



Glen's Goodies

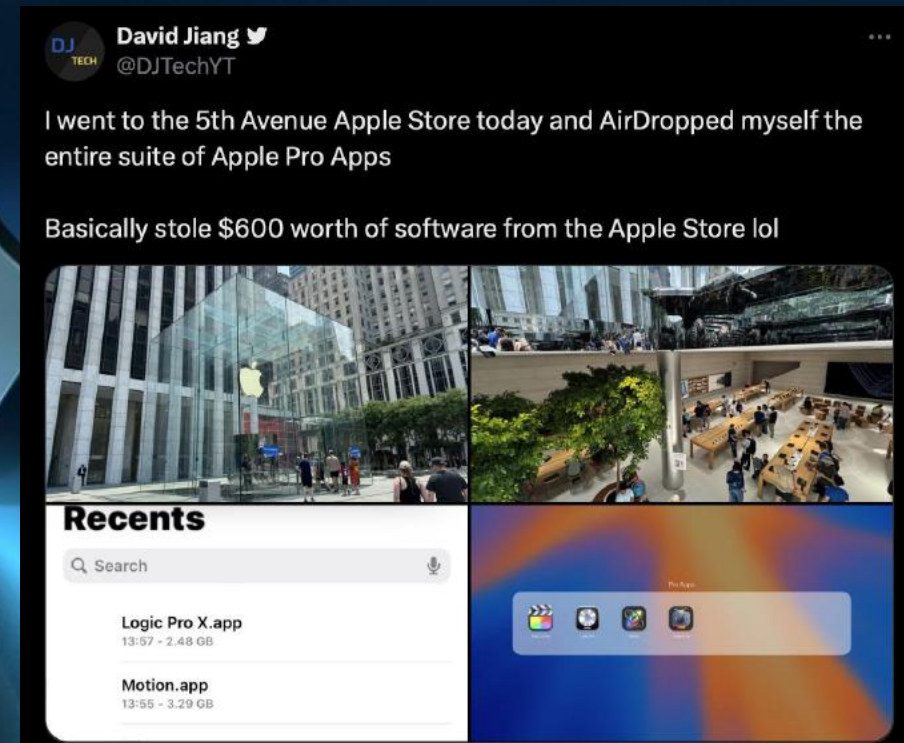
August 2024

People are Stealing Apple's Software From Apple Stores

I'm sure you've all been in Apple Stores and if you've ever looked around and noticed, Apple doesn't seem to use the same security measures as other retail stores. It doesn't seem like it's that hard to steal. Apple has pretty much said that its stores are focused on keeping staff and customers safe, rather than to preventing theft.

One of the things that's being stolen is software. Software pirates are using Air Drop to take software from the in-store demo devices and putting it on their own devices. There has been a buzz about this on social media lately, but evidently, it's been going on for quite some time.

One user boasted about this on X, which I'm not sure is the smartest idea, but he's not the only one.



People are Stealing Apple's Software From Apple Stores



Difficult_Bit_1339 · 1mo ago

This isn't remotely a new thing. I remember when the iPod video came out (80GB) some guy posted a video of himself doing the same thing... getting a copy of software using external storage.

Apple does not even remotely care, if you're pirating their software then you're buying their hardware and they already own you.



_badwithcomputer · 1mo ago

Apple applications are self contained in a [.app archive](#). All of the relevant files, libraries, etc are stored in that archive (in most cases).

Simply moving that .app from one computer to another "installs" that application on the new computer.



r/MacOS · 6 mo. ago
Chengers

Air Dropping Apple Store Demo Applications (Final Cut, Logic Pro X, etc) to your Mac DOES work BUT no updates.

Discussion

I found this thread a while ago and a commenter mentioned:

... You can go to an Apple Store, AirDrop it from one of the demo Macs to your iPhone and go back home Airdrop it on your mac. And tadaaaa ! Free forever with updates directly from the Mac App Store.

I tried this today by airdropping Final Cut, Logic Pro, Compressors and Motion to my iPhone and air dropping it to my Mac at home. It does work BUT you do not get updates (tested on Mac OS Sonoma 14.2.1). Upon updating Final Cut, you get an error "... App cannot be updated due to being refunded or revoked ..."

Hopefully this will clear the air on the topic and save you time if you find this in the future.

It seems the easy solution for Apple would be to turn off Air Drop, but they seem to want the in-store experience to be “organic and welcoming to customers.” My guess is they don't really worry about it, since it's probably not a wide-ranging problem that's costing them much money.

Scam Warning: Never Respond If Someone Calls and Uses These Phrases

“Every month, more than one billion scam robocalls designed to steal money from unsuspecting telephone subscribers.”

“Last year almost 60 million Americans lost over \$29 billion to these scam callers. More than one million complaints were made to the FTC about scams from calls and texts.”

-National Consumer Law Center and the Electronic Privacy Information Center

Scammers can be pretty tricky, and they often say things in a way that can be a give away if you know what to listen for. Money Digest put together a list of common scam phrases to look out for.

Scam Warning: Never Respond If Someone Calls and Uses These Phrases

Common scam phrases

Scam #1: "Can you hear me?"

If a call starts with a "yes" or "no" question, chances are a scammer is trying to record you saying "yes" so they can authorize purchases on your accounts.

Scam #2: "I'm from the government and need to verify your Social ..."

Know that government representatives would never call unexpectedly and ask for your Social Security number or other sensitive information by phone.

Scam #3: "You've won! All you need to pay is ..."

If you really won a contest, you wouldn't be asked to pay for shipping or anything else. This is a tactic scammers use to snag your credit card or bank information.

Scam Warning: Never Respond If Someone Calls and Uses These Phrases

Common scam phrases

Scam #4: "Act now!"

