

# **Apps and Traps for January, 2014 by David Whitby and Scott Harrell**

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**Humor**

<http://youtu.be/WfaFlfEmfCc#aid=P6Oe-i4L0LA>

**OSX**

# Stop Personal Datamining!

<http://lifehacker.com/the-top-50-companies-that-mine-and-sell-your-data-and-1482645222>

We all know that our personal data is very valuable to marketers and other agencies—and that it's collected and sold by data brokers. StopDataMining.me is a master list of opt-out links to stop these data brokers from collecting information about your online and offline activities.

## RELATED

### [Remove Yourself from All Background Check Web Sites: A Master List](#)

An alarming number of sites publish your name, address, and other information online. If you want to remove your data from sites like ZabaSearch and... [Read...](#)

The list is similar to a [previously featured compilation on Reddit](#), but seems to be more comprehensive. You'll find opt-out links and brief instructions for opting-out of (currently) 50 data mining companies, including data brokers Acxiom and Intelius, as well as direct marketers such as Valpak and Dex Media (distributors of phone books).

Note:\* I personally use both Adblock and Ghostery when in Safari (in fact Ghostery found over 12 Trackers on the LifeHacker site.)

### Master List of Data Broker Opt-Out Links

Now tracking 50 data mining companies.

Show  entries

Search:

CATEGORY	COMPANY NAME	OPT-OUT LINK
TOP 10	Acxiom Corporation (NSDQ:AXCM)	<a href="https://isapps.acxiom.com/optout">https://isapps.acxiom.com/optout</a>
TOP 10	DataLogix Holdings, Inc.	<a href="https://www.datalogix.com/privac">https://www.datalogix.com/privac</a>

# Beginners Guide to going paperless with a Mac, iPad and iPhone

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/the-beginners-guide-to-going-paperless-with-a-mac-ipad-and-iphone/>

By [Bakari Chavanu](#) on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 | [iOS](#), [Mac OS X](#) | 14 Comments

I've been paperless for nearly three years now, thanks to my Mac, iPad, and iPhone, as well as numerous powerful third-party apps. I don't have the stats to prove it, but I think the money I save by going paperless practically pays for my Apple devices.

My paperless setup is probably easier and more practical because I'm a freelance writer who works from home. However, with the right tools and apps, it's possible for nearly anyone to read, write, and share documents without using paper notebooks or a printer. Fellow staff writer, Aaron Crouch, wrote a [guide about going paperless](#) that includes suggestions for scanning and signing documents, handling email, and taking notes on a smartphone.

## Writing and Managing Documents

The most challenging part of going paperless is producing, managing, and sharing documents on your Apple devices. Simple writing applications like [TextEdit](#), which come installed with Mac OS X, the cross-platform application [Simplenote](#) (see screenshot below) or more heavy duty applications like [Scrivener](#) and [Ulysses](#) can take care of most writing projects.

To manage and share documents on all your devices, cloud services like [Dropbox](#) are the best way to go, instead of just saving your documents locally on your Mac or iOS device.

Cloud-friendly note-taking services [Evernote and Springpad](#) are useful for writing and sharing notes and longer form documents, and syncing content across all your devices. Both of these services require a Wi-Fi connection to upload and access content, but a premium upgrade to Evernote gives you offline access as well.

Note: My personal printing needs have been reduced to printing Music Scores (to play) on a Laserjet, and a small number of Photos on an inkjet printer with glossy paper.

## After Xmas accessories... its never too late to shop...

<http://appadvice.com/appnn/2013/12/this-week-in-accessories-great-stocking-stuffers-for-the-apple-fan-in-your-life>

### Never Forget your Wallet, or Anything Else

**Wallet TrackR from Phone Halo, \$29.95**



Only the thickness of a few credit cards, the Wallet TrackR uses Bluetooth 4.0 technology to help keep track of a wallet or other items like purses and luggage. Paired with the [free companion app](#) available to download in the App Store now, users can see the distance between themselves and their lost items. The two-way ringer can even help find your phone by using the tracker. The TrackR can go for up to a year powered by user-replaceable coin-cell batteries.

# The Future Mac: You and Siri can create animations with Crazytalk

<http://mac360.com/2013/12/the-future-mac-siri-meet-crazytalk/>

Friday, December 13, 2013 | [Wil Gomez](#) Posted In [Mac App Reviews](#)

What's missing from the Mac today that we all hope Apple adds to the next version of OS X? Siri. Yes, you can get Siri's voices— female and male— in OS X Mavericks but Siri's famed snarky responses will have to wait until Apple sees fit to deliver our favorite digital assistant to the Mac. What would happen if Apple integrated Siri functionality from the iPhone and iPad to CrazyTalk on the Mac? Fun. Downside is that it will cost you \$29.

