

# The Adventure Continues: Apple Watch, HomePods, and Apple Card Join iPad/iPhone

Gabe Goldberg

[gabe@gabegold.com](mailto:gabe@gabegold.com)

December 2021

# My Background

- Technology education/career
- IBM/Mitre/VMSG/freelance – ever smaller
- Mainframe OS design/develop/support
- Freelance writing/editing/consulting
- Career-long user group involvement
- I'll cover experiences, not product details
  - ...and personal opinions, not broad assertions

# My Home Tech Background

- Windows PC 1992 (mainframes before)
- ...then Apple (but no Mac)
  - iPad
  - iPhone
  - iCloud on Windows
  - Watch
  - HomePod Minis
  - Home app, outlets controlled
  - Etc.

# Early iDevice Experience

- iDevice experience **mostly** relevant to other devices
- Tablet choice/purchase/delivery – Apple led category
- Apple fan rage at my disrespecting object of veneration
- Purchased extended AppleCare – questionable benefit
- Bought WiFi-only, no cellular connectivity – adequate
- First iPad 32GB, not 16/64GB; current iPad 64GB (not 32/128GB) less than half full – your mileage may vary
- It's NOT self-explanatory; abundant resources:
  - O'Reilly/Wiley books
  - Online help and documents
  - Help apps and local Apple/Mac/iDevice user groups
  - Don't stumble/fumble – read/ask/train

# iPad Technology... and Then...

- Survey (Tablet, phone, etc. usage)!
- Sync/backup data and apps
- Wi-Fi was simple setup, remembers networks
- Research privacy settings to stay safe
- Maintenance/hygiene – tune iPad, close apps
- Alerts/notifications signal important events
- Set contacts for apps (IM, email, FaceTime, etc.)
- Was early (1995) cell phone user but lagged
  - Friends mocked flip phone usage through Jan 2016
  - Time for smart phone – but which one?

# iPad, Meet iPhone (Obviously)

- Bought unlocked iPhones at Apple store
- Easy registration on Apple account
- Simple integration, restored iPad backup
- They're brothers!
- Nice/surprising synergies (e.g., apps sync)
- A Million Apps – Which to Use?
  - Research, be selective, free/fee?
  - Block spam calls
- Reliable; longevity via \$29 battery replace

# Integrated Apple Ecosystem

- Not inexpensive; mostly good experience
- iCloud on Windows, continuity/security/etc.
- Family sharing (nothing, some, all)
- Keep it simple, use native Siri facilities
- Multi-charger avoids crowding/competition



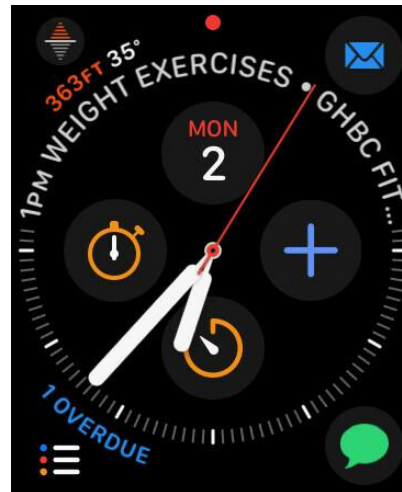
# Apple Watch

- Joined large Heartline.com cardio study
  - Participants: over 65, with iPhone
  - ...randomly divided, half get free/loan Watch
- Easy setup, another Siri
- Pre-Heartline, wouldn't have bought
  - Now it's only off for shower and to charge
  - 20-30 minutes from low to full charge
- WiFi/cellular, else iPhone to communicate
- One phone administers multiple Watches



# Apple Watch (Cont.)

- Answer and make phone calls
- Contactless payments using Apple Wallet
- Diverse watch faces, many “complications”
- Powerful interactive touch-screen display



# Apple Watch (Cont.)

- Gets battery alert from iPhone automation
- Nice private wrist alarm (vibrate & tune)
- Something else to update and charge
  - Unique charger cord (buy spare!)
- Water resistant (not waterproof) features
- Sport band came, many fashion choices
- Cover Watch face to stifle Siri
- Can't customize battery level alert

