



Meeting Summary for GAMUG's Zoom Meeting

iCloud Backup and Screen Sharing Alternatives Discussed

John and Glen discussed the backup functionality of iCloud, highlighting that certain folders like the applications folder may not always be backed up. However, Glen clarified that the applications folder is backed up, but users may need to re-log into those applications. Terry expressed dissatisfaction with Team Viewer's new registration requirements and sought alternative screen sharing solutions. Glen recommended using Apple's Messages, Microsoft Teams, and Screen Mirror to TV, while Doug suggested Screen Mirror to TV. Glen also provided instructions on how to use the chat feature in the meeting window to share information.

Apple Software and Membership Awards Meeting

Ronald introduced the team and outlined the agenda for the upcoming meeting, which included potential discussions about new Apple software. The membership awards program was also mentioned, with attendees entering a drawing for \$400 Apple gift cards in the December meeting. Glen discussed his plans to cover iOS 17, indicating it might spill over into next month. He proposed the idea of a joint meeting with another Mac user group in Austin, Texas, after the New Year, hoping to grow their user group. Glen also shared recent and upcoming technological updates and the team discussed their experiences with phone cases.

Phone Upgrades and Mac Updates

Glen experienced delays in receiving a case for his new phone, leading him to purchase it from Amazon. He opted for a 256GB model, using about 100GB, and was happy with his decision. He also mentioned receiving a deal from Verizon, his carrier, which gave him \$850 towards his new phone. Glen and Doug chose the blue, titanium color for their cases. The team discussed phone upgrade options and service providers, with Glen sharing his experience of committing to a three-year contract with Verizon. John considered switching to Apple due to better coverage but was deterred by the \$850 trade-in offer. Doug mentioned buying an unlocked phone without a contract. The discussion then transitioned to the recent upgrade to Sonoma on their Macs, highlighting changes to the screensaver and wallpaper options, and a new feature where windows on the desktop disappear off the screen when clicked.

Desktop Features and OS Updates Discussed

Ron demonstrated several new features on his desktop, including something that was visible to others, changes in photo recognition, and predictive text. The group also discussed updates to the Mac operating system. Some features, like predictive text, were found to have similarities to features already available on iPhones. The team ended with a discussion about learning curves, as some features were still being learned and corrected.

Voice Input and Weather Tracking Discussed

Ron demonstrated a new feature that enables live speech input and the creation of a personal voice. Glen expressed interest in using this feature on his phone and computer. The group discussed the potential uses of this feature, including simulating someone's voice for future meetings. Ron also demonstrated new weather features on a desktop computer, which allow for the tracking of different weather conditions and viewing detailed information about temperature, wind, and air quality. The group also discussed the technology behind Apple TV screen savers, with some concluding they were computer-generated images rather than actual underwater footage.

Technology, Lottery, and Fall Season Discussion

There was a casual discussion about gestures and video calls, with Glen, Ron, John, Charlie, and Steve participating in friendly banter. Glen shared his presentation about the upcoming fall season, centered around "The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown". Charlie reminded the team about the unclaimed 1.5 billion dollars lottery prize, which had increased to 1.7 billion for the next draw. Glen and Frank had a brief conversation about the futility of buying multiple lottery tickets to increase chances. Glen reflected on the progression of the pro max phone over five iterations, highlighting changes in size, display quality, materials, and color options. He noted improvements in brightness, resolution, and camera capabilities, as well as the adoption of 5G cellular technology. He also pointed out the increased memory and chip size, and the enhanced always-on display feature. Glen concluded with the remark that battery life has improved, and the phone now runs on iOS 17 instead of iOS 13, as was the case with the 11th iteration. Glen explained various icons that appear on phone screens, with different meanings. Lastly, he introduced the new shareplay feature and clarified the appearance of different 5G symbols on 5G phones.

Apple Watch and iPhone Features Presentation

Glen presented a diagram detailing the functions and operations of the Apple Watch, highlighting its new features such as pinch and clench gestures, which are available on previous versions as well. He also demonstrated the assistive touch feature on an iPhone, allowing users to control their device using hand gestures. In addition, Glen explained the new adaptive audio feature in iOS 17, which provides a balanced sound between transparency mode and active noise cancellation. He also guided users on how to control their audio mode on their headphones, including the new adaptive audio feature.

iOS 17 Contact Poster Overview

Glen shared a detailed overview of the new features in iOS 17, focusing on the contact poster. He explained that users can customize how their contact information appears to others, adding an element of fun and personalization. Glen also described how to set up and customize a contact poster, including the use of different color modes, filters, and the option to share it with contacts. The highlight of the meeting was the demonstration of the contact poster feature, showing how it works when two iPhones are in close proximity.

iOS 17 Standby Mode Discussion

Glen discussed the new features of iOS 17, specifically focusing on the 'Standby' mode. He explained that this mode is activated when the phone is charging and in landscape mode, turning the device into a smart display. Glen detailed that the phone needs to be propped up to use this feature and recommended using a Magsafe charger for ease of use. He also highlighted that the watch's display will dim in night mode, minimizing the brightness to not disrupt sleep. Glen clarified that this feature is available on all iPhone models supporting iOS 17 but works best on the fourteen and fifteen models. He concluded with instructions on how to enable and customize Standby mode.

Introducing Live Voicemail and Video Messaging

Glen introduced the concept of live voicemail, a feature that allows users to read transcriptions of voicemails in real-time. It works similarly to old answering machines, except the messages are typed out for the user to read. Glen also explained how this feature can be activated or deactivated in the settings.

Furthermore, he introduced the ability to leave video messages using Facetime, which depends on the method used to call. Ron then asked about the compatibility of the person leaving the message, to which Glen clarified that it shouldn't matter where they are calling from, as the transcribing is done on the user's system. Finally, Glen demonstrated how to record and send a video message on Facetime.

Mapping and Shopping: Offline Maps and Grocery Lists on Apple

Glen demonstrated how to download maps for offline use on Apple Maps, and explained its usefulness when traveling in areas without network access, or when abroad. He also explained how to download maps for specific locations, and highlighted the ability to find electric vehicle charging stations through Apple Maps. The meeting also included a discussion about the grocery list feature in the Reminders app on the iPhone, with Glen clarifying how users can categorize their grocery list and how the app automatically categorizes items based on type and brand. However, the exact method of copying and pasting an existing list into the Reminders app was not definitively established.