Show Video here...



## iClouddisk and CloudMate... things missing from iCloud

<http://noodlemac.com/2013/12/one-thing-wrong-with-icloud-is-easily-fixed-with-this-free-mac-app/>

### One Thing Wrong With iCloud Is Easily Fixed With This Free Mac App

Apple's iCloud, in its current form is a mixed bag of hurt and smiles, sore spots and warm and fuzzies. In other words, sometimes it works great. Sometimes it doesn't.

For example, iCloud seems to handle Calendar and Contacts between Macs, iPhone, and iPads with few issues. Safari bookmarks sync up between devices most of the time as do login IDs and passwords.

Then there's all the third party applications which rely on iCloud. Sorry, iCloud doesn't always 'just work.' Dropbox is more stable, dependable, and predictable than iCloud. I suspect the problem is in how iCloud syncs up data within the databases of each device, but Dropbox just syncs files so it's less problematic.

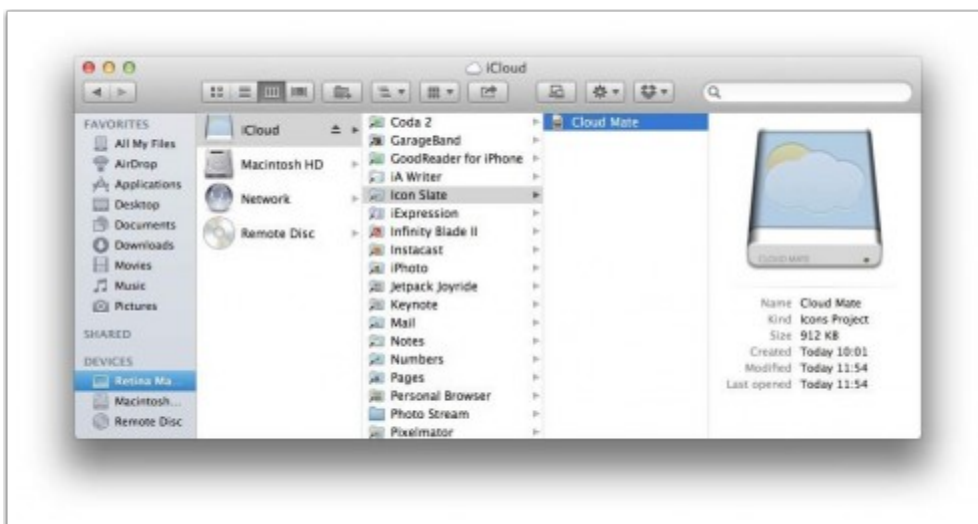
It seems to me that a better way for iCloud to perform is to be more like Dropbox and here's a free Mac app that makes it happen. Almost.

[iCloudDisk](#) is free and works more like the old iDisk used to work, and somewhat like Dropbox does now. It syncs a folder of files between Macs using iCloud. Think iDisk. iCloud. iCloudDisk. It's simple to use, too. Just assign a folder to sync between your Macs.

That's it. Drop files into the iCloudDisk folder on your Mac just like you would in Dropbox and they get synchronized to your other Macs.

There are other ways to get the same kind of file and folder sync between Macs, but none are easier or less expensive than iCloudDisk. Apple hides the mobile sync folder from users to keep us from mucking up iCloud's system.

However, if you don't mind spending a few bucks, [Cloud Mate](#) works similarly and has a few more features— like integration into the Finder. That's a big plus.



# Google vs Dropbox....for sharing Photos?

<http://lifehacker.com/google-vs-dropbox-which-is-better-for-hosting-and-sha-1488854866>

