

# The Window

MACNJ

MACNJ Serving the Central New Jersey Macintosh Community since 1986 November 2013

What do we use our computers to accomplish? How have they helped us think, explore, create and grow? Is your computer usage less that it used to be...or is it more? And isn't it amazing how much computing power we can hold in the palms of our hands these days, or carry around in our pockets?

With the pervasiveness of the social networking sites increasing on a daily basis, we seem to be sharing more and more information that might have just as well remained private. And yet, there is so much great information that we can access and share these days, we'd like to show you a great starting point for some new, personal investigation.

Have you ever heard of TED? Do you know what TED is about?



" It started out in 1984 as a conference bringing together people from three worlds: Technology, Entertainment, Design. Since then its scope has become ever broader. Along with two annual conferences -- the TED Conference and TEDGlobal -- TED includes the award-winning TED Talks video site, the Open Translation Project and TED Conversations, the inspiring TED Fellows and TEDx programs, and the annual TED Prize. TED conferences bring together the world's most fascinating thinkers and doers, who are challenged to give the talk of their lives (in 18 minutes or less). "

The concept behind TED is that ideas should be shared among all people, throughout the world. The TED conference, held annually on the West Coast, includes science, business, the arts, technology, and the global issues facing our world. TEDGlobal meets in new locations throughout the world, with themes specific to the region. Each of the 18 minute talks take place over a 4 day period with 50 speakers interspersed with shorter presentations including music, performances and comedy. All attendees see all of the events. The important thing is that the atmosphere is designed to excite and stimulate thinking on many levels.

There is an amazing array of specialized events that have grown up around the world based on the enthusiasm created by the TED Conferences and the resultant TED Talks. If the content of the conferences was limited to those attending in person, it would be sad, indeed. Luckily for the rest of us, speakers and performers have been recorded as TED Talks video events and have been made available via the TED website. There are over 1500 titles to peruse free of charge with subjects on the leading edge of creative thinking, research and development. TED Talks will make up the program for our next MACNJ meeting.

So come to this Saturday's meeting (November 9th) and check out some amazing ideas... We'll have a sampling of some of the newest experimental uses of robots, see the flying power of Quadcopters, a mechanical bird that Leonardo DaVinci would have loved, watch with awe Google's driverless car and visit with David Pogue and learn a few tricks for your mobile computer.

Coffee, bagels and doughnuts as usual. Bring a friend!

## Future portrayed in new novel is eerily close to our present

by Allan Hoffman, 10/25/13, the Star Ledger (reprinted with permission)

You can't read "The Circle," Dave Eggers's novel about a powerful internet company, and not recognize the book's dystopian vision in our own obsessions with sharing and social media.

The novel, set in the near future, is an engaging mix of social satire and cautionary tale. It tells the story of Mae, a young woman whose life is up-ended after being hired by the Circle, a company portrayed as a mix of Facebook and Google. Already a best-seller, the book is igniting discussions about a future where privacy is eroded, surveillance is the norm, and sharing your life online is a must.

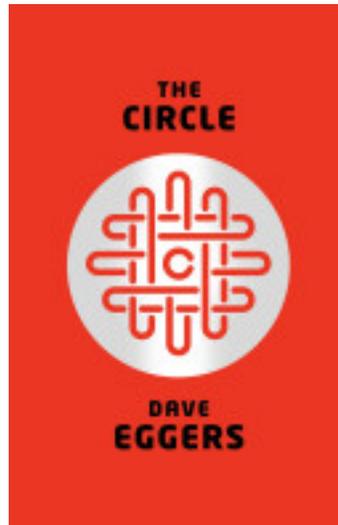
The book may not be our era's "1984," but it certainly captures the perils of the internet — and, in particular, the over-the-top utopianism sometimes espoused by technology executives — more than any other novel of recent years. Even if you don't plan to read it, you'll want to be able to talk about it. Here's a guide to the issues it tackles:

### All information must be known.

As Eric Schmidt, Google's executive chairman, once said, "I don't believe society understands what happens when everything is available, knowable and recorded by everyone all the time." That's where we're headed, and Eggers gives a sense of what we're in for. Wearable cameras capable of broadcasting your life? Health bracelets to record your bodily rhythms and transmit the details to databases in the cloud? These are already here, if not in widespread use.

### Sharing is mandatory.

Early in the novel, in a scene that's both hilarious and foreboding, Mae is castigated by representatives from human resources for not "sharing" (that is, posting online) the details of an afternoon kayak trip. After all, she



could have documented what she saw. "It's just maddening," an HR rep says, "thinking of how much knowledge is lost every day through this kind of shortsightedness." Sharing is a compulsion among Circlers, as they're called — essentially a mandated condition of their employment.

### Privacy is an outdated concept.

Or, as a Circle slogan has it, "Privacy is theft." Open information — transparency — is viewed as a public good. Privacy? It's an act of selfishness — almost a crime.

### Influence will be ranked.

The employees of the Circle engage in a frenzied competition to climb up a company ranking of their participation in social media. Sign up for Klout ("grow your influence by sharing your passions and expertise"), and you'll see something like this in action now: "The Klout Score is a 1-100 number showing how influential you are. See how you compare online."

