Apple Apps: Home: Define, Connect, Control Accessories Find My: Where's My Stuff?

Gabe Goldberg

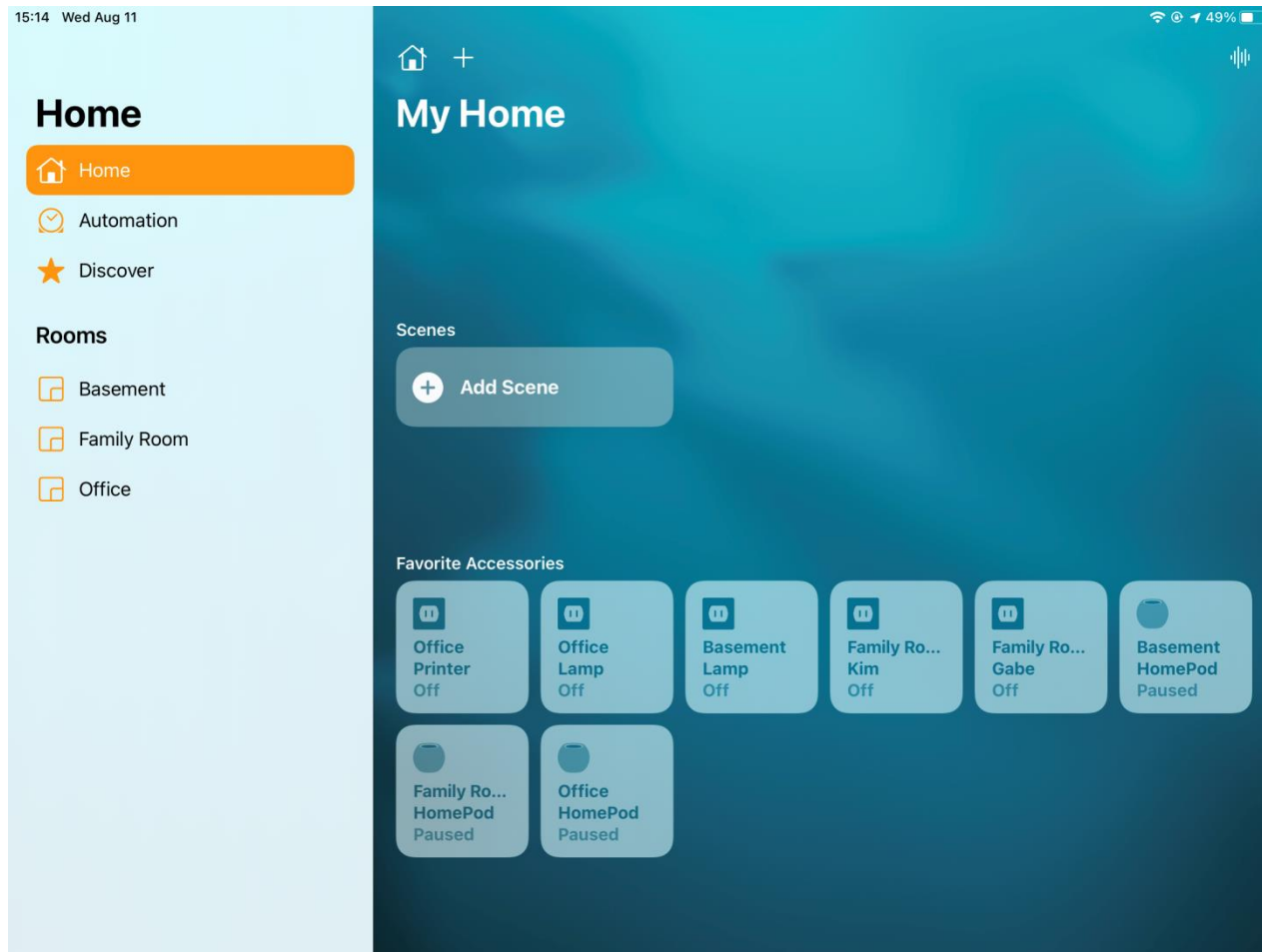gabe@gabegold.com

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All My Apples

- iPad Pro 11" (third iPad)
  - Resisted buying Apple, was convinced to
- iPhone 14 Pro (second iPhone)
  - Having iPad, obvious smartphone choice
- Apple Watch Series 9 (second Watch)
  - Wouldn't have bought, cardio study provided
- Three HomePods (one, two more, for Siri)
- Dozen+ AirTags