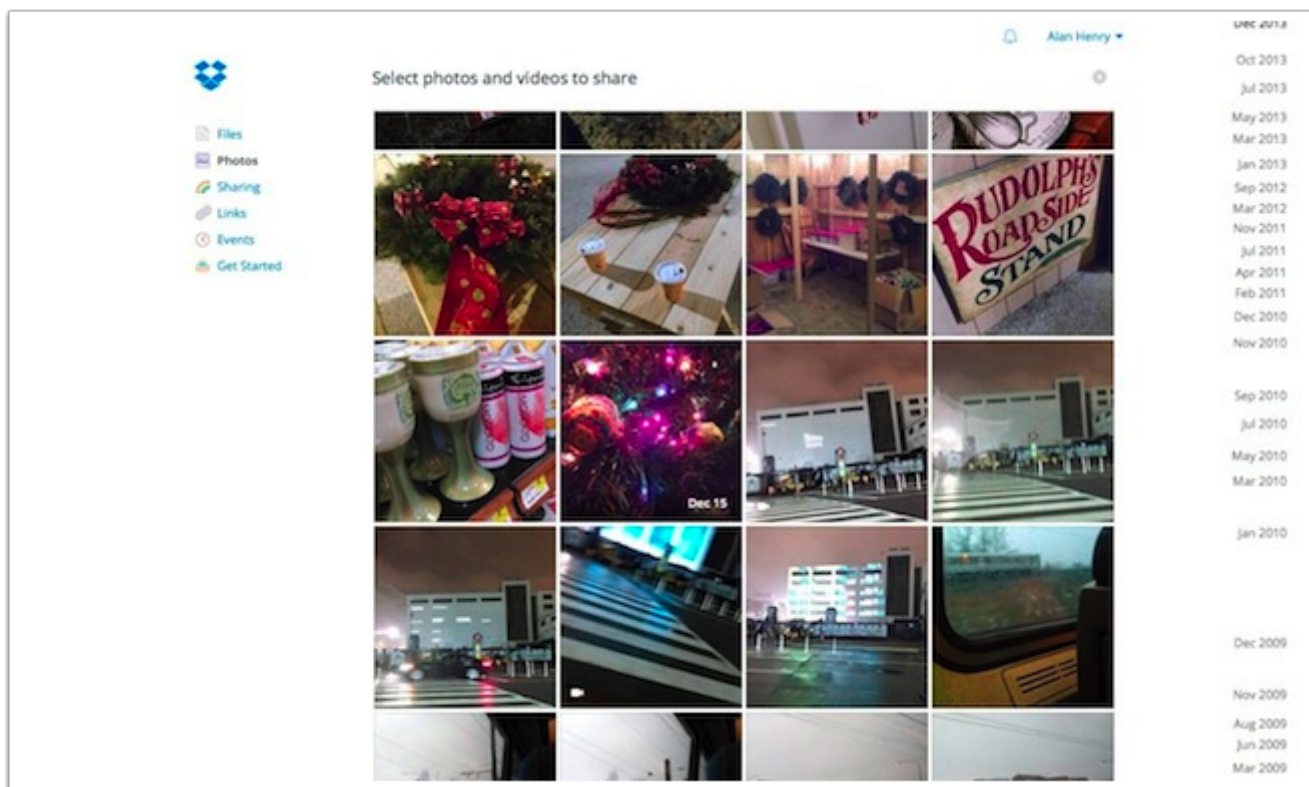
ALAN HENRY on LIFEHACKER PHOTOGRAPHY 12/26/13 4:00am

63,903gL

## [Google vs. Dropbox: Which Is Better for Hosting and Sharing Photos?](#)

It used to be a pain to get photos off of our phones and to the web where we could share them with others, but both Dropbox and Google make it really easy thanks to auto-uploading. Still, once they're uploaded, both services offer different storage limits, sharing options, and editing tools. Let's take a look at which one is best for your shots.P

They say the best camera is the one you have with you all the time, and for most of us, that's our cellphone. Like it or not, it's easier these days to snap photos with our phones and have them instantly uploaded to the web for all to see than it is to use an actual camera (even if the photos we'd get from that camera are better.) Dropbox and Google Drive/Google+ both make the process really easy, and offer you a wealth of tools to share, edit, and organize your photos once they've been uploaded. Let's take a look at the two, and determine which one you may want to enable auto-upload on.



### Best ever iPad Ad?

[http://bgr.com/2014/01/13/ipad-air-your-verse-anthem-tv-ad/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+TheBoyGeniusReport+%28](http://bgr.com/2014/01/13/ipad-air-your-verse-anthem-tv-ad/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+TheBoyGeniusReport+%28)

After using's Bryan Cranston's voice to promote the [iPad Air's](#) slimness in a TV ad that ran in the days following the tablet's official announcement, the company has now turned to Robin Williams and his performance in the film "Dead Poets Society" for a brand new iPad Air commercial. Titled "Your Verse Anthem," the 90-second commercial replays a Williams monologue from the movie while showing how iPad buyers use the device in all sorts of day-to-day activities.

## Non Apple but Tech Related

### Scientists invent the perfect coffee mug!

<http://io9.com/science-student-invents-the-perfect-coffee-mug-1485057760>

ROBERT T. GONZALEZ on IO9 MATERIALS SCIENCE 12/17/13 2:40pm  
101,784gL

Scientists love coffee. [More than anyone else, by some surveys](#). So in a way, it makes perfect sense that they would be responsible for what could be the greatest coffee-related invention since [coffee-alcohol](#): a mug that keeps coffee hot – but not too hot – for hours on end.

