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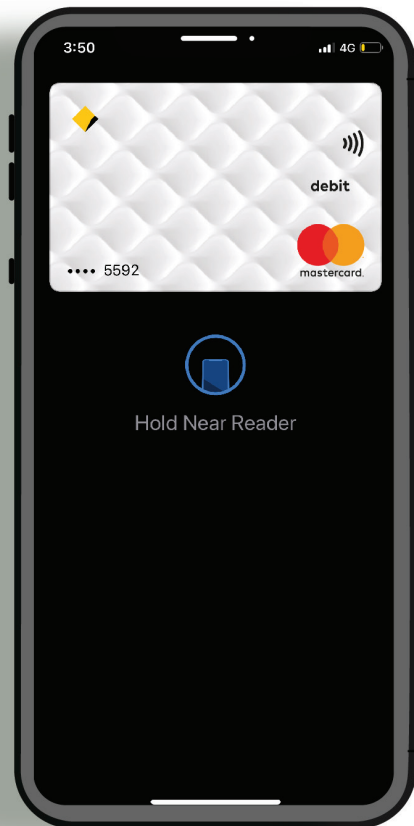
Smooth Operator

The Evolution of iOS



Evolution of the iOS

Ayesha Charakla



The Apple owned operating system, iOS, runs on the iPhone, iPad and all iPod touch devices. In 2007, Apple changed the game in the mobile phone industry with the introduction of the new iPhone and first-ever mobile operating system. Over the years, iOS has evolved at a rapid pace through the creative invention of several features that users cannot imagine the iPhone without, such as multi-tasking, FaceTime, Siri, iMessage, and Apple Pay. In this article, we will explore the evolution of iOS and how it has formed its purpose and functionality in the iPhone.

Since the launch of the first iPhone and iOS, each year with the advent of technological improvements in the iPhone hardware, iOS software has developed in parallel to accommodate these changes and provide optimum utility for the users. The iOS software changes and updates have occurred over time to enhance user experience, driven by Apple's creativity, community feedback, rapid-paced competition from the likes of Android and Windows, and the technological advancement of iPhone hardware in

areas such as fingerprint scanners, facial recognition, pressure-sensitive screens and wireless charging.

Apple has set a high benchmark for competing mobile phone operating systems, with iOS being the second most popular operating system after Android. Apple launched their first operating software in 2007 and it was called OS. This name was subsequently changed to iOS when the fourth version of the software was released. On initial launch of the software, despite being a massive development at the time, it lacked many of the features that would accompany the iPhone in future updates. The main distinguishing feature of the OS 1 from the competition was the multitouch interface, however, its biggest achievement was the idea of compiling a portable music player (iPod), camera, phone and internet into one compact powerful device.

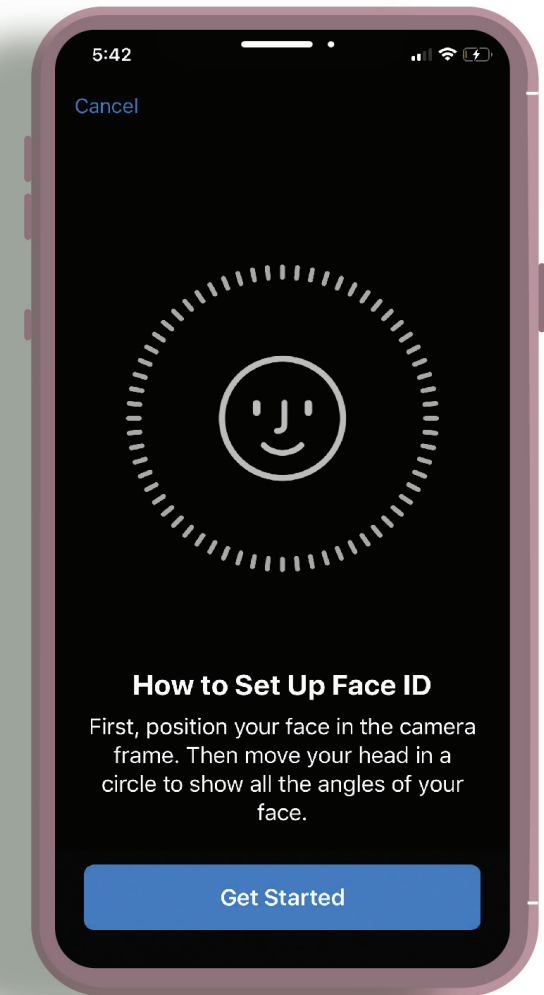
OS 2 saw the introduction of the App Store, maps and GPS services. After the first two years of OS releases, it was apparent that Apple had taken a breather from modifications and improvements as not

much had changed in OS 3, other than some features such as the availability of third-party apps in the App Store, push notifications, and a search utility called Spotlight. On release of the fourth version, Apple changed the software's name to iOS 4. Two major milestones with the launch of iOS 4 were the introduction of Facetime and multitasking. Facetime was ground-breaking for Apple as it made the futuristic perception of mobile phone video calling a reality. Multitasking capabilities already existed in Google's Android and the introduction of multitasking by Apple was a long-awaited response to iPhone users.

