

# FCC FINED AT&T, T-MOBILE AND VERIZON FOR ILLEGALLY SHARING CUSTOMER LOCATION DATA

"The United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today announced that it has fined AT&T, Verizon, and Sprint/T-Mobile \$196 million collectively for illegally selling access to customer location information without consent.

Sprint and T-Mobile (now merged into T-Mobile) have been fined \$12 million and \$80 million, respectively. Verizon has been fined almost \$47 million, and AT&T has been fined more than \$57 million.

The FCC first began investigating the four major U.S. carriers in 2019 after they were found selling real-time location information from customer devices to third-party data aggregators, which led to that location data being sold a second time to private investigators, bounty hunters, law enforcement agencies, credit card companies, and more.

Following the investigation, the FCC confirmed that wireless carriers had violated federal law by sharing consumer location data. Fines were proposed back in 2020, but carriers were given an opportunity to provide evidence and legal arguments against the decision before the fines were formally imposed.

The fines vary based on the length of time that each carrier sold access to customer location information without safeguards, and the number of entities that were provided access. The FCC determined that carriers were obligated to protect the personal information of their customers, which they did not do."

### APPLE BEGINNING TO SHIP NEW PHYSICAL APPLE CREDIT CARDS

"Apple today began informing early Apple Card customers that their physical titanium cards are set to expire this summer, with replacements to be sent in the near future. Customers who signed up for the Apple Card in August 2019, when the Apple Card launched, will be receiving the notice. It appears that the physical Apple Card is designed to last for five years before a replacement is sent out.

Most of the Apple Card's functionality is digital, with options for rotating security codes and credit card numbers for online purchases, but there is a number associated with the physical card that's used for in-person transactions. Credit card companies add expiration dates to physical cards for fraud prevention purposes, to introduce new technology, and more.

#### From Apple's email:

We're sending a replacement titanium card to your billing address so you can continue to use it at physical locations. Remember, even without a physical card you can always use your Apple Card at any location that accepts Apple Pay. Your new titanium card will be shipped within 2 weeks from the date of this communication.

You can continue to use your titanium card until it expires or you activate the new one. You can still use Apple Card with Apple Pay and your virtual card number to shop at merchants that don't yet accept Apple Pay by typing in your number from Wallet or using Safari AutoFill.

Replacement cards will include a prepaid shipping label so that customers can send in their old Apple Card to be recycled. Apple recommends that Apple Card users who receive a new card activate it when it arrives, as the current card is scheduled to stop working at its expiration date.

Customers who signed up for Apple Card at some point after it first launched will likely receive emails at the five year mark. Note that some customers have been receiving emails for the last month or so, but these may be customers who were able to sign up for the Apple Card early as part of a beta test."

https://www.macrumors.com/2024/04/29/first-physical-apple-cards-expiring-soon/

### "WHY AN IPHONE CAN SURVIVE A DROP FROM A PLANE, BUT NOT FROM YOUR KITCHEN COUNTER"

"Ever since a door plug flew off an Alaska Airlines flight midair in January, the world has awaited an answer to the Big Question: How did that iPhone survive?!

Yes, when the Boeing 737 MAX 9's fuselage ripped open, a smartphone flew out and tumbled down 16,000 feet. The iPhone 14 Pro Max was found completely unharmed. Yet your phone's screen turned into a spiderweb when you accidentally nudged it off your bathroom counter.

Was it because a protective case cocooned the airborne phone? Was it because it was a newer, more durable unit? Was it rescued and repaired by a family of bears?

Every year, Apple, Samsung and other smartphone makers tell us about their improved durability—Ceramic Shield! Gorilla Armor! And still the first thing we do with a shiny new phone is shove it in a case. Do we still need to? Perhaps we should all go...naked?

There was only one way to find out: Make it rain phones."

-Joanna Stern Wall Street Journal

### "WHY AN IPHONE CAN SURVIVE A DROP FROM A PLANE, BUT NOT FROM YOUR KITCHEN COUNTER"

"My producer and I created the Phone-Droppin' Drone (trademark pending) and set out to drop iPhone 14 and Samsung Galaxy S23 devices from 3, 30 and 300 feet onto grass and asphalt.

It was thrilling. And the results taught us as much about physics as they did about phone durability. Let's break it down.

