

By Daniel W. Rasmus



The Tens—Top Ten Business Apps for the iPad

This note reflects my personal experience with apps I purchased or downloaded. I use these apps every day.

1 MobileNoter I almost live in Microsoft OneNote on the PC, capturing my research in its various tabs and sections. I synchronize multiple OneNote repositories using Windows Live Mesh. Microsoft doesn't support rich synchronization despite the recent release of OneNote for the iPhone (more of a note taking alternative that is about input, not working with existing docs). MobileNoter isn't perfect, but it is the only way to bring along deep and rich OneNote repositories on iOS. Key feature: *synchronizes selected OneNote docs.*



2 iThoughtsHD I recently tested all of the iPad mind mapping tools. This is the one I bought before I wrote the reviews and it is the one I still use almost exclusively. An excellent user interface combines with outstanding import and export options, including Dropbox integration. Good task management and a selection of icons and images make maps useful and attractive. Key feature: *excellent support for desktop app import and export.*



3 DocumentsToGo If you use Microsoft Office products on the PC or Mac, you need a way to integrate this creation and editing mode into your iOS experience. DocsToGo is my choice. It doesn't replicate the Office experience by any means, but it does make the content accessible. Closely behind this app are Pages, Numbers and Keynote which permit the freedom to create and analyze with a native iOS feel. Key feature: *Access to Microsoft Office files for reading and editing.*



4 Dropbox I remain skeptical of the cloud, but Dropbox has quickly become my go-to app on iOS, the web and the PC. Every presentation ends up on Dropbox, as do my working articles and other important docs. I want to be able to work from anywhere, anytime — on any device, and Dropbox is my facilitator of choice. Many iOS apps now integrate with Dropbox, making it a *de facto* standard for cloud file storage. Key feature: *cross platform access to files.*



5 Instapaper Sometimes you just want to read something later. On the PC, I push my future reading to OneNote. I've already discussed the limitations of OneNote and MobileNoter, so Instapaper fills the gap. Essential for people engaged in research. Key feature: *read saved web pages locally or on the web.*



6 Skype When you are on the road, especially in a foreign country, there is nothing better than phoning home. And it feels even better when you can use local WiFi rather than racking up International Roaming minutes. Also helps you stay connected with clients in foreign countries at a lower cost. Skype calls are usually clear, and its software is very easy to use. Key feature: *free phone and video calls.*



7 Flipboard Flipboard's innovative entry into social media and subscriptions demonstrates the power of a device like the iPad to create new visual experiences. Flipboard turns social media into a reading experience, but retains the interaction. Key feature: *turns reading social media posts into a fluid, pleasurable experience.*



8 LogMeIn I've played with a few remote access clients and I keep coming back to LogMeIn. All of the apps I tested were slower than I wanted and a bit clumsy to work with, but LogMeIn was the most intuitive, and its direct access to the PC's file system is an added benefit. Key feature: *access to PC and files remotely.*



9 Evernote I could certainly use a combination of OneNote and MobileNoter to replicate what I do with Evernote, which is capture ideas quickly and synchronize to-do lists, travel information and other data. But I'm not going to. Key feature: *notes synchronized with web and multiple devices.*



10 Twitter I tweet a lot. I used to use TweetDeck on the iPad (still use it primarily on the PC), and still have it installed, but Twitter's native client captures the grace and elegance of what an iPad app should be. It is simple, intuitive and visual. Key feature: *makes tweeting a pleasure.*