iPad/iPhone Home App

- Start slow, add incrementally as needed

- Easy setup: define zones/rooms/devices

  - My office: lamp and printer

  - Family room: lamps named Gabe and Kim

  - Basement: lamp

  - Dozen+ Christmas decorations including "Tree"

- iPad/iPhone Control Center

- Siri (speaker, iPhone, iPad, Watch) control

- Set shortcuts, triggers, automation, people, schedule, scenes (device/action groups)

Home App – HomeKit Framework

Small/Smart HomePod Minis

- Office, family room, basement
- Easy setup; plugged in so no charging
- Stream TV channel audio, TuneIn, etc.
- Good Siri hearing – needn't raise voice
- Ping/locate devices (same as other Siris)
- Control smart home, play intercom msgs
- Update automatically

Managing Devices

- Some "smart" needs Internet for operation

- HomeKit code identifies devices

- Components need WiFi for control/actions

- Label components (outlet controls, etc.)

- Local device backup button control

- Setup requires app/devices share network

- Note WiFi 2.4/5 GHz networks speed/reach

  - …or Bluetooth

Devices Controlled

- My outlets
  - Easy setup – look for "Works with Apple"
  - Have manufacturer app but didn't need
  - QR code identifies device to Home app
  - Place in desired room and assign name
  - Easy to move/rename/repurpose
- Add lights, cameras, doorbells, locks, fans, faucets, sensors, sprinklers, windows, garage doors, switches, A/C, etc.

Smarter Home (?)

- Fuzzy smart home definition
- Smart bulbs, cypherlock, thermostat
- Faucets, sprinklers
- Security (cameras, lights, alarms)
- Windows, shades
- Garage door, doorbell
- Sensors (temperature, motion, open/close)
- Info: https://www.apple.com/ios/home/

Find My App: Where's My Stuff?