### Solitude is strange and anti-social.

The word "alone," when it appears in the book, carries an almost ominous weight. Being alone — without a friend, without a device to connect to others — is viewed as really, really weird.

### Technology can solve every problem.

The wizards at the Circle have an implicit faith in technology. As Mae thinks at one point, "Homelessness could be helped or fixed, she knew, once the gamification of shelter allotment and public housing in general was complete." With more information, the thinking goes, everything can be solved — disease eradicated, child abduction ended, auto accidents reduced in number.

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## Everything will be recorded.

Cameras are everywhere in the world of “The Circle,” either worn by people, to record every moment (and be “clear” or “transparent”), or installed unobtrusively around the globe. Sounds creepy, but guess what? If you encounter someone wearing Google Glass, the company’s wearable internet device, you might not realize you’re being recorded.

## Information lasts forever.

When you post something online (or record it, even inadvertently), it stays there — no matter how lurid. Mae learns this in an incident I would rather not share. (Think Anthony Weiner.) As one of the Circle’s leaders

tells her, “You know we don’t delete.”

“The Circle” portrays an increasingly brainwashed population enthralled with online sharing and the life of the screen. Is the world conjured in the novel a far-off dystopia?\* I’d like to think so, but when you see what technology is up next — wearable, internet-connected displays, such as Google Glass, and smartwatches with the world’s information available at a glance — you’ve got to wonder whether the novel’s near-future is very, very close to our present.

\*dystopia is the opposite of a utopia

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# 1Password 4 for iOS Updated to Support Wi-Fi Sync

by Josh Centers

Earlier this month, when 1Password 4 was released for Mac, I raved about the return of Wi-Fi Sync. There was just one problem: AgileBits hadn’t yet updated the iOS version to enable the feature.

Thankfully, [1Password 4 for iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/1password-password-manager/id568903335?mt=8&at=1015PW) [https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/1password-password-manager/id568903335?mt=8&at=1015PW] (\$17.99) has now been updated to version 4.3 to support Wi-Fi Sync. Once you have the update, follow these steps to enable the feature.

In the Mac version of 1Password, choose Window > Wi-Fi Sync (Command-9) to display a pairing code.



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Then, in the iOS version of 1Password, tap Settings > Wi-Fi Sync, select your computer from the list, tap the Secret field and enter the code.



After you've finished the setup, to sync your logins over Wi-Fi, make sure you have the iOS app open and unlocked, and then choose Window > Wi-Fi Sync in the Mac app.

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## Explaining Podcasts in iTunes 11.1

by Josh Centers

When Apple released iTunes 11.1, I was excited to see that it offered expanded podcast capabilities, such as iCloud syncing and the creation of smart podcast playlists, which Apple calls “stations”. However, we’ve heard from a number of readers who are confused about how podcasts now work in iTunes, and after playing around with it, I was confused myself. After a couple of weeks of use, I think I’ve finally figured it out, apart from what I certainly hope are bugs in iCloud syncing.

I’ll start by explaining the easy stuff — subscribing and listening to podcasts, and managing stations — before

delving into the confusing aspects of managing and syncing podcasts.

**Subscribe to Podcasts** -- There are two ways to subscribe to a podcast in iTunes 11.1: inputting a URL manually or finding it in the iTunes Store.

To subscribe to a podcast manually, copy its URL (presumably from a Web site that’s offering it), and in iTunes, select File > Subscribe to Podcast. A window opens with a URL field. Paste in the URL and click OK.

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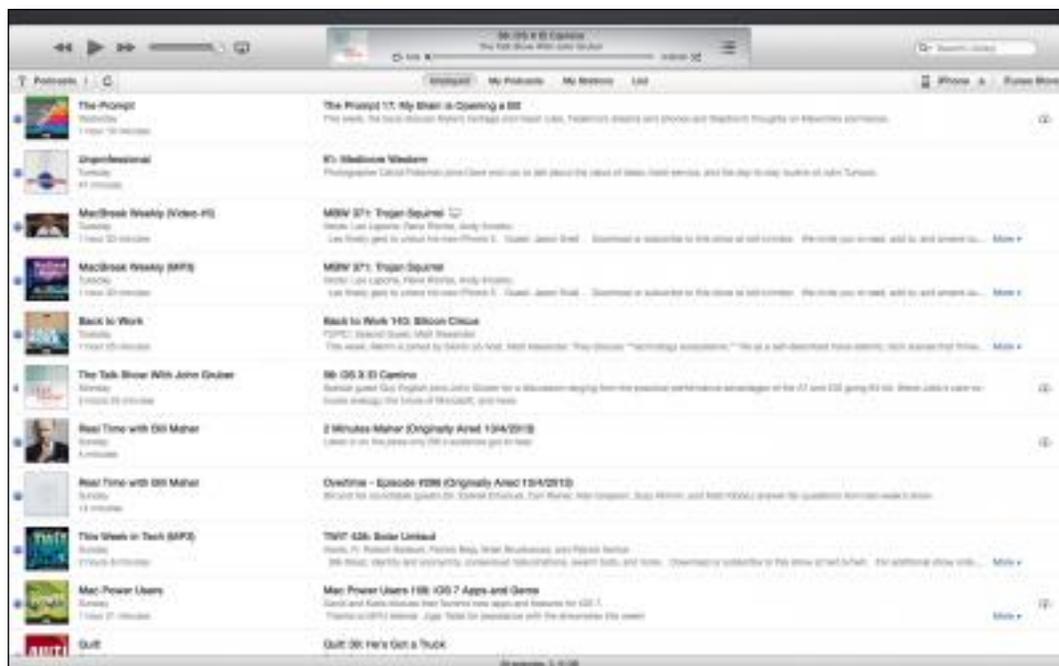
To find a podcast and subscribe via the iTunes Store, click the iTunes Store link in the upper right of the main iTunes window or in the iTunes sidebar, if showing, assuming you're not already in that screen. Click the Podcasts action label toward the top to see all available podcasts, or click the arrow to the right of the Podcasts action label for a menu of podcast categories. Of course, you can search for a specific podcast via the search box in the upper right, and many podcast Web sites link directly to their pages in the iTunes Store.

