

Tech Tips from Mr G

If You Love Me, Tag Me: Or Giving Yourself a Reasonable Chance of Getting Your Electronic Device Back



Back in August of 2012, a friend of mine came to me all distraught because she had lost her iPod Touch, and didn't know where to find it. Knowing that I was an Apple Maven, she figured that I might know a few tricks, and I did.

I asked if she had turned on **Find My iPhone**. No. Was she subscribed to **iCloud** so that she could at least get her data back? No. Did she have a name and address sticker on the back of her device? No.

I was as frustrated as she was distraught. You see, I figure that most people will try to get your stuff back to you...if you give them half a chance. She hadn't given them any, and now she was up the creek.

But I don't want the same thing to happen to you, so here are a few words of advice.

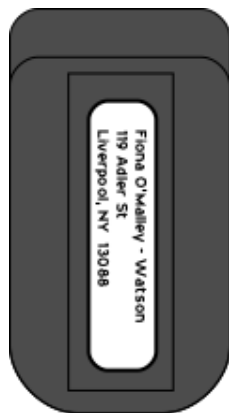
Number 1: If You Have an iOS Device, Use the Tools that Apple Gave You

Apple has made it very easy for you to find your device, and if not that, then at least to get your data back. First of all, make sure that you're subscribed to **iCloud**, Apple's cloud service. This does two things. One is that it backs up all of your data to Apple's servers, so that you can get it back if anything ever happens to your device. The other is that it's the system that **Find My iPhone** lives on.

The second thing you need to do is to download **Find My iPhone** and install it. Despite its name, **Find My iPhone** works on any iOS device, be it iPhone, iPod Touch, or iPad.

Making sure that you are using these two tools will give you a leg up should you lose your Apple device.

Number 2: Put Your Contact Information on the Device



This can be as technologically sophisticated as putting it on the lock screen of your device, and as simple as sticking a return address label to the back (be sure to cover the label with tape, so that the information doesn't get rubbed off from regular handling).

A Little Good News

It turns out that after retracing her steps, and going back to the baseball stadium, my friend found her iPod Touch. Someone had turned it in to the concession stand (remember what I said about most people being honest?), and has since used all the methods I mentioned above to tag her device so that it's easier to get back to her next time.

