LMUG SoundByte

The meeting on Monday 11th September 2017 will be downstairs at the
Sir John Balcombe London NW1 6HE

The meet-up on Monday 11 September 2017 will be downstairs from 7pm at the Sir John Balcome Pub: 21 Balcombe Street, London 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.
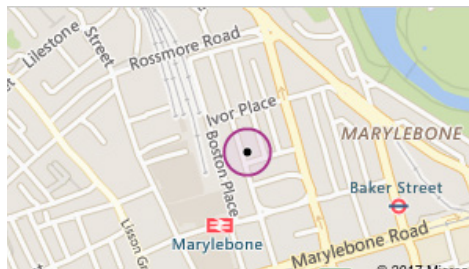
Special Interest Groups
iPad Beginners - apps and features
Technical table - tech talk, complex issues and hardware
Software SIG - most popular apps to download and how you can make them!

We'll kick off the evening with our regular Newsbyte presentation. Our Raffle Prize this month will be another San Disk Connect wireless. 200GB of wireless storage in a memory stick!

Members Only Special Offers
Current special offers

Sparkle website builder: 20% Discount
TechTool Pro 9.5: 20% Discount
AgileBits 1Password 6: 25% Discount
Boom 2 Volume Booster (Mac): 50% Discount
Take Control Books: 30% Discount
Joe On Tech Guides: 20% Discount on All Books
Teams ID, a Password Manager for Teams: 33% lifetime Discount
EverWeb by RAGE Software: 50% Discount
Eltima Software: Up to 60% Off OS X Apps
Noteboom Tutorials: 33% Off Annual Memberships
Prosoft Engineering: 25% Discount
Que Publishing Products: 35-45% Discount
SlideShark iPad PowerPoint Viewer: Free App plus Special Offer
Opus][Complete Collection: 25% Discount

Apple Live Event Announced!

On Tuesday September 12 at 6pm, LMUG invites you to watch Apple unveil their latest products. Expectations are a radically redesigned iPhone; the Series 3 Apple Watch with 4G connectivity; a new Apple TV with 4K and who knows what else!

We have booked the Apollo Lounge upstairs at The Crown Tavern, 43 Clerkenwell Green, EC1 0EG. It's a few minutes walk from the north entrance of Farringdon Station (Circle, H&C, Metropolitan lines and Thameslink).

Well have a keynote bingo and the raffle prize will be an Apple TV. Check the LMUG website for more detail and directions.

iOS 11 to Bring Do Not Disturb While Driving

Once you install iOS 11, which is available now in public beta form and will likely ship for everyone in September 2017, you may notice that your iPhone gets a lot quieter in the car. That's due to a new feature in iOS 11 called Do Not Disturb While Driving that Apple enables by default.

In short, Do Not Disturb While Driving activates automatically when you're driving a car, blocks notifications on your iPhone, and makes it so you can't do much with your iPhone until you park.

Take a look at distracted driving statistics and it becomes obvious why Apple came up with this feature. The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 660,000 drivers use cell phones while driving during the daytime. In 2015 alone, 391,000 people were injured and 3477 killed in distracted driving incidents. Given the iPhone's 30 to 40 percent share of the smartphone market, it arguably bears some blame for over 100,000 injuries and 1000 deaths in just that year. That's a far more tangible problem than many tempests in the tech industry press teapot.

When Apple first announced Do Not Disturb While Driving at WWDC (see "iOS 11 Gets Smarter in Small Ways," 5 June 2017), I was a bit skeptical due to Apple's spotty record with automotive features. CarPlay has yet to take off, and even when it's available, it's kind of a mess (see "CarPlay Offers Limited, Glitchy iPhone/Auto Integration," 18 January 2016). In theory, Maps can automatically help you find your car in a parking lot, but that only works if you have a car with built-in Bluetooth — it doesn't work with aftermarket devices.

To my surprise and delight, Do Not Disturb While Driving activated automatically during my first car trip with the iOS 11 beta on my iPhone 7 Plus. The feature relies either on a Bluetooth connection or the Doppler effect with Wi-Fi signals to detect motion.

