CPA Practice **Advisor**

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solutions for when your mobile device is "running on empty".

Brian Tankersley • May. 27, 2013



This month's mobile column features the *CPA Practice Advisor* app, as well as solutions for when your mobile device is "running on empty".

CPA Practice Advisor App

We're improving our tools for providing you with your favorite content from *The CPA Practice Advisor*. In addition to our website, which has fresh content daily, we publish print and digital issues every month.

In each issue, we address a number of essential areas for any practice, including

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online content from our website.

The *CPA Practice Advisor* app is available for iPad from the iTunes App Store, and should be available for Android tablets by early summer.

External Batteries and Chargers

Anyone who has carried a smartphone for a long time has experienced the frustration of trying to use your phone when the battery is dead. I went to New York for work with my family last summer, and had to sit at a power outlet for 30 minutes to bring my dead phone back to life so I could locate my wife and son. (I suppose I should consider myself lucky that I was able to find a friendly shopowner who allowed me to mooch some electricity.)

One solution for many devices is getting an external portable battery pack. These products are available in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, but they all pack a significant amount of power into a relatively small form factor. My favorite portable power pack is the PowerPlant from TYLT (www.tylt.com).

This wonderful 5,200 mAh battery is available with three different built-in connectors (Apple 30-pin dock connector, iPhone 5 Lightning connector, and micro-USB), as well as a normal female USB jack. The battery charges in 6-7 hours (overnight) using the included micro-USB charging cable, and has an LED indicator so that you can know how much power the battery holds at any point in time. A fully charged PowerPlant is always in my travel briefcase, and the unit will hold a full charge for up to a year.

PowerPlant is designed to charge high capacity devices like the iPad and other tablets, and will offload power quickly (5V/2.1A) to two devices at once. The unit's design is excellent, and has survived 20,000 air miles since I discovered this device at

CES this year. At 5.4 ounces, adding this device to your backpack or purse won't

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