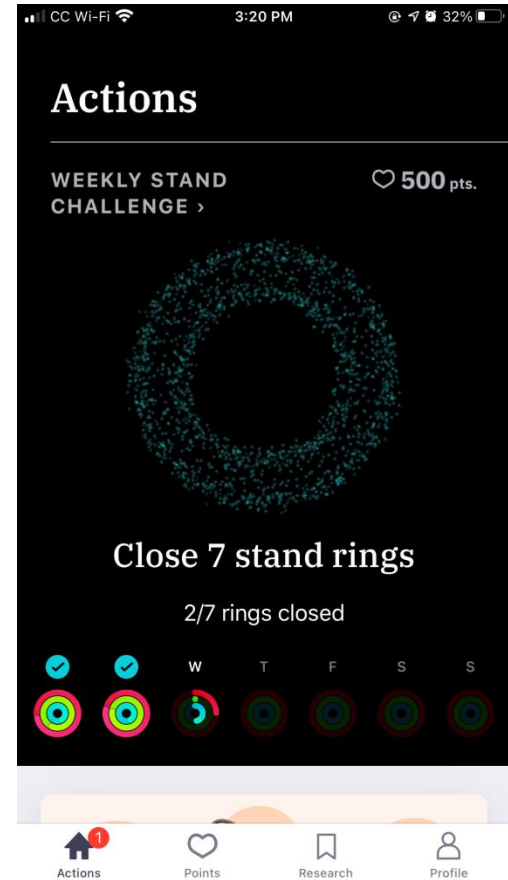
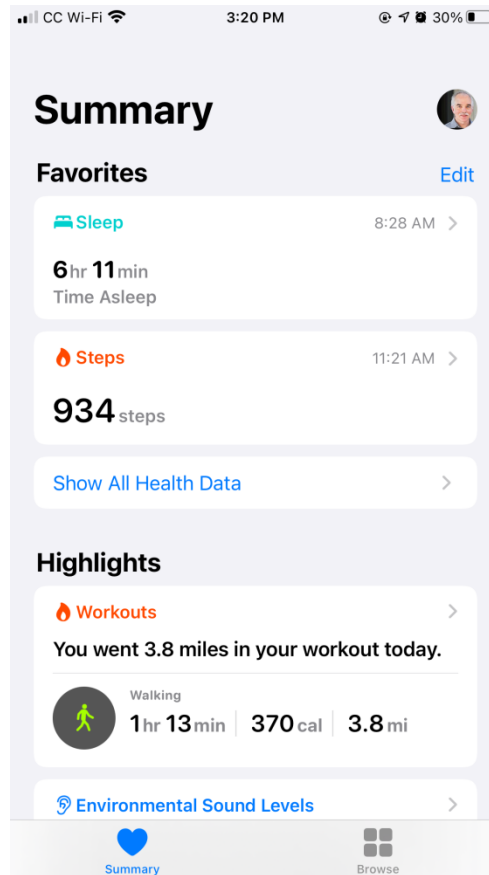
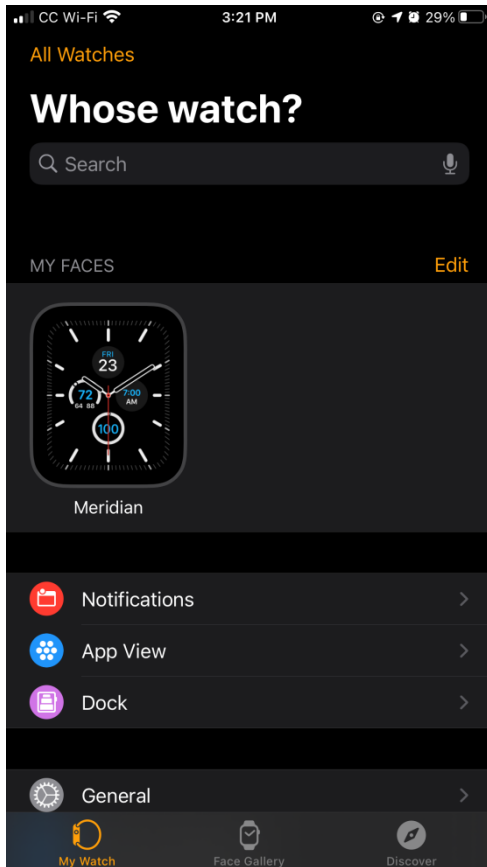
# Watch “Complications”

- Add apps/features
- Set sub-dial functions top/left/right/bottom
  - Date, temperature, alarm, battery
  - Astronomy, calculator, blood oxygen
  - Camera remote, ECG, FindMy, heart rate
  - Home, mail, messages, news, phone
  - Reminders, sleep, stocks, stopwatch
  - Timer, voice memos, walkie-talkie, more!