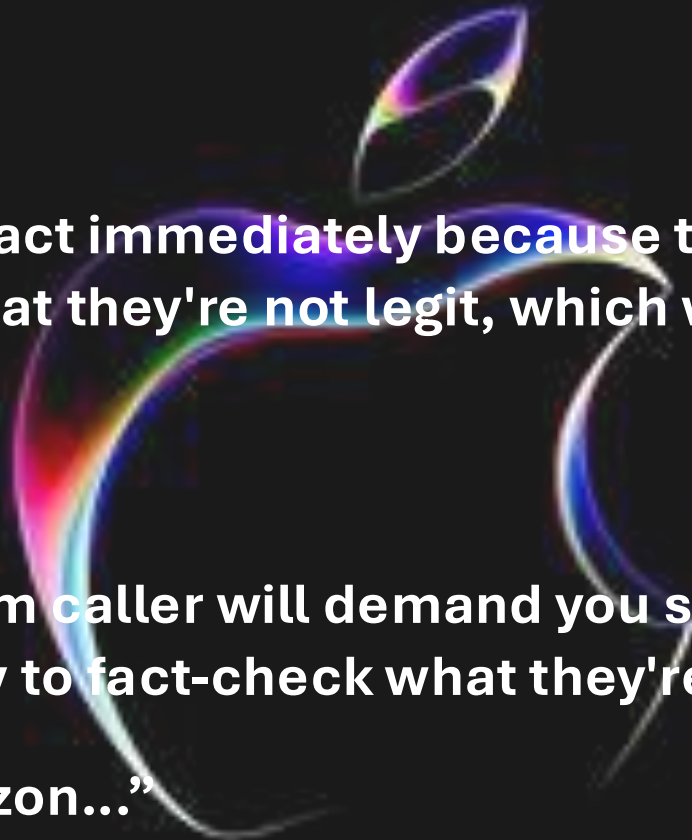
Scammers will pressure you to act immediately because they want you to make a snap decision rather than realizing that they're not legit, which will likely happen if they give you time to think.

Scam #5: "Don't hang up ..."

Another common phrase, a scam caller will demand you stay on the line because they don't want you to have an opportunity to fact-check what they're saying and realize they're lying.

Scam #6: "I'm calling from Amazon..."

If a caller claims to be with Amazon and is calling about a suspicious order, they're trying to scam you. Don't fall for it, and don't give them any information about your account. This could be from other companies as well. Hang up and you can independently check your account with that company if you have one.



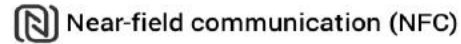
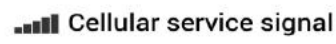
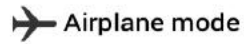
NSA Mobile Devices Best Practices



The National Security Agency has put out a report on best practices to keep your mobile phone secure. Probably the number one thing they suggest doing is rebooting your phone once per week.

“Threats to mobile devices are more prevalent and increasing in scope and complexity. Users of mobile devices desire to take full advantage of the features available on those devices, but many of the features provide convenience and capability but sacrifice security. This best practices guide outlines steps the users can take to better protect personal devices and information.”

NSA Mobile Devices Best Practices



BLUETOOTH¹

Disable Bluetooth[®] when you are not using it. Airplane mode does not always disable Bluetooth[®].

WI-FI

DO NOT connect to public Wi-Fi networks. Disable Wi-Fi when unneeded. Delete unused Wi-Fi networks.

CONTROL

Maintain physical control of the device. Avoid connecting to unknown removable media.

CASE

Consider using a protective case that drowns the microphone to block room audio (hot-miking attack). Cover the camera when not using.

CONVERSATIONS

DO NOT have sensitive conversations in the vicinity of mobile devices not configured to handle secure voice.



PASSWORDS

Use strong lock-screen pins/passwords: a 6-digit PIN is sufficient if the device wipes itself after 10 incorrect password attempts. Set the device to lock automatically after 5 minutes.

APPLICATIONS

Install a minimal number of applications and only ones from official application stores. Be cautious of the personal data entered into applications. Close applications when not using.

SOFTWARE UPDATES

Update the device software and applications as soon as possible.

BIOMETRICS

Consider using Biometrics (e.g., fingerprint, face) authentication for convenience to protect data of minimal sensitivity.

TEXT MESSAGES

DO NOT have sensitive conversations on personal devices, even if you think the content is generic.

ATTACHMENTS/LINKS

DO NOT open unknown email attachments and links. Even legitimate senders can pass on malicious content accidentally or as a result of being compromised or impersonated by a malicious actor.

TRUSTED ACCESSORIES

Only use original charging cords or charging accessories purchased from a trusted manufacturer. **DO NOT** use public USB charging stations. Never connect personal devices to government computers, whether via physical connection, Wi-Fi, or Bluetooth[®].



LOCATION

Disable location services when not needed. **DO NOT** bring the device with you to sensitive locations.

POWER

Power the device off and on weekly.

MODIFY

DO NOT jailbreak or root the device.

POP-UPS

Unexpected pop-ups like this are usually malicious. If one appears, forcibly close all applications (i.e., iPhone^{®2}: double tap the Home button* or Android^{®3}: click "recent apps" soft key).

¹For iPhone X^{®2} or later, see: support.apple.com/en-us/HT201330

²Bluetooth[®] is a registered trademark of Bluetooth SIG, Inc.

³iPhone[®] and iPhone[®] applications are a registered trademark of Apple, Inc.

⁴Android[®] is a registered trademark of Google LLC.

The information contained in this document was developed in the course of NSA's Cybersecurity mission, including its responsibilities to assist Executive departments and agencies with operations security programs.

NSA Mobile Devices Best Practices

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT/MITIGATE?

THREAT/VULNERABILITY	Update Software & Apps	Only Install Apps from Official Stores	Turn Off Cellular, WiFi, Bluetooth	Do Not Connect to Public Networks	Use Encrypted Voice/Text/Data Apps	Do Not Click Links or Open Attachments	Turn Device Off & On Weekly	Use Mic-Drowning Case, Cover Camera	Avoid Carrying Device/No Sensitive Conversations Around Device	Lock Device with PIN	Maintain Physical Control of Device	Use Trusted Accessories	Turn Off Location Services
	Spearphishing (To install Malware)												
	Malicious Apps												
	Zero-Click Exploits												
	Malicious Wi-Fi Network/Close Access Network Attack												
	Foreign Lawful Intercept/Untrusted Cellular Network												
	Room Audio/Video Collection												
	Call/Text/Data Collection Over Network												
	Geolocation of Device												
	Close Access Physical Attacks												
Supply Chain Attacks													

Does not prevent (no icon)

Sometimes prevents

Almost always prevents

Disclaimer of Endorsement

The information and opinions contained in this document are provided "as is" and without any warranties or guarantees. Reference herein to any specific commercial products, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government, and this guidance shall not be used for advertising or product endorsement purposes.