Once you click a podcast to view its details, you can click the big Subscribe button in the left-hand column to subscribe.

## Listen to Podcasts

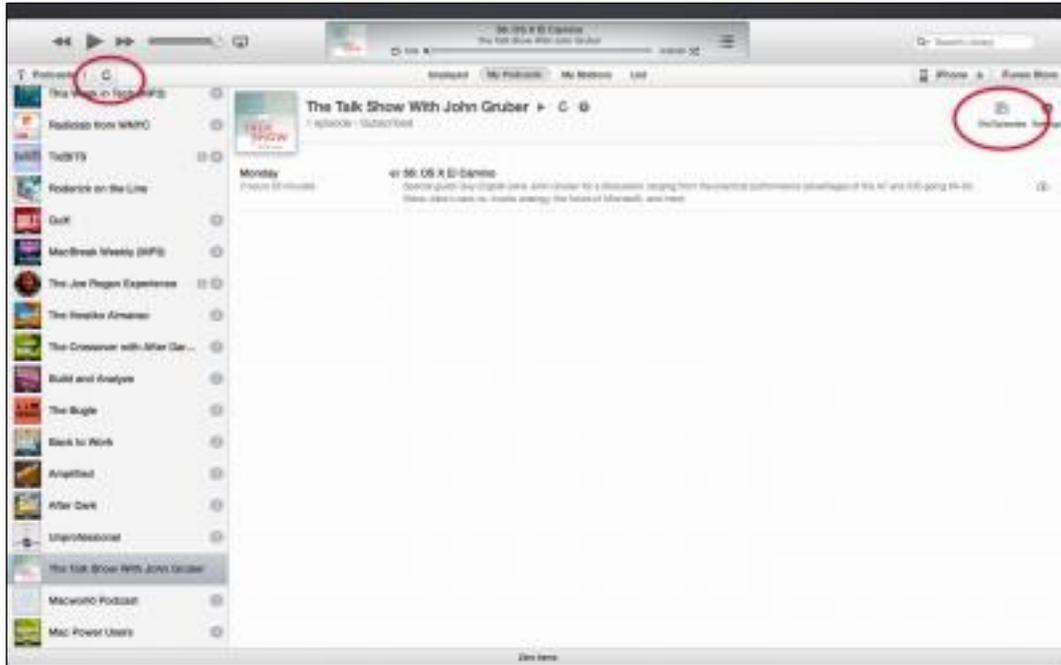
-- To listen to podcasts, first enter the Podcasts view in your iTunes Library. (If you're not already in your Library, click the Library button on the right side of the iTunes window, and then choose Podcasts from the pop-up menu on the left or select it in the sidebar, if showing.) There are four ways to view podcasts, selectable by action labels in the top-center of the window: Unplayed, My Podcasts, List, and My Stations, the last of which I'll discuss separately.

Unplayed shows unplayed individual episodes, sorted in order of release, with the newest episodes on top. To play an episode, just double-click it.