You can change how the feature activates under Settings > Do Not Disturb > Activate. You can set it to Automatically (which enables Do Not Disturb While Driving when the iPhone detects motion), When Connected to Car Bluetooth, or Manually. If you and your spouse both have iPhones and often drive together, you may need to play with the settings to see what makes the most sense for the passenger.

To turn on Do Not Disturb While Driving manually, Apple provides an optional button in Control Center, though it's not present by default. To add that button to Control Center, go to Settings > Control Center > Customize. (I'll cover the new Control Center in detail in my upcoming "Take Control of iOS 11.")
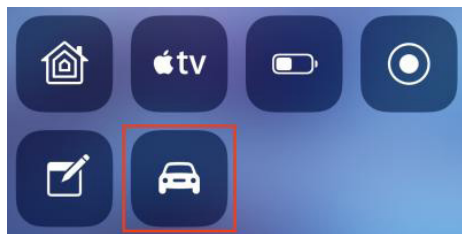
While Do Not Disturb While Driving is enabled, you can't do much with your iPhone. You'll see only a single notification, informing you that the feature is on. To disable the feature, tap that notification and choose either "I'm Not Driving" or "Disable Do Not Disturb While Driving." Alternatively, if you're a passenger, you can press the Home button and tap "I'm Not Driving." But that's about it: once Do Not Disturb While Driving is on, not only will your iPhone not receive notifications, you also can't access the Home screen, Widget screen, Control Center, or camera. Oddly enough, you can activate Siri by pressing and holding the Home button, but the hands-free Hey Siri feature doesn't work.
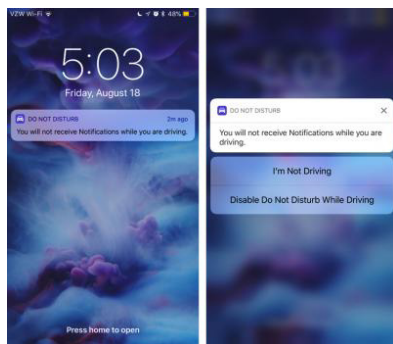
However, if you start audio playback before starting your trip, you can still control that with

Preparing for a Possible Apple "Face ID" Technology

While it seems as though we've had fingerprint sensors on our iPhones and iPads forever, Apple released Touch ID just four short years ago, forever changing our expectations for how we unlock our devices. (For more details about how fingerprint scanners work, see my article "Q&A about Fingerprint Scanning," 10 September 2013.) Touch ID was a sneaky little innovation that improved security for everyday iPhone users with an option that was as easy to use as picking up your phone.

The real innovation with Touch ID wasn't in adding a fingerprint reader to a smartphone — Apple was far from the first to do that — but in how Apple tied Touch ID to the iPhone's hardware, keychain, and long passcodes. Touch ID doesn't replace passcodes; it supplements them. In essence, your fingerprint "unlocks" your passcode, which in turn unlocks both your iPhone and the keychain that stores all your app passwords.

All this is managed and protected by special security hardware built into the Secure Enclave coprocessor that's integrated into the A7 and later A-series chips to handle encryption and key management. Your fingerprint never leaves your device — heck, it can't leave your device — and the fingerprint itself is never needed or used outside the Secure Enclave.

The result is that iOS users can have the security of a strong passcode with the convenience of no passcode at all. Yes, Apple does require users to enter their passcodes occasionally and under certain conditions, but overall, in day-to-day use, you don't have to worry about entering six or more characters every time you want to unlock your iPhone to respond to a text message. The main downside of Touch ID is that it requires physical space on the front of the iPhone that could be used for screen real estate.

While it's usually risky to comment on hypothetical Apple products, Apple recently, and undoubtedly accidentally, released the firmware for its upcoming HomePod smart speaker. Filled with references to other upcoming products and technologies, the firmware release makes it reasonably probable that Apple will release an updated iPhone that relies on facial recognition,

rather than a Touch ID sensor.