NSA Cybersecurity

Client Requirements/General Cybersecurity Inquiries: Cybersecurity Requirements Center, 410.854.4200, Cybersecurity_Requests@nsa.gov.
Media Inquires: Press Desk: 443.634.0721, MediaRelations@nsa.gov.

Netflix Dropping Support For Non-4K Apple TV's

Netflix recently announced that non-4K models won't be able to access the Netflix app after July 31, 2024.

There will be four Apple TV models that will continue to support Netflix:

4th-gen Apple TV HD



Apple TV 4K (1st gen)



Apple TV 4K (3rd gen) Wi-Fi



Apple TV 4K (3rd gen) Wi-Fi + Ethernet



- Model number: A1842
- Year introduced: 2017
- Color: Black
- Capacity: 32 GB or 64 GB

- Model number: A2169
- Year introduced: 2021
- Color: Black
- Capacity: 32 GB or 64 GB

- Model number: A2737
- Year introduced: 2022
- Color: Black
- Capacity: 64 GB

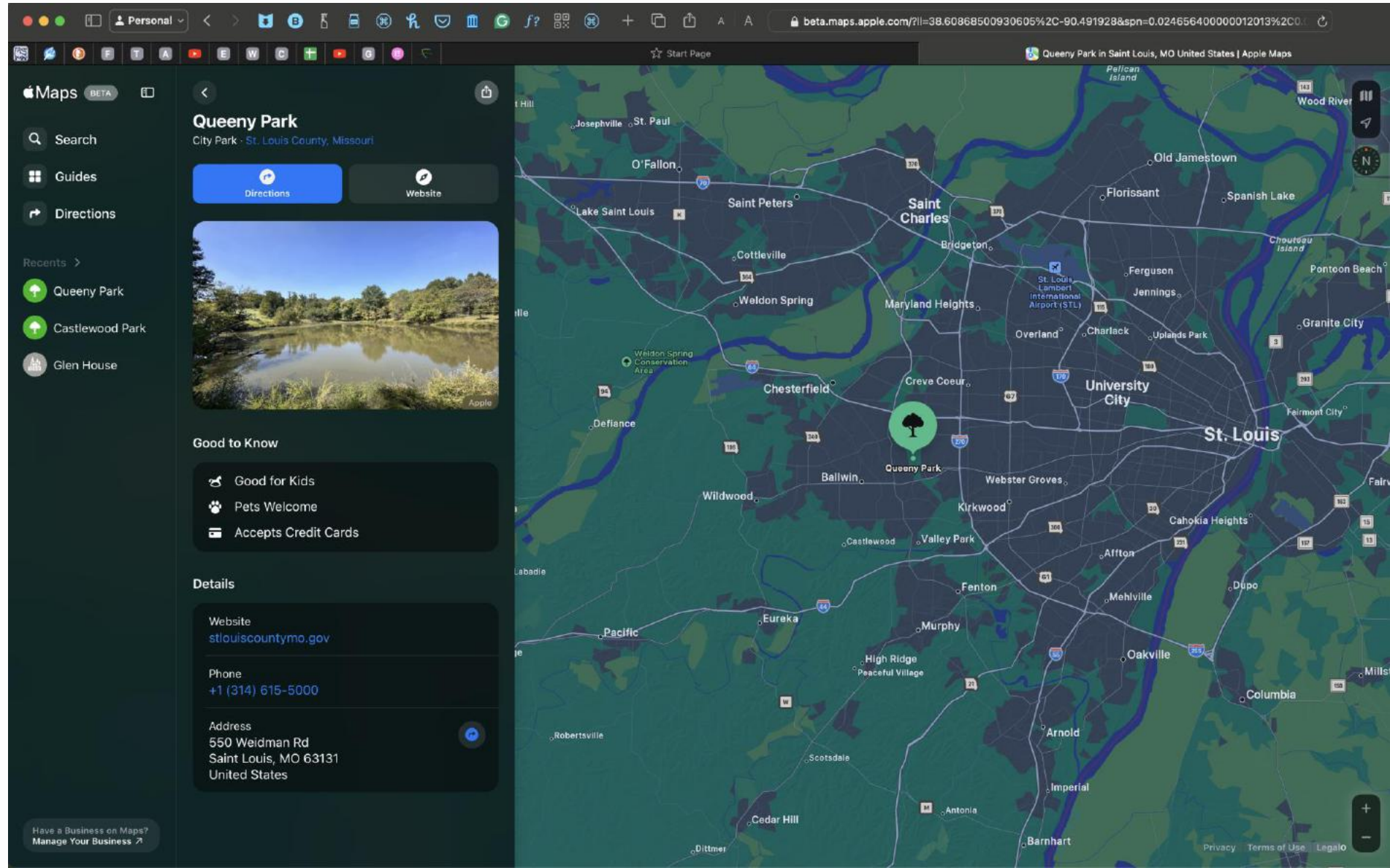
- Model number: A2843
- Year introduced: 2022
- Color: Black
- Capacity: 128 GB

Apple Launches Apple Maps on the Web

July 24, 2024:

“Today, Apple Maps on the web is available in public beta, allowing users around the world to access Maps directly from their browser.”

-Apple



Stop your AirPods from Switching Between Devices

If you're using your AirPods on one of your devices it can be really annoying when your AirPods keep switching to a different device to pick up another audio source.

The biggest annoyance to me is that my MacBook Pro seems to always come last on the list of my devices. Sometimes I'll be listening to something on my MacBook Pro while I've got the TV or game playing on my iPad or my Apple TV. If the audio pauses or stops on my MacBook Pro, my iPad will hijack my AirPods feed.

