

Apps You Didn't Think Existed but Might Find Useful

Maxwell Memorial Library
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0 Introduction

It's become a cliché that for anything you'd like to do “*There's an App for That.*”¹ At the same time, the slogan is often true.

This month's tech program will present apps for things that you might not have thought there would be an app for (despite the cliché) but might be glad to know about.

1 Things you might want apps to do and some apps to do them

1.1 The perils of middle age

RunPee (Android & iOS)

<http://runpee.com/>

To quote [John Corpuz & Henry T. Casey's review](#) at *Tom's Guide*, “Depending on who you ask, RunPee is either silly or pure genius. The app keeps a database of movies, and then tells you the best time in the movie to head to the restroom.”

The app also has other features, for example letting you know whether the credits contain extra scenes you might want to stay for.

1.2 Instant replay

Snipback (Android)

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.smart.recording>

The app listens all the time. If you hear something you want to keep, you tap a button to tell the app to save the last 10 seconds, 30 seconds, or 5 minutes of sound that you've had in your environment.

1 *There's an App for That*[®] is a registered trademark of Apple Inc.

Xavier Morales's post [Trademark Registration of Common Words or Phrases](#) at SecureYourTrademark.com has more information on the topic of commonly used phrases used as trademarks.

The app is only for Android. There is an iOS app also called Snipback (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/snipback/id1117265365>). It is for video as well as audio, but it is from a different manufacturer and seems to have few users.

1.3 I'll get back to this later

Pocket (Android & iOS)

<https://getpocket.com/>

Instapaper (Android & iOS)

<https://www.instapaper.com/>

Pocket and Instapaper are apps for storing links to pages that you want to read later. They are basically bookmarking apps, but their intent is to be temporary lists rather than long-term directories. Thus, neither has much in the way of organizing the links beyond basic means: Pocket lets you tag links, and Instapaper lets you write a brief description.

1.4 Autocorrect frustration

SwiftKey (Android & iOS)

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/swiftkey>

A problem that I have with my device's built-in autocorrect is that it doesn't learn anything. Since my informal style is somewhat idiosyncratic, this means that if I have it turned on, I spend more time overriding it than it saves. So I just turn autocorrect off rather than put up with its unhelpful "corrections."

Many reviewers rave about SwiftKey, though, and talk about it as the kind of keyboard app that might actually work for me. Microsoft claims that SwiftKey learns what words and phrases (and even emoji) the user tends to use in given contexts rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach.

1.5 They're watching me!

Bouncer (Android only)

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.samruston.permission>

This app is still in beta and may not be quite ready for primetime, but the idea behind it is appealing. The app's purpose is to let you grant another app some set of permission's such that the permission is only temporary.

For instance, you might generally keep the permissions you grant to the Facebook app to a minimum. But you happen to be out and about and want to check in with your location on a post. When you grant Facebook permission to access your location, Bouncer then asks whether you want the permission to be permanent or temporary. If you choose to grant it only temporarily, then when you quit Facebook, Bouncer changes the Facebook app's settings so that it no longer has access to your location.

1.6 Did I use “Pa\$\$w0rd” or “Pa\$sw0rd”? Maybe I need a password manager

LastPass (Android & iOS)

<https://www.lastpass.com>

Dashlane (Android & iOS)

<https://www.dashlane.com/>

RoboForm (Android & iOS)

<https://www.roboform.com/>

Sticky Password (Android & iOS)

<https://www.stickypassword.com/>

First, I feel compelled to say that you really shouldn't use either of the strings in the header for this subsection as passwords. They are only slightly better than just using “password”.

Second, a few security experts don't like password managers at all since any sort of database can get hacked and any encryption can be broken, given enough time and computing power. These experts instead recommend developing your own personal algorithm that allows you to compute what password to use for a given purpose such that recalling that password is trivial for the user and next to impossible for anyone else.

Nonetheless, most experts still recommend using password managers, the password managers listed above seem to be safe (based on track records), and they allow their users to get closer to the ideal situation of having

1. A strong password for each password used and
2. No duplication of passwords. That is, no given password string is used for more than 1 site.

If you are interested in more on good password hygiene, come to May's tech program since that will be its topic.

