

A new spin on a powerful calendar app

Hi, friends! Welcome to *Installer* No. 22, your guide to the best and *Verge*-iest stuff in the world. (If you're new here, welcome, so psyched you found us, and also, you can read all the old editions at the *Installer* homepage.)

This week, I've been reading about **the unbearable sameness of coffee shops** and **what happened to Twitch**, testing out **the Funnel iOS app** for quick-capturing everything, marveling over **Federico Viticci's truly wild iPad setup**, setting up my Flipboard all over again now that **Artifact is dead**, filling my cabinets thanks to , adding all the Emmy winners to my **Sofa** queue, and watching every that exists on the internet.

I also have for you a huge new Samsung phone, a couple of nifty calendar apps, a new riff on an old game, some more cool AI tools, and much more. Even a new late-night show! In 2024!

And I have a question: **what's your go-to news app?** I mean "news" in the broadest way possible – when you're like, "What's new and interesting and happening," do you turn to a social platform? A specific publisher's app? Reddit? Flipboard? SmartNews? A bunch of browser bookmarks you cycle through? Something else I've never heard of? I know a lot of us were hoping Artifact might be the future of Finding The Good Links, but alas, it won't. So I want to know all your favorite places to go!

Alright, lots to do this week. Let's go.

(As always, the best part of *Installer* is your ideas and tips. What apps are you into right now? What are you watching,

reading, listening to, crocheting, cooking, or learning about this week? Tell me everything: installer@theverge.com. And if you want to get *Installer* in your inbox a day before it appears here, you can subscribe [here](#).)

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Vjeran Pavic is always taking pictures. Pictures for *The Verge*, where he's our supervising producer for video and also a gadget-photo wizard. Pictures for Instagram. Pictures of his dog, his sick ski tricks, his cat, his travels, everything. Pictures, pictures, pictures. He's always testing new cameras, too, from drones to GoPros to DSLRs.

I asked Vjeran to share his homescreen thinking he might have a hundred camera apps for a hundred different things. Turns out, not really! It's just good old-fashioned Camera in there. But he makes really clever use of his photos on his phone, which I'll let him explain.

Here's Vjeran's homescreen, plus five of his many lock screen options, plus some info on the apps he uses and why:

The phone: iPhone 13 Pro Max (with probably better battery health than all y'all's 15 Pros).

The wallpaper: I like to keep it fresh, so I set up a few different ones that change each time I look at my phone. I picked about 10 different ones, and I swap them out every few months. All of the photos are taken by me and / or of things or people (animals) that are close or meaningful to me – or are simply photos that I think would look good as wallpaper.

You'll see photos of San Francisco and my home country, but the ones that make me the happiest are of my pets.

Once the phone is unlocked, I prefer a very clean look, so my wallpaper is just one very blurred, colorful background. It's easier on the eyes and has better separation between the apps, text, and the background.

The apps: Messages, Threads (the app with both the most unpredictable and predictable algo out there), Apple Podcasts, Artifact (recently made it onto my first screen but looks like it won't be there for too long), Apple News, Airmail, Safari, Camera (gotta have that quick access to the camera app, but I still prefer double-clicking the power button to access it like most Android phones do).

I'm not sure if people are utilizing iOS / iPad Focus modes, but I made a few different ones based on time of day, location, or activity. That means my homescreen changes based on a mode, but let's look at this one, which is part of my most-used Focus mode.

It mostly consists of widgets, which I don't need to interact with; rather, they give me some info at a quick glance. Things like my fitness rings, weather, battery info. The only one I might swap out soon is the activity one since I also have an Apple Watch. Most of my Focus modes also have just one page of apps / widgets. I used to put everything in folders across multiple pages, but 99 percent of my input comes from just using Spotlight or App Library.

I also asked Vjeran to share a few things he's into right now. Here's what he said:

- I recently drove by a pretty amazing comic book store near Chico, California. I ended up buying some new and old comic books, including ***Before Watchmen*** and ***Something Is Killing the Children***, which I also found out has been

picked up by Netflix. I haven't started reading any of it yet because it feels like I've just been recovering from CES all of this week.

- I've been a ski racer for most of my life, and I love to spend my free time up in the mountains, when possible. But last year, I also picked up snowboarding, and it has been a joy to learn a new sport. (If any of our readers have a cabin in Tahoe, please befriend me. I'll make you breakfast burritos.) Usually, on my drive up there, I'm pondering why GoPro hasn't released a new 360 camera since 2019 and if I should jump ship and spend \$500 on an **Insta360 Ace** instead.
- I love revisiting older TV shows. And there's one show that I revisit more often than others – ***The X-Files***. So for the past few months, I've been rewatching it in its entirety, reminiscing about times when conspiracy theories were more fun[ny] and almost part of modern folklore. It has some high highs and low lows, and the current season I'm on is one of those lows, so it's becoming more of a background show while I'm editing or organizing photos.

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There are two genres of video I will always watch no matter the subject: videos about people who are really good at something explaining how they do it, and videos about super-niche competitions that people care deeply about. My latest discovery in the latter category: the World Jigsaw Puzzle Championship, in which a bunch of puzzlers pull a puzzle out of a bag and try to put it together as quickly as they can.

Here's , and . I love learning about the different solving strategies (start with the sky!), I love the drama, and I also want to puzzle competitively now. But I definitely couldn't hang. I don't puzzle like these folks puzzle.

See you next week!

<https://www.theverge.com/24044630/notion-calendar-samsung-s24-prince-persia-after-midnight-installer-newsletter>