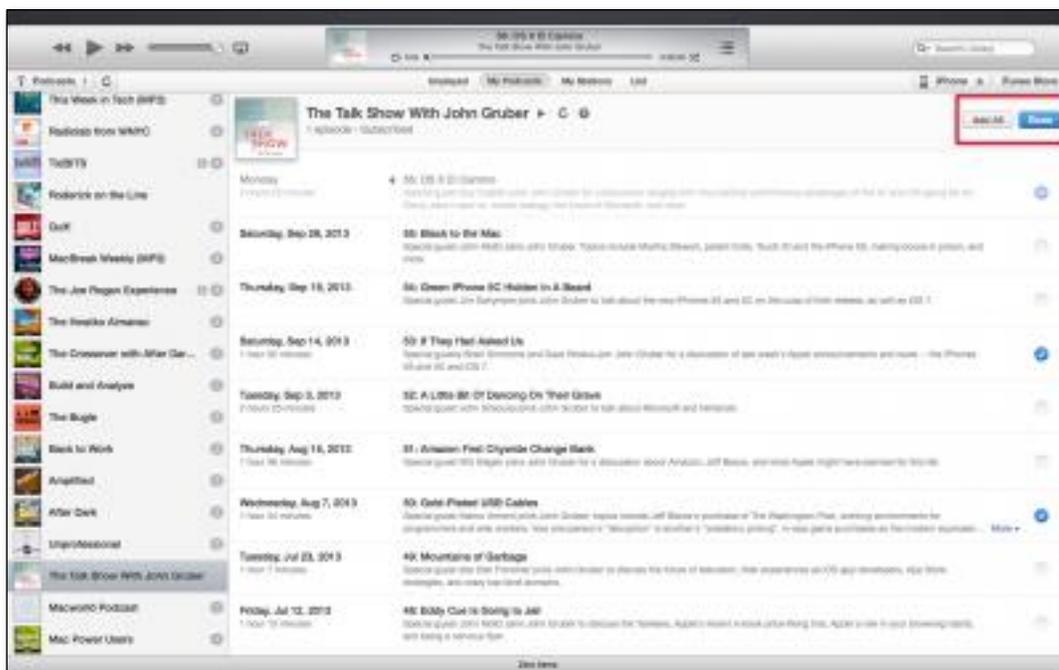


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If the episode you want isn't showing, click the Old Episodes button to the right of the screen to reveal the entire list of available episodes. To add an episode to your listening queue, click the circle to the right so that it's filled by a checkmark, or click the Add All button at the top. Click Done and the episode(s) will be in the list.



The most familiar way to view your podcasts is probably the List view, which presents your podcast subscriptions and episodes in classic iTunes "spreadsheet" format. You can click column headers to sort podcasts by length, release date, or any number of other options available by Control-clicking a column name and adding a new column. Click the arrows toward the left of each podcast name to expand a subscription and view individual episodes. When a subscription is collapsed, it's described by the information from the latest episode

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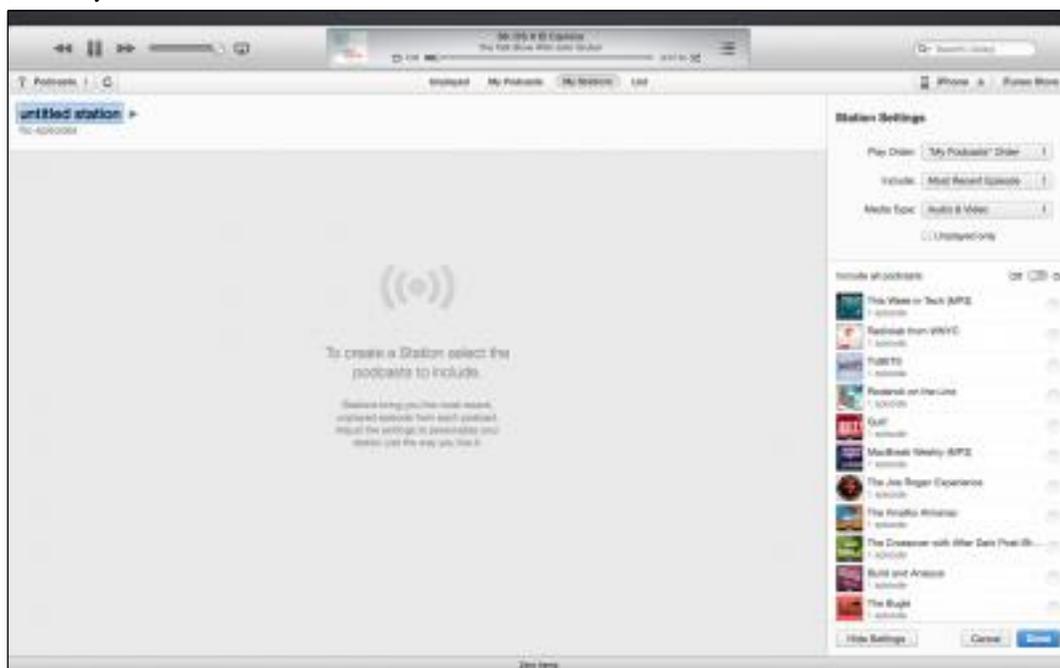


from iCloud and make it available only on your computer.

In most situations, I don't recommend using playlists for podcasts. Stations are designed specifically for podcasts, and, in theory, sync to the Podcasts apps in iOS and on the Apple TV.



By default, iTunes gives you a station called Most Recent that features the most recent episode from each of your subscriptions. But you're not limited to that station. To get started with adding a new one, click the plus sign at the bottom of the My Stations sidebar, and enter a name for the station.