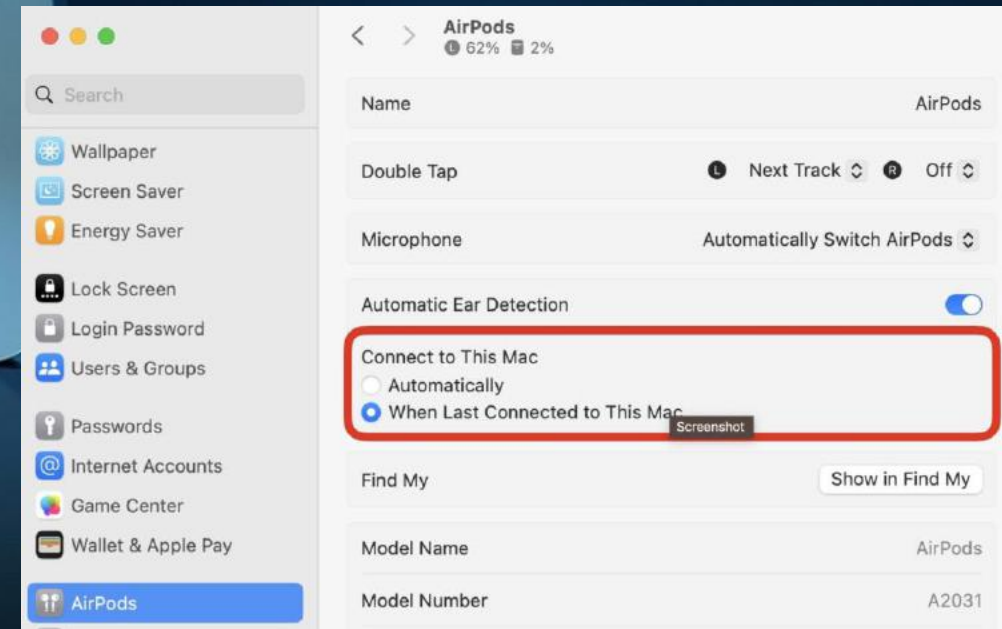
If you want to stop this automatic switching, here's how to disable AirPods auto-switching.



Stop your AirPods from Switching Between Devices

On a Mac:

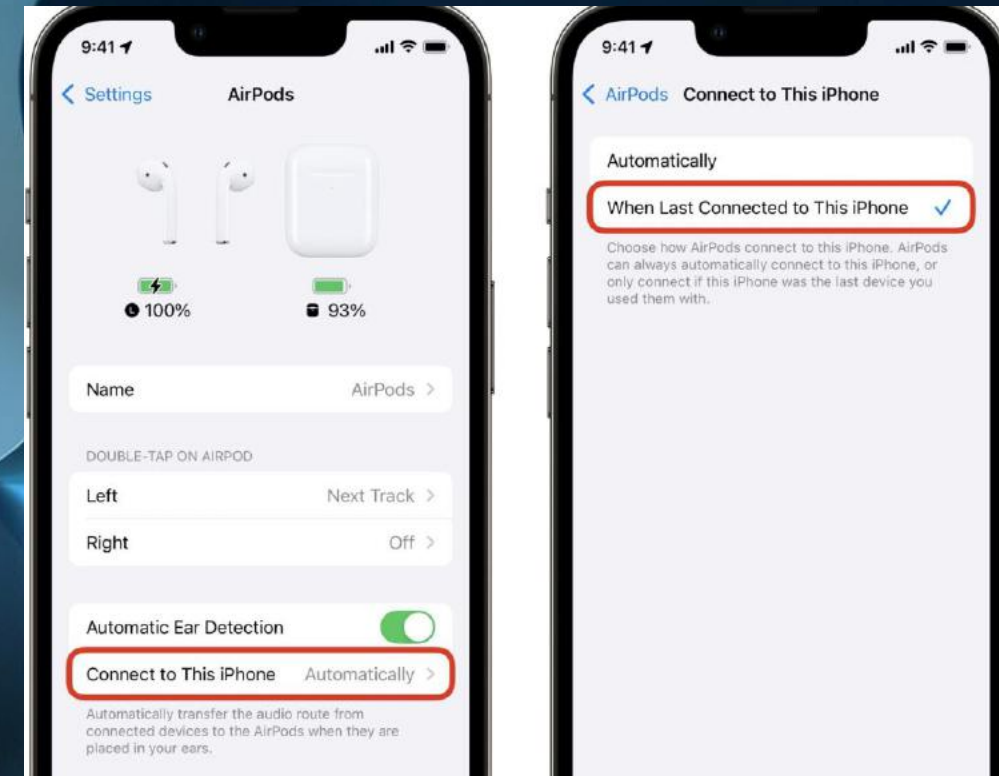
- Connect your AirPods to your Mac
- Under the Apple, Click on Settings
- Scroll down to you see your AirPods in the left hand menu
- In this menu, change “Connect to This Mac” from “Automatically” to “When Last Connected to This Mac”



Stop your AirPods from Switching Between Devices

On an iPhone/iPad:

- Connect your AirPods to your iPhone/iPad
- Open Settings
- Tap on your AirPods at the top of the list to bring up the AirPods settings
- In this menu, change “Connect to This iPhone/iPad” from “Automatically” to “When Last Connected to This iPhone/iPad”





Duck Duck Go Bangs



What are Duck Duck Go Bangs? Bangs are shortcuts that quickly take you directly to a search result's specific page instead of a page of search results. For example, If you want to search for a specific item on Amazon, you can use a bang to take you to that item on Amazon, rather than just doing a generic search.

You might think that I can simply go to that website and do my search, which is true. However, if you have Duck Duck Go set as your default search, you just type this into your browser's search bar and you arrive at the page you want on that website, and this eliminates a step.



Duck Duck Go Bangs



So how does this work? In the Duck Duck Go search bar, start your search by typing an “!” followed by the shortcut abbreviation code for the website you want to use. To continue with our Amazon example, if you want to search on Amazon you would type: “!a” followed by your search term.

