MUST-HAVES

My favorite tool for frequent flying

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My four-person public relations business specializes in tech, IPOs, and travel. As a small-business owner without a lot of time—or an assistant—I have to be as efficient as possible when I take business trips. That's where GateGuru, a free air-travel app, comes in.

I linked GateGuru to my account on the trip-planning website TripIt. When I add trip information to TripIt, GateGuru automatically creates a JourneyCard that I can pull up on my smartphone. (You can also enter trip information in the app manually or email your itinerary to GateGuru.) The card contains my flight details, including airport weather, flight status, and the wait at the TSA security line. I can click icons to see information on shops, restaurants, ATMs, and other services in the airport. I can also use the app to search for and book Avis rental cars at discounted prices at my destination airport.

After my flight takes off, less-relevant information automatically disappears from my JourneyCard. Another fun feature: I can update my Twitter or Facebook status right from the app. The latest version of GateGuru also lets you track how many miles you've flown and the number of airports you've visited. The app has gone a long way toward making me an efficient traveler.
—As told to Julie Strickland

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