

The meeting on Monday 13th
November 2017 will be downstairs at
the
Sir John Balcombe London NW1 6HE



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

This month's LMUG Meet-Up is our Developer Show and Tell. From code-free to "hello world", come and see what tools we have on our iPhones, iPads and Macs to make programs.

Tonight's raffle prize is a USB type-C mini dock. It's an essential accessory for users of the new MacBooks.

We'd also like to invite you to our members-only Christmas Quiz on December 11. As usual we'll have a free buffet and great prizes. Please RSVP using the email this Soundbyte was accessed from.



iOS 11.1 Brings Bug Fixes and New Emoji

Just ahead of the delivery of iPhone X shipments to its first lucky purchasers, Apple last week released iOS 11.1. In the associated release notes, Apple highlights the addition of over 70 new emoji, along with fixes to photo handling, accessibility, and an assortment of other issues.

In addition, the update includes some twenty-odd security fixes. Among those is one for the much-publicized KRACK Wi-Fi exploit (see “Wi-Fi Security Flaw Not As Bad As It’s CRACKED Up To Be,” 17 October 2017). Interestingly, Apple’s note implies that it’s necessary only for iPhone 7 models and later and for iPad Pro 9.7-inch and later iPad Pro models.

The new emoji include food types (pie and broccoli!), animals (giraffes and hedgehogs!), and mythical creatures (mermaids and vampires!), as well as what Apple describes as “more expressive smiley faces” (which means one with cartoon swearing). iOS 11.1’s emoji also include new gender-neutral characters and more clothing options.

“As always with interim updates like this, we encourage some level of caution when updating.”

The improvements to iOS photo handling include fixes for bugs that made some photos appear blurry, slowed down Live Photo effect playback, and prevented some images from appearing in the People album after restoring from an iCloud backup. This last fix might be particularly relevant to purchasers of the new iPhone X, who will doubtless spend some time restoring their iPhone backups to their shiny new devices.

iOS 11.1 also brings with it a slew of accessibility improvements, including braille support for Grade 2 input, VoiceOver access to multi-page PDFs, better VoiceOver rotor actions for announcing incoming notifications, and an improved VoiceOver rotor actions menu when removing an app from the app switcher. The update also fixes accessibility bugs that prevented alternative keys from displaying when using VoiceOver with touch typing, caused the VoiceOver rotor to always return to the default

action in Mail, and kept the VoiceOver rotor from deleting messages.

Miscellaneous fixes and enhancements round out iOS 11.1’s offerings: cleared Mail notifications should no longer appear on the Lock screen, using 3D Touch on the display edge should again invoke the app switcher, and some third-party GPS accessories should now provide better accuracy.

Although Apple also released watch OS 4.1, iOS 11.1 includes a couple of Apple Watch-related fixes (see “watchOS 4.1 Delivers on Promised Features,” 31 October 2017). One resolves an issue that caused settings for Heart Rate notifications to appear in the Apple Watch app for first-generation Apple Watches, and another fixes a problem that prevents app icons from appearing in notifications on the Apple Watch. Notably missing from iOS 11.1 are the promised person-to-person Apple Pay and AirPlay 2, both of which Apple initially promised for iOS 11 but still haven’t shipped.

You can get the iOS 11.1 update either in Settings > General > Software Update or via iTunes. Its size varies significantly by device, ranging from 171 MB for the 9.7-inch iPad Pro and 207 MB for the 10.5-inch iPad Pro to 250 MB for the iPhone 6 Plus and 305 MB for the iPhone 7.

As always with interim updates like this, we encourage some level of caution when updating. Wait a couple of days before taking the leap, just in case there’s an unanticipated problem that early adopters encounter. Of course, if you’re concerned about the KRACK exploits or regularly need to communicate about broccoli in emoji, there’s no inherent need to wait.



Apple's iPad finally comes of age as a productivity tool

Generally speaking, I don't get too excited about software updates. Apple's operating systems come and go but I tend to accept the changes and get on with things. So it was that I hadn't taken much interest in iOS 11 which has now arrived. I dutifully upgraded both my iPhone 7 Plus and 9.7in iPad Pro and delved into straight using the new systems. Initially I wasn't overwhelmed. But as soon as I opened the iPad I realised that something important had changed.

For the first time there is now divergence



The dock, similar to the MacOS dock, is a great advance for the iPad — it isn't on the iPhone — and makes makes handling documents so much easier

between the iPhone and iPad in terms of usability. For too long the iPad has been hobbled by the need to maintain compatibility with the phone with its variety of smaller screens and more limited opportunities for productivity advances simply because of size. There's been little choice in terms of productivity between the iPhone Plus and the iPad except the bigger screen. Now it's different

and, at last, the iPad is coming into its own as a serious competitor to the lower-end Macs such as the MacBook.

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On the surface

I understand that this new emphasis on the iPad has been forced on Apple by the success of the Microsoft Surface, a device which is much closer in operability to a Windows computer. Many of us, while willing to give the iPad a try, were ultimately disappointed by the lack of functionality compared with a Mac portable.

The first thing I noticed about iOS 11 on the iPad is the Mac-style dock which, as on the Mac, shows apps that are loaded and in the background. There's even the vertical line to differentiate between permanent dock applications and those that are currently running. This alone makes switching between applications so much easier. The split-screen function, allowing simultaneous display of two applications has been tweaked and is now much easier to use. It's a boon for writers, in particular; who often like to keep a reference source open at the same time as the text being worked on.

The improved split-screen facility and the ability to drag and drop components is the biggest change in improving productivity on the iPad

Another important productivity boost to be found in iOS 11 (in this case for the iPhone as well as the iPad) is the Files app. For the first time this provides direct access to iCloud files, including useful items such as the Mac Desktop. Never again will you leave home road before realising your left a vital file or reference on your Mac and be unable to access them. On the iPad alone, in addition, there is a new drag and drop facility which enables you to drag selections from one open app to another. Again, this is a productivity move in the right direction and narrows further the gap between iOS and MacOS.

"Could it be that the iPad, perhaps in the form of the latest 10.5in Pro with Smart Keyboard, could become my travel companion of choice?"

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Photographer's dilemma

The one area that continues to raise concern is photo handling and processing. As I've mentioned many times, I find it very difficult to wean myself off the Mac and Lightroom. Could I get by with



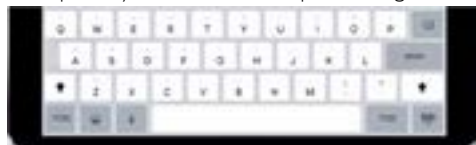
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Lightroom Mobile when travelling? Would backing up my RAW files to the iPad be as satisfactory a solution as having the MacBook on hand? Most of the time this isn't a big or problem because there is always a Mac in the office or at home. But when travelling for longer periods I can see that it might become a worry. It's something I will have to suck and see. What I do know is that many photographers are happy with the iPad, so some experimentation is demanded.

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In the past, not for the want of trying, I have never really gelled with the iPad as productivity tool. It is just fine for web browsing, watching videos and fiddling with task lists; but it has definitely been lacking as an advanced productivity device. The changes in iOS 11 are a powerful inducement for me to give it another try. Could it be that the iPad, perhaps in the form of the latest 10.5in Pro with Smart Keyboard, could become my travel companion of choice? I shall be reporting further on this as I gain experience. In the meantime I would commend you to the customary brilliant iOS 11 review on MacStories and other interesting reading material on the same subject.

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