- Sep 2022, iPhone 6s Plus → iPhone 14
  - Enabled more precise location detection
- iCloud and crowdsourced devices to track
  - Devices (iPad, iPhone, Watch)
  - Items (keys/hats/portfolio/purse/car) via AirTag
  - Other objects (AirPods, Beats devices, more
  - People (wife) with permission via iPhone
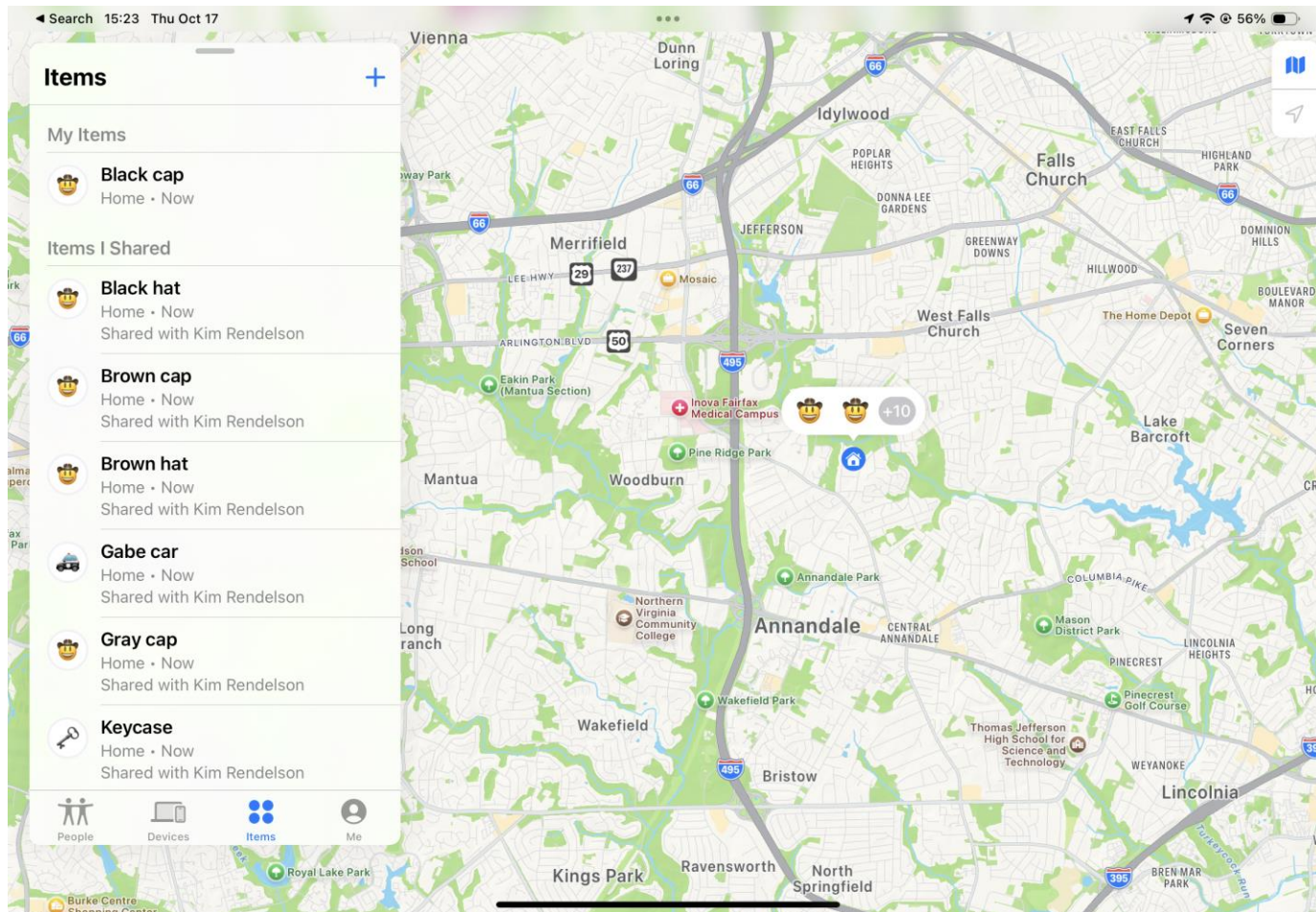 - Me (locations)
- Can share item visibility

