panel, forcing you to type a colon, period, or tab to move from hours to minutes. Plus, you could type "1430" for 2:30 PM, but the hour field no longer accepts numbers beyond 12. (At least you can still type "10p" for 10 PM.) BusyMac tells me they're looking at bringing BusyCal 2's behavior back in an update.

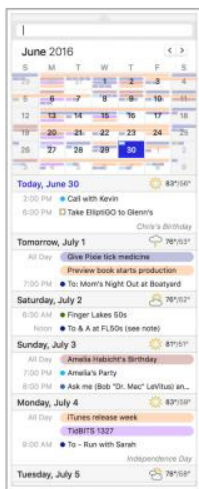
BusyCal's menu bar app has also received a redesign, adding a mini-month view that gives an impression of how busy you'll be based on the density of events. It now has date-based navigation and shows the upcoming weather. On the downside, the menu bar app's window previously had a white-on-black look that stood out well against light-colored windows; now it's a black-on-white look that I find harder to distinguish from the background of white document windows.

Another notable interface change is that BusyCal used to have a pair of arrow buttons on each side of the Day/Week/Month/Year/List button group at the top. Clicking an inside arrow button moved a small increment (a week, when you were in Month view) and clicking an outside arrow button moved an entire week, month, or year, depending on the view. BusyCal 3 has a Today button on the right side, with one set of arrows on either side. Those arrows act like BusyCal 2's outside buttons; Option-click them to make them work like the inside buttons and move in smaller increments. Or just use the Command-Left arrow (View > Previous) and Command-Right arrow (View > Next) keyboard shortcuts; again, include the Option key for incremental jumps (the 3.0.2 update added those commands back to the View menu as well). For those using a trackpad, BusyCal 3 now offers smooth date scrolling, and people with a Magic Mouse or scroll-wheel enabled mouse can use them to scroll as well.

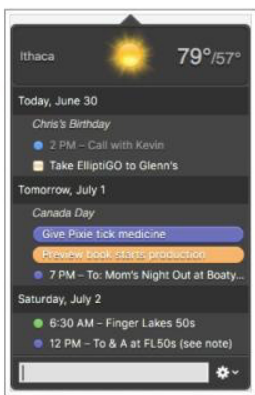
On the functional side, BusyCal 3 now supports a feature from Calendar: optional calculation of travel time when you search for and enter a location for an event. BusyCal goes beyond what Calendar on the Mac can do in that its travel time calculation updates based on traffic conditions, so the Time To Leave alarm adjusts itself automatically.

Another new feature that may be

**BusyCal 3**



**BusyCal 2**



free updates since, the company has lately been focused on the just-published BusyCal 3 for the Mac and the initial release of BusyCal for iOS (which carries the 3.0 version as well).

The big change in BusyCal 3 is the user interface, which BusyMac refined to be more modern, with improved typography and layout. Since many interface preferences are personal, BusyCal 3 gives you even more control over the details, so you can choose among different banner styles, control on which side of an event's name its time appears in Month view listings, and tweak the size of the text in the Calendar list sidebar. If you find anything about the new

*All this page taken from TidBits*

*Continued on page 4*

## Smartphones are taking over the photographic world. Good or bad?



The iPhone, launched by Steve Jobs in January 2007 after years of rumours, has revolutionised the photographic world. Before the iPhone people used point-and-shoot digitals, such as the Canon IXUS range, or film cameras like the Olympus mju. But buying a camera was a conscious decision, requiring some dedication and the willingness to carry it around.

All photographs in this article are by Mike Evans and the Olympus PEN-F with the M.Zuiko 75mm f/1.8 lens, equivalent to a 150mm prime in full-frame equivalence.

Then came the smartphone and it took over the market. As the years progressed, the smartphone became ubiquitous. Suddenly, almost everyone found that they had a useful camera with them at all times. There was no need to buy a dedicated device, charge it or find a space for it in your pocket.

Yet the advance of the smartphone created a great deal of angst for camera manufacturers. They saw nothing but gloom ahead. The smartphone would eventually annihilate the lower end of the camera market, according to the commonly held view.

To a large extent it has done this. The cheaper, sub-£100 point-and-shoot market has certainly declined. After all, there isn't much point in spending money on a basic camera that can hardly outperform a phone. But the long-term outlook for photography has just taken a huge leap forward.

Wherever you go these days you see photographs being taken. Selfies have taken over the world. Most of these shots, it has to

be admitted, are taken with smartphones. Of the one trillion photos taken in 2015 a majority were snapped with a smartphone. By next year some 80 percent of all pictures will come from phones. Yet the conclusion must be that the smartphone has brought new converts into the world of photography. It is well on the way to creating the next generation of enthusiasts and professionals.

