



Using Vocera: Maximizing Smartphone Battery Performance

Tips to Maximize Battery Performance

Personal Device Users

Individuals who use Vocera on their own devices can take proactive measures to improve battery life while using Vocera.

- Extensive analysis of battery usage logs have shown no unexpected or elevated battery drain while using Vocera when properly connected to the NMMOBILE Wi-Fi network while on a Northwestern Medicine campus.
- Experiencing higher than normal battery drain may be the result of using an older device or battery and/or higher than average application usage.
 - According to Vocera, typical battery drain is 1 - 3% battery drain per hour for a total of 8 - 24% drain over an eight hour shift.
- Other things to consider:
 - **Age of phone:** A properly maintained iPhone battery is designed to retain up to 80% of its battery capacity after 500 charge cycles (approximately 17 – 20 months of use). If your battery is old, consider changing it or your device for new life.
<http://www.apple.com/batteries/replacements.html>

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- You can check on battery consumption by application by going to your phone settings.
 - The device on the left displays battery usage of an average individual who makes calls, syncs calendar and runs Vocera.
 - The device on the right displays battery usage of an individual who also uses Vocera, in addition to many other apps. The phone on the right is using more battery overall and will lose power more quickly.



Basic smartphone user with Vocera Collaboration Suite app



Heavy smartphone user with Vocera Collaboration Suite app

- To ensure adequate battery capacity, Vocera recommends having an external battery boost pack.

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- When using Vocera, always make sure you are connected to NMMOBILE network and “forget other networks,” such as NMGUEST. This preserves battery life and ensures that you will receive Vocera calls and texts.
- Turn off unnecessary applications and services running in the background, such as GPS and Google Maps)
- Turn off Wi-Fi when you are not in network range and disable Auto Scan/Auto Join
- Turn off voice activation services (**Siri, Raise-To-Speak, Google Touchless Control**) – Voice activation uses a lot of battery power to listen to you.
- (Apple only) Disable sending of diagnostic and usage data to Apple
- Reduce screen brightness – A 50% brightness level increases battery life up to 25%.
- Reduce your screen timeout – A longer timeout consumes more power. Set screen lock to 1 minute or less.
- Change app automatic updates to manual
- Watch phone heat: If it’s hot to touch, the battery will discharge faster. Reboot and/or remove the case to cool it down.

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- Vocera continues to test working with new operating systems to optimize battery usage.
- In general, device battery performance depends on other applications in use, and strong network connections. Below are additional resources to maximize battery life.
- Below are battery tips for iPhone and Android devices:
- **iPhones**
 - <http://www.apple.com/batteries/iphone.html>
 - <http://www.apple.com/iphone/battery.html>
 - <https://www.macworld.co.uk/how-to/iphone/iphone-ipad-battery-life-3513323/>
- **Android Users**
 - <https://www.androidauthority.com/android-battery-saver-tips-tricks-189882/>
 - <https://www.techadvisor.co.uk/how-to/mobile-phone/extend-phone-battery-life-3284240/>