The topics include

- Watching YouTube videos
- Watching stocks
- Watching the weather
- Calculating
- Working with notes
- Using Ping
- Adding DVD content to an iPhone
- Using iTunes to convert video content for an iPhone
- Using an iDisk on an iPhone

My iPhone Online Tasks

There are so many great things to do with an iPhone that there’s no way to put all of them into one book. Here, you’ll find some cool tasks that didn’t make the book because there simply wasn’t enough room.

Watching YouTube Videos

You’ve probably received a link or two to YouTube videos, or you may have watched them via a web browser, such as Internet Explorer or Safari. The beauty of YouTube videos are definitely in the eye of the beholder, but some of them are quite hilarious and many are very shocking or just downright obscene. But, if you want to see a video of something, it’s probably on YouTube.
Note
If you want to see a hilarious YouTube video dating back to the days of the very first iPhone, visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vniMR6Ez9cE.

Similar to watching videos in the iPod app, watching YouTube videos is a two-step process. First, find the videos you want to view; there are several ways to do this. Second, play the videos and use YouTube app’s controls to control them.

Finding YouTube Videos

In this section, you’ll learn about some of the more useful ways to find YouTube videos that you might want to watch.

Searching for YouTube Videos

1. Tap YouTube.
2. Tap Search.
3. Tap in the Search bar at the top of the screen.
4. Enter the topic for which you want to search.
5. Tap Search. The app searches for YouTube videos that meet your topic search and presents them to your on the results screen. You see a thumbnail view along with the clip’s name, rating, number of views, length, and source.
6. Browse the screen to browse the videos in the found set. When you browse to the bottom of the list, tap Load More to load more videos.

7. When you find a video you want to view, tap it.

8. Rotate the iPhone if isn’t already in landscape mode. The video loads and starts to play.

9. Use the YouTube video controls to control the video (see the task called “Viewing YouTube Videos” later in this section for the details). When the video finishes, the video’s Info screen appears.

10. Use the video’s screen to read more information, share it, and so on (see the task called “Viewing YouTube Videos” later in this section for the details).

11. To return to the list of videos found during your search, tap the return button, which is labeled with the title of the video you most recently watched.
Browsing Featured YouTube Videos

1. Tap YouTube.
2. Tap Featured.
3. Browse the videos in the featured category.
4. When you browse to the bottom of the list, tap Load More to load more videos.
5. When you find a video you want to view, tap it.
6. Rotate the iPhone if isn't already in landscape mode. The video loads and starts to play.
7. Use the YouTube video controls to control the video (see the task called “Viewing YouTube Videos” later in this section for the details). When the video finishes, the video’s Info screen appears.
8. Use the video’s Info screen to read more information, share it, and so on (see the task called “Viewing YouTube Videos” later in this section for the details).
9. To return to the list of featured videos, tap Featured.
Browsing Most Viewed YouTube Videos

1. Tap YouTube.
2. Tap Most Viewed.
3. To see the videos that have been viewed the most, tap All; to see those viewed most today, tap Today; to see those viewed most this week, tap This Week.
4. Browse the videos. When you browse to the bottom of the list, tap Load More to load more videos.
5. When you find a video you want to view, tap it.
6. Rotate the iPhone if isn’t already in landscape mode. The video loads and starts to play.
7. Use the YouTube video controls to control the video (see the task called “Viewing YouTube Videos” later in this section for the details). When the video finishes, the video’s Info screen appears.
8. Use the video’s Info screen to read more information, share it, and so on (see the task called “Viewing YouTube Videos” later in this section for the details).
9. To return to the list of most viewed videos, tap Most Viewed.
Using the More Menu to Find YouTube Videos

The categories on the YouTube toolbar are not the only way to find videos. You can use the aptly named More menu to access additional categories.

1. Open the YouTube app.
2. Tap More.

Make Your Past Disappear
To clear your video history, move to the History category and tap Clear. Tap Clear History at the prompt and the history list for YouTube videos is cleared. It starts to be built again as soon as you watch more videos.

3. Tap Most Recent, which contains videos most recently uploaded to YouTube; Top Rated, which contains videos that have been rated the highest by viewers; History, which contains videos that you’ve viewed; My Videos, which contains videos you’ve “saved;” Subscriptions, to manage your YouTube subscriptions; or Playlists, to see your video playlists.