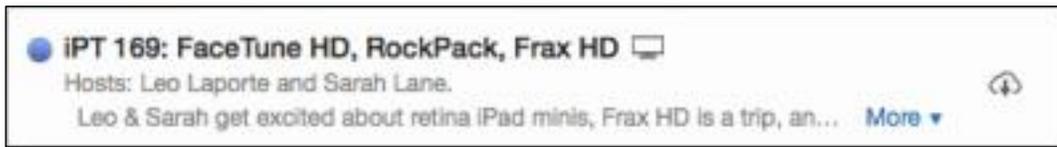


Apple provides a number of helpful options for stations. You can include all subscribed podcasts or choose them individually from the list. In the station settings, you can configure play order; how many episodes of each podcast to include; and whether you want audio, video, or both. You can also choose to include only unplayed podcasts. With these settings, you could easily set up a station that includes only the last two unplayed video podcasts from

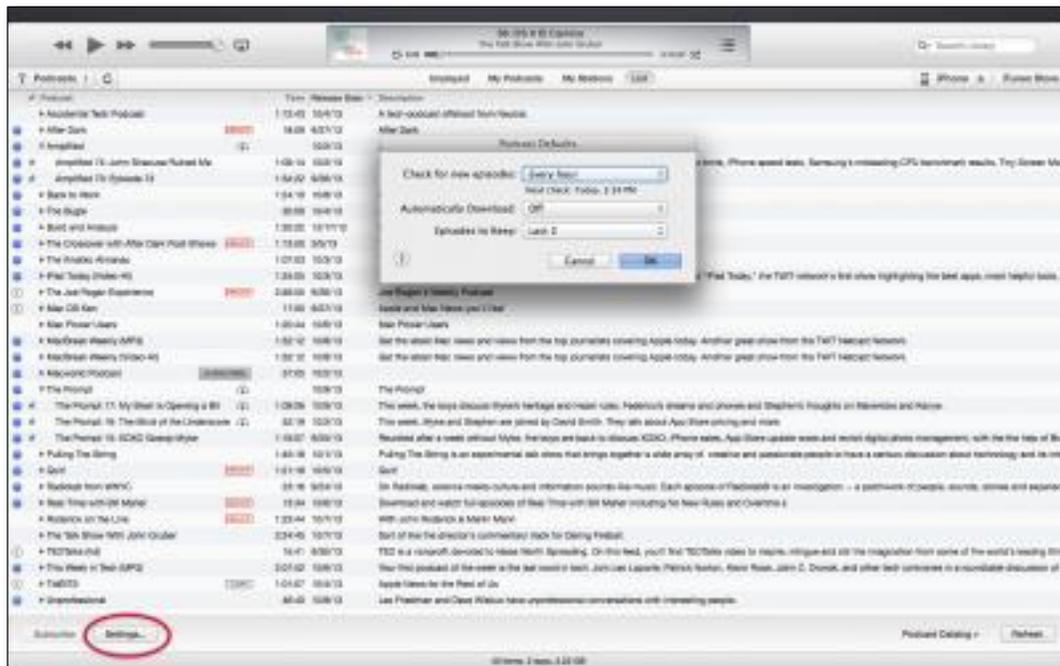
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the TWiT Network, for instance, or the most recent episode from each of four food-related podcasts you listen to. Back in the My Stations view, double-click a station in the sidebar list to start playing its first episode, or double-click an individual episode in the list to the right. As noted previously, the media keys cycle through episodes in the station.

**Manage Podcasts** -- So far, so good. Where things start to get confusing is when you want to delete or unsubscribe from a podcast. Part of the confusion stems from the fact that iTunes can now play either downloaded podcast episodes or episodes stored in the cloud. If an episode isn't stored locally, its description will be badged with a cloud icon with an arrow in the center



Is it preferable to download episodes or stream them from the cloud? My take is that, unless your Mac is frequently offline, it's generally better to turn off downloads so you don't have to waste disk space on them. To set defaults for all podcasts, enter the List view, click the Settings button at the bottom left of the screen, and then set Automatically Download to Off. In this dialog, you can also tell iTunes how often to check for new episodes and how many episodes to keep.



To override the default settings for an individual podcast, go to the My Podcasts view, select a show in the sidebar, and then click the Settings button in the upper right corner of the screen to reveal a pane that lets you tweak the options and set the sort order. Click Done when you're finished.

To remove an episode, subscription, or station, select it, click Delete, and confirm your action. If you're deleting something that's associated with local files, iTunes asks if you want to delete them as well, but it does so only if

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they're in your iTunes Media folder. Now that iTunes 11.1 can stream podcasts from the cloud, there's much less reason to download at all, as I mentioned before, and there's little worry about deleting local files since you can always get the episodes back from Old Episodes.

**Figure Out Sync** -- In theory, iTunes 11.1 syncs your podcast subscriptions, stations, and playback positions via iCloud among iTunes, the iOS Podcasts [<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/podcasts/id525463029?mt=8&at=1015PW>] app, and the Apple TV Podcasts app. (Check your settings to make sure syncing is enabled everywhere. In iTunes, look in the Store pane of the Preferences window. In iOS, look in Settings > Podcasts. On an Apple TV, make sure you're signed into the same iTunes account under Settings > iTunes Store.)

What this means is that you should be able to subscribe to a podcast and have it appear on your Mac, iPhone, iPad, and Apple TV. Listen to part of an episode on any one of the devices, and when you pause and later use another device you should be able to pick up exactly where you left off. That's how it works, in theory. In theory, the U.S. government is functional.