Flexible Tracking

- First few AirTags: keys, portfolio
- Then: hats, cars, suitcases, purse
- Nice "left behind" alerts: quick response
  – Watch taps if separated from object
  – Walk to restaurant, alerts if object left in car
  – Knows to NOT alert I've left car behind!
  – Would have saved round trip fetching item
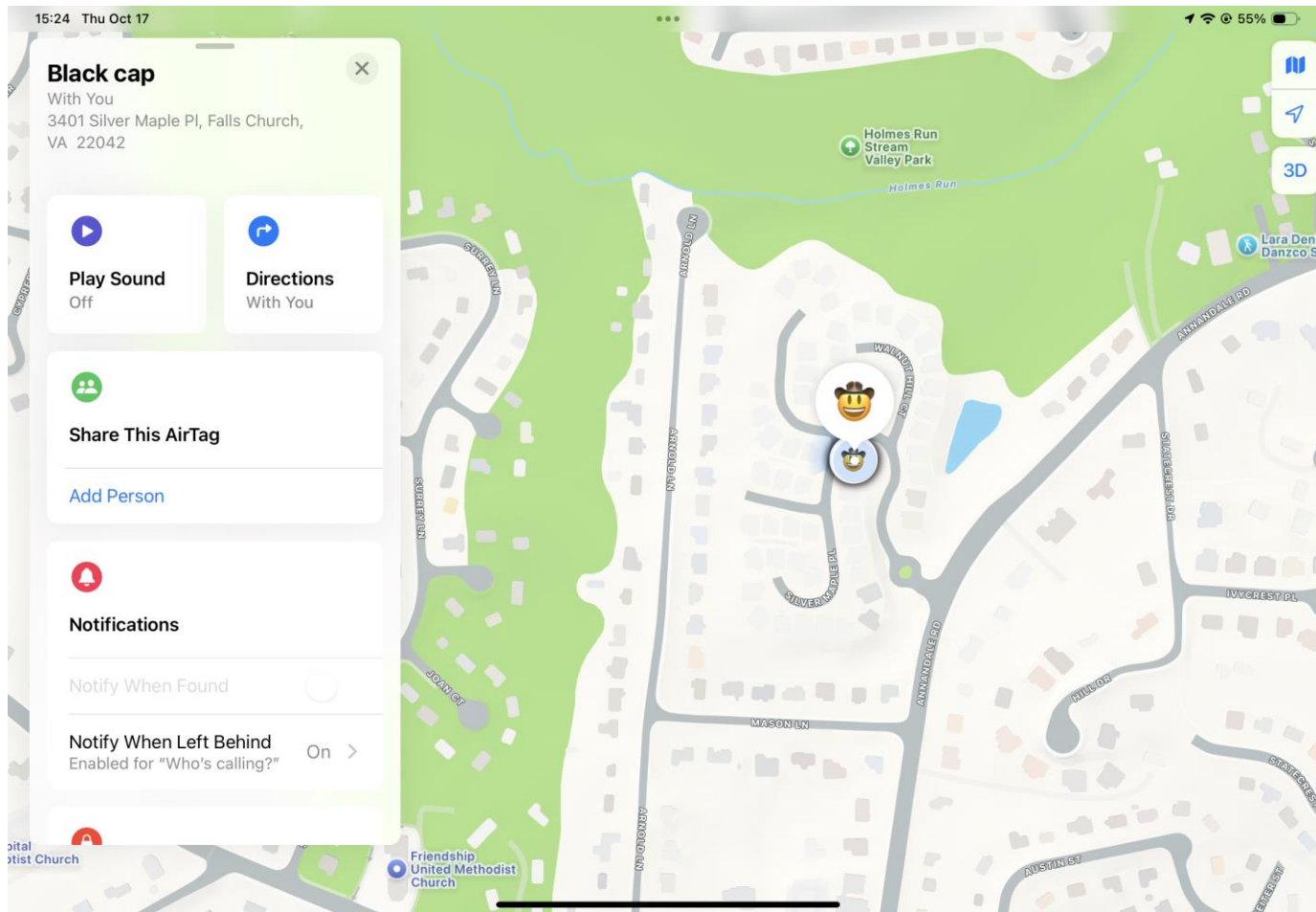 – Define safe place(s) – e.g., home, no alerts

