

The Landing

PILOT-PREFERRED APPS

Smartphone apps are all about convenience, and who needs easily accessible data more than airline pilots? When weighing the usefulness of an app, quick access to real-time data is an obvious priority, but member preferences vary after that. We asked ALPA pilots, “What’s your favorite app?” to find out why we see so many pilots staring into their palms. Here’s what they told us:

F/O Greg Saylor (Delta) says his “favorite flying-related app is **Rainy Days**, a quick and easy way to get wx radar information.” The Rainy Days app is specific to the Android platform.

Capt. Jeff Breland (FedEx Express) says, “As a commuter, I have found **FlightBoard** invaluable. It will show the actual flight board from any airport so you can get current, actual information rather than [printed] schedules.”

F/O Roger Keith (United) says, “I fly many international trips, and I like how the **Sleep Cycle** app picks the best time in my sleep cycle to wake me, when I nap after arriving at a foreign destination.”

Among the many apps F/O Jolanda Witvliet (United) accesses, she prefers **Urbanspoon**. The app helps her “find restaurants [and has] a cool slot machine feature.”



F/O Adam Kolb (United) likes **FlightTrack**, a paid app that “lets me know my departure gates at the start of a trip and also allows me to know what gate we will be going to at our destination.” He adds that FlightTrack also provides a useful way “to check the company for out and in times to make sure [they’re] the same as [the times that appear in] ACARS.”

F/O Matthew Halstead (United) says, “**Google** and **Google Maps** are changing the world, are available on every platform, and are hands down *the* reference for information, be it data or location.”

Some pilots like to address personal financial matters with apps. Capt. David Watson (ExpressJet) likes the **USAA** app for his banking, insurance, investment, and mortgage needs. “USAA is a secure website with a simple design and is smart enough to remember me and my password.”

And, of course, there’s the **ALPA** app with news feeds, an interactive jumpseat guide, detailed information about the Known Crewmember program, and more. 📱