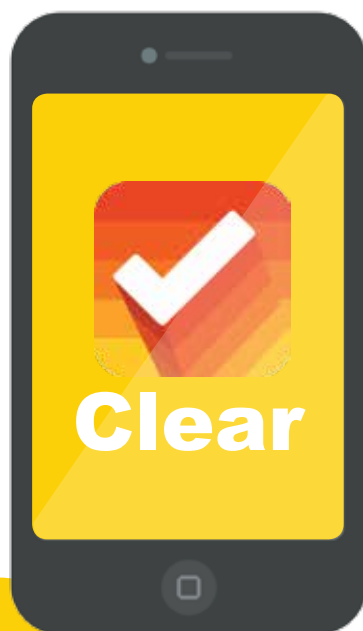


# PERSONAL PICKS

## 10 of the best for productivity





1

**Clear+**



2

**Wunderlist**

**Paul Di Francesco** and **Clare Coulson** worked the mobile social media networks to unveil the most popular productivity enhancing apps for work and play...

**L**ast year Apple celebrated its 50 billionth app download while its competitor Google Play announced its 49 billionth download at about the same time. In January this year Apple revealed that its customers spent over \$10 billion on the App Store in 2013, including over \$1 billion in December alone making it the most successful month in App Store history.

Our hunger for apps is not abating. We are downloading them at a rate of more than 800 apps per second. But the question of what to download hasn't really got any easier to answer. Reviews are all very well, but you don't know who has provided the information. Should you trust their opinion?

To help, we reached out to you, our readers, to find out what you are using to boost your personal efficiency, whether you are at work or home. Here, in no particular order, is the cream of the crop.

Perfect for those of us who get a secret satisfaction from ticking tasks off to-do lists. Clear+ is a clear winner when it comes to simple, straight forward to-do apps with no muss and no fuss. *The New York Times* called it "a mighty fine-looking app" well worth checking out for people who want to maintain a simple list of things to do. And who are we to argue with *The New York Times*.

It also makes maximum use of the super sexy and intuitive gesture control options in iOS 7. As it says on its App Store listing: "Pull down to create. Swipe to complete. Pinch to navigate up." In fact almost everything can be controlled by gestures. It's not only tactile but visually eye catching too, colour-coding your most to least pressing tasks from red through to orange. You can also store your lists and tasks in iCloud to sync them across your devices.

There's a cheaper version - 'Clear' - but you can't make multiple lists.

AVAILABLE FROM:



Apple

PRICE:



\$NZ6.49  
\$A0.99

Wunderlist is another to-do list app, this time with a few more added features. It's a simple and easy way to create and share daily to-do lists, whatever you have to do. It's visually pleasing and user friendly with tasks and lists inhabiting the majority of your screen real estate. The free version allows you to sync across all your devices and share your lists with friends. You can add due dates, reminders and recurring to-dos. Turn your emails into actions on your list with the 'mailto Wunderlist' function. Upgrade to the Pro version if you want use this in a more project management like style and to attach an unlimited number of files to any to-do task. The Pro version also allows you to assign to-dos to other people and collaborate via the conversation functionality. You can also break down big tasks into smaller sub tasks so you can tick even more things off your list for that secret thrill of accomplishment!

*To watch a brief overview, scan the QR code*

AVAILABLE FROM:



Apple



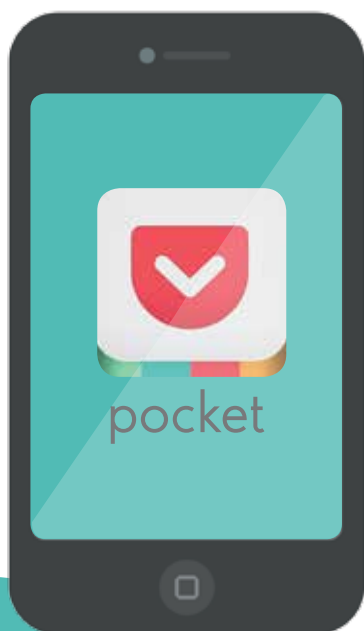
Google

PRICE:



