The best way to watch the Olympics

Hi, friends! Welcome to *Installer* No. 47, 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 ***Skibidi Toilet*** and **the future of mall brands** and **the legacy of Bell Labs**, watching ***Dirty Pop*** and catching up on ***Cobra Kai***, downloading every single podcast episode mentioned in **this excellent Reddit thread**, writing stuff down with **Napkin**, and trying desperately to figure out what I forgot to pack for vacation. I've also been trying new blueberry muffin recipes all week — thanks to everyone who sent me one!

Speaking of which: As I mentioned last week, *Installer* is taking a summer break. I'm going to go sit outside and stare at trees for a couple of weeks. (If you have good fun books I should read, by the way, please send them my way.) I'll be back here August 17th with a big catch-up *Installer*, but I hope you have a great couple of weeks, and keep telling me about everything you're into!

Before I go, I also have for you a new way to use Apple Maps, an interesting interview with Mark Zuckerberg, the best way to watch the Olympics, some of the internet's best and silliest websites, and much more. Let's do it.

(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, snacking on, or listening to? 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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Even if you don’t know **Josh Rubin**, there’s a good chance you know **That Vision Pro Photo**. The one with the guy in the impossibly cool hoodie, making the Vision Pro look like an extremely futuristic piece of streetwear and not a silly giant headset? Yeah, that was Josh Rubin.

When he’s not looking like a gadget model, Josh is the co-founder of **Cool Hunting**, a long-running compendium of just deeply awesome stuff. I’ve been a reader forever, so when Josh posted his homescreen running the new and much more customizable iOS 18 beta, I immediately reached out and told him he needed to share with the rest of us.

Here’s Josh’s homescreen, plus some info on the apps he uses and why:

The phone: iPhone 15 Pro Max, Titanium, no case.

The wallpaper: I keep my homescreen wallpaper black, as I find most wallpapers are too visually distracting and disharmonious with the app icons.

The apps: Settings, App Store, Safari, Notion, Todoist, Perplexity, Phone, Messages, Edison Mail.

With the iOS 18 beta, I’m so happy to finally have more control over app and widget layout. For my first two screens, I’m balancing utility and aesthetics, which is kind of a life philosophy, to be honest. The dock holds phone, messages, and

email, which are obvious. I'm a photographer and often use the native iPhone camera app, though there are many others I use in different cases, so the last dock item is a folder of camera and photo editing apps. On screen one, the vertical column of widgets are each stacks for quickly glancing info I need regularly, and the right column of apps are the ones I tend to use most often. Screen two is optimized for right-handed use, with the apps and folders all within thumb's reach and one widget stack glanceable in the upper-left corner; there's a color harmony that's considered as well. Some notes on the apps and widget stacks of note:

Screen One: The first widget stack is showing Hello Weather, which uses the Apple Weather (RIP Dark Sky) data and has great widget options. Also in that stack are Ventusky, Weather Strip, and Lumy because often the best way to visualize weather info is actually weather-dependent. The second stack is Fantastical and includes the month views shown as well as a day view and up-next view. Also in there is my next flight info via Flighty (I travel a lot). Last stack is Google Search and Google Maps. Notion is essential for notes and project status tracking. I'm using Perplexity to research stuff more than Google these days and love that, of all the AI tools out there, they attribute their info to linked pages, which makes fact-checking easy.

Screen Two: The widget is my Oura sleep data, which is there more because I like the way it looks. Also in that stack are Apple Fitness activity rings and Apple Health vitals. Retro is a clean, simple, basic photo sharing app that I use with friends only. It's reminiscent of the earliest days of Instagram.

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

- I'm not a gamer at all, but ever since trying **Blackbox**

on Vision Pro, I’ve been loving how it blends art and play.
- I just made Hashi (chopsticks) in a workshop with **Seral Wood and Steel** at the **SingleThread** farm shop and am suddenly enamored with woodworking.
- Snoopy. Have been obsessed forever and love that Peanuts-related stuff is on the rise.

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Do you keep a packing list? I really want to know. I am a constant list-maker, and I find everything about life easier when I’m writing stuff down, but for some reason, I’ve never seen the point of a packing list. In fairness, my packing strategy is just to shove a bunch of stuff into however big a suitcase I happen to have, and then either only need a quarter of what I packed or somehow forget six really important things. Sometimes both! But then I look at lists like this one, and I’m like, do I really need to write down “bring underwear”? And do people really pack duct tape every time they travel?

I don’t travel as much as I used to, so maybe I’m not life-hacking it hard enough anymore. I will tell you this, though: my flight’s only two hours, but I’ve already downloaded about 85 hours worth of stuff to watch. So I’ll at least have one part of the trip covered.

See you in a few weeks!

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