The smartphone, you see, flatters to deceive. Most of the impressive photos taken with a phone are never viewed on a big screen, never printed for exhibition. The majority are lucky to be expanded to iPad size. Smartphones such as the iPhone 6 do a great job of producing great shots with zero input of photographic talent and, on the small screen, all look very presentable.

The millions who are now snapping away with their phones begin to believe they have a real talent for photography. This is a good thing and, without a doubt, many of them do. Those who like what they can achieve on a phone are only one step away from the notion that a "proper" camera could enable them to take even better photos.

It's the lower starter DSLR that most people choose for their first foray into serious photography. Some, however, start in the mirrorless field and most of them gain an enthusiasm for taking pictures. Owning a proper camera enables newcomers to begin to learn the basics of photography and, in many cases, this leads to enthusiasm.

The smartphone, therefore, is a cheerleader for the camera market in general. Everyone is now a photographer and a large proportion of these new converts will go on to buy better cameras, perhaps even eventually owning a really expensive device such as a Leica or a pro DSLR.

It's good and it is encouraging. The iPhone, far from killing the camera market, is set to expand it.

All this experience with smartphones leads eventually to buying a proper camera and opens up a whole new world of photography.

*I have to admit that I now use my DSLR only when I want telephoto and very high quality, otherwise its the iPhone 6+ all the time and I am constantly amazed at the quality. ED.*

All the articles on this page come from Michael Evans [www.macfilos.com](http://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.**

**LMUG Committee 2016/17**

Chairman	Chris Mahon(chairman@lmug.org.uk)
Treasurer	Pietro Falcone (treasurer@lmug.org.uk)
Secretary	Tina Jacobs (secretary@lmug.org.uk)
Assistant Secretary	Paul Foster
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Membership Officer	Pietro Falcone (membership@lmug.org.uk)
Technical Officer	(technical@lmug.org.uk)
Communications Officer	Martin Kelly (communications@lmug.org.uk)
Committee Members	Eoin O'Cléirigh Andre Berger
<b>Ideas &amp; Suggestions</b>	<b>suggestions@lmug.org.uk. Website:</b> <a href="http://www.lmug.org.uk">http://www.lmug.org.uk</a>

**Enquiries:**

If you need to contact LMUG by post, email [secretary@lmug.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lmug.org.uk) with a reason and a postal address will be emailed by return **Phone:** 07919 968075

welcomed by even more people is better support for timed-to-dos. Previously, BusyCal let you manage to-dos within the app, rather than forcing you out to Apple's Reminders app, but it couldn't display them in chronological order with a time. Now it can, and you can even mark a timed to-do as done by clicking the checkbox next to its name in Day, Week, Month, and List views. For many people, Apple's separation of to-dos from calendar events is awkward, so BusyCal 3's enhanced integration is welcome.

Amid all these enhancements to the Mac version, BusyMac's biggest news is the BusyCal for iOS app, which requires a separate \$4.99 purchase. It mimics the basic feature set and look of BusyCal on the Mac, with List, Day, Week, and Month views. On the iPad, that works well, since there's enough real estate to see an entire day in Day and Week views, and the iPad's Retina screen makes even small text in Month view readable.

*"Amid all these enhancements to the Mac version, BusyMac's biggest news is the BusyCal for iOS app"*

On an iPhone, List view becomes much more important, since the Day and Week views feel cramped, even though they still manage to show an entire workday. Month view is also awkward, since there's so little room for event text and what you can see is so small. The trick is that you can tap a day in Month view for a

more readable expansion of its events. Perhaps BusyCal's choices will grow on me, but I still prefer the iPhone approach of Fantastical, which shows a low-density month view with a scrolling list of events underneath. Apple's iOS Calendar app looks a bit like Fantastical, but is less functional since you must tap a day to see its events in the scrolling list underneath.

One place that BusyCal for iOS can't match the Mac version is with Time To Leave alarms. Since BusyCal on the Mac relies on a background task to track changing traffic conditions, and iOS doesn't allow such tasks, BusyCal lacks Time To Leave alarms on the iPhone. Ironically, Apple's iOS Calendar app does support Time To Leave alarms, so perhaps just use it for alerts when out and about.

In the end, BusyCal 3 is more refined and more capable, while maintaining the advantages it has offered users for years. It's not a huge update from the user perspective, but that means you won't waste time learning new ways of working.

Those accustomed to getting every update for free in Apple's App Stores may balk at the \$29.99 upgrade price, but after nearly four years of free updates, it feels fair, and BusyMac has already released free 3.0.1 and 3.0.2 updates to fix bugs. New copies remain priced at \$49.99, and as noted previously, the iOS version is \$4.99. BusyCal 3 on the Mac requires OS X 10.11 El Capitan or later; BusyCal 3 for iOS needs iOS 9.3 or later and works on both the iPad and iPhone.

*All this page taken from an article in TidBits*