2 Some articles with reviews and more information

2.1 General

Mastufa Ahmed, "[10 Most Useful Apps I Recommend to Everyone](https://www.techradar.com/news/10-most-useful-apps-i-recommend-to-everyone)," *Techradar*, May 25, 2017, <https://www.techradar.com/news/10-most-useful-apps-i-recommend-to-everyone>

John Corpuz, "[15 Best Note Taking Apps](https://www.tomsguide.com/us/pictures-story/772-best-note-taking-apps.html)," *Tom's Guide*, February 15, 2018, <https://www.tomsguide.com/us/pictures-story/772-best-note-taking-apps.html>

Carrie Marshall and Catherine Ellis, "[The best free password manager 2019](https://www.techradar.com/news/software/applications/the-best-password-manager-1325845)," *Techradar*, December 10, 2018, <https://www.techradar.com/news/software/applications/the-best-password-manager-1325845>

David Nield, "[14 Useful Apps to Install on Your New Phone](https://gizmodo.com/14-useful-apps-to-install-on-your-new-phone-1821076237)," *Gizmodo*, December 25, 2017, <https://gizmodo.com/14-useful-apps-to-install-on-your-new-phone-1821076237>

C.M. Smith, "[7 Tools to Help Keep Track of Goals and Habits Effectively](https://www.lifehack.org/articles/technology/7-tools-to-help-keep-track-of-habits-and-goals.html)," *Lifehack*, February 15, 2019, <https://www.lifehack.org/articles/technology/7-tools-to-help-keep-track-of-habits-and-goals.html>

2.2 Android

Abhilekh Das, "[28 Free And Best Android Apps For 2019](https://fossbytes.com/essential-free-best-android-apps/)," *Fossbytes*, January 11, 2019, <https://fossbytes.com/essential-free-best-android-apps/>

Joe Hindy, "[15 Best Android Apps of 2019!](https://www.androidauthority.com/best-android-apps-312570/)" *Android Authority*, March 1, 2019, <https://www.androidauthority.com/best-android-apps-312570/>

Christian de Looper, "[Our Picks for the Best Android Apps \(March 2019\)](https://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/best-android-apps/)," *Digital Trends*, March 6, 2019, <https://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/best-android-apps/>

Nicholas Montegriffo, "[Unsung Heroes: The Best Obscure Apps You Should Check Out](https://www.androidpit.com/best-unknown-apps)," *AndroidPIT*, July 19, 2018, <https://www.androidpit.com/best-unknown-apps>

Ben Moore and Max Eddy, "[The 100 Best Android Apps for 2019](https://www.pcmag.com/article/362295/the-100-best-android-apps)," *PC Mag*, January 17, 2019, <https://www.pcmag.com/article/362295/the-100-best-android-apps>

Jack Wallen, "[7 Slightly Obscure Android Apps You Should Be Using](https://www.techrepublic.com/article/seven-slightly-obscure-android-apps-you-should-be-using/)," *TechRepublic*, April 25, 2017, <https://www.techrepublic.com/article/seven-slightly-obscure-android-apps-you-should-be-using/>

2.3 iOS

John Corpuz and Henry T. Casey, "[The Best iOS Apps You're Not Using \(But Should Be\)](https://www.tomsguide.com/us/pictures-story/701-underappreciated-ios-apps.html)," *Tom's Guide*, March 8, 2019, <https://www.tomsguide.com/us/pictures-story/701-underappreciated-ios-apps.html>

John Corpuz and Dan Moren, "[Best Free Apps for iPhone](https://www.tomsguide.com/us/pictures-story/282-best-free-iphone-apps.html)," *Tom's Guide*, March 5, 2019, <https://www.tomsguide.com/us/pictures-story/282-best-free-iphone-apps.html>

Jill Duffy, "[The 25 Best Productivity Apps for iPhone in 2018](https://zapier.com/blog/best-productivity-apps-for-iphone/)," *Zapier*, September 26, 2018, <https://zapier.com/blog/best-productivity-apps-for-iphone/>

Mark Jansen, "[The Best iPhone Apps Available Right Now \(March 2019\)](https://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/best-iphone-apps/)," *Digital Trends*, March 5, 2019, <https://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/best-iphone-apps/>

Jon Negroni, "[15 Must-Have Apps for Your iPhone](https://www.lifehack.org/articles/technology/15-must-have-apps-for-your-iphone.html)," *Lifehack*, Accessed March 24, 2019, <https://www.lifehack.org/articles/technology/15-must-have-apps-for-your-iphone.html>

“[The 30 Best iPhone Apps to Download Now](https://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/apps/reviews/g1805/the-23-best-iphone-apps-to-download-now/),” *Popular Mechanics*, January 25, 2019,
<https://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/apps/reviews/g1805/the-23-best-iphone-apps-to-download-now/>