Let’s say you want to search for AirPods on Amazon, you would type: “!a AirPods” This would result in:

The screenshot shows the Amazon website interface. At the top, the search bar contains the text "AirPods". Below the search bar, the page displays "1-16 of 600 results for 'AirPods'". The main content area features a "Popular Shopping Ideas" section with four product cards: "Apple AirPods Max Wireless Over-Ear Headphones, Active Noise Cancelling, Tra...", "Apple AirPods Pro (2nd Generation) Wireless Ear Buds with USB-C Charging,..." (priced at \$250), and "Apple AirPods (3rd Generation) Wireless Ear Buds, Bluetooth Headphones, Personalize...". Below this, the "Results" section shows a sponsored product listing for "Apple AirPods (2nd Generation) Wireless Ear Buds, Bluetooth Headphones with Lightning Charging Case Included, Over 24 Hours of Battery Life, Effortless Setup for iPhone". The listing includes a star rating of 4.5, 622,131 reviews, and a price of \$79.99 (list price \$129.00). The "Add to cart" button is highlighted in yellow. The left sidebar contains filters for "Conditions", "Prime Delivery", "Delivery Day", "Department", "Customer Reviews", and "Brands".

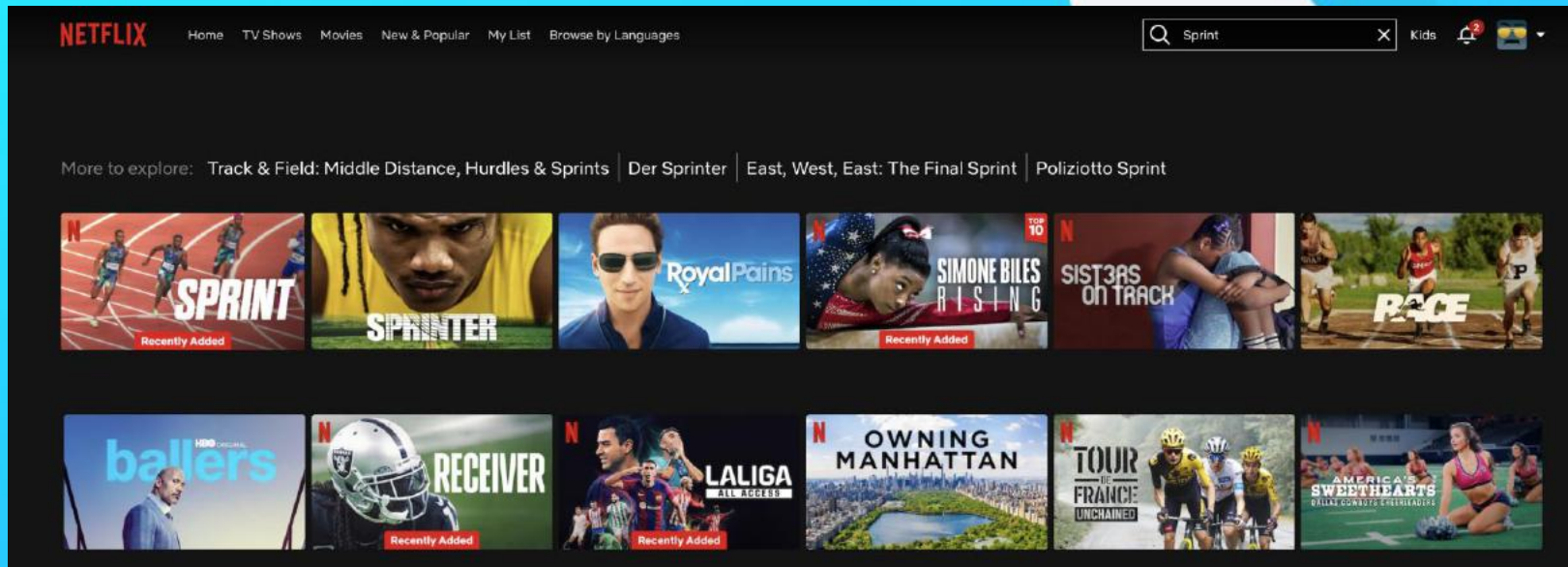


Duck Duck Go Bangs



To search for the show *Sprint* on Netflix, you would type:

“!nf Sprint” This would result in:



For Netflix, it will take you to a page that gives you the most likely results. The show you're looking for is in the upper left corner.



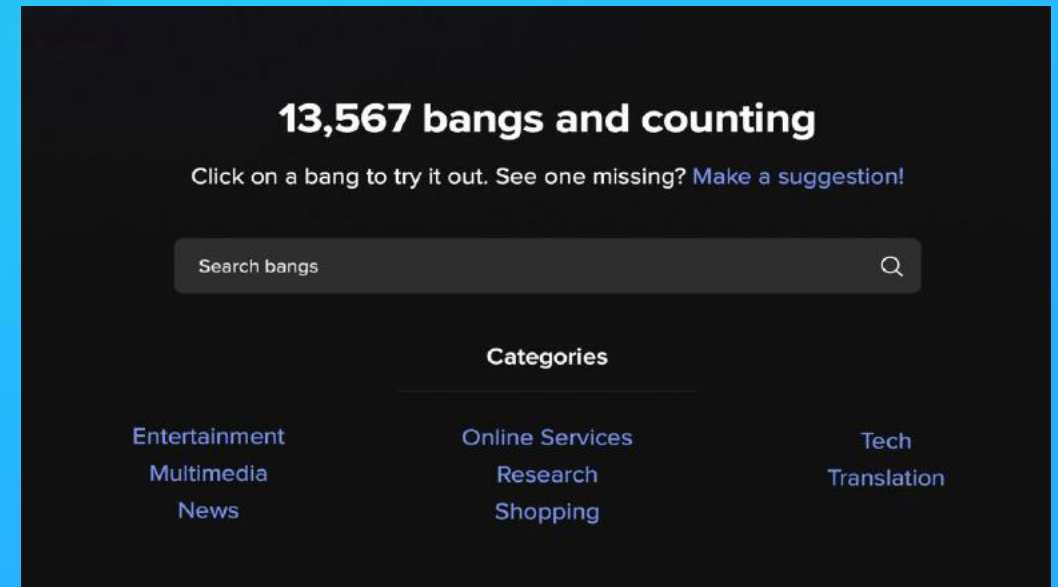
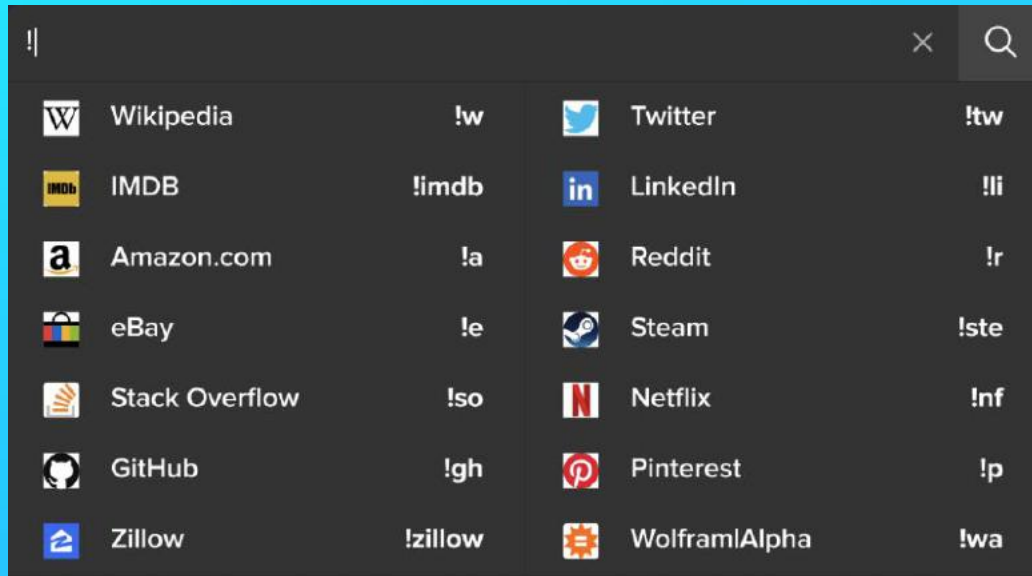
Duck Duck Go Bangs



