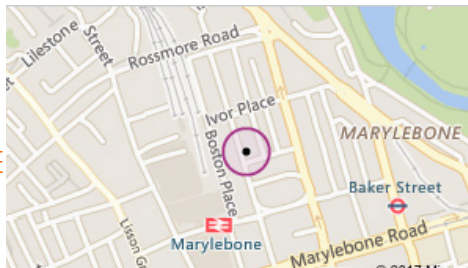


The meeting on Monday 10th April 2017 will be at 7pm the Sir John Balcombe

(formerly The Hobgoblin, nee The Wood)

21 Balcombe Street, London NW1 6HE



Sir John Balcombe 21 Balcombe Street NW1 6HE

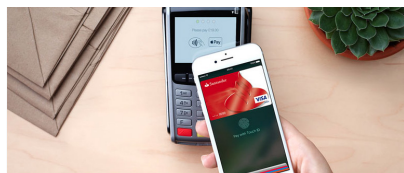
This month we'll focus on our Special Interest Groups, another chance to deep dive into questions, issues and skills that matter to our members.

7pm-9pm - Special Interest Groups

- iPad Beginners - apps and features
- Technical table - tech talk, complex issues and hardware
- Software SIG - most popular apps to download and how you can make them!

We'll kick off the evening with our regular Newsbyte presentation at 7pm.

Our Raffle Prize this month will be a Phillips Hue, control your home lighting from your iPhone!



Privacy & security with each & every payment

Members Only Special Offers

Current special offers

- Disk Drill PRO: 30% Discount
- Teams ID, a Password Manager for Teams: 33% Discount
- Eltima Software: Up to 60% Off OS X Apps
- EverWeb by RAGE Software: 50% Discount
- Take Control Books: 30% Discount on all eBooks
- Opus][Complete Collection: 25% Discount
- Joe On Tech Guides: 20% Discount on All Books
- AgileBits IPassword 5 and more: 25% Discount
- Eltima Software multimedia products: 20% Discount
- From the makers of 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 Offer.



iPad

iOS 10.3 Adds New File System, Find My AirPods, and More

You can install the 560–650 MB update via Settings > General > Software Update or through iTunes.

The biggest new feature in iOS 10.3 is one you may not notice: it introduces Apple's new Apple File System (APFS), which will eventually replace the legacy HFS+ file system currently in use on all of Apple's platforms (see "What Apple's Forthcoming APFS File System Means to You," 24 June 2016). It remains to be seen what, if anything, this will mean for iOS users, but for now, the primary impact is a longer update process than usual while it converts the existing file system. At iMore, Rene Ritchie has a good rundown on APFS's benefits. So far, I'm finding iOS 10.3 snappier than 10.2, but it's impossible to say if that's due to the new file system. Regardless, we always recommend backing up your devices before updating, but doing so is even more important with iOS 10.3.

Owners of Apple's new wireless AirPods will appreciate that iOS 10.3 lets you track the little earbuds with Find My iPhone. You can either track their location on a map or make them play a locator tone. The sound is played on both AirPods and can be muted on each one individually, so if you drop one AirPods, you can silence the one you have so you can better hear the one you're looking for. Given that replacing just a single AirPods costs \$69, this new feature is extremely welcome (see "Apple's Wireless AirPods Were Worth the Wait," 20 December 2016). However, there's a catch: the AirPods must be connected to (and thus in range of) a paired device for this feature to work. So while you should be able to locate an AirPods that disappeared into the couch cushions, you likely won't be able to find one that you lost during a run.

iOS 10.3 brings support for cross-device iTunes movie rentals, which Apple first introduced in iTunes 12.6 (see "iTunes 12.6," 21 March 2017). Now, finally, you can rent iTunes movies on one device and watch them on another, though you'll need iTunes 12.6, iOS 10.3, and tvOS 10.2 to do so.

Siri sees a few improvements with iOS 10.3, including support for paying bills in supported apps, scheduling in ride-booking apps like Lyft, and checking cricket scores and statistics for Indian Premier League and International Cricket Council. If you own a car that can be controlled via an automaker app, you gain some cool Siri capabili-

ties, such as checking your car's fuel level and lock status, turning lights on and off, and activating the horn. It's probably still easier to slam your hand into the steering wheel than to say, "Hey Siri, BEEP!"