The reality is that syncing of this information through iCloud is confused beyond belief, rife with incorrect and inconsistent behavior. In extensive testing, we experienced a variety of problems, at least some of the time. Sometimes one problem went away, only to be replaced by another.

- Podcast subscriptions disappearing and reappearing randomly, and differently on four devices
- Subscriptions syncing from one device to another in only one direction
- Available episodes in a podcast differing between devices
- Stations syncing without their underlying subscriptions syncing as well

- Playback position syncing from iTunes to an iPhone, but not an iPad

If you'd rather sync podcasts via USB between iTunes and your iOS device, you can still do so, but it's not clear to me if it works any better (and of course won't work with the Apple TV). If you're accustomed to listening to podcasts in the iOS Music app, sorry. Apple stripped all podcast functionality from the Music app in iOS 7, so you must now use the Podcasts app to access podcasts synced from iTunes. (If you use **Downcast** [<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/downcast/id393858566?mt=8&at=1015PW>] for iOS, which also relies on iCloud for syncing, all of Apple's apps will pick up your Downcast subscriptions, but Downcast won't see changes from Apple's apps.)

**Just Use Instacast** -- After trying to use iTunes 11.1 to listen to podcasts for a few weeks, I'm going back to Instacast for Mac and iOS, and I suggest you do so as well. Even after completely overhauling the way podcasts are handled, it's obvious that Apple just doesn't get it. Syncing is broken, iTunes doesn't offer sensible controls for podcast listening, and the Podcasts app's iOS 6 aesthetic looks and feels horribly dated.

What's so frustrating is that it's almost good. If Apple fixed syncing so everything synced bidirectionally among all apps, implemented better playback controls in iTunes, and redesigned the Podcasts app for iOS 7, then the company would have a decent solution for most people. But after watching several attempts over recent years, I'm convinced that Apple just doesn't have the interest in applying its usual attention to detail to podcasts as it does to other things.

For full attention to podcast detail, turn to **Vemedio** [<http://vemedio.com/>], developers of Instacast, which has been updated, for free, for iOS 7. The Mac version of Instacast is also excellent, and the sync between the two is nearly perfect, other than a brief outage earlier this month that was nicely and apologetically explained by Vemedio. Together, both apps cost \$25, but if you're a frequent listener who likes to switch between devices, the investment is well worth it.

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# How to Prevent Google from Monetizing Your Face

by Josh Centers

Google caused a commotion when it announced updates to its Terms of Service to allow the search giant to begin using user reviews in ads. (Users are alerted to the changes by a bar that appears at the top of at least some Google sites.) “Shared endorsements,” as Google calls them, will place your name, photo, comments, and ratings in Web ads seen by your friends. This can include businesses reviewed in Google Maps, reviews from the Google Play store, and anything on the Web for which you’ve clicked a +1 button.



This isn’t quite as troubling as it first appears. After all, the entire point of reviewing products is to inform the public. That said, I have two problems with Google’s approach.

First, if Google is going to monetize the work of its users, then it should share the profits. Companies pay celebrities big bucks for endorsements — we common folk should be compensated as well. Such an approach would encourage even more users to review products, although it might lead to an epidemic of sock puppetry.

Second, whether or not Google were to share revenues with users, the addition of user reviews to Web ads could give Google an uncomfortable incentive to encourage positive reviews and possibly hide or sanitize negative ones.

The good news is that it’s easy to opt out of shared endorsements, and you may already have opted out in the distant past by answering a similar question while signing up for Google+. Just visit the [Shared Endorsements settings page](https://plus.google.com/settings/endorsements?hl=en) [https://plus.google.com/settings/endorsements?hl=en] and deselect the checkbox reading “Based upon my activity, Google may show my name and profile photo in shared endorsements that appear in ads.” (Parsing the meaning of the checkbox with such wording is on par with having to select the Limit Ad Tracking option in Apple’s iOS privacy settings to opt out of ad tracking; fortunately, Apple moved that control from iOS 6’s hidden Settings > General > About > Advertising location to the sensible Settings > Privacy > Advertising spot in iOS 7.)



While we certainly don’t recommend allowing Google to use your work in shared endorsements, at least Google lets you opt out. Facebook’s “sponsored stories” do very much the same thing, and Facebook doesn’t let you to opt out, only control who can see your activity [https://www.facebook.com/help/222629841080902]. (Facebook introduced sponsored stories in January 2011 without changing its terms of service and ended up paying \$20 million to settle the resulting class-action suit.) It’s hard to imagine that Twitter isn’t planning a similar feature.

And yes, it is legal for these companies to do this — apart from Google’s opt-out option, your only real defense is to stop recommending things via social media services.

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## USE THE MACNJ FORUM!

