An OPCUG Product Review

**Tracking eWalk-Abouts**
By Alan German

Do you regularly walk around the block or several different blocks?   Would you like to know how far you have travelled, how long it takes, and perhaps record the route that you took?   All these are possible if you own a smartphone.   All you need is an app.

But, that's where the problems start.   Most of the route tracking apps are for runners, cyclists or hikers and these hyperactive people all seem to want to share their prowess with the world.   Or, at least, most of the apps insist on sharing the data with other users or with the app's developer.   It's difficult to find an app that doesn't require you to upload the data to a web server somewhere, or register on some website or other in order to actually use the software.

However, there is at least one app that allows you to simply use the on-board GPS system in the phone to record information.   The basic version of Walkmeter, from Abvio Inc, is one such app.   Of course, you can share your data with friends over Twitter, upload the information to Strava, or make use of several other platforms, but these features are entirely optional (and may require purchasing the paid version).

For those of us who just want to know how far we walked and how long it took, the basic version of Walkmeter is just fine.

Recording the route uses the phone's GPS in conjunction with Google Maps.   If you don't have a data plan (or don't want to use it), you can connect to the Internet over your home's Wi-Fi, establish the location where you intend to walk, and view the map in Walkmeter's main screen.   The GPS will indicate your initial position, so press Start and off you go!
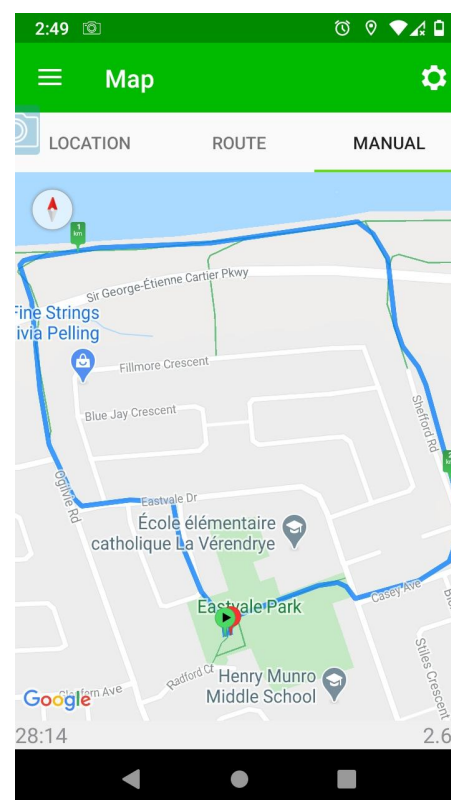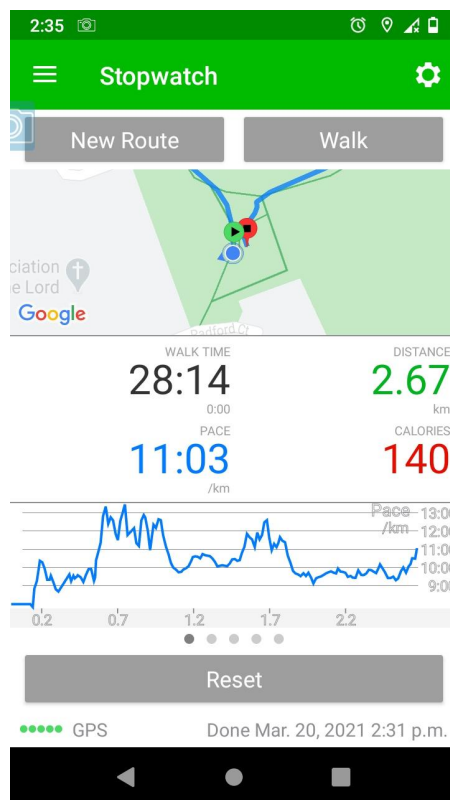
Once you complete your walk and press Stop, Walkmeter will display the time taken, distance travelled, your pace (minutes/km), and the number of calories expended.   Switching to the map view shows your route overlaid on a local street map.

One oddity in the reporting system in my view is the "speed" measurement that is expressed in minutes per kilometre.   Perhaps it's just me, but this sounds like km/l for an individual who grew up on mpg.   Of course, it's pretty easy to convert the data into a "real" speed.   For example, 1.67 km in 28 minutes and 14 seconds gives an average speed of 5.6 km/h.

For those who want more from this type of app, Walkmeter has a number of other features.   There are graphs with timelines for pace, elevation, and calories; the ability to export data in GPS exchange format or CSV; split and lap times, historical records, and much more.   But, for mere mortals, time, distance, and a route map should be perfectly adequate.

Bottom Line

Walkmeter GPS Pedometer - Walking, Running, Hiking (Freeware)
Version 1.1.09
Abvio Inc.
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.abvio.meter.walk