The key to using bangs in Duck Duck Go, is knowing the shortcut abbreviations to use with the !. If you don't know these then it defeats the purpose of trying to use this and eliminate a step in your search process. Here are some common Bangs:



You can also go to <https://duckduckgo.com/bangs> to search for other bangs. Once you know the bangs then you can use this shortcut.



UTM System Emulator for MacOS and iOS

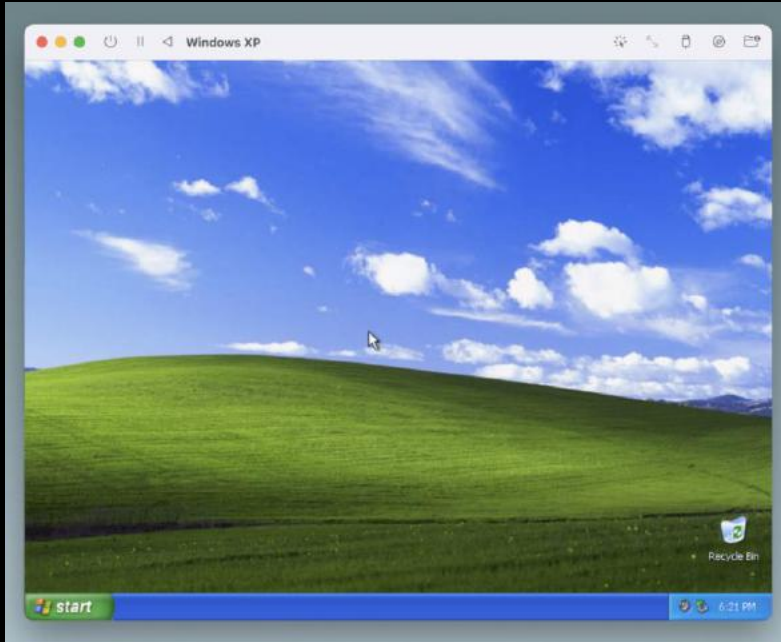
“UTM is a full featured system emulator and virtual machine host for iOS and macOS. It is based off of QEMU. In short, it allows you to run Windows, Linux, and more on your Mac, iPhone, and iPad.”

-<https://mac.getutm.app>

Turing Software has developed an app called UTM that can run virtual systems on Silicon Macs, iPhones and iPads that run iOS and iPadOS 14 or later, and Vision Pro.


UTM System Emulator for MacOS and iOS

UTM can run Windows, Linux, and older MacOS systems.



Windows. Linux. Meet **Apple Silicon**.

UTM employs Apple's Hypervisor virtualization framework to run ARM64 operating systems on Apple Silicon at near native speeds. On Intel Macs, x86/x64 operating system can be virtualized. In addition, lower performance emulation is available to run x86/x64 on Apple Silicon as well as ARM64 on Intel. For developers and enthusiasts, there are dozens of other emulated processors as well including: ARM32, MIPS, PPC, and RISC-V. Your Mac can now truly run anything.




Emulate classic operating systems.

Not only can you run the latest and greatest operating systems, you can also emulate older operating systems whether it's on PowerPC, SPARC, or x86_64. Check out the [gallery](#) for some examples of what you can run.

Virtualize macOS as well.