Usage

- Purse left in train station – needed AirTag
- AirTag in car, car seemed stuck in Lorton
  - Wasn't – mystery resolved: wife's car washed
  - AirTag dislodged from above windshield
  - Picked up by vacuum cleaner, put in trash
  - Trash collected, AirTag to Lorton landfill to die
- Three Watch apps: Devices, Items, People
- iCloud Find My app locates devices/audio
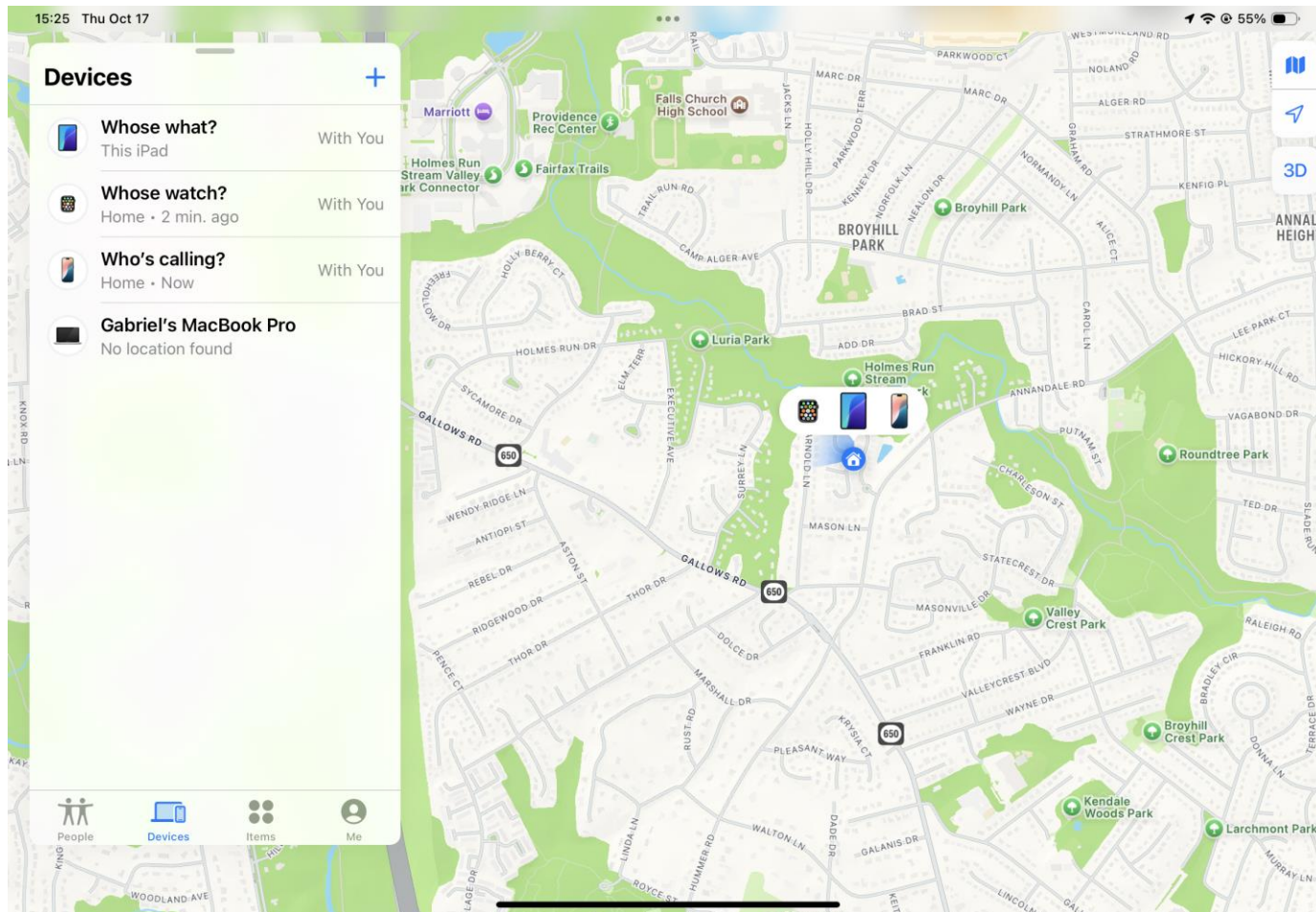- Can trigger sound from AirTag