- Phones: I bought iPhone 14 and Galaxy S23 models from refurbished-device company Back in the Box, which confirmed the original hardware was intact. No screens or batteries had been replaced. While not the latest models, these phones use top-of-the-line Corning glass and represent the latest durability claims made by Apple and Samsung.
- Space: A 300-foot drop required landing zones of grass and asphalt—and no innocent passersby! Thankfully, New Jersey's beautiful Sussex County Fairgrounds fit the bill.
- Drone: My smartphone-testing desire has no limits, so, yes, I considered dropping the phones while skydiving. But a drone gave us more control for hitting specific heights and targets. My producer-turned-MacGyver, David Hall, rigged a contraption to release phones with the press of a button on the drone controller.
- Carnage: You aren't tuning in to this to see phones survive and look pretty. You want shattered glass, you'll get shattered glass. These phones didn't give in so easily, though."

-Joanna Stern Wall Street Journal



## APPLE TV+ RENEWS FOR ALL MANKIND AND CREATES SPIN OFF STAR CITY

Apple TV+ has renewed its hit space drama For All Mankind for a fifth season. Also, it was announced that a spinoff show, Star City, will be created. Star City will be about the Russian/Soviet Union's space program and its headquarters Star City, located outside of Moscow.

"Our fascination with the Soviet space program has grown with every season of For All Mankind," said executive producers and showrunners Wolpert and Nedivi. "The more we learned about this secret city in the forests outside Moscow where the Soviet cosmonauts and engineers worked and lived, the more we wanted to tell this story of the other side of the space race."

Apple TV+ description of Star City:

"A robust expansion of the For All Mankind universe, Star City is a propulsive, paranoid thriller that takes us back to the key moment in the alt-history retelling of the space race — when the Soviet Union became the first nation to put a man on the moon. But this time, we explore the story from behind the Iron Curtain. [We show] the lives of the cosmonauts, the engineers and the intelligence officers embedded among them in the Soviet space program. And the risks they all took to propel humanity forward."



### VISION PRO USED TO WATCH THE MASTERS



the Masters Tournament experience on the Apple Vision Pro is a hole-inone!

you can watch up to four video streams at once, check out each hole in 3D, and it comes with the iconic leaderboard.

it's available for free now on the AppStore. 🔔



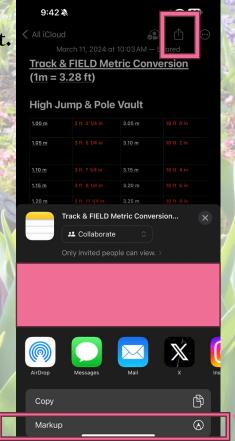


## HOW TO CREATE PDF FILES ON YOUR IPHONE FROM THE NOTES APP

The Apple Notes app is great for keeping notes handy on your phone. What's even better is that you can also create PDFs from these notes to store or share. Here's how you can do it.

1. Select the note you want to convert.

Then press on the SHARE button in the top right corner of your screen.



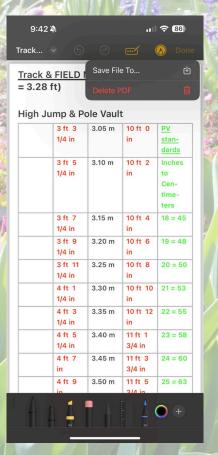
2. Select MARKUP from your share menu. (If it's not in the menu then scroll down to "edit actions..." at the bottom and add it). It will probably say "Unsupported File Format" on your screen, but just wait 2-3 seconds and the PDF will appear. Then hit DONE at the top right of the screen.



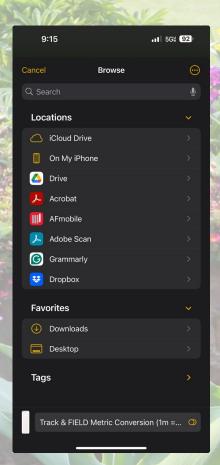
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3. Select "Save File To..." on the dropdown menu