Facial recognition is an entirely different kind of biometric technology that's historically far more difficult to implement than a fingerprint reader. While fingers do get wet, dirty, or scratched, modern sensors rely on more than just the ridges and whorls, and devices like iPhones can store multiple fingerprints.

As anyone who has looked in a mirror in the morning can tell you, faces change throughout the day. We wear glasses, move into different lighting conditions, and some men don't shave on a regular basis. Worse, in this age of selfies, there is no shortage of high-resolution photographs of our faces on the Internet, and many people have high-quality printers. Hackers recently defeated Samsung's facial recognition system with a photo and a contact lens.

I have no idea how a potential "Face ID" might work, but I do know what I'm going to look for if Apple adds facial recognition to its iOS security arsenal. If we consider how Apple usually handles these transitions, we can make certain assumptions about what it might look like. The key is to evaluate equivalence, rather than exactness. We don't care whether Face ID (we'll roll with that name for now) works exactly like Touch ID — we just need it to be close enough, or even better in other ways.

Before you start panicking about a world in which someone can unlock your iPhone by holding up an iPad with a picture of you on screen (let's be honest, that's the first hack we'll all try), let's think through the problem and what to look for if Apple does indeed release Face ID.

Is Face ID as Secure as Touch ID? -- The answer to that question is more than a simple yes or no. When I look at the security of Touch ID today, I can see three aspects to consider if Face ID appears:

Does it cost as much to circumvent? Touch ID isn't perfect — there are a variety of ways to create fake fingerprints that can fool it. The financial cost is not prohibitive for a serious attacker, but the attacks are time-consuming enough that the vast, vast majority of iPhone users don't need to worry about them. I'm sure someone will come up with ways to fool Face ID, but if doing so requires taking photos from multiple angles, computing a 3D model, 3D printing the model, and accurately surfacing it with additional facial feature details, I'll call that a win for Apple. It will make an awesome presentation

Read the full review on the TidBits website

the Lock screen media controls. Turn-by-turn directions will also work normally — Google Maps as audio-only directions, while Apple's Maps app offers Lock screen visuals in addition to audio directions. But if you need to make any adjustments while driving, you'll have to turn off

"Overall, I've found that Do Not Disturb While Driving doesn't interfere with my usual activities much. In fact, it has made driving more peaceful"

Do Not Disturb While Driving.

If you use CarPlay, it will reportedly still work, though notifications will be blocked. None of my cars support CarPlay, so I can't verify this.

If someone messages you while you're driving, they will receive an automated reply that, by default, says:

I'm driving with Do Not Disturb While Driving turned on. I'll see your message when I get where I'm going.

(I'm not receiving notifications. If this is urgent, reply "urgent" to send a notification through with your original message.)

You can change the first line of this message in Settings > Do Not Disturb > Auto-Reply. However, the second line cannot be changed.

As the second line says, if the other party replies with "urgent," the original message will be forced through the cone of silence.

By default, Messages replies automatically only to favorite contacts (to add someone, navigate to their contact in Contacts or Phone, scroll down, and tap Add to Favorites), but you can change that in Settings > Do Not Disturb > Auto-Reply To.

This loophole seems to work only for iOS's built-in Messages app — for both SMS and iMessage — but perhaps in the future, Apple will let developers integrate support for it in other messaging apps.

Overall, I've found that Do Not Disturb While Driving doesn't interfere with my usual activities much. In fact, it has made driving more peaceful by sparing me from notifications that are almost never urgent — it's not so much getting the notification that's a problem as thinking about what it might require me to do. And since I can't do anything about such notifications safely while driving, it's totally fine to have them flow in only once I've arrived at my destination.

What's most important, though, is that Do Not Disturb While Driving could reduce the number of injuries and fatalities on the road by helping both you and other drivers focus on the road. We're looking forward to seeing if those horrible distracted driving statistics drop once iOS 11 becomes widespread.