

Apple Watch Apps: 10 We're Excited About

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Almost one million people have pre-ordered the [Apple Watch](#) in the U.S and it's already sold out over here, with Apple Store types predicting you [won't be able to get your hands on one in shop until June at the earliest](#).

But aside from telling the time and giving you techie bragging rights, what exactly is the point of owning one? The answer, of course, is apps.

As well as the usuals – Twitter, [Facebook](#), a [re-designed Instagram](#) – the Apple Watch promises a range of new apps designed specifically for it, covering everything from news to banking. Here are a few that sound promising so far.

1 | **Barclays**



As their [sponsorship of 'Boris bikes' comes to an end](#), Barclays are making the jump from your commute to your wrist in a new banking app for the Apple Watch. The main function of the app will be to allow you to check your balance in up to five accounts, accessible with the swipe of a finger. There's no ability to pay for things via the app yet, but this is surely just an update away. Also, the balance-checking may be somewhat redundant if you're sporting the [Apple Watch Edition](#) in which case the answer to 'how much do I have in my current account?' is clearly 'flippin' loads'.

Free, [itunes.com](#)

2 | British Airways



One of the talking points at Tim Cook's [Apple Watch reveal in March](#) was the ability to use the smartwatch as your boarding pass next time you're rushing through Gatwick to catch the 07.25 flight to Marbella. British Airways are one of the first airlines to get involved, with the app promising real-time updates on flights, the ability to check in and choose your seat and those all-important gate notifications.

Free, [itunes.com](#)

3 | Spy Watch



What's the point of having all this technology on your wrist if you're not going to spend at least the first few days pretending you're a secret agent? Spy Watch – released the same day as the Apple Watch itself – places you as the son of a dead spy at a failing intelligence agency, receiving real-time updates from virtual agents. Each 'mission' will take five to ten seconds, the idea being that short bursts of gaming work best for wrist-based devices. We'll find out how it looks this Friday.

4 | National Rail



For most of us, buying a train ticket anything less than a year in advance is almost as expensive as shelling out for an Apple Watch itself. However, if your middle name is 'moneybags' the new National Rail app could be for you. It does everything you'd want from a wrist-based rail round-up app, including letting you know which platform your train is on, keeping you abreast of no-doubt frequent delays and disruptions and pointing you in the direction of the nearest station. The only thing it hasn't got is £4 for a chicken sandwich off the trolley.

Free, [itunes.com](#)

5 | RunKeeper



The line between [fitness band](#) and smartwatch is so blurry it's starting to resemble the finish line of a 10k race in mid-July. Currently available on iOS and Android with 25 million users, RunKeeper hopes its success will carry over onto the Apple Watch, with the ability to track walking, cycling and running, then share the results with friends and strangers alike to encourage progress. It also features GPS tracking, audio-updates and in-app training plans such as the Ronseal-esque "running for fat loss".

Free, [itunes.com](https://itunes.com/runkeeper)

6 | Sickweather



Taking health and fitness to the extreme, Sickweather is an app that uses real-time information to tell you whereabouts you're likely to get ill, depending on local information including reported illnesses and population density. While it sounds like the perfect app for fueling hypochondria, it also includes a feature that reminds you to wash your hands for the recommended 20 seconds and may help keep you in shape if you can't afford a day feeling under the weather.

Free, [itunes.com](https://itunes.com/sickweather)

7 | Procreate Pocket



If you fancy yourself as a bit of a Neil Buchanan type, this is the app for you. Working in sync with your iPhone, the app will act as a remote tool and colour palette helping you paint works of art on the larger device in your pocket. Perfect for subtly caricaturing your boss during that three hour meeting.

£2.29, [itunes.com](https://itunes.com/procreate-pocket)

8 | Evernote



If you're writing your notes with a pen and paper these days, you should also really be packing a Filofax, carrying a house brick-sized mobile phone and saying things like "I really fancy England's chances at Italia '90". The modern man uses Evernote to jot down his bon mots, business inspirations and plans for flying cars powered by electric whisks, and now the app is coming to Apple Watch, allowing you to dictate important notes and also be alerted when

you're in a location you set a previous note. Most likely the pub.

Free, itunes.com

9 | Movie Hype



The days of whipping out your iPhone and heading to IMDB or Wikipedia to prove that yes, that is a young [James Gandolfini](#) in *True Romance* are over, thanks to FlickDirect's Movie Hype app, soon to be available on Apple Watch. As well as trivia about the film you're watching, the app will also show the runtime of any movie in cinemas, as well as suggesting when might be a good time to make a dash to the toilets. And, because we can't do anything in 2015 without telling our mates about it, you can also 'check in' at the cinema.

Free, itunes.com

10 | Yahoo



The New York Times, *The Guardian* and more are all planning on releasing apps for the Apple Watch, all apparently focusing on 'glance journalism', that is quick, easily-digestible updates from the watch's 38mm x 42 mm screen. Yahoo are planning to go three better by releasing four apps, including an hourly news digest and apps for fantasy sports and weather, as well as an app focusing on news in Hong Kong. Perfect for when you want to know if now's the time to add any unknown Asian players to your Fantasy Football team.

Free, itunes.com

The Apple Watch is released Friday 24 April, apple.com

Any we've missed?

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