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FOOD AND DRINK

Best Restaurant Comparisons:
Zagat To Go '09

Check ratings for 40,000 restaurants in the U.S. and abroad. With the Zagat To Go app, you'll also find reviews of hotels, nightlife, and shopping. Search for food by cuisine or neighborhood. Restaurant hours, phone numbers, and Web sites are listed. Plus, you can save favorites for later. Zagat pinpointed our location accurately in 5 seconds. \$9.99; mobile.zagat.com



Best For Transit:
Aha: Traffic Caraoke and Destination Finder

If you witness an accident, you can alert other drivers with Aha: Traffic Caraoke and Destination Finder. Record a voice note to inform Aha users that they're bound for trouble. The user interface is a breeze, but this app's potential is the user base: the more people use it, the more useful it will become. Manually setting your route brings up voice notes on it. Free; www.ahamobile.com



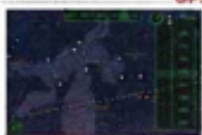
Best News Aggregation:
Newsstand

Our top choice for reading loads of outlets in one easy-to-navigate app, Newsstand includes content from CNN, The New York Times, and Google News. Star important stories to read later or e-mail them to your friends. The interface of feeds looks like a real newsstand. You can import feeds from Google Reader (with synchronization enabled), add them manually, and pull in Twitter feeds. \$4.99; cmz-software.com/newsstand



Best Star Gazing:
Star Walk

Prove you're smarter than a 5th grader with Star Walk. It tells you constellation, planet, and star names. Clicking a star called Merkalinon and tapping the "i" button brought up the visual magnitude and home constellation. Pinch and zoom to view more stars or adjust the time of day. You can search for stars or planets to see their location. The iPhone 3GS compass helps accurately display the stars above. \$4.99; www.vitotechnology.com



Best Sports Scores:
ESPN ScoreCenter

From baseball and football to cricket and rugby union, ESPN ScoreCenter is the best app for tracking players and teams. For each sport you follow, ESPN ScoreCenter adds a scorecard; flip through them with a finger swipe. Clicking a game shows a preview with the leading players. The Mobile Web feature recaps articles on each game. Free; scorecenter.espn.go.com



Best Sports Radio:
ESPN Radio

This app lets you listen to SportsCenter for news, as well as 15 regional stations from Denver 1600 to New York 1050. Audio was clear and without interruption during testing. The interface makes it easy to switch stations and access podcasts from popular hosts. You can switch to Background mode and stream content from ESPN's site via QuickTime. Live scores scroll across the bottom of the screen. \$2.99; espnradio.espn.go.com



Best Turn-by-Turn Directions:
Navigon MobileNavigator

There are many choices for turn-by-turn directions, but MobileNavigator is the best app. It offers street name pronunciation, an easy-to-use interface, lane assistance, and it works in landscape mode. Plus, Navigon's maps are very detailed. The one-time price may seem steep, but it's cheap compared to monthly subscription apps. \$89.99; www.navigonusa.com



Best Boating App:
Navionics Marine

Whether you're fishing for New Jersey Blues or skiff sailing in Miami, Navionics Marine offers excellent nautical maps and points of interest. You can even view the wave height by clicking on any of the buoys displayed on-screen. Snap a photo of your big catch, geotag it, and send it directly to Facebook. Maps are available for the U.S. coasts and lakes by region—East, West, South, and Central. \$9.99 per region; www.navionics.com



Best Overall News:
CNN Mobile

If you need the top stories now, CNN Mobile is your best bet for around-the-clock news. This ad-supported app displays the top story in your location, in each category (Crime, Entertainment, Health, Politics, Tech, Top Stories, U.S. and World) with a big image, and up to nine smaller stories with a thumbnail picture for each. Articles loaded in less than 2 seconds. Use the My CNN feature to view local news, traffic, and weather conditions, as well as followed topics (with alerts for when updates are published) and saved stories for reading when you're offline. Videos buffered in about 2 to 3 seconds, streaming fluidly over a 3G connection. Landscape mode lets you flip through stories like you would with album art. One of our favorite features, iReport, allows citizen journalists to take photos, shoot video, and upload their own stories to CNN. \$1.99; www.cnnmobile.com



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