# iPhone Apps Control Watch

- Watch app controls notifications, app view, dock, airplane mode, do not disturb etc.
- Health app can access personal data; tracks steps, sleep, sound level, etc.
- Heartline study app coaches, collects data
  - Actions/Points/Research/Profile
  - Tracks “Rings” (stand, move, exercise)

# Watch/Health/Heartline Apps



# Infinite Watch App Choices

- Same as iPad/iPhone – large built-in set
  - Blood oxygen
  - ECG
  - Heart rate
  - Sleep (set default sleep/wake times and track)
  - Map/Compass
  - Noise
  - Activity (rings/points/competition)

# Watch App Choices (Cont.)

- Workout, Messages, Alarm, Timer
- Voice memo (via custom spoken shortcut)
- Wallet
  - Contactless payment
  - Holds AAA/Geico/Starbucks/Apple, etc. cards
  - Holds car/hotel keys, some state ID cards
  - Apple working with TSA/etc. (as of iOS 15)

# HomePod Minis

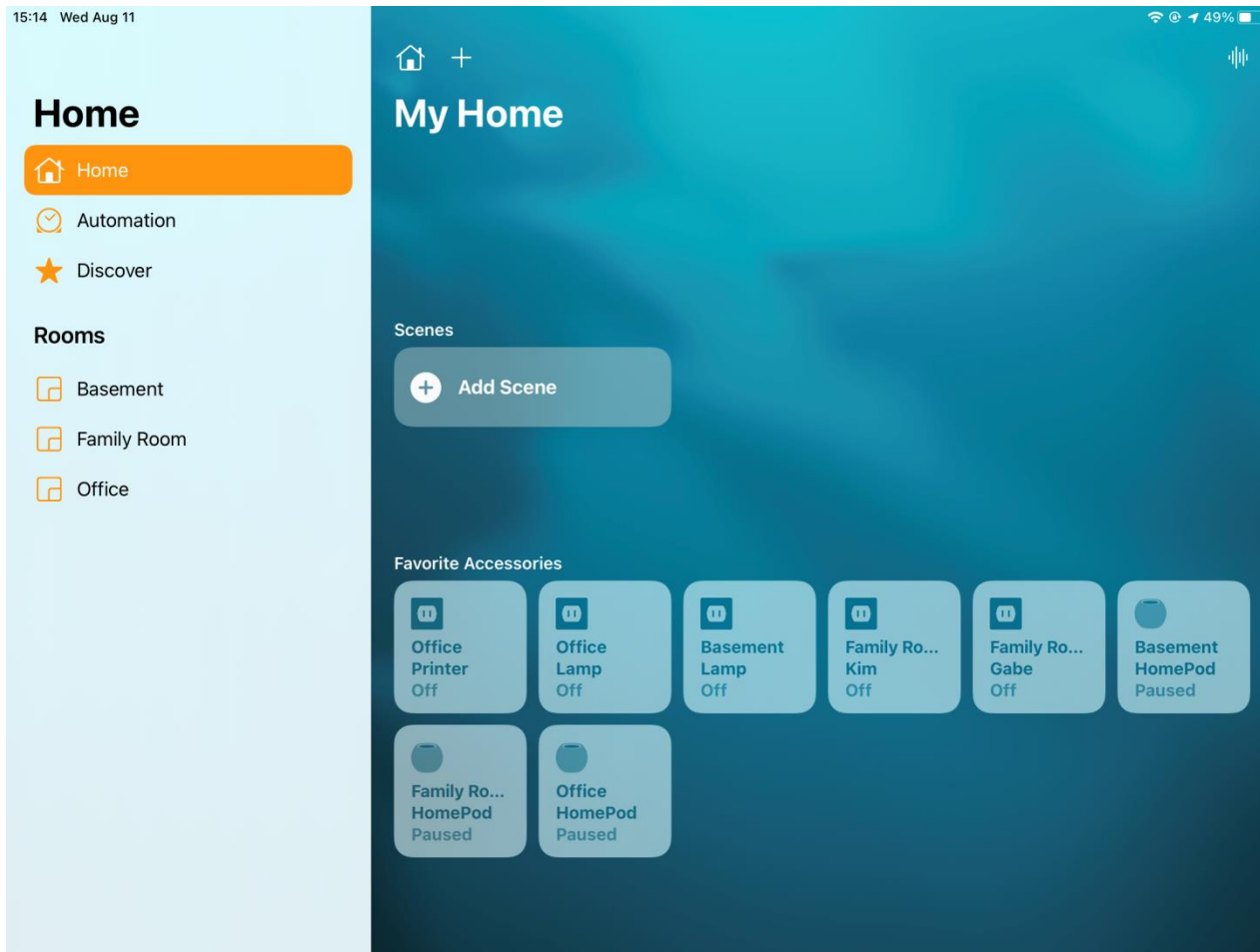
- Small smart speakers
- Easy setup; plugged in so no charging
- Stream TV channel audio
- Good Siri hearing – needn't raise voice
- Ping/locate devices (same as other Siris)
- Control smart home
- Play Siri intercom messages
- Update automatically