#### RELATED

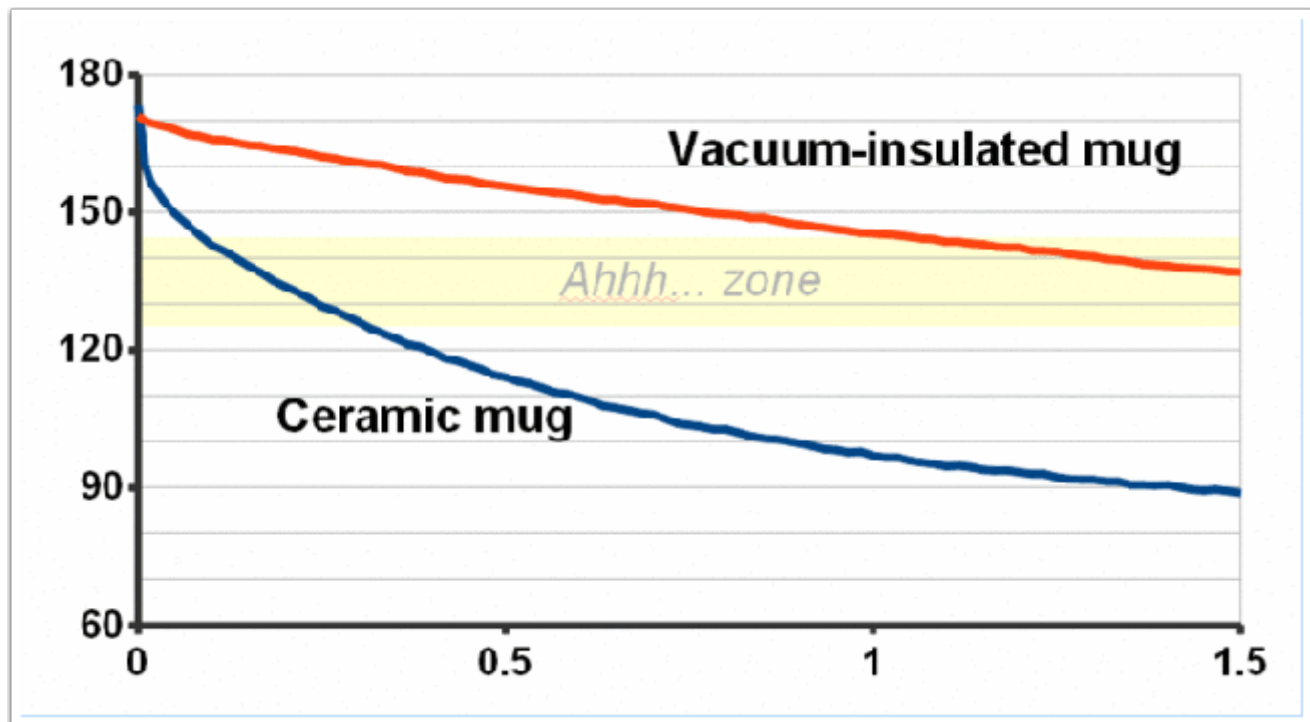
[Here are the fifteen professions that drink the most coffee. Guess who's number one.](#)

In 2011, Dunkin' Donuts teamed up with CareerBuilder to shed some light on U.S. coffee consumption in the workplace. After polling 4,700... [Read...](#)

[Researchers make alcohol from coffee, change everything](#)

A team of goddamn heroes scientists has gone and found a way to make booze out of used coffee grounds, finally bridging the gap between two of the... [Read...](#)

*Above: A 3-D printed model of the forthcoming "Temperfect" mug, with stainless steel veneer*  
The vessel is the brainchild of Logan Maxwell and Dean Verhoeven. The idea came to Maxwell in his final year of undergrad at North Carolina State University. For his senior design project, he designed a temperature-regulating coffee mug that happened to be conceptually identical to more sophisticated prototypes that Verhoeven, an engineer, had been working on for years. Around the middle of 2013, a mutual acquaintance introduced the two mug-makers. Together, the pair founded a company – [Joeveo](#) – and [launched a Kickstarter](#) for their mug, which they call the "Temperfect."



## Mug Continued.....



## Cool and Creative Gadgets, Accessories You Might Actually Use

<http://www.gadgets-magazine.com/cool-creative-gadgets-accessories-might-actually-use/>

### 2. Mop Slippers



Now you'll actually *\*want\** to clean your floors.