FREE or upgrade to the paid-for Wunderlist Pro





3

**Pocket**

With lives so full of interruptions this bookmarking / save-it-for-later app is a God-send. There are plenty of bookmarking apps out there but this one is popular because it strips pages of all superfluous information. Gone are the annoying ads and useless navigation menus, leaving you a lovely clean page to read at a later date. It's not just for articles though, you can save videos to it too. And it integrates with apps like FlipBoard, TweetBot, Pulse and Reeder to make saving articles even easier.

It syncs to a central location so if you've put it in Pocket, it's on your phone, tablet, computer and even your kobo. You don't even need an internet connection. This is a must-have for people who love to read and share.

*NB Pocket was originally called 'Read it Later'*

AVAILABLE FROM:



Apple

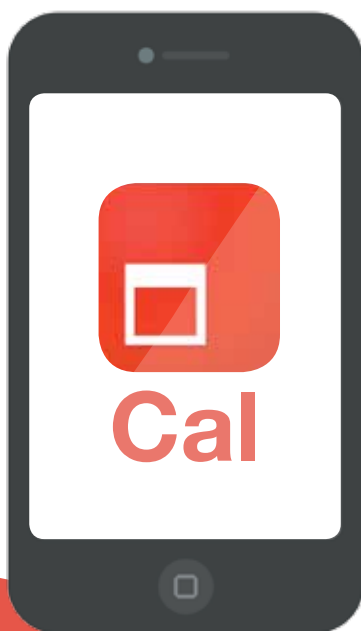


Google

PRICE:



FREE



4

**Cal**

If you want a sleek-looking calendar that syncs all of your most important tasks into one hub and then provides that little bit extra with useful integrations then we think Cal has hit the nail on the head.

It's really easy to create an event – as you type Cal recognises who you want to meet and where you want to go. Contact, location, and social integration allow you to send messages and plan events right in the app itself and it seamlessly syncs with all your existing calendar services. When you are done your events will come to life with smart maps, contacts, apps and social integrations. It also makes it easy to find great places, restaurants and bars nearby for your events. And if you live somewhere that the much-lauded Uber taxi app operates in, then you can call yourself a ride with just one click from Cal.

The makers say it is designed “to help you balance life, work, and ‘me time’ without letting anything slip through the cracks”.

AVAILABLE FROM:



Apple



Google

PRICE:



FREE



5

**Inbox Cube**

We recently saw some research by Mimecast found that almost half of the emails we receive are useless, unhelpful or just plain spam. Sifting through screeds of emails can be infuriating, especially if you are more of a visual thinker. Enter Inbox Cube which sorts emails into visually pleasing and easy to navigate boxes. Your email will be transformed into a chic photostream where emails you need to reply to can be found in the email cubes, while the attachment cubes keep all your attachments in one place so you don't have to dig around for the email, contacts will be kept in the contact cube... you get the gist. It's hard to explain how good this is, so check out the video by scanning the QR code below. And we have to give the makers extra kudos for their rather risqué advertising videos too!

*To watch a brief overview, scan the QR code*

AVAILABLE FROM:



Apple



Google

PRICE:



FREE





6

## Expensify

Ok, so this one is more for submitting your work expenses, but, the faster you do it then the sooner (hopefully) the money will be in your account - and that's certainly not to be sniffed at. And you can use it for your personal finances too.

There is nothing peskier and more daunting than having to go through piles of receipts and invoices. Expensify easily allows you to digitise receipts for fuss-free cataloguing on the go. In fact the makers take it one step further by integrating with many popular business accounting programs like Xero and Quickbooks and exporting the data as CSV files. All the files are turned into PDFs so you'll always have the option of keeping them in your Evernote or for your own personal finance.