4. Browse and watch videos in the category you tapped, just like those described in the previous tasks. If you move into a category that requires it, such as Subscriptions, you need to log into your YouTube account.
Viewing YouTube Videos

No matter how you find YouTube videos, you use the same controls to watch and work with those videos.

1. Tap the video you want to view.
2. Rotate the iPhone if it isn’t already in landscape mode. The video loads and starts to play.
3. If the controls are hidden, tap the video to display them; tap again to hide them or just wait a couple of seconds and they will disappear.
4. Drag the Playhead to the right to move ahead in the video or to the left to move back in the video.
5. Tap Scale to scale the video to fill the screen or to restore the video to its original proportions.
6. Tap the Bookmark button to bookmark the video.
7. Drag the slider to the left to decrease volume or to the right to increase it.
8. Tap Rewind to move to the start of the video or tap and hold Rewind to rewind it.
9. Tap Pause to pause the video or Play to start it again.
10. Tap and hold Fastforward to fastforward in the video.
11. Tap Share to share the video (the detailed steps are in the next section).
12. To stop the video before it finishes, tap Done or just wait until the video finishes. You move to the video’s Info screen.
Sharing YouTube Videos

One of the neat things about YouTube videos is that they are designed to be shared; the YouTube app makes sharing videos easy.

1. While watching a video, tap Share. An email is created with a link to the video and a subject.
2. Complete and send the email. The recipient will be able to tap or click the included link to watch the video.

Watching Stocks

The Stocks app can help you monitor stocks or market indices in which you are interested. First, set up the stocks or indices you want to track. Second, track those stocks or indices.

Configuring the Stocks App

You can add any stock or market index to the Stocks app; all you need to know is the ticker symbol, which you can easily find on the Web.

1. Move to the Home screen and tap Stocks.
2. Tap the Info button. On this screen, you configure the stocks you are tracking.

3. To remove a stock or index from the list, tap its Unlock button.

4. Tap Delete. The stock or index removed from the application.
5. To change the order in which stocks or indices appear, drag them up or down the list by their list buttons.

6. To add a stock or index, tap the Add button.

7. Enter any of the following: company name, stock symbol, index symbol, or any information you know, such as a partial company name.

8. Scroll the list of results.

**The Full List**

To close the keyboard so you see more results on the screen, tap Search.

9. Tap a stock or index you want to add to the application. You return to the Stocks screen and the stock you tapped is added to the list.

10. Repeat steps 3 through 9 to remove or add stocks and organize the list until the Stocks screen shows the stocks and indices you want to track in the order in which you want them to appear.

11. Tap % if you want changes to stock values to display as a percentage; Price if you want changes to stock values to display as a dollar amount; or Mkt Cap if you want to see values by their market capitalization.

12. Tap Done. You return to the Stocks application and see the stocks and indices as you have configured them in the upper part of the screen.
Tracking Stocks

With the Stocks app customized to your stock and index interests, you can quickly see how your favorites are performing:

1. Open the Stocks app.
2. Browse the screen to see the entire list of stocks and indices.
3. Tap the stock or index in which you are interested. The performance graph at the bottom of the screen is updated to show the performance of the stock or index you selected.
4. Tap the timeframe in which you’re interested, from 1 day to 2 years. The graph refreshes to cover the period you selected.

Full-screen Graph

If you rotate the iPhone so it is landscape orientation, the performance graph fills the screen. Drag across to the left or right to move through your list of stocks and indices.

5. Tap the change indicators to move from percentage to price to market capitalization.
6. Drag across the graph to the right. You see details about the stock or index in focus.
7. Drag across the graph to the right again. You see news articles and videos.
8. Browse the articles and videos.
9. To read an article or watch a video, tap it. You move to the Web.
10. Read the article or watch the video.
11. Press the Home button twice and then tap the Stocks button on the App toolbar to return to the Stocks app.
12. Tap the Yahoo! button. Safari opens and moves to a Yahoo! page for the selected item.

13. Use the web page to read about the item.

14. Press the Home button twice, and then tap the Stocks button on the App toolbar to return to the Stocks app.

Red is Bad, Green is Good
Values shown in red are bad, meaning they’ve decreased, while values in green are good, meaning they’ve increased.

Watching the Weather
The Weather app is a handy way to get information about weather in specific locations quickly and easily.

