Chapter 2

Putting Your Data and Media on the iPhone

So, you’ve unboxed your iPhone and connected it to iTunes. Now what? Chapter 1 briefly introduced the basics of syncing your iPhone with your music, movies, photos, and other data via iTunes. Now this chapter explores the options you have for syncing your data with your iPhone. Whether you’ve bought your songs and videos from the iTunes Store or have imported them into the program from CDs and DVDs, iTunes can synchronize your iPhone to nearly any content in its library. If you want a rich media and applications library on your iPhone, you need to sync those contents from the library on your computer.

iTunes determines which app, music, and video files transfer to and load onto your iPhone. You’re about to discover how to bring all this content together in iTunes and send it to your iPhone via the USB-to-dock connector data cable. You’ll see how to choose which items you want to synchronize and how to keep your iPhone content fresh and up-to-date.

With iOS 5, you don’t need to own a computer to use an iPhone. The Apple Store will help you set up your device wirelessly out of the box. You can back up and restore your device automatically using iCloud. For the most part, this chapter isn’t about that kind of device management. You’ll read about using iTunes to synchronize and control your iPhone content using the traditional synchronization cable, with a few words toward the end regarding iCloud-based computer-free operation.

Syncing

Before you begin to choose which songs, videos, podcasts, and audiobooks will be synchronized using iTunes, you physically connect your iPhone to your computer and launch the iTunes application. Use the USB cable that shipped with your iPhone (or an equivalent dock) to connect your device to a spare USB port on your system. Launch
iTunes by clicking the iTunes application icon on your computer. If your iPhone uses a lock code, you must unlock your device before iTunes can connect to it.

The first time you sync your iPhone with your iTunes library, you need to do it via the USB docking cable. After that, you can sync it with your iTunes library via the USB cable that came with it or do so wirelessly as long as the iPhone is on the same wireless network as your computer is. Once connected via either of these methods, your iPhone appears in the list on the left side of the iTunes window (you can see it later in Figure 2–3). This light blue column, called the source list, is divided into several sections for your media library, the iTunes Store, your devices, and your playlists.

If you do not see your iPhone in this list, make sure you’ve physically connected it with the USB cable. Verify that the cable is firmly inserted into both the computer and the iPhone if you are doing a hard-line connection, or make sure that your iPhone and computer are both connected to the same wireless network. Be sure your iPhone is powered on. It is listed in iTunes when it’s active or asleep, but it won’t show up if powered down.

**The iPhone iTunes Device Window**

When the iPhone is plugged into your computer, it automatically appears in your iTunes source list under Devices. Click the name of your iPhone in the source list to open its preferences in the main iTunes window (see Figure 2–1). You’ll see a series of tabs along the top of the window that allow you to set options associated with your iPhone. The tabs you’ll see (from left to right) include Summary, Apps, Ringtones, Music, Movies, TV Shows, Podcasts, Books, Photos, and Info.

Along the bottom of the iPhone preferences window you’ll find a long, colorful Capacity bar (see Figure 2–2). This bar appears regardless of what tab you have selected, displays the total storage capacity of the iPhone, and breaks down the amount of data you have on the device in color-coded segments along the bar. Blue is for audio, purple is for video, orange is for photos, green is for apps, lighter purple-pink is for books, yellow is for other stuff (mostly data and the operating system), and gray is for the remaining free space you have on your iPad. The key just below the Capacity bar shows what each color segment represents and the amount of space occupied per category.