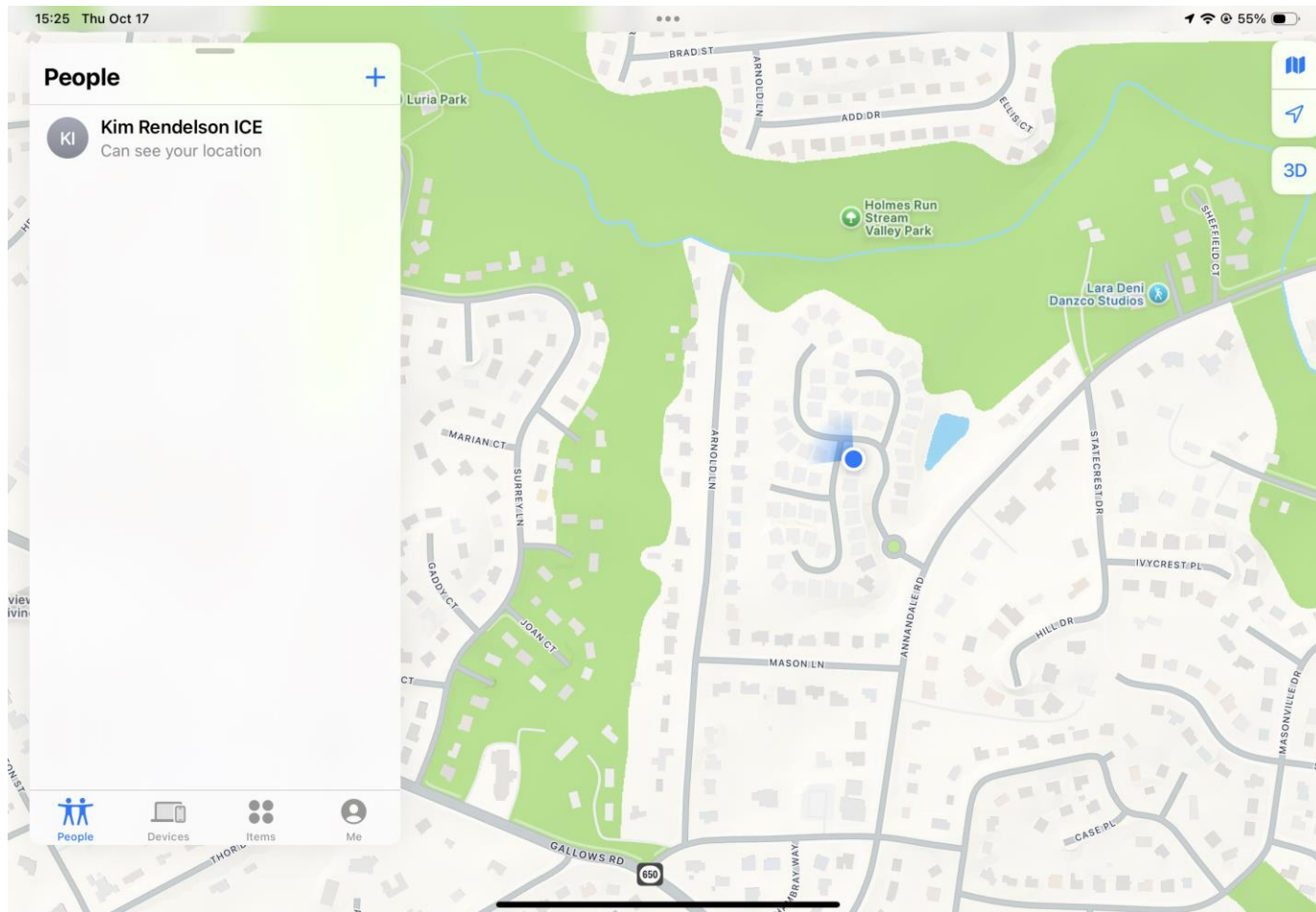# Find My App

12

Find My App -- Items

Find My App -- Devices

Find My App -- People

Details

- Dark Side of Tracking -- Stalking
  - Sharing objects/location has consent levels
  - Location notifications require consent
  - Unknown item traveling with you alerts
- AirTag maintenance
  - Batteries last a year, Home app signals replace
  - Occasional software updates
    - Check Home app, bring AirTag near iPhone