

Weather apps not all created the same

By Molly Wood, New York Times

Weather can be a great equalizer. It can also be a way to make conversation with just about everyone.

No wonder, then, that the weather forecast is one of the pieces of information many of us crave when starting each day – and that weather apps are among the most frequently used programs on smartphones.

Weather apps aren't all created equal, though. The built-in apps on iPhones and Android phones are perfectly serviceable, offering glanceable forecasts for as many cities as you want, and they're tied into the phones' virtual assistants. But weather technology – both the creation and presentation of forecasts – is evolving quickly. It's worth checking out the options.

For prettier backdrops, Yahoo Weather is hands down the most gorgeous app out there. Weather Underground's app is for budding meteorologists who want to dig deep into weather conditions, and Dark Sky's mesmerizing globe of animated weather patterns is a great party trick.

In the end, though, finding the right weather app is really a matter of personal taste in the design, how much information you want and, crucially, how much you trust the forecast. And there is a bit of a philosophical difference brewing in terms of how those forecasts are created.

Now, weather apps are often powered by one of a few sources of information, including the Weather Channel and Weather Underground (both of which are owned by the Weather Company), and Weatherbug and AccuWeather.

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