Mac Sidecar and Universal Control

I tried out the Mac’s Universal Control with my mac mini and iPad. It was an interesting concept, but definitely beta. The promise of dragging files between the two devices was clunky to the point of “why, when you can drag things to and from the iCloud/OneDrive/Box?”

Universal Control is to be ignored for now.

I had much more hope for Sidecar.

I guess it does do what it is advertised for. It allows your iPad to be an external monitor for your Mac. I haven’t tried using it with the pencil as a drawing tablet bit I’ll give it the benefit of the doubt and assume that works. Unfortunately, it is not able to do what I wanted it to do.

I have a mac mini desktop on a drafting table with a pretty decent monitor. I also use a 12.9-inch iPad with a pencil and keyboard. I use a 13-inch MacBook Pro for work, which I intend to use for work and not my personal stuff.

The thing about using a drafting table is that you are sitting on a taller stool and not a comfy chair where you can put your feet up. I recently had ankle surgery that makes sitting at a stool difficult. I had the great idea of using sidecar, opening a BBEdit document that I want to work on, and moving it to iPad display. Everything seemed to work for a little bit. I was able to type and navigate the page.

Everything was great until I tried to open another page. Or mouse around on the window with the pencil or use my fingers, or… At some point, I pretty much had everything hosed so I restarted the iPad and tried again. It seemed like it could kind of work, but if I wanted to open, close, or create any file than the one I was directly working on, I had to get up and go to the main computer to do it. Not too good when working with a broken leg.