Choosing Weather Locations
Configure the Weather app with the areas you are interested in:

1. Move the Home screen and tap Weather.
2. Tap the Info button. On this screen, you see all the locations for which the app currently shows weather info.
3. To add a location, tap the Add button.
4. Enter a city’s name or zip code. Cities that match your search are shown.
5. To add a city to the application, tap it. You move back to the Weather screen and the city you added is listed.

6. To remove a location from the app, tap its Unlock button.

7. Tap Delete.

8. Perform steps 3 through 7 until the list contains all the cities about which you want weather information.

9. Drag cities up or down the list by their List buttons to change the order in which their screens appear.

10. To have temperatures displayed in degrees Fahrenheit tap °F.

11. To have temperatures displayed in degree Celsius, tap °C.

12. Tap Done.
Viewing Weather Information

With the Weather app, getting weather information is simple:

1. Move the Home screen and tap Weather. You see weather for the last city you viewed.

2. To see weather for the next location, drag to the left or right. Or, tap the dots at the bottom of the screen; tap to the left of the highlighted (white) dot to move back one location or to the right of it to move ahead one location.

3. To move to a website about a location, view its weather and tap the Yahoo! button. The web browser opens and you move to the Yahoo! page for that city that provides more detailed weather information, event information, and so on.

Calculating

The Calculator app is very simple, but it can come in handy.

1. Move the Home screen and tap Calculator.
2. Use its simple buttons to perform basic calculations.

3. For more complex calculations, rotate the iPhone so it is landscape orientation and use the calculator in advanced mode.

Working with Notes

Although it won’t replace a word processor, the Notes app is useful for capturing short notes while you are on the move. You can add notes and then read them at a later time. Notes is especially useful to create shopping lists because they are always with you (assuming your phone is). You can easily add items to the lists while you are on the move, and refer to them at any time.

Adding Notes

1. Move the Home screen and tap Notes. You see existing notes, with the most recent being at the top of the list.

2. Tap the Add button.
3. Type the note.
4. Tap Done. The note is saved and you move to the note’s screen and you can work with it (see the task called “Working with Notes” for more information).

Titles
The first line of a note becomes the title that appears at the top of the note’s screen when you view it and on your list of notes. If you want to title the note something other than its first line of text, just enter the title you want as the first line instead.

Working with Notes
1. Move the Home screen and tap Notes. By default, you return to the note you most recently viewed.
2. To see all of your notes, tap Notes. You see all of the notes in the app, listed from newest at the top of the screen.
3. Tap the note you want to work with.
4. Read the note.
5. Tap the Email button to send the contents of the note as an email.
6. Tap Delete to delete the note.
7. To change the note, tap its body.
8. Add text or make changes to existing text.
9. Tap Done.
10. Tap Back to move to a previous note.
11. Tap Forward to move to a later note.
12. Tap Notes to move back to the Notes screen.

Syncing Notes
You can sync notes so notes you create on the iPhone move onto your computer and vice versa. See My iPhone, Chapter 4, “Configuring and Synchronizing Information on an iPhone” for details.
Using Ping

When it comes to Ping, if you think iTunes meets FaceBook, you’ll have the gist of it. Ping enables you to both keep information of events and items of interest to people you follow (such as bands or friends) and to keep people informed of things musical of interest to you by allowing people to follow you. You can access Ping using iTunes on a computer and through the iTunes app on your iPod touch.

Setting Up Ping in iTunes

To get started, enable and configure Ping using iTunes on a computer, as follows:

1. If you aren’t signed into your iTunes Store account, sign in.
2. Select Ping on the Source list.
3. Click Turn On Ping.
4. Enter your Apple ID (if necessary), enter your password, and click OK. You move to the Create My Profile page.
5. Complete your profile by creating a nickname, uploading a photo, and entering the other information, then click Continue.
6. On the second page of the Create My Profile form, configure how you want music displayed on your profile, such as Automatically display all music I like, rate, review, or purchase, and click Continue.
7. Configure your privacy settings by choosing to allow people to follow you (and if so, whether you have to grant permission to allow someone to follow you) or not; then click Done. Ping is now set up within iTunes and you see the Welcome to Ping screen.
Following Artists or Other People

To follow artists or other Ping users, perform the following steps:

1. Enter the name of the artist or person you want to follow and press Enter (Windows) or Return (Mac). The artists and other people that can be followed and match your search are shown. (You can also browse for artists to follow by using the links just under the Search tool.)