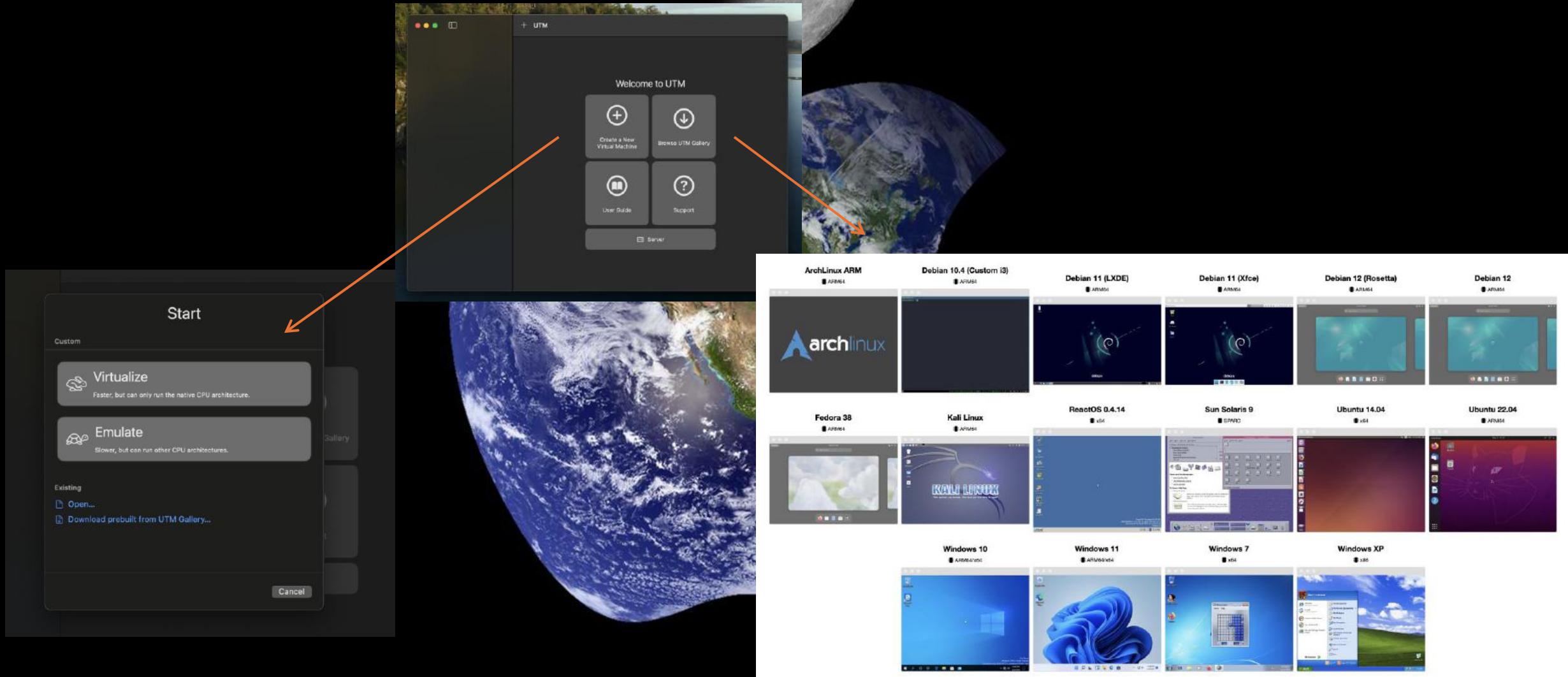
Run multiple instances of macOS on your Apple Silicon Mac with UTM. This can be useful for developers as well as security conscious users. Note that macOS VM support is limited to ARM based Macs running macOS Monterey or higher.



Once you have UTM installed you then have to follow it's prompts to download a system to use. There is a complete user guide to help you. What's odd is you can download the app for free from their website, but the Mac version costs \$9.99 on the app store. The iOS/iPad OS version is called UTM SE and can be downloaded for free on the app store.

UTM System Emulator for MacOS and iOS

In UTM you can download one of their prebuilt emulators or find your own.



Sofabaton X1S Review

At my house we have a finished basement that has 4 main areas including a game/pool area, a bar, a theatre room, and the unfinished storage and work area. Each of the finished areas have televisions that run apps and our Apple TV. To run these and the theatre room, for the past 7 years, I've been using the Logitech Harmony remote system. The Harmony is the gold standard of remotes and can operate devices across the house because it uses a hub and WiFi to talk to devices. However, in 2021, Logitech got out of the remote business and gradually has reduced support for the Harmony. Up until about 6 months ago, my Harmony system was still working fine, but with support being dropped, I can no longer connect to the Harmony servers to edit the devices on my Harmony system. Also, my remote quit talking to my projector in the theatre room. Therefore, I've been searching for a replacement...

Sofabaton X1S Review

What I found is that there really isn't a replacement on the market. The closest I found is the remote I bought, the Sofabaton X1S



Sofabaton X1S Review

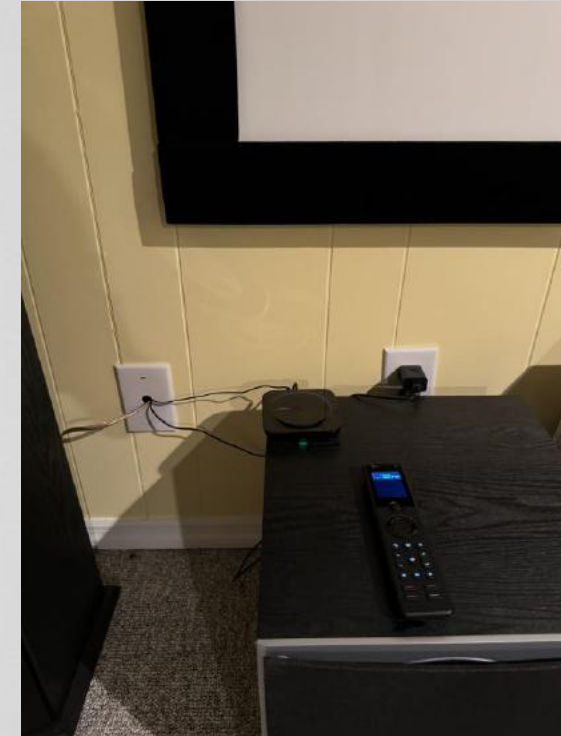
I mainly use the Sofabaton in my theatre room. In this room I have an Epson projector and my theatre screen. In the room next door in the back of my basement is where the rest of my A/V equipment is stored. Most importantly, it's where I keep my receiver and my Apple TV. The Sofabaton doesn't work off of WiFi like the Harmony does and requires a hub in the room to operate devices. So how does this work with devices in two rooms? I have the hub in the theatre room and attached to the hub is an IR repeater that I have wired into the room with the receiver and Apple TV. This allows me to run all of the devices from the theatre room.

The Sofabaton X1S currently costs \$189 on Amazon, but if you follow the price, it often drops briefly and then jumps back up. I put a price watch on it and was alerted to a flash sale where I was able to buy it for \$159.



