

My Favorite Google Android Apps  
Ron Mettler CUGG Presentation November 8, 2014

**Background:**

Android is a mobile operating system based on a Linux core currently developed by Google. It is the most widely used operating system in the world with over 1 billion users worldwide as of early 2014 (80% of all smart phones). The Samsung Galaxy Tab S tablet came with Android Version 4.4 aka Kit-Kat. A new version of Android for tablets has recently been released and is called L (Lollipop). The system differs from the Apple tablet operating system called iOS although many applications have been written for both operating systems. Most of my favorite Android Apps have a version for Apple tablets and/or phones.

**My Favorite Android Apps:**

1. Keyboard Substitute App – *Swiftkey* allows for a variety of color themes, sizing, emoticons (emotion icons), with a simplified single screen mode.
2. Office Application – *Hancom Office* - There are a multitude of Office suites available for Android. The first one I tried has been the keeper for me – *Hancom Office* which includes Hword word processing, Hcell spreadsheets and Hshow presentations. The suite is fairly compatible with Microsoft Office.
3. Khan Academy viewer - *S Educate* is a nice graphical interface for Khan Academy postings.
4. Program Apps finders – *Playstore, Amazon Appstore, Android Central, Galaxy Apps, Dripler*. Unlike the Apple Apps store, there are a number of App stores which can be used to find applications. Use care in downloading Apps to avoid Malware and scams. I have not found any Apps that include malware, but it is far more likely that malware exists with multiple stores. Apple maintains tight control over their App store.
5. Shopping Apps – *eBay, Amazon, Amazon Kindle, Craigslist Pro*. All easy to use apps for shopping.
6. Networking and Cloud Services – *ES File Explorer, Fing, ES Task Manager, Dropbox, OneDrive and A, Amazon Cloud Drive* are to explore in the future. ES File explorer is an advanced file and folder manager. Fling is a Network device viewer which displays the devices and IP addresses connected to the wired and wireless LAN. ES Task Manager manages tasks with options such as Optimize, Cache Cleaner, Startup Manager, Power Optimizer, About Device SD Card Analyzer, Volume control settings for various sound options. Dropbox is a super Cloud service that is cross platform between Apple OS, Linux, Android, and Windows, a can't do without App.
7. News and Weather Apps – *WSJ, NY Times, Google News and Weather, Flipboard, and Arcus weather*. WSJ requires a digital subscription although the Samsung Galaxy included 6 months of free subscription to WSJ. Flipboard is my favorite news App. Arcus weather is very complete.
8. Google Apps – *Google Earth, Maps, Photos, Hangouts, and Drive*. No equals to these apps. Hangouts is a cross platform (Windows, Apple, Linux, Android) instant messaging and video calling App.
9. Mail – Android Mail like Apple iOS mail is a multi account email package that consolidates multiple email accounts into a unified inbox.
10. Pocket – *Pocket* is an offline viewer of Web sites that allows you to save to Pocket, interesting articles. This is a don't miss big bang fabulous App.
11. Evernote – *Evernote* another cloud service save to site. See the Feb 9, 2013 CUGG presentation by Jamie Leben for some details.
12. Lastpass – *Lastpass* - another wiz-bang App. I pity those not using it especially With Windows and Linux.
13. Skype – *Spype* speaks for itself.