

iOS7 & Other Things - 9.20.13

At my 13 year old sons urging, I allowed him to upgrade my phone to iOS7 the evening it became available. Not one to be an early adapter until all the kinks are worked out, I have to admit that I have been pleasantly surprised. I feel like I have a new phone all over again.

For those of you who like the familiar, it looks and feels completely different from the "old" style that Apple has showcased on their phones for the last umpteen years. It might not be for you if you feel that you just got your arms around how to maneuver the phone as it is.

But for those of you who want to take a chance and check it out, go for it. It will be different (like moving from Snow Leopard to Lion) in how it looks, feels and what swipes, etc... to do in order to perform simple functions. The whole look feels crisper and cleaner.

Things I like the most:

1. Passcode lock looks and feels bigger so it seems a bit easier to enter the numbers
2. SWIPE UP from the bottom gives you instant access to:
 - a. Airplane Mode
 - b. Wireless
 - c. Bluetooth (which sold me as I'm always switching this on and off)
 - d. night settings
 - e. Brightness
 - f. Music
 - g. Flashlight
 - h. Clock/Alarm/Timer
 - i. Calculator
 - j. Camera

Mostly all the activities that you frequent most (with the exception of contacts and phone)

3. Mail seems faster
4. Photos are organized by day/place, etc... so that when you are looking for a specific photo, you can scroll up to the time when you took it versus blindly searching up and down
5. Camera switches mode from video, photo, square and panorama by just moving your finger across
6. Activation Lock - ONE Of my biggest issues w the current iPhone is that a complete stranger can reset your phone if it gets lost or stolen. In iOS7, the theif needs to enter

your iCloud name and Password if they wish to erase & reactivate your device. Also - if you send a lost message it provides a place for your phone number and a message so that they can contact you.

7. Calendar has a whole new look. It feels lighter and crisper, you could look at the day, month (scroll up and down to access the other months) and go to year very quickly.

8. CELLULAR - If you are on a limited DATA plan, by choosing Cellular under settings and scrolling down it shows you how much cellular data you have used to date for your "month" cycle and how much the apps drew from your cellular service.

Things that are MOST different:

1. Icons do not look AT ALL like the icons we are so used to. May be a little confusing getting around until you get used to the new look of Safari, Newstand, Photos, etc.... They feel a little bit lighter, more fun and modern. The first day I hated them & felt disoriented. Two days later I'm an old hat & I really like them.

2. Deleting mail requires swiping from right to left vs left to right (this takes about 5 minutes to adjust to)

3. To SEARCH, instead of swiping to the right to get spotlight, you can touch anywhere on the screen and drag down

4. Notes - which traditionally looked like a yellow legal pad, is now all white without the lines

5. To close multiple apps that are open at the same time (a way to conserve battery space) instead of double clicking on the home button and then hard pressing one of the open apps on the bottom and pressing x you do the following:

- Double Click Home button and it displays all open apps in a series of screens.
- To Disable an open App just move across the phone (right to left) and swipe the open app up and the app closes
- To open one of the apps then just choose it & it launches

6. New Feature: Airdrop - not available for all models, just iPhone 5 & after, iPad 4th generation, iPad mini and iPod touch 5th generation. It's a way of sharing data, photos, etc.... with another person's phone w Airdrop within range

7. Maps can go 2D or 3D (which makes me a little nauseous). The Search button is fun - try entering in Pizza and see what shows up.

8. Music now has iTunes radio, which I haven't had a chance to play with yet.

MOST IMPORTANTLY - Before you update, **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR PHONE IS BACKED UP** - either onto your computer with photos dragged and dropped into iPhoto and iPhone backed up on iTunes. If you do not back up onto your computer, then move your pictures to iPhoto by a hard connect to your computer and make sure your relevant data, such as Calendar, Contacts, Notes & Reminders are synced to your iCloud account or whatever you are currently synced with. If you are not sure, I would be happy to come over it is done correctly.

Here is a link to a recent CNN article about the iOS7 and what devices you can upload the new software to.

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/18/tech/mobile/ios-7-upgrade-faq/index.html>

And talking about Back Ups.... Please look at the upper right hand section of your computer for the circle that looks like a clock (shown below in gray) and make sure it says that your computer was recently backed up. If it isn't, then let's make sure it's working. Keep in mind I have seen many computers crash and if you are backed up, it can save huge headaches and expenses later on.