OUT OF OFFICE

Mobile apps can improve job performance while in the field

Your job requires you to conduct a lot of business out of the office, and these apps can make it easier when you're on the go.

VLINGO

No Siri? No problem! Check out Vlingo, a virtual assistant app that can make phone calls, send emails and text messages, search the Internet and give you directions to your next property using voice recognition technology. Available for iPhone, Android, BlackBerry, select Windows phones and Symbian.

Free
www.vlingo.com

GWABBIT

Save valuable time and energy managing your contacts by relying on gwabbit to do the work for you. This technology, available on BlackBerry devices, scans incoming emails, finds contacts and creates a new contact in your address book. Once you confirm the new content, the contact will be alerted that he/she has been "gwabbed."

Free
www.gwabbit.com

INERTRAK

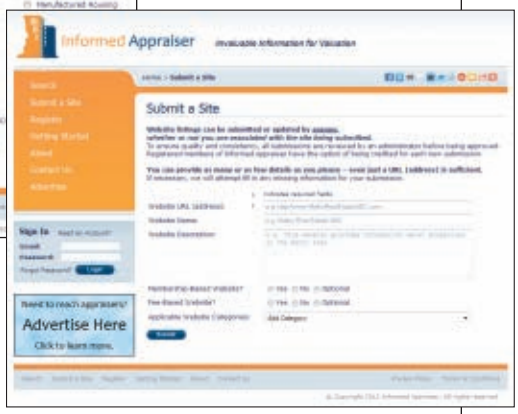
Inertrak can help you keep tabs on how you're spending your time. Use this app on your iPhone or iPad to track the time you spend on a particular project or at a property. Within the app, you can see the daily totals for each project, check off days, add notes and view a summary of overall time totals for each project.

$1.99
www.inertron.com

maps&comps

Website offers easy access to mapping tools and other resources

By **John Cirincione, SRA**



Informed Appraiser includes more than 40 categories, from affordable housing to socioeconomic and demographic info (left). The site is populated by user-submitted content; appraisers can suggest sites (below) and, if approved, the links are added to the database.

THE TOOLBAR, FAVORITE BAR AND HISTORY TABS of an appraiser's computer typically are overrun by website lists and links that have grown too large and too cumbersome to be of any practical use.

That was the situation Marc Kushner, Associate member, found with his computer. Kushner, a commercial appraiser and senior associate at Miller Cicero LLC in New York, developed Informed Appraiser (*www.informedappraiser.com*) as a way to organize important websites. The result: an easy-to-navigate, specialized database where appraisers and other real estate professionals can find relevant online sources for market data and other information.

The site has more than 40 categories for such resources as maps, mapping and GIS; cap rates; market reports, statistics, analysis and commentary; rental information; and sales listings and transactions. Each category typically contains multiple sources; maps, mapping and GIS, for example, currently lists more than 35 websites under subcategories, including aerial imagery, street maps, historical maps, flood maps and parcel maps, among others.

Informed Appraiser also identifies whether referring websites require a membership or a fee, so there's no wasted time hunting for the fine print.

Once a user specifies their location, search results are returned with four categories for each site:

- Link to site.
- Site description.
- Membership requirements, if any.
- Fee requirements, if applicable.

Users also have the ability to submit site recommendations that, once approved, are added to the database. In fact, that's how the site continues to grow. Informed Appraiser went live in 2009 as an empty vessel that quickly was populated by user-submitted content.

Check out Informed Appraiser to see how useful a tool it can be. The site is free, but registration is required.

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