Sofabaton X1S Review

This is my theatre/music room:



This is the front of the room where I have the hub. Notice the wire running from the back into the wall. That is the IR repeater that goes to the receiver in the next room.



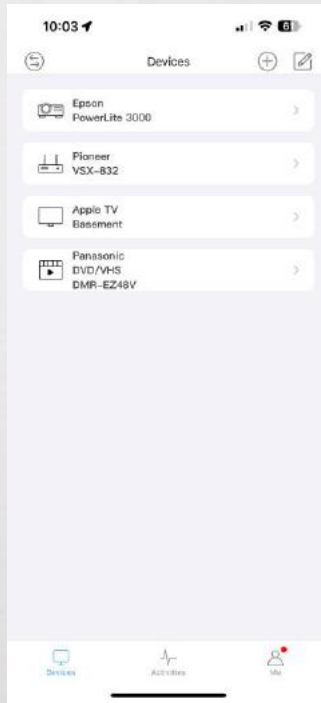
This is my component rack in the back of my basement



You will notice the IR repeater that I taped over the IR reader on the front of the receiver.

Sofabaton X1S Review

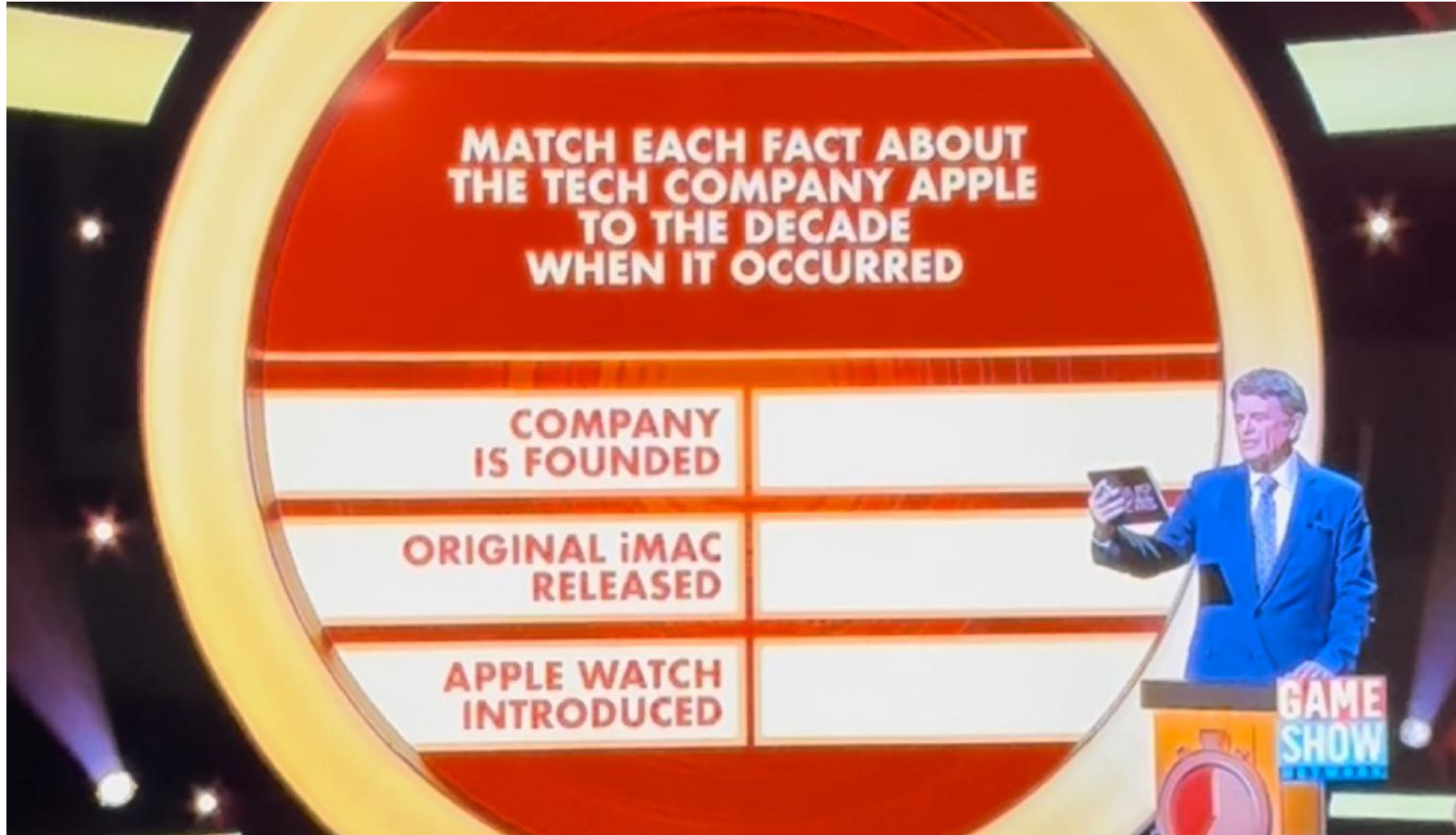
I've used the Sofabaton for about a month now and I'd give it a B- rating. It doesn't rise to the level of the Harmony, but I didn't expect it to. Once you understand how to work it, it's fairly simple use. I like that the remote has good battery life and doesn't have to be pointed exactly at the hub. The companion app that comes with it is pretty easy to use and this is where you program the remote and devices from.



The cons that I've encountered is it took me a while to figure out how to get everything wired up and working. There was a lot of trial and error. The activity setting is a bit wonky, and I haven't gotten that working how I want it yet. Activity allows you to set up a series of devices that will turn on or off at the same time and assign certain buttons to certain devices. I also find having the roller ball for scrolling and selecting and then the directional pad below it for use with devices to be a bit counterintuitive to use. You use the scroll ball to select devices and then power them on and off. The directional pad is used to navigate and select while using a specific device. Like any remote, there is a learning curve to master.

Split Second Game Show Apple Puzzle

My wife was watching the game show Split Second last week and my ears and eyes perked up when they had an Apple related question.



Split Second Game Show Apple Puzzle

My wife was watching the game show Split Second last week and my ears and eyes perked up when they had an Apple related question.