With iOS 5 and 6, Apple introduced iMessage, Apple's instant messaging service to utilise Wi-Fi and mobile data, and a virtual assistant called Siri. By the release of iOS 7, Apple CEO Tim Cook described the software release as "the biggest change to iOS ever since the introduction of the iPhone". With iOS 7 came innovations such as Touch ID, Facetime Audio, Airdrop, and a refresh of all core apps. Other changes consisted of

a completely modern and simple design interface, flatter icons, Helvetica typeface as the standard font, and apps with edge to edge designs utilising the full iPhone screen. Subsequent iOS launches up until the latest current release of iOS 13 have seen only a few major features such as Apple Pay and facial recognition. The one thing that remains identical in the eleven years of iOS development is the design of the interface which is in a grid form, with all apps displayed in an organized array.

Throughout the past 11 years, Apple has continued to release updated versions of iOS, making it possible to use all major forms of communication, take photos and videos, listen to music, play games and, to a lesser extent, perform PC tasks in one slender device.

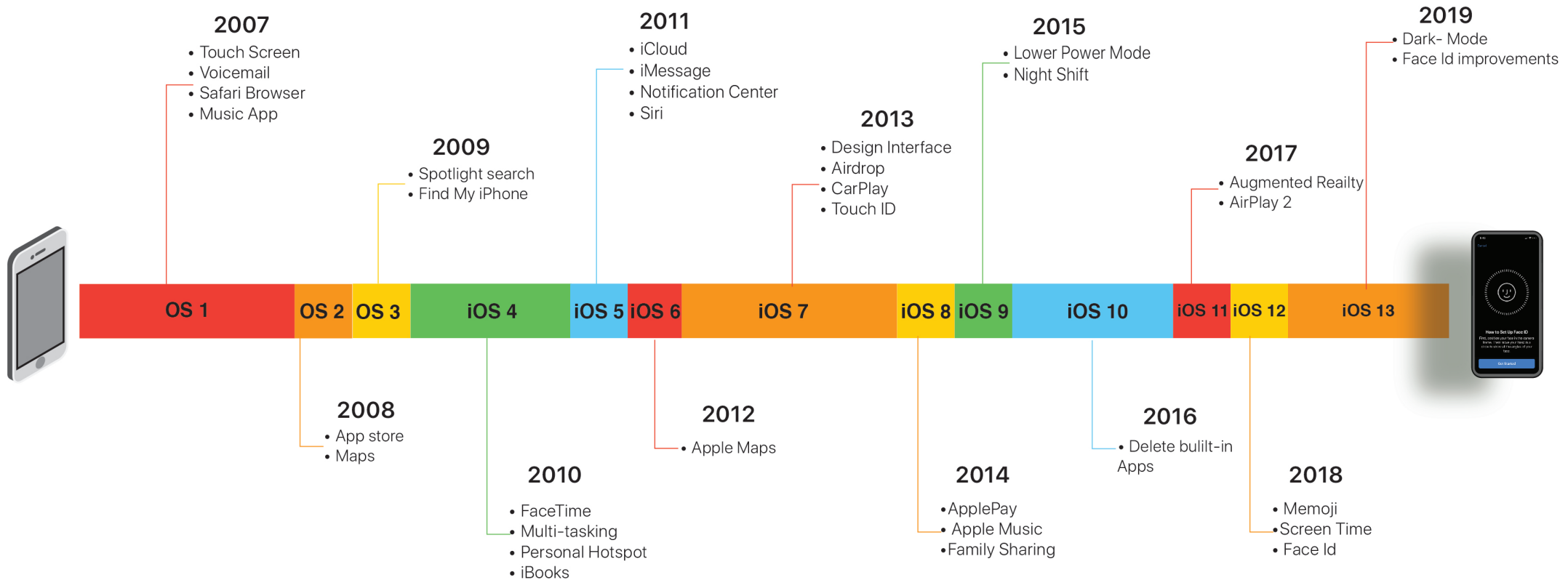


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iOS Application Advancement

