

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
Vehicle Recorder Division
Washington, D.C. 20594

February 9, 2022

Personal Electronic Device

Specialist's Factual Report
By W. Deven Chen

1. EVENT SUMMARY

Location: Grass Valley, California
Date: November 10, 2020
Aircraft: Piper PA38-112
Registration: N6380A
Operator: Private
NTSB Number: WPR21FA044

2. GROUP

A group was not convened.

3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

On October 28, 2021, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Vehicle Recorder Division received the following personal electronic device (PED):

Device Manufacturer/Model: **Apple iPad Mini 2**
Serial Number: **DLXLVNLGFLMJ**

3.1. Device Description

PEDs are a category of devices comprised primarily of portable computing devices and mobile phones. Portable computing devices are typically capable of internet access, email, messaging services, and can run user-installed applications to perform specific tasks. Depending on the model, mobile phones can perform many of the same tasks as portable computing devices, plus have voice call and text messaging capabilities. PED user and system data is typically stored on non-volatile memory¹ and can be accessed through manufacturer-provided interfaces.

3.2. Data recovery

Upon arrival at the Vehicle Recorder Division, an exterior examination revealed the device was in good condition, as shown in Figure 1. The device powered on normally and was not locked with any passcode. The device had ForeFlight app installed; however, the account was locked due to expiry. An assistance request was sent to ForeFlight LLC, and the account was temporarily unlocked. The ForeFlight app on the device showed that the Track

¹ Non-volatile memory is semiconductor memory that does not require external power for data retention.

Logs was not turned on during the event, and the last flight recorded on this ForeFlight account was in December 2019. The version of ForeFlight installed was 12.0.1, which did not have a fuel scheduler capability, which is only available on versions 12.5 or later, according to ForeFlight LLC.

The rest of the content stored on the device was reviewed, and there were no pertinent data to this investigation.



Figure 1: Front and Back of Apple iPad Mini 2 as received.