Speaking of cars, CarPlay gets a few new additions, such as app shortcuts in the status bar, Up Next and the current song's album in Apple Music's Now Playing screen, and access to daily curated Apple Music content.

Apple has rethought identity in the Settings app. Your identity now takes center stage above all other settings and provides a shortcut to a new, more coherent screen to handle your personal information, payment options, security settings, account information, and Family Sharing.

Apple has also addressed the problem of Calendar spam, which made the news late last year (see "How to Stop iCloud Calendar Spam," 29 November 2016). You can now delete unwanted invites and report them as junk.

HomeKit sees some welcome improvements in iOS 10.3: you can now trigger scenes with switches and buttons, and the Home app now shows Accessory battery levels.

Other improvements include being able to search for "parked car" in Maps, a new widget and 3D Touch action for the Podcasts app, the option to share podcasts with full playback support in Messages, and hourly weather forecasts in Maps if you 3D Touch the current temperature. Also, iOS 10.3 addresses a bug with Maps that could prevent it from showing your location after resetting Location & Privacy settings, as well as improving VoiceOver stability.

There are a couple of additions not mentioned in the release notes. In iOS 10.3, developers can now respond to App Store reviews. I've also noticed one small change in Mail: a count of unread Inbox messages in the back button when viewing an email thread. Lastly, iOS 10.3 includes a total of 67 security fixes!

When Should You Upgrade? -- Honestly, although Apple doesn't even mention the move to APFS in its user-level release notes, that's the main reason to hold off. If there's some subtle problem that surfaces only once hundreds of thousands of devices have updated to iOS 10.3, you don't want to be among that group. So we recommend waiting at least a week before installing iOS 10.3, and perhaps longer if you don't use AirPods, suffer from Calendar spam, or automate your house with HomeKit. After that, though, give it a whirl and enjoy the new features!

The content on this page is by Tidbits with their agreement. www.tidbits.com

Laptop Ban: Packing for a future of more restrictions

The ban on carrying laptops and cameras on board aircraft is currently restricted to two administrations, the US and UK, and applies only to flights from certain other countries. It is also said to be temporary, but over the past twenty years we've heard all that before. Not only will it cause us to examine our travel packing list, it could focus attention on alternative means of travel.

How soon will it be before there is a general cabin ban on electronic equipment larger than an iPhone? One UK Minister has already refused to rule out a world-wide ban. It's a dismal thought because most of us now travel with a laptop or tablet; and most of the time we also carry some pretty expensive camera gear. We could most of us manage without using such items during a flight, but how would we react to having to place our expensive and fragile electronic gear in the hold?

"How soon will it be before there is a general cabin ban on electronic equipment larger than an iPhone?"

Already some airlines are responding to the question by offering separate secure storage for equipment. They are allowing passengers to take their stuff through checkin; the equipment is then placed in secure boxes at the point of boarding and the airlines are guaranteeing safe passage.

Universal

Without doubt, though, we would have to revise our plans if such bans became universal. Would I still carry expensive Leica gear? No. Would I still take a laptop? Only if necessary and I would make sure it was a cheapish version.

Recently I had been considering my computing needs and wondering whether a high-end laptop could serve as a desktop computer and as a travel companion. No longer. Even the whiff of a ban means I will keep my two-year-old MacBook as a travel computer. I probably won't upgrade it and will regard it as expendable, something that I wouldn't mind consigning to hold luggage. This

provides one example of the way in which any new restrictions could cause people to change their buying decisions.

Ricoh GR: Another camera you might be willing to consign to the suitcase

My iPhone 7 Plus, which is not suspect under the new regulations (yet) is enough computing power to do most of my work when travelling. It is certainly good enough for writing blog posts, although page layouts with pictures are beyond its capabilities. But it is better than nothing. Wherever possible, then, I would travel without iPad or MacBook if such a ban were to come into play.

Film cameras?

