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Anything Binary www.anythingbinary.com/iphone/myCSC

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Introduction

This document describes the features and operation of the myCSC app for iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad devices. The app requires iOS 7.0 or greater and a cellular or Wi-Fi internet connection. myCSC provides quick access to information on four or five Clear Sky Chart locations (depending on your screen size) that you select from the thousands of locations available across North America. Amateur astronomers monitor local nightly observing weather conditions using clear Sky Charts. A full explanation on how to interpret these charts which were designed by Attilla Danko is beyond the scope of this guide but you can learn all about them at his Clear Sky Charts home page http://cleardarksky.com/csk/.

The first time you launch the application it defaults to several popular annual star party locations. One of the first things you will want to do after reviewing this guide will be to select your own favorite Clear Sky Chart locations as explained starting on page 9.



Summary Screen

The Summary Screen contains a miniature preview of up to five Clear Sky Chart locations (maximum is four on a 3.5" display). The top row of colored squares represents cloud cover and the lower row represents transparency for the next 48 hour period following the last updated time stamp. Each little colored square represents a single one-hour period. The thin red lines indicate local midnight, which will help in deciding whether it will be clear after dark.



Menu Options

Tap on any of the preview charts to see a menu of additional options. Each of these six options is explained in detail in the following sections. Tap the Cancel button if you want to return to the Summary Screen. Make sure you use a quick tap otherwise it may be interpreted as a swipe.



Detailed Chart

The Detailed Chart contains more information than the preview charts. It has an hourly scale by day across the top, which provides a clearer view of the forecast. In addition to Cloud Cover and Transparency it also includes forecast data for Seeing, Darkness, Wind, Humidity and Temperature. For an explanation on how to interpret the detail chart colors tap the Legend button in the top right corner and/or see Attilla Danko's Clear Sky Charts home page http://cleardarksky.com/csk/.



Open CSC Site

myCSC contains a built-in web browser view that allows access to the full Clear Sky Charts page associated with each preview chart. It works just like mobile Safari but allows you to return to the Summary Screen without leaving the app. Just tap the Charts button on the top navigation bar when done.



Map Location

Map Location is a handy tool to view the actual chart location on a map without leaving the myCSC application. You can zoom in, move around or choose the Satellite or Hybrid map views. Some CSC locations are private and do not publish their latitude and longitude information. Tap the Charts button on the top navigation bar to return to the Summary Screen when done.



Set Chart Location

There are currently over 5000 chart locations in the myCSC database and more are being added regularly. There are two methods to select your favorite chart locations on the Summary Screen. The first method requires that you select a Country using the picker view followed by a Province or State from the list presented. Once the Province or State is selected you can choose from the available Clear Sky Charts in that area. Finally tap the Save button on the navigation bar to return to the Summary Screen where you will see the new chart added.







Find Charts Near Me? - Map View



The "Find Any Clear Sky Charts Near Me?" button on the bottom of the Set Chart # screen provides a quick method to locate Clear Sky Chart locations that are within a radius of about

125 kms (80 mi). It requires the Location Services feature to be available on your device. You may choose to see them on a **List** or **Map** view. The map view uses the myCSC icon to mark each nearby CSC chart location. It also shows the current user location as a blue dot. Tap an icon on the map to select it and see the chart name. Tap the Save button on the top navigation bar to have the newly selected chart on your summary screen.

Note: Only charts that publish their latitude and longitude will be included in the list or map of nearby chart locations.



Find Charts Near Me? - List View

Nearby sites on a **List** view are in order of ascending distance from your current location. Scroll down to see the entire list. Simply tap an entry in the list to select it. The selected chart entry will be highlighted. Tap the Save button on the top navigation bar to see the newly selected chart on your summary screen.

	••••• ROGERS LTE 4:08 PM	Tap the Save button when done
	Tap to select a nearby chart	
	Oakville (7.7 km / 4.8 mi)	
	Mississauga (11.9 km / 7.4 mi)	Tap on any chart name to
	Milton (14.4 km / 8.9 mi)	
List View	Fred's Backyard Observatory (20.5 km / 12.7 mi)	
	Minakakis Observatory (20.9 km / 13.0 mi)	
	Hamilton Centre Observatory (21 km / 13.0 mi)	
	Brampton (21.6 km / 13.4 mi)	
	Lloyd Manor Park (23.2 km / 14.4 mi)	
	Kendrick Astro Observatory (27.1 km / 16.8 mi)	
	Hamilton (29.2 km / 18.1 mi)	list of locations
	Toronto (32.3 km / 20.1 mi)	

Delete Chart

If you prefer fewer than four or five Clear Sky Charts on your Summary Screen you have the option to delete any of them. This will reduce data usage and improve performance. A white plus (+) sign will appear in place of the deleted charts. To add a new chart in those locations simply touch the blank area near the plus (+) sign to open the Set Chart Location page.



Share Chart

This option allows you to share your detailed chart with friends via email, text message or social media like Twitter and Facebook. The default message that appears may be edited in the myCSC Settings as explained on the next page. You may edit the message as required before sending.



myCSC Settings

There is a Message field in the iOS Settings application for the myCSC app to allow you to edit the default message, which appears when you share a chart. If you include the string {name} in the message it will be replaced with the actual chart name. A link to the chart page is also appended by default.

••••• ROGERS LTE 10:56 AM 100%
Settings myCSC
ALLOW MYCSC TO ACCESS
Location While Using >
See Photos
W Use Cellular Data
MYCSC SETTINGS
SHARE CHART
Message Join me tonight at {name} f
Use {name} to insert chart name in messive.
DEBUG SETTINGS default text. Use {name} if you want the
Enabled

Xamarin Studio Host automatic

Check for Updates

The info button on the Summary Screen provides another view that includes some useful information including the number of chart locations in your database, the version number of the app and a button that you can use to check for updates to the database.



An alert will display to advise whether there are any new chart locations added to the database or not. Depending on the number of new charts being added the update may take a minute or two to complete so be patient.

Troubleshooting

myCSC requires an internet connect to retrieve updates. If your device is in Airplane mode or you are without Wi-Fi or cellular service you will see the following message.

Oakv	ville, Ontario	
Fc	Internet Unavailable myCSC requires an internet connection to update charts.	٨M
	ОК	M
Collii	ngwood, Ontario	

The Clear Sky Charts are updated by Attilla Danko about every twelve hours (twice daily). To keep the app responsive when moving between views, the Summary Screen is only refreshed once every hour. The timestamps shown below the charts are a good indicator of when they were last updated but you can always force a screen refresh using the Refresh Button in the top right corner of the Summary Screen as shown on page 4 of this guide. The timestamp data is processed separately from a text file so there may be times when the chart image is updated but the timestamp shows "N/A" because of a problem in retrieving the file. This should correct itself on a future refresh.

The charts will automatically refresh when (i) the app has be recalled from the background as long as a full hour has elapsed since the last refresh, (ii) a new chart location is selected or (iii) the app is terminated and re-launched.

For Additional Assistance

This completes the myCSC iOS App User Guide. If you have additional questions, feedback or require assistance, please contact support@anythingbinary.com

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