## Cool gadgets continued....

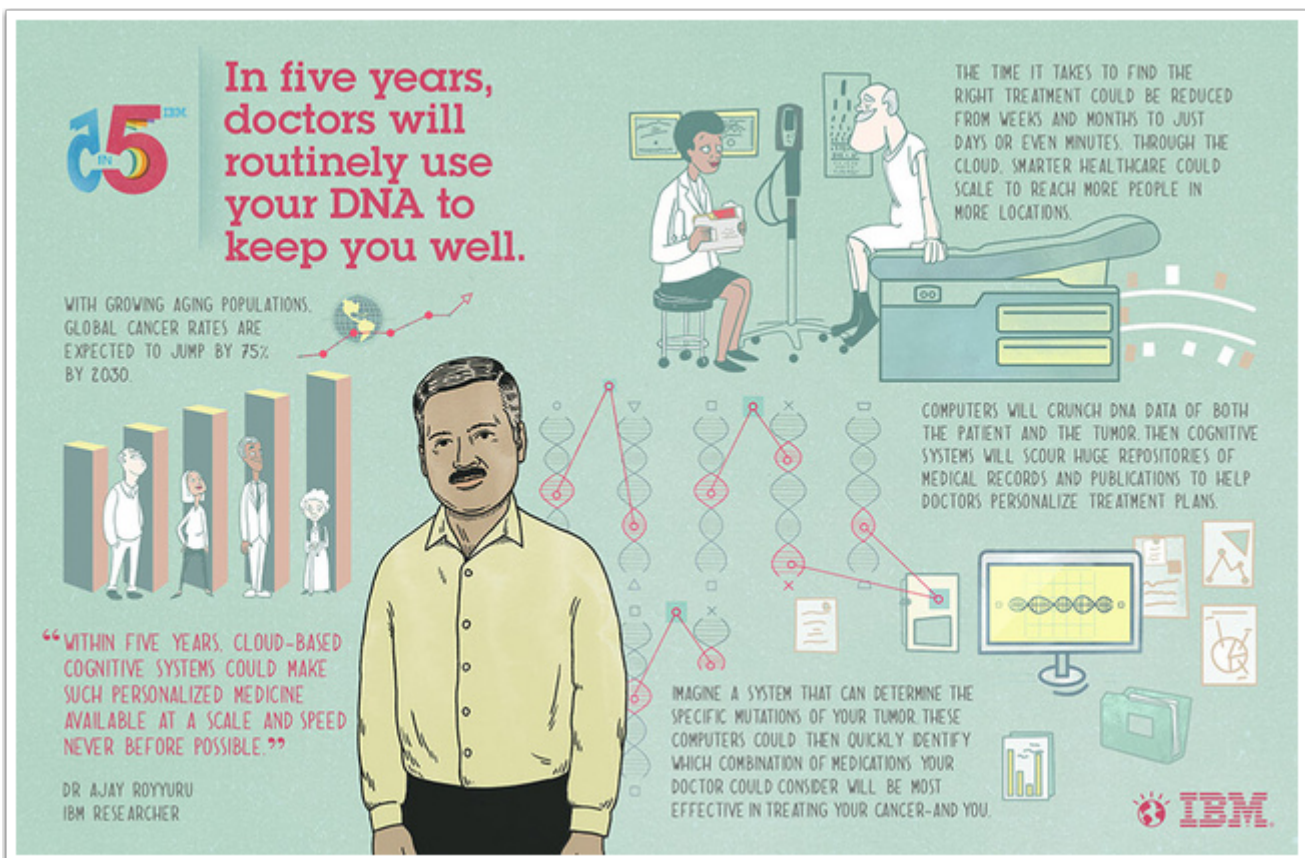
### 19. Nap Cap



This year, you will travel far and wide, and while you travel you will doze, and while you doze you will dream.

## Five surprising things that will happen in the next five years

<http://sploid.gizmodo.com/five-surprising-things-that-will-happen-in-the-next-fiv-1484889836>



# Technology hasn't changed Us.

<https://medium.com/p/defd9264bf14>

I get so sick and tired of people saying that technology is “ruining us”; saying that all these mobile phones are somehow undermining this incredible human interaction we had all the way back in the **1990's**.

*It's really laughable...* So I just wanted to share the above photo of a subway car from 1947 where every single person, even though they're in a confined space together, aren't paying any attention to each other because they're *reading media on a newspaper*. The recent version of this is, of course, cellphones and iPads, yet the same people out there who hate change continue to cry foul.