# iPad/iPhone Home App

- Easy setup (see a pattern?)
  - Define rooms and devices
    - Office: lamp and printer
    - Family room: lamps named Gabe and Kim
    - Christmas tree
    - Basement: lamp
- Control devices via Siri, shortcuts, automation, schedule, scenes (groups of devices/actions)

# Home App



# Outlets

- Easy setup – look for “Works with Apple”
- Have manufacturer app but didn’t need
- QR code identifies device to Home app
- Place in desired room and assign name
- Easy to move/rename/repurpose

# Apple Card

- Classy Apple-white titanium,
- I am not a number! -- chip & magnetic strip
- Mediocre cash back 1%, 2%, 3% (Apple)
- Plays nicely with iPhone and Watch
- Contactless Apple Pay
- Instant purchase alerts
- Great support from Goldman Sachs
- Odd limitations (e.g., can't change bill date)

# Usage Tips

- Register all devices on same Apple ID
- Use two-factor authentication
- Explore/tailor devices' complex/powerful settings
- Read Apple user guides, Take Control books, tips
- Monitor updates, install promptly/judiciously
- Manage device charge levels; automate alerts
- Ensure automatic backups work
- iPad hasn't needed iTunes for admin for years
- All Siri devices allow multiple timers/alarms

# My Irritations/Wishes

- Minimal, considering diversity/complexity
- Too frequent app updates; can't evaluate
- Can't update very old devices – replace!
- Must occasionally reset my iPad WiFi
- Apps sometimes require iOS update
- Watch can't stream (likely battery issue)
- HomePod Minis lost streaming; off/on fix
- Not all Watch notifications tap wrist

# My Irritations/Wishes (Cont.)

- Multiple Siris, wrong/several may answer
- Siri occasionally slow response or fails
- Want Siri spoken reminders on all devices
- Want custom Siri actions (e.g., no confirm)
- Voice memos Watch→iPad, not reverse
- Some iPhone/iPad apps don't use Watch
- Watch occasionally loses weather info
- Unintuitive Windows iCloud update

# MoreTo Come For Me (?)

- Smarter home
- AirTags – when replace iPhones, Sep '22
- Cypherlock
- Security (cameras, lights, alarms)
- Powered window shades (!)



# Product Information

- <https://www.apple.com/ipad/>
- <https://www.apple.com/iphone/>
- <https://www.apple.com/watch/>
- <https://www.apple.com/homepod-mini/>
- <https://www.apple.com/ios/home/>

# Product User Guides

- <https://support.apple.com/en-us/guide/ipad/welcome/ipados>
- <https://support.apple.com/guide/iphone/welcome/ios>
- <https://support.apple.com/en-us/guide/watch/welcome/watchos>
- <https://support.apple.com/en-us/guide/homepod>
- <https://www.apple.com/ios/home/>