2. Click the Follow button for the artist or person you want to follow. If the artist or person doesn’t require authorization for you to follow them, you start following the artist or person immediately. If permission is required, the artist or person has to respond positively to a confirmation email before you will be able to start following them. The status of that person will show Request sent until your request has been approved.

3. Click the Preview Page link. You move back to the Ping Home page and can add more artists and people to follow.
Inviting People to Follow You

To invite someone to follow you, perform the following steps:

1. Click the Invite button on the Ping Home page.
2. Fill out the Invitation form and click Invite. An email is sent to the person with the message you created. They can then move to Ping and start following you.

Using Ping in iTunes

After Ping is set up, here are some pointers for you to start using it in iTunes on a computer:

- When you are following people and people are following you, when you move to the Ping Home page, you see activity related to those people. This can be announcements, new releases of music, and so on. You can also comment on the events, view all comments, and so on.
• If you click the People link located in the upper-right corner of the Ping window, you will see two tabs. The People I Follow shows the artists and people you are following. If you click the highlighted name, you move to the artist’s or person’s profile page where you can see various information about them, recent activity, and so on (depending on the security settings of their account). Click the People Who Follow Me tab to see what is happening with people who are following you. In either case, you can explore activity by browsing the screen or clicking links, such as My Reviews to read reviews the person has posted.

• To change your profile at any time, click the My Profile link in the PING section on the Home page, click the Edit Profile link, and use the resulting screens to make and save your changes.

Using Ping in the iTunes App

You can also access Ping via the iTunes app on your iPhone. Open the iTunes app and tap the Ping tab at the bottom of the screen. The app has three tabs:

• Activity shows recent activity for people you are following. You can indicate you like activity or add your commentary. If you follow artists, you can purchase music from this tab.

• People shows you a list of everyone you follow; you can tap a person to see details.

• My Profile enables you to change your profile.
Follow Me?
If you want to follow me, search for Brad Miser (verify by checking that I live in Brownsburg) and click the Follow button.

Adding DVD Content to an iPhone

The iTunes Store is a great source for video content including movies, TV shows, and so on. But, I bet you have at least some content on old-fashioned DVDs. Wouldn’t it be nice to be able to have that content on your iPhone? Naturally, there is a way to do this or you wouldn’t be reading this section!

There are two parts to this process. The first part is to convert the content from the DVD to a format that is compatible with iTunes and an iPhone. The second part is adding that content to your iTunes Library and moving it onto the iPhone.

No Copyright or Use Violations Please
Of course, you should only use this process on content you own and that you have the right to use in this manner. As long as you are only converting content on DVDs that you own so you can view it on your computer or iPhone (your own personal use), you should be okay from the legal perspective.

Preparing Content for iTunes
To convert DVD content into an iTunes-compatible format, you need to use an application. There are many of these available for both Windows and Macs. A number of them are free. If you don’t have one of these, do a Web search for “DVD converter” or “DVD ripper” for the type of computer you use. Download and install the application you select on your computer.
The followings steps show the process with my favorite Mac application for this purpose, Handbrake (http://handbrake.fr/). Other applications will require different details, but the general process should be similar.

1. Insert the DVD with the content you want to convert into your computer.
2. Launch the DVD conversion application.
3. Select the DVD as the source you want to convert and choose the specific track you want to have on your iPhone. If you convert a disc with multiple tracks, you need to make sure you choose the particular content you want to have on the iPhone. Everything on the disc will show up, such as menu effects, previews, and so on. In most cases, you won't be able to see the title of the content as it is on the disc. You can usually tell what you want from the track number or length.
4. Select the format of the converted content. Most applications offer an iPhone or iPod touch option, you can choose that or if you want to have the content available for other devices, select the format accordingly (such as AppleTV). You want the option with “.m4v” as the filename extension.
5. Configure other options if you want to; in most cases, you can just use one of the default options.
6. Name and choose a location in which to save the converted content.
7. Start the conversion process. The amount of time the process will take depends on your computer’s processing power, the efficiency of the application, the conversion settings you use, amount of content, and so on. After you’ve converted a few items, you’ll get a feel for how long the process takes with your setup. When the process is done, you’re ready to add the converted content to iTunes.
Queue It Up!
Some DVD conversion applications offer a Queue option so that you can select and configure the conversion of multiple items on the same disc. This is perfect for converting a disc with episodes of a TV show on it. Start the first episode as described in these steps. While the process is ongoing, use steps 3 (of course, you can't change discs) through 6 to configure the next item to convert. Add that item to the queue. Repeat these steps until you've selected all the content on the disc. The application will convert each item you select in the same order you selected them. So, you can go about your business while the disc is being converted.

