

Cellphone Scrabble Apps: so long Zarf and thanks for all the words

by Dylan Early, Independent

Recently Apple has discontinued support for 32 bit apps with the latest version of their operating system, iOS 11. Normally I wouldn't care about such technical minutiae, but for a hardened Scrabblor this is a potential disaster. The upgrade means that the much beloved iPhone and iPad Scrabble app called Zarf no longer works on devices running iOS 11. If, like me, you kept saying "NO" every time your iPhone prompted you to upgrade, you will appreciate this article. After politely declining for the umpteenth time, I awoke one fine morning to find that my iPhone had sanctimoniously upgraded itself during the night. And guess what - my Scrabble apps no longer worked! Goodbye Zarf. Goodbye Zyzyyva. With disappointment levels rivalled only by Hillary Clinton's, I set about finding a solution with utmost urgency.

Thankfully, a US programmer and avid Scrabble player, Seth Lipkin, has written an app similar to Zarf called ULU (Ultimate Lookup Utility) which is available at no cost on the app store. In my opinion Zarf is still the best app for looking up words, but ULU comes a very close second. See, below, a comparison of features and instructions on how to install ULU.

Download ULU for Apple Users (iPhone and iPad)

Forwards *Spring 2017*

Step 1: Go to the App Store

Step 2: Type "Ultimate Lookup" in the search field. You should see something like this.

Step 3: Click "GET" to download and install ULU. It's free.



Step 4: Once the download has completed, click "OPEN". You will notice the default lexicon is WWF (Words With Friends) which needs to be changed.

Step 5: In order to change the default lexicon to CSW15, click Settings > Lexicons > Add lexicon.

Step 6: In the Lexicon URL field, type "<https://thejeopardyfan.com/scrabble/CSW15.txt>"

Step 7: In the Lexicon Name field type CSW15, then click "Add Lexicon" in the top right corner. Provided you have an internet connection, this will download the CSW15 dictionary.

Step 8: On the Search screen, ensure Lexicon is set to CSW15 and you are all set to go.