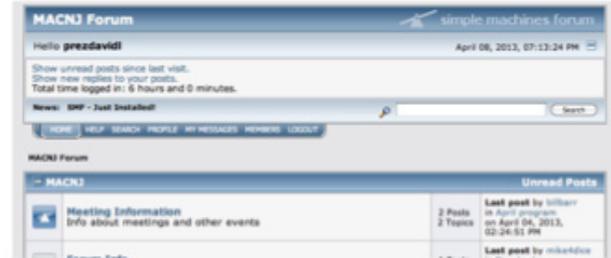
Our forum, using new software to keep out spambots, is only as good as we make it. All members are encouraged to use the forum. It can be of great help in answering questions, providing news, etc., between meetings.

### To Register:

There are two links to the forum on the MACNJ home page; or go to [macnj.org/forum/](http://macnj.org/forum/) and you are there.

**Click on "register"** (top right). You'll have to agree to conditions.

**Enter a user name** which can be used to identify you as member of MACNJ—not strange encrypted names such as xyz123— or you won't be approved. Check the member list to see what names have been accepted.



### Enter a valid email address.

**Enter and confirm your password.** Then remember it! **You can also stay logged-in**, if desired. Look under Profile Information and **enter your location** (City, State). This is mandatory. Enter any other profile information which you choose to use. Click "submit" button, bottom of page. You will be notified by email that you are registered as a MACNJ Forum member. Most questions about the forum are answered in the FAQ Section.



*"You should check your e-mails more often. I fired you over three weeks ago."*

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# Meeting Notes, October 12, 2013

by Doris Kiziah

Before the start of the meeting, Jim Trier passed around his phone to show a photo of Juliet, the new addition to his family. During the sharing and question time, Bill Barr's comment about not having the right adapter to connect a device as part of the program demo prompted Chod Lang to mention that [Monoprice.com](http://Monoprice.com) is a good web source for purchasing adapters, with lower costs than Apple. Chod mentioned that he can't get his apps onto his new phone. The problem started with his old phone and he thought it was because the phone was broken. One suggestion was to try installing just one app and see if that works (or what kind of message it prompts). Chod also mentioned that he was able to partition his computer, which was running Snow Leopard, before he installed Mountain Lion. So he is still able to use some of his older applications. This prompted a discussion of how updates affect availability of older software applications.

Jim asked for suggestions from the photographers at the meeting for storing and editing photos. Lee Roth said he stores all photos in Aperture and uses Elements for editing. Other tools mentioned for handling photos were PhotoZoom Pro for resizing images, iView MediaPro for managing various digital files and Authentec Perfectly Clear for automatically improving images.

David shared with us a video featuring cardiologist Dr. Eric Topol discussing and showing a number of technologies and gadgets that can provide better care at lower cost, often using little more than a sensor connected to a smartphone. If you would like to see the interview, here's the link: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=oB-jUOOrtk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oB-jUOOrtk).

We also watched a video on [MacMost.com](http://MacMost.com) with information about some useful new features in iOS 7, including an option for Dynamic Wallpaper (moving bubbles and choice of color), how to see time stamps on messages and the fact that you can correct Siri's pronunciation of names or words. This website also has many, many video tutorials for users of Apple products. Bob Fasanella had updated his iPad with iOS 7, and we got to see it projected on the screen while he shared some of the changes and new features with us.

Bill told us about Cyclemeter, a 5 star iPhone app he uses to track info when cycling, but which can also be used for walking or running. It reads and records heart rate and other info, then the results can be emailed or shared online. Cost is \$4.99 at the app store.



# MACNJ Meeting Information

Check the latest meeting information on the MACNJ website at [www.macnj.org](http://www.macnj.org)



MACNJ's general monthly meetings are usually held on the second Saturday of each month at Voorhees High School, in High Bridge, New Jersey, from 9 AM to noon. Visitors are welcome.

## From the Morristown area

Go west on State Route 24 to County Route 513. Go southwest on 513 for 4.9 miles through Califon. Continue on 513.

Voorhees High School will be on the left at 256 Route 513, across from Voorhees State Park.

## From the Somerville area

Go north on US Route 202 until it intersects with interstate 287. Take I-287 northwest for 4.2 miles to I-78 west. Follow I-78 west for 13 miles to Route 31 north (this is the Clinton/Washington exit.) Follow Route 31 north 2.1 miles to a traffic light where there will be a sign for High Bridge. Turn right onto County Route 513. Follow 513 north for two miles into the town of High Bridge. Voorhees High School is two miles further north at 256 Route 513, on the right, across from Voorhees State Park.

## From points west

Go east on I-78 to exit 15 (Clinton/Washington exit for Route 31 north) Follow 31 north 2.1 miles to a traffic light with a sign for High Bridge. Turn right onto County Route 513 North. Follow 513 for two miles into the town of High Bridge. Voorhees High School is two miles further at 256 Route 513, on the right, across from Voorhees State Park.

## From the Flemington area

Take Route 31 north past Clinton to a traffic light with a sign for High Bridge. Turn right onto County Route 513 north. Follow 513 for two miles into the town of High Bridge. Voorhees High School is two miles further at 256 Route 513, on the right, across from Voorhees State Park.

## Parking and Entrances

Parking is plentiful and free. Park in the main parking lot of the school, enter the main entrance by the flag pole, and follow the signs for the MACNJ meeting room in the choir room on the first floor.