Adding Prepared Content to an iPhone
After the content has been converted, add it to your iTunes Library, tag it, and move it onto the iPhone.

1. Launch iTunes.
2. Choose File, Add File to Library (Windows) or File, Add to Library (Mac).
3. Move to and select the converted content; then click Open (Windows) or Choose (Mac). The content will be copied into your iTunes Library. In most cases, any content you convert will be stored in the Movies source.
4. Using iTunes browse or search tools, find and select the content you added to your iTunes Library.
5. Choose File, Get Info.
6. Click the Info tab.

7. Enter as much information about the content as you want to have; the minimum information is the name of the content; if the content is from a TV show, you should also enter the episode number as the track number. You should also choose a genre.

8. Click the Video tab.

9. Enter the applicable information about the content, such as the title of the series, season number, episode number, description, and so on.
10. Click the Options tab.

11. Choose the type of content on the Media Kind menu. This is an important setting as it determines the category on the Source list in which the content will be stored (Movies, TV Shows, Podcast, and so on). For most converted content, you will choose TV Show or Movie.

12. Click OK. The content is now ready for your iPhone.

13. Use the sync tools to include the content and sync your iPhone (see My iPhone Chapter 3, Moving Audio, Video, Books, and Photos onto Your iPhone).
Using iTunes to Convert Video Content for an iPhone

If you’ve added content from the iTunes Store to or converted DVD content in the correct format to your iTunes Library, you can easily add it to your iPhone through the sync process. However, iTunes has a little-known, but very handy, tool you can use to convert other kinds of video content into an iPhone-compatible format. This tool works great and you’ll end up with content you can enjoy on your iPhone. However, there are two downsides. One is that the conversion process can be very, very slow. The other is that you end up with two versions of the same content in your Library (the original and the converted version), which can be confusing. Still, in a pinch, this can be a handy way to get content onto your iPhone.

1. Add the content you want to convert to your iTunes Library. (See the previous task for the details to do this.)
2. Select the content you want to convert.
3. Choose Advanced, Create iPod or iPhone Version. The conversion process starts, and you see a copy of the item you selected. You can see progress information about the conversion process in the Information window at the top of the iTunes window. Expect the conversion to take a long time, but since it doesn’t stop you from using iTunes, it shouldn’t be too disruptive.
4. When the process is complete, select the converted version and choose File, Get Info.
5. Name the converted version so that you’ll be able to recognize it when you sync your iPhone and click OK.

6. Include the converted version in a sync. It will be available to watch on your iPhone.

No Duplicates Please
Video files are large. Ideally, you shouldn’t keep multiple versions of the same content in your iTunes Library. If you don’t want to keep the original version of the video that you converted, select it and press the Delete key. Of course, you should only do this if you’re sure that you won’t need this version again. You can always copy it to a DVD or other storage device and remove it from your primary drive so you can add it back to your iTunes Library again at some point.
Using an iDisk on an iPhone

If you have a MobileMe account, you have online storage that you can access from just about any device that can connect to the Internet. And, of course, any device includes your iPhone. With the MobileMe iDisk app, you can view and shares the files on your iDisk from your phone.

When you open the app, you see and can use the following tabs:

- iDisk enables you to access the folders and files stored on your iDisk. You can view your files, and you can share a file with someone else (all you need is the person’s email address).
- Recents shows you the files you’ve viewed recently.
- Shared Files shows you the files you are currently sharing. You can reconfigure a shared folder by tapping its share icon.
- Public Folders enables you to access other MobileMe member’s Public folders. You need the person’s MobileMe member name and a password if the person’s Public folder is password-protected.

No MobileMe iDisk?

MobileMe iDisk is not a default app. You need to download it from the App Store (see My iPhone Chapter 15, “Installing and Maintaining iPhone Applications” for help downloading apps).
The iDisk app makes getting to your online files fast and convenient. Check out the following steps:

1. Tap the iDisk app’s icon.
2. Sign into your MobileMe account.
3. Tap Go.
4. Tap iDisk. You see the folders on your iDisk.
5. Tap a folder to view its contents.
6. To view the contents of a file, tap it.
7. To share a file, tap its share icon.