AVAILABLE FROM:



Apple



Google



BlackBerry

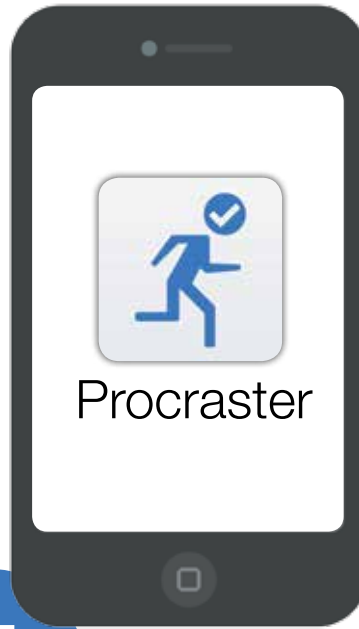


Windows

PRICE:



FREE



7

## Procraster

Definitely not your average to-do list app. With its minimal iOS7 interface and 'step-by-step' approach, this app is sure to break any nasty procrastinating habits in an instant. The app asks you a series of questions to help you break down larger projects into smaller, manageable steps. Rather than just listing tasks that need to be completed, Procraster focuses on project completion by breaking it down into steps and sessions, reducing your procrastination stress levels. Furthermore, Procraster prompts you to come up with and enter a short-term reward for every end of session, like spending a few minutes on Facebook, as a motivator. What makes this app even more interesting is that it forces you to identify the main reason you have been procrastinating with possible answers such as 'my project is too big' and 'I don't know where to start' before starting every project.

AVAILABLE FROM:



Apple

PRICE:



\$NZ 4.19  
\$A2.99

**STREAMLINE  
OPERATIONS.  
OPTIMISE ASSETS.  
ERP WITH REAL-TIME  
PROJECT CONTROL.**



**FOR  
AGILE  
BUSINESS**





8

## Packing Pro

Packing Pro is the perfect app for easing the pre-travel stress and that *'I know I'm forgetting something but what on earth is it?'* feeling we all get. The app allows you to create packing lists and then further categorises items into groups such as 'essentials', 'clothes', 'accessories' and more. The lists are fully customisable so you can really be in control of what you need to remember. But the absolute best part is that it reminds you of what you might be forgetting to pack – a dream for those of us who may have a tendency to leave things to the last minute. An absolute essential next time you are getting ready to fly off on an adventure, business trip or weekend away - this is the king of all packing apps.

AVAILABLE FROM:



Apple

PRICE:



\$NZ 4.19  
\$A2.99



9

## Google Drive

Ever so sleek and true to Google's usual aesthetic, the mobile version of Google Drive is easy to use and the perfect cloud-based storage system. Like most cloud systems you can upload anything from notes, PDF files and images which sync with and are accessible from your computer. Added features include an easy to use in-built document editor with a variety of formatting tools as well as real-time collaboration with invited users. This app is a must have simply for the fact that it seamlessly blends storage and document editing. Oh and the best part? Google Drive comes with 15GB of free storage space (this is shared space with Gmail and Google+ Photos) as a starter.

AVAILABLE FROM:



Apple



Google

PRICE:



FREE



10

## Duolingo

We might be stretching the term 'personal productivity' here, but if have you always wanted to learn a new language but never quite had the time then this is for you. Now you can use your time on-the-go to do just that. There is a reason Apple named this amazing free language education app its 2013 App of the Year and the results from users have been nothing short of astounding. Duolingo claims to be more effective than a university-level education when it comes to language learning. The main reason for this is that it gamifies the entire process of learning in an ingenious method of rewards, leader boards and video game avatars, obviously understanding that the key to learning a new tongue is repetition and getting you motivated to keep going. Currently the app is teaching Spanish, French, Italian, German and Portuguese to English speakers.

AVAILABLE FROM:



Apple



Google

PRICE:



FREE