The AR and VR headsets you'll actually wear

Hi, friends! Welcome to *Installer* No. 54, 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 **AI slop** and **sports betting** and **Jony Ive**, clearing my schedule for the new season of ***The Great British Bake Off,*** watching ***Sicario*** and ***Pirates of the Caribbean*** and ***A Quiet Place: Day One*** on plane-seat screens like their directors intended, insta-subscribing to **Hasan Minhaj's new YouTube show**, and just relentlessly trolling people with *Vergecast* clips through **Pocket Casts' new feature.**

I also have for you a couple of new Meta gadgets, the mobile game that will eat up all your free time, a couple of hotly anticipated new movies, the best Spotify feature in forever, and much more. So much going on! Let's dig in.

(As always, the best part of *Installer* is your ideas and tips. What are you into right now? What should everyone else be reading / watching / playing / trying / building out of clay this week? Tell me everything: installer@theverge.com. And if you know someone else who might enjoy *Installer*, tell them to subscribe here.)

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Fun fact: **Joanna Stern** is the main reason I ever got a job at *The Verge* in the first place. (That story is long and, if I remember correctly, involves her playing a fairy in a video? But I promised her I wouldn’t tell that story.) These days, she’s a columnist at *The Wall Street Journal*, an Emmy winner, and most recently, the creator of Joannabot, the AI chatbot that will tell you everything you need to know about the iPhone 16. (And apparently also do some other things, if you’re clever enough, but again, we’ll leave that alone.)

I asked Joanna to share her homescreen because she just reviewed the iPhone 16, which means she *just* had to set up a homescreen. And because she’s forever using new gadgets and switching between things, I was curious what always made it to the top of the pile.

Here’s Joanna’s homescreen, plus some info on the apps she uses and why:

I’m submitting my homescreen *and* my Control Center screen because I’m proud of the work I did on the Control Center. I may submit it for an award. But really, I’d like to just use this as a forum to complain about the all-in-one connectivity widget in the new Control Center in iOS 18. I don’t like it. I like the single buttons so I can easily just turn them on and off or long-press to get in there. Sadly, they have gotten rid of the single Wi-Fi button, but I read on this great website that it’s coming back in iOS 18.1.

The phone: iPhone 16 Pro Max**.**

The wallpaper: This is my dog Browser. It isn’t the best shot of him, but the framing is nice for putting him in the middle of the screen. My lockscreen wallpaper is this awesome retro

iPod made by a designer named Shane Levine. I bought it through this site last year after featuring it in my newsletter.

The apps: WSJ, ChatGPT, Apple Notes, Google Maps, Google Docs, Google Calendar, Instagram, YouTube, Clock, Threads, Signal, Photos, Slack, Spotify, Phone, Safari, Messages, Gmail.

My apps are so basic and make me feel so basic. I work (Slack, Gmail). I message (Messages, Signal). I listen and watch things (YouTube, Spotify). I social media (Threads, Instagram). I work more (Google Docs, WSJ). If it isn't on this main homescreen, I usually just search for it.

Before iOS 18, I had a widget stack on the homescreen with weather and time zone widgets, but I moved it off to another screen. I might move it back. I might not. Got to live a little.

I also asked Joanna to share a few things she's into right now. Here's what she shared:

- ***The Devil at His Elbow***. I'm currently listening to this audiobook by my wildly talented colleague Valerie Bauerlein. It's all about the Murdaugh murders. The writing, the details, the whole thing, is so gripping. I find myself just sitting in the garage waiting until a chapter is done.
- ***Full Swing***. I know I'm late to Netflix's popular golf-u-series, but I started playing golf again this summer, and I'm loving the stories of these players and how psychological the sport really is.
- ***Take Your Pet to School Day***. My 3-year-old loves this book. I don't want to spoil it, but the pets take over Maple View Elementary, and, well, Ms. Ellen is pissed.

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I’ve had back-to-back-to-back-to-back trips over the last two weeks, and I would just like to quickly shout out my new No. 1 travel hack: a wall charger that doubles as a big-ass portable battery. I have **this Anker model**, which is $55, charges a USB-C and a USB-A device simultaneously, and also charges itself so I can get 10,000mAh of power when there’s no outlet nearby. (There’s also **a newer one** with two USB-C ports and even faster charging but less battery capacity.) It’s huge and heavy, but this thing and a long cable are now the only charging gear I travel with, and they’re the only reasons my gadgets have survived trains and plane rides. Here at *Installer*, we love a sensible charging strategy, and this is as sensible as it gets.

See you next week!

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