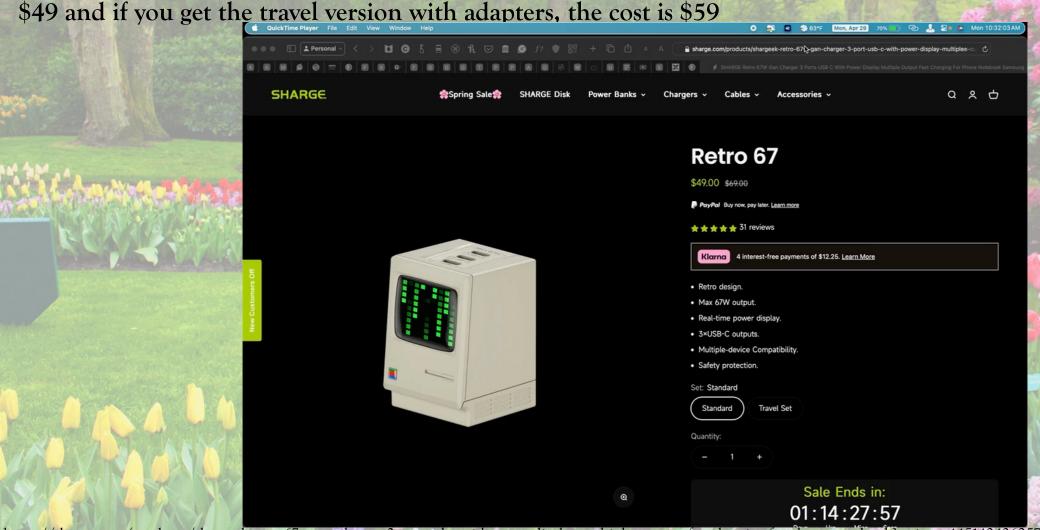
4. Choose where you want to save your file and name it. Then press SAVE and you'll now find that file there to open or share. If you share to your iCloud drive, you'll be able to open it on your other devices as well.





#### SHARGEEK RETRO 67 CHARGER

Feeling nostalgic? Try this cool charger from Shargeek that looks like a classic Macintosh. This small charger can charge up to 3 devices at once and will show the power output on the charger screen. The standard charger costs



https://sharge.com/products/shargeek-retro-67w-gan-charger-3-port-usb-c-with-power-display-multiplee-output-fast-charging-for-phone-notebook?variant=44514043625723

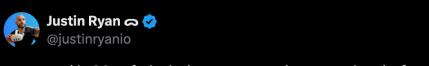
### SHARGEEK RETRO 67 CHARGER



#### UNCLUTTER APP

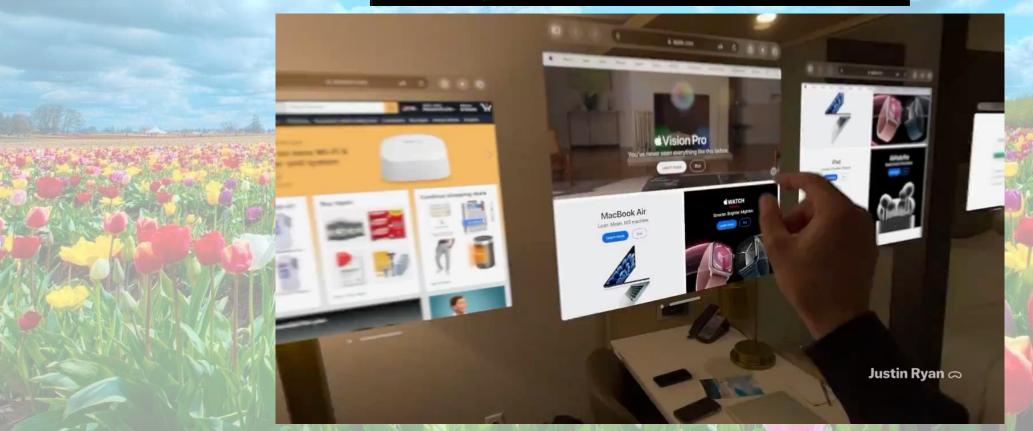
Here is an app that help you better organize your Mac. It uses your menu bar to store items. You can download and try a demo period before you buy and it costs \$19.99 for a lifetime license. Check out the video to see it in action:

#### HOW MANY SAFARI WINDOWS CAN YOU OPEN WITH A VISION PRO?



my record is 38 safari windows open at the same time before the M2 in my Apple Vision Pro hit its limit

it's ridiculously beautiful



#### Zoom meetings are just modern seances



- "There's someone who wants to join us."
  "Elizabeth, are you there?"
  "We can't hear you."
  "Can you hear us?"

