

Don't have time to scour the Web for tools that might help maximize your time, especially the time you spend away from the office? That's what we're here for. Because every minute of your schedule counts, we've compiled a list of useful smartphone applications that will help you increase productivity anywhere, anytime.

■ Spb Backup

You've come to rely on your smartphone to help you with various tasks, including storing important documents during your travels. We don't have to tell you that document safety is priority No. 1. With Spb Software House's Spb Backup (\$24.95; www.spbsoftwarehouse.com), you can create backup copies of the data on your Windows Mobile smartphone. When you back up, the software creates a compressed executable file, making the restore process quick and easy should something happen to your smartphone. The software lets you customize a scheduled backup and back up files to an external storage card, among other features. Spb Backup is listed under the Smartphone category on the company's Web site.

■ WeatherBug Mobile Weather

With this software and your Windows Mobile smartphone, you can prepare yourself for the weather in your present location or your destination. WeatherBug's Mobile Weather software (\$14.95; www.weatherbug.com) can be used with BlackBerry and Windows Mobile smartphones and with the Apple iPhone. With WeatherBug, you can receive detailed seven-day forecasts about the weather from more than 8,000 WeatherBug tracking stations and even watch live radar and time-lapse images from hundreds of weather cameras. You can also find details about international weather before departing to another country. Look for the Mobile tab at the top of the WeatherBug Web site for additional product and download information.

■ mVoice

Your schedule only becomes busier when you add travel to the mix. With mVoice (\$19.99; www.handmark.com), available from Handmark, you can keep an audio task list of all of your tasks. The software lets you record voice memos (say, as a reminder to

email your presentation to a colleague) and record phone conversations. You can store recordings on your smartphone or on an SD card. mVoice is available for Palm and Windows Mobile smartphones.

■ My Task List

If you're a Windows Mobile user and prefer to keep a text-based task list instead of recording a set of voice memos, consider DreameeSoft's My Task List (\$9.99; www.dreameesoft.com). My Task List features a completion progress bar and special icons to help you prioritize your tasks. You can set an alarm to alert you to work on a task or change the color of a task to remind yourself that it's next on the list. You'll find a link to My Task List on DreameeSoft's home page.

■ TipsByte

Windows Mobile users can take advantage of TipsByte (\$4.95; www.stoutbytes.com) from StoutBytes, a simple program that takes the work out of calculating how much of a tip you should leave your server. Simply fill in the required fields with the check amount, the tax percentage, and the percentage you'd like to leave for a tip. TipsByte will determine how large the tip should be. The software also has the ability to divide the check and tip equally among two or more people, so you and your colleagues know automatically how much each of you owe. To download this software from the StoutBytes Web site, click Software at the top of the page, choose your mobile device, and select TipsByte from the list of available programs.

■ RepliGo Professional

For BlackBerry users, RepliGo Professional (\$24.95 per quarter or \$79.95 per year; www.cerience.com) from Cerience is the ultimate on-the-go utility for BlackBerry users. With RepliGo, you can view popular file types just as you would on a desktop computer. RepliGo offers mobile-friendly viewing of files such as PDF and RTF; Microsoft's Word, Excel, and PowerPoint; faxes; and photos. Navigate each file type by zooming in on different parts of a page. RepliGo also provides an online account where you can store documents for viewing later on your BlackBerry. You'll find a link to RepliGo Professional on the Cerience home page. A free trial version is available.

■ GPS Utilities

If you find that your travels place you in an unfamiliar city, don't fret. iPhone, Symbian S60, and Windows Mobile users can consult their Efficasoft GPS Utilities software (prices vary with platform; www.efficasoft.com) to help find the way. Use the world map view to navigate with free-scale zooming or create a voice "Go To" list and use GPS Utilities as a voice navigation system while you drive. The software requires that you have a GPS receiver but requires no extra subscription or satellite signal fees.

■ Just For Fun

Relaxing your mind for a few minutes may actually increase your productivity in the long run. So take a few minutes to check out these fun applications.

Tetris. Most everyone has played a game or two of Tetris in their lifetime, so it's not surprising to find this addictive game available for your smartphone. When you need a quick break during your workday, load up Tetris (\$14.99; www.handmark.com) and try to beat your top score. This mobile Tetris features original game pieces, music, and plenty of challenges, such as Marathon and 40 Lines, to keep you busy. To download the game, type Tetris into Handmark's search tool and choose which version (BlackBerry, Palm, or Windows Mobile) you'd like to download.

Paint Mobile. De-stress after a long day and free your inner artist with Paint Mobile (\$10; www.orneta.com), a drawing tool for Windows Mobile smartphones. You can create your own drawings with the pen tool or add to an existing BMP, GIF, or JPEG image. You can use your drawings as the background on your phone or attach them to an email and send them to your colleagues for critiquing. To be artistic on the go, visit Ornet's Web site and mouse over the Products tab at the top of the page. Choose Paint Mobile from the drop-down list for further information.

■ Productivity Abounds

If you liked the software covered here but found that your smartphone wasn't compatible with a title that grabbed your interest, don't worry. Search the companies' sites for other products.

by Kris Glaser