

Hand Held Device Special Interest Group

The SIG for smartphones and tablets was held on Monday, September 26, the normally scheduled fourth Monday of the month.

A new member, Lorraine Lepkowski, had attended the BUG meeting earlier in the month and learned how to back up her iPhone photos on Google Photos, which currently has unlimited free storage, instead of iCloud which has 5 GB free storage and charges \$0.99 per month for 50 GB storage. However, her son, who lives in Australia and had given her the iPhone, had sent a number of lengthy texts in which he recommended she go back to using iCloud. Lorraine wanted clarification about her options so an extensive discussion followed in which many SIG members described her many options and finally gave their opinions endorsing iCloud for Apple mobile devices.

The group left the decision up to Lorraine and she indicated she would rather follow her son's advice (and the SIG members) and return to using iCloud but she wanted help in how to do it. We promised to get back to her after talking with Tom Kuklinski (who had showed her how to use Google Photos) about how to reverse the process. I subsequently documented what Tom recommended and sent Lorraine an email with detailed instructions on how to return to using iCloud. I included an article in which the author detailed why he chose iCloud storage over Google Photos and told her I had over 6000 pictures on iCloud and had used only about 25 GB for backups, files and pictures. She should have plenty of room with 50 GB of storage.

The remainder of the meeting dealt with iOS 10.0.2, the latest version of Apple's newest OS for mobile devices. The easiest way to know whether your iPhone, iPad or iPod will be able to use the new OS is: if it has a Lightning connector, it can download the new OS. No device with the larger 30 pin connector can use the new OS. Those in the group who have downloaded iOS10.0.2 had no problems and minimal difficulty has been reported by the community of Apple users in the literature.

We showed how the new OS changed the lock screen as there is no more "slide to open" but instruction to press the home button instead. The camera is accessible on the lock screen by sliding to the left, not by touching a camera icon. Then we explored changes to the home screen including the control panel which now has a separate audio panel accessible by sliding the control panel to the left and the widgets which are accessible by sliding the home screen to the right. We skimmed over enhancements to Siri, the improved Quick Type keyboard, and the Phone function. Photos now creates "Memories" albums which can play slide shows of photos the OS has chosen to lump together. Several were displayed. On what basis the Memories album is selected and assembled is unclear as yet. Maps has a neat function that keeps track of where you parked your car, but only if your iPhone is linked by Bluetooth to the car before the ignition is turned off. Several other improvements were mentioned but not shown. Many of these interesting improvements will be explored in more detail in future meetings depending on member interest.

The next meeting of the HHD SIG will be at 7:00 PM on Monday, October 24, 2016.

John Fair
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