Photo by Bill Barr



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# MACNJ Member Directory



## Officers and Committee Chairs

David L. Davis, President.....(908) 782-0788  
Robert H. Peabody, Emeritus This & That... (908) 995-9110  
Bill Barr, Program Chair.....(908) 730-8418  
Michael W. Fordice, PhD, Webmaster.....(973) 361-3715  
Bob Fasanello, Co-Newsletter Editor.....(908) 537-2803  
David L. Davis, Acting Co-Newsletter Editor  
David L. Davis, Acting Treasurer  
Hugh Murphy, Jr., Secretary.....(609) 660-1052

## General Membership

Xochitl (Sheila) Barnes.....xochitlb@comcast.net  
Bill Barr.....thepegroup@earthlink.net  
Bob Brickman.....robrick1965@earthlink.net  
Ronni Buffington.....vbuff@verizon.net  
Rosemary Carnali.....rmcarnali@yahoo.com  
Chris Carter.....chrisarterart@gmail.com  
Walter Chandoha.....chandoha@embarqmail.com  
Jonathan Clymer.....macmobile@pottersville-nj.us  
Kathy Counterman.....kcounter@ptd.net  
Graham Curtis.....curtisgr@verizon.net  
David Davis.....davidldavis@comcast.net  
Lia DiStefano.....Liadida@verizon.net  
Erika Eick.....erikaeick@me.com  
John Eick.....erikaeick@me.com  
Bob Fasanello.....hrhbob@mac.com  
Mike Fordice.....mike4dice@gmail.com  
Herbert Goodfriend.....bonami@mailforce.net

Stephanie Griffin.....s\_griffin@verizon.net  
Salima Griffin.....griffin\_srg@verizon.net  
Doris Kiziah.....dwkiziah@comcast.net  
Chod Lang.....chodlang1@mac.com  
Ed Lavan.....edlla@ptd.net  
Kent Loudon.....nkloudon@verizon.net  
Debbie Lynch.....catatudes@comcast.net  
Bryan Marten.....bry\_mart@yahoo.com  
Dennis McAvoy.....dennismcavoy11@me.com  
Don McBride.....don@mcbride.name  
Jim McMekin.....jmcmeikin@comcast.net  
Sheila Meiman.....sjmeiman@meiman.com  
Stan Menscher.....stan.menscher@gmail.com  
Barbara Middleton.....mail4u@centurylink.net  
Michael Middleton.....mail4u@centurylink.net  
Margo Murphy.....margo2@comcast.net  
Hugh Murphy Jr.....murphthesurf@mac.com  
Bob Peabody.....pagprolog@aol.com  
Barbara Peabody.....lockburner@aol.com  
Frank Peluso.....fpeluso@comcast.net  
Lee Roth.....lbr@lawroth.com  
Dennis Spence.....dennis@nac.net  
Bruce Thomson, Jr.....blackriver@me.com  
Jim Trier.....jamesjtrier@gmail.com  
Allan Warner.....awarner@allem.com  
Geoff Withington.....with@embarqmail.com  
Christine Wojtaszek.....chriswo@mac.com

## About the Member List

Every effort is made to keep the member directory current. If your name has disappeared from the list, you may be delinquent in your dues. Send all address updates, changes and corrections to President David Davis.

## Member Benefits

MACNJ User Group members in good standing are encouraged to take advantage of the following savings and benefits

### Peachpit Press

Peachpit Press provides our group members with a **30%** discount off the list price of any of their books. At check-out, right before you put your credit card number in, you must enter the user group coupon code UE-23AA-PEUF (case-sensitive). This coupon code is an exclusive offer that may not be used in conjunction with any other coupon codes.

### O'Reilly & Associates

Don't forget, you can receive **35%** off any O'Reilly, No Starch, Paraglyph, Pragmatic Bookshelf, SitePoint, or Syngress book you purchase directly from O'Reilly. Just use code DSUG when ordering online or by phone 800-998-9938. ordering at <<http://www.oreilly.com>>.

### Vendor Offers For MUGs

The MUG Center, the Resource Site Macintosh for User Groups, offers a number of software, shareware, and hardware specials for User Group members. Visit <<http://www.mugcenter.com/vendornews/vendornews.html>>.

# MACNJ Membership

Annual dues are \$24, due each January. Members joining during the year pay \$2 per month for the months remaining in the current year. Families may join for \$35. Please make all checks payable to "MACNJ". Checks can be given to President David L. Davis at the monthly meetings, or mailed to:

MACNJ Membership  
David L. Davis  
242 Cherryville Road  
Flemington, NJ 08822

Fill out this form and return it with your payment.

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## MACNJ Membership Form

Check one: Membership Renewal  New Member

Month membership begins \_\_\_\_\_ amount enclosed (\$2 per month, \$24 for the entire year/\$35 per family) \_\_\_\_\_

Name ( if a family membership, please list all member names) \_\_\_\_\_

Street address ( if this is a renewal, please indicate if any of your address information has changed. \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ mobile phone number \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

What I do with my Macintosh ( favorite Apps, creative work, etc ) Be as descriptive as possible! \_\_\_\_\_