

Tech Device for Note-taking

I have a bad habit of writing notes on scraps of paper and occasionally losing said scraps of paper before acting on the notes.

Anyone have a better system? Ideally something that will fire up quickly, take hand-written notes, and then sync the notes with my staff so they can take the appropriate actions. Maybe a tablet, stylus and One-Note.

Any real-world suggestion?

Check out Rocketbook.

<https://getrocketbook.com/>

Phil A. Taylor, Massachusetts

Hire a law clerk? They can do all that and carry your briefcase. I usually take a picture of notes with my cellphone and send a copy of photo to whoever I want to share it with; can even add a short message or instructions.

Duke Drouillard, Nebraska

I love my Apple Pencil and GoodNotes on my iPad for this. Works well marking up PDFs too.

Andrew Mays, Illinois

I was curious about Rocketbook, so I followed the link and read a bit about it. Unless I'm missing something, it's basically a dry-erase notebook - the pages

of which you're required to snap pictures of with your phone in order to digitize the content. Sure, the notebook is "green" in that you save trees, but couldn't we do the same thing now with a legal pad and a scanner app?

(BTW, I use an app called Tiny Scanner, and I highly recommend it.)

Andrew C. McDannold, Florida

I got a Chromebook (for another purpose); maybe \$200. It's a touchscreen of course. I put the Inkredible <<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.viettran.INKredible>> app on it, which is a handwriting app on the Play store. There's also Squid <<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.steadfastinnovation.android.projectpapyrus>>, which was good too.

What I've not gotten it to do is to automatically send the notes (which you can put into a PDF format). I just email them to myself and then they're in my client email folder.

Tim Ackermann, Texas

I did the same thing, writing notes that ended up everywhere. I can't recommend CamScanner enough. I'm not a paid spokesperson or invested in the company! You actually *scan* items using your phone. You then send to files, or your computer, or wherever. I have the free version but you can upgrade and prices are reasonable. Not sure how I existed without it.

<https://www.camscanner.com/>

Julie S. Mills, Ohio

With Rocketbook, taking the picture sends the notes where you previously set the notebook to send them. Cam scanner is great but you still have to file the note or remember it's in your phone.

Mitchell Goldstein, Virginia

1) Add a Tablet, stylus, and appropriate program (OneNote, etc.) I don't like the idea of carrying multiple devices, so these solutions get around

that:

2) Switch to a Samsung Note phone.

3) Upgrade your usual laptop to a touch screen version--available on most high end models these days. You don't need a special convertible laptop; the touch is available on normal laptops as well.

4) Change your normal workflow to use a Surface Book, Surface pro, iPad Pro, etc.

Erik Hammarlund, Massachusetts

Use your phone's camera to take a picture and send to your inbox. From your inbox you can drag/drop/save into appropriate client or other folder. At least this way, you have a digital record of the note.

The problem, for me, is none of the digital options for notetaking - from the "pens" to the surface of the devices work. They are too slippery and my handwriting goes from pretty darned bad to wholly what does that say?!

I've been taking pix of my handwritten notes (now corralled into a Moleskine) and loading to Evernote for years. If you are thinking of upgrading your note taking - take a look at www.bulletjournal.com I've been using the concepts for about 7 years now - but I modified the overall to better work for me. Happy to share if you care.... LMK.

Andrea Cannavina, nope notta lawyer

I tried writing on a tablet (an iPad Pro) for a while. It has never felt like writing on paper to me, and my handwriting is already crappy, so when I use it I generally stick to typing. I understand that there are screen covers you can use to give it more of a paper feel.

I do use OneNote extensively as it syncs across all my devices and meshes well with Outlook—I can use an appointment or email to create a OneNote note that is already populated with, e.g., who has been invited to a call, etc.

Kevin Grierson, Virginia

Unless you're in a setting where speaking your notes instead of writing them is impossible, I've become very adept at using the mic icon next to the space bar on my iPhone or iPad to write messages [speaking fairly softly, so not too many people would even notice], email, memos to files, draft letters, notes to myself, whatever. Sure, Siri autocorrects what I say into what I didn't mean, so I have to correct before sending, and I don't always remember to do that. But for the most part, it's quite useful and beats trying to type on the teeny soft keyboards. I have a Surface Pro 4, but the cursor jumps to erratic places within the file, putting what I'm typing where it doesn't belong, and since I'm a touch typist, I don't see it when it's happening, so I have to hunt for the misplaced text, very annoying and frustrating. Cortana doesn't function for this purpose the way that Siri does, so that's not an option.

Miriam N. Jacobson, Pennsylvania

Agree with Andrea's comments about the whole "pens" things, but that's what got me hooked on the Rocketbook. They use regular Pilot Frixion pens which

can be used anywhere, and based upon my recent Amazon purchase history I have quite a few. ;)

Dave Rakowski, Pennsylvania

That is not a bad description, but once you snap the pic it is automatically sent where you direct. It is more durable than dry erase.

The ink will not just wipe away. You need a damp cloth and can erase mistakes with an eraser (the pen has an eraser on it if needed). They have a version that you microwave to erase (not sure what the point it unless you like to fill the book and erase all at once). You use a special pen (its about the ink) but those cost about the same as regular pens and can be used as regular pens (except where you do not want to use an erasable pen, such as writing checks).

You preset locations and mark off where it is to be sent. It can go to email, or a folder on one of the cloud services. You can also "code" a file name. You set the name between ## (add to front and back) so when the scan is sent the name is also there for reference.

I started using it based on a colleague's suggestion. I like "pen to paper." I was making notes and then scanning them with my desktop scanner, but that wasted paper (cost and environment issues). You can "print" blank pages if you do not want to buy the notebook, but the notebook is not expensive. The other options I see cost \$100 plus, where this is about \$35.00.

Phil A. Taylor

If one uses Siri or the recording device on an iPhone to take notes, how do you know that Apple is not recording and/or directing persons to listen to and transcribe those messages for purposes of AI development? From what I know, Apple does, could, or might do so. I would be worried about my obligation to keep client matters confidential.

Flann Lippincott, New Jersey

Thanks for the great suggestions. I bought the Rocketbook and will give it a try. I like the idea of the real paper feel, and having it automatically forward. I plan to send the notes to OneNote, which syncs with my staff, in the hopes that they will take the appropriate actions (draft letter, addendum, etc) upon seeing the notes.

Will report back.

James M. Miner, New Jersey

Apple is doing exactly that and you have to err on the side of they are recording and people are listening - given the type of work you do.

The ONLY way I was able to configure Apple devices to work for my clients is through the app Dictate + Connect - which does not send a copy of the audio file to any place you don't tell it to.

Andrea Cannavina, nope notta lawyer

Although the title is a bit over the top, this article confirms that Apple does listen (or has in the past) to Siri and voice recordings for purposes of modifying their voice recognition algorithms.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/gordonkelly/2019/08/24/apple-iphone-ipad-privacy-siri-recordings-ios-upgrade-iphone-xs-max-xr-update/#675b7b471017>

Kevin Grierson

Funny, Forbes' Apple article yesterday was titled "Apple Just Gave 1.4 Billion iPad, iPhone Users A Reason To Leave". Today's Forbes article is entitled "Apple Just Gave 1 Billion iPhone Users A Reason To Stay."

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/zakdoffman/2019/08/26/apple-just-gave-1-billion-iphone-users-a-reason-to-stay/#4d56bc2378d2>

Ah, clickbait at its finest. Sadly, today's article addresses a security flaw and not the confidentiality of recordings.

Kevin Grierson