Cameras are another consideration. Since talk is currently of "electronic equipment" we might presume that film cameras will be exempt from control. I wouldn't like to bet on it, though. How will the average security person know for sure what is a film camera? About the only way for the layman to make sure would be to open the back. So what's the alternative if we can take only cameras that we are happy to consign to the hold?

Expensive, multi-lens systems will probably be out of the question, except for professional photographers who have no choice in the matter. This alone, if the ban is extended, will inevitably harm the sales of more expensive cameras. Photographers will wonder why bother to own expensive equipment if they are unhappy travelling with it.

I would certainly be inclined to travel with an inexpensive, compact camera with fixed lens instead of with an expensive outfit. The Ricoh GR, the Fuji X100F, the Sony RX100 or the Panasonic LX100 (aka Leica D-Lux) would become more attractive as travel companions. I could envisage packing one or other of these



Ricoh (used here in a Munich beer garden)

continued on page 4

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.
LMUG Committee 2017/18**

Chairman	Chris Mahon(chairman@lmug.org.uk)
Treasurer	Pietro Falcone (treasurer@lmug.org.uk)
Secretary	Tina Jacobs (secretary@lmug.org.uk)
Assistant Secretary	
Editor	Maurice Baker (soundbyte@lmug.org.uk)
Webmaster	Craig Jobbins (socialmedia@lmug.org.uk)
Membership Officer	Pietro Falcone (membership@lmug.org.uk)
Technical Officer	Eoin O'Cléirigh (technical@lmug.org.uk)
Communications Officer	(communications@lmug.org.uk)
Committee Members	Martin Kelly, Craig Jobbins, Andre Berger, Alastair Whitehouse Kirsten Zverina
Ideas & Suggestions	suggestions@lmug.org.uk. Website: http://www.lmug.org.uk

Continued from page 3

small cameras in my suitcase; but not an M10 with couple of lenses. Having to check in expensive photographic gear will force us to take a long, hard look at the size and value of our travel equipment. A small, relatively inexpensive compact such as the Ricoh (used here in a Munich beer garden) will be high on the list of alternatives to costly systems

Alternatives to air travel

Another side-effect of further airline packing restrictions will be a move to alternative forms of transport. Within Europe, for instance, trains offer a more comfortable means of long-distance travel, if not quite so rapid as flying. If time isn't of the essence, taking the train from London to Berlin is more congenial than flying. Unfortunately it isn't always cheaper, but that could change if there is more demand.

Last September I travelled to Photkina in Cologne by train and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. When you take into account the time you spend travelling to and from airports and the need to check in earlier; the difference in time is not dramatic. For shorter journeys from London, such as to Paris on Brussels, the train is by far the sensible choice even on time. Car travel, too, is likely to become more attractive.

Air travel is already a pain and these restrictions, if extended, will do nothing to enhance the experience. Unfortunately, for longer journeys there is no alternative, so we will still be left with decisions on what to pack and what to leave at home.

The more I look at my old Ricoh GR photographs, the less worried I become about

having to slum it with a compact APS-C pocket camera. I'm actually looking forward to the challenge.

Wait and see

For the moment we will have to wait and see. It is very early days. These restrictions could be temporary and, I hope, will prove unnecessary. The ban is predicated on the supposed need for laptop bombs to be manually activated. But this seems to be stretching things. Anything that can be manually activated can presumably be remotely activated by modern electronics. So the idea of a hold full of laptops and cameras inspires no more confidence than a cabin full of the same equipment.

It seems to me, also, that the whole issue could be solved by more effective screening. In this respect, a laptop or camera packed in a large suitcase is less likely to be screened effectively than if it is taken individually through the equipment at security. If screening is not going to be completely effective, there is a real possibility of a total ban on larger electronic devices. We come back to iPhones and Ricoh GRs, assuming they can be excluded on size alone.

"It seems to me, also, that the whole issue could be solved by more effective screening"

I am not optimistic. No one could object to inconvenience if it were proved to be absolutely necessary. But past experience shows that these bans are often arbitrary and over-zealous, not to mention ultimately ineffective.