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Five Cool Apps You Need for Your iPad or iPhone

Freebies make life a little easier

by Jan Ross, Staff Writer

My iPad and iPhone are absolutely some of the best investments I have ever made. The iPad is especially great when I travel because it's light and portable and slips into my purse, and I don't even have to take it out when I go through security, unlike a laptop. I can use it constantly for a variety of purposes. Sometimes I wonder how I managed without it.

I don't need dozens of apps, but there are a few that I love and you might find helpful as well. They are all free, which is also a big plus.

Overdrive and Audible. Everyone probably already knows about reading apps such as iBooks, the Nook and Kindle, but I was pleasantly surprised to find I can borrow digital books from my local library using the Overdrive app. Just install it and find your local library in the list of participating libraries, then check out books using your library card. The Audible app lets you check out audio library books – so great to listen to when you're walking on the treadmill.

Mapquest. Our Garmin GPS has traveled all over the United States with us. But it let us down recently because a resort we were visiting had a name change, which resulted in the name of the access road changing also. We accessed the MapQuest app and it sent us directly to the resort. It even gave us audio instructions. The only disadvantage to this app is that the small maps are a little hard to read on an iPhone.

Grocery Gadget. When we first got our iPhones, my husband would email me a grocery list. I would attempt to access it and - then proceed to accidentally delete it and have to ask him to send it again. That's not a problem anymore with the Grocery Gadget app. We have it on our iPhones and iPads and we can update it from anywhere. I just pull it up on either device at the grocery store and delete items as I purchase them.

Feeddler. Is anyone else obsessed with reading all kinds of blogs? I have an extensive list in my Google Reader, but it's so much easier to read them in Feeddler. For one thing, you can skim all the titles and delete them all if nothing sounds appealing, which is impossible to do in Google Reader. It's an easy way to keep up with your blogs.

Trailers. If you are a huge fan of movie previews, you will love this I don't need dozens of apps, but there are a few that I love and you might find helpful as well.

app. I'm always astonished at the people who come in late to the movies and miss the previews because sometimes they are the bes part. If you love them as much as I do, you need this app. It keeps up with the latest movie previews and is just plain fun.

