MacTechnics Newsletter

for

January, 2026

A Newsletter for the MacTechnics Apple User Group based in Ann Arbor, MI

A Happy & Healthy New Year to you all!
(Don't forget to write 2026 on your checks!)

I. Apple Computer/Devices News

A.   [Apple needs to deliver an AI-charged Siri so good it gets older iPhone users to upgrade](#)

Steve Kovach
@STEVEKOVACH

KEY POINTS

- Apple spent much of the year battling President Donald Trump's tariffs and the perception it has fallen behind rivals in AI.

- The company failed to deliver its update to Siri that would've added new generative AI features.

- Apple said it's on track to launch the Siri upgrade in 2026, and it has just one more chance to get it right.

Apple CEO Tim Cook speaks as Apple holds an event at the Steve Jobs Theater on its campus in Cupertino, California, Sept. 9, 2025.
Manuel Orbegozo | Reuters

Apple has one heck of a mulligan coming ahead of its **50th anniversary** in 2026.

After failing on its promise to launch an artificial intelligence-supercharged version of Siri in March, Apple said it's on track to make it happen in the new year. The stakes are enormous.

Apple's AI failure this year put even more pressure on it to deliver a breakthrough AI experience on the iPhone. Another whiff like that will only cement the idea that Apple is woefully behind its peers in AI and risks losing control

over the next major computing platform to a rival like [Google](#)or a startup like [OpenAI](#).

Not only that, Apple must prove to investors that AI can generate meaningful sales growth after years of post-pandemic stagnation.   How Apple got here…

B. [Ford Promises to Continue Offering Apple CarPlay, Despite Rivals Dropping It](#)

Ford CFO Sherry House says the company will also incorporate Google Gemini in its cars next year.

By [Jibin Joseph](#)
December 30, 2025

(Credit: Apple)

Ford has confirmed that it will continue to support Apple CarPlay in its cars.

Ford is "passionate" about retaining CarPlay since many customers use it, Ford CFO Sherry House said at the Barclays Global Auto and Mobility Tech Conference, Ford Authority reports.

"We think that that [CarPlay] is a product that our customers really enjoy, so we're going to continue to allow them to have access to that," House said…

C. Report: Apple's AI Strategy Could Finally Pay Off in 2026

Tuesday December 30, 2025 9:01 am PST by Hartley Charlton

Apple's restrained artificial intelligence strategy may pay off in 2026 amid the arrival of a revamped Siri and concerns around the AI market "bubble" bursting, The Information argues. The speculative report notes that Apple has taken a restrained approach with AI innovations compared with peers such as OpenAI, Google, and Meta, which are investing hundreds of billions of dollars in data...

Read Full Article • 199 comments

D. End of an era as last Intel MacBook Air is vintage

NEWS

Remaining pool of viable Intel Macs shrinks even further.

By David Price 1 day ago

E. [Will Apple kick off 2026 with a bang or a whimper?](#)

FEATURE

January is likely to be a pretty slow month for Apple, but things will really pick up in the spring.
By Jason Cross 5 days ago

II. APPLE HARDWARE

A. No iPhone 18 Launch This Year, Reports Suggest

Thursday January 1, 2026 8:43 am PST by Hartley Charlton
Apple is not expected to release a standard iPhone 18 model this year, according to a growing number of reports that suggest the company is planning a significant change to its long-standing annual iPhone launch cycle. Despite the immense success of the iPhone 17 in 2025, the iPhone 18 is not expected to arrive until

the spring of 2027, leaving the iPhone 17 in the lineup as the latest...
Read Full Article •

B. Low-Price 12.9-Inch MacBook With A18 Pro Chip Reportedly Launching Early This Year

Friday January 2, 2026 9:08 am PST by Joe Rossignol

Apple plans to introduce a 12.9-inch MacBook in spring 2026, according to TrendForce. In a press release this week, the Taiwanese research firm said this MacBook will be aimed at the entry-level to mid-range market, with "competitive pricing." TrendForce did not share any further details about this MacBook, but the information that it shared lines up with several rumors about a more...

Read Full Article • 137 comments

C. What's Happening With the Mac Pro?

Wednesday December 31, 2025 9:59 am PST by Juli Clover

Apple hasn't updated the Mac Pro since 2023, and according to recent rumors, there's no update coming in the near future. In fact, Apple might be finished with the Mac Pro. Bloomberg recently said that the Mac Pro is "on the back burner" and has been "largely written off" by Apple. Apple apparently views the more compact Mac Studio as the ideal high-end pro-level desktop, and it has almost...

Read Full Article • 251 comments

D. Apple Says Final Intel MacBook Air and Apple Watch Series 5 Now 'Vintage'

Wednesday December 31, 2025 8:39 am PST by Eric Slivka

Apple today added the final 13-inch MacBook Air powered by Intel processors, the Apple Watch Series 5, and additional products to its vintage products list. The iPhone 11 Pro was also added to the list after the iPhone 11 Pro Max was added back in September. The full list of products added to Apple's vintage and obsolete list today: MacBook Air (Retina, 13-inch, 2020) iPhone 8 Plus 128GB ...

Read Full Article • 83 comments

E. [Apple TV 4K Was Supposed to Launch in 2025... So What Happened?](#)

F. [Six new Apple products will launch early this year, here's what's coming](#)

Ryan Christoffel
| Jan 5 2026 - 6:59 am PT

8 Comments

Apple has a big year of 20+ product launches ahead, including six new products that are rumored to arrive in the next few months. Here's what's coming.

MacBook Pro 14-inch and 16-inch with M5 Pro and Max

Last fall, Apple launched its new M5 chip in three products: MacBook Pro, iPad Pro, and Vision Pro.

But the new chip didn't yet offer Pro or Max versions, and the only MacBook Pro that received it was the 14-inch model.

Reporting indicates Apple will launch 14-inch and 16-inch MacBook Pros with M5 Pro and M5 Max early in 2026.

Back in January 2023, Apple debuted M2 Pro and M2 Max versions of the MacBook Pro. We could see similar timing with the M5 launches.

New 12.9-inch MacBook

9T○5Mac

For years, analysts have called on Apple to release a low-cost MacBook that might better compete against Chromebooks and more affordable PCs. This year, it seems that may finally happen.

Apple is reportedly preparing a 12.9-inch MacBook that will run an iPhone-class A18 Pro chip and come in a variety of fun colors. Perhaps the best feature will be a rumored price of $599 or $699.

Analyst Jeff Pu is expecting the MacBook to ship in "mid-Q1 2026."

iPad with A18 chip

Last year, Apple's base model iPad got a spec bump update with an A16 Bionic chip.

But in the coming months, the next iPad is expected to launch with an A18 chip that will enable Apple Intelligence support.

Not much else is known about the new iPad. But it's generally expected to retain the same design, with updates being primarily internal.

iPhone 17e

Apple has one more iPhone 17 model in the works, and it's expected to launch very early in 2026.

Last February, Apple unveiled a new member of the iPhone family. The expected iPhone SE revision was actually branded iPhone 16e. Rumors later indicated Apple intends to update the 'e' model annually.

iPhone 17e will pack the same A19 chip as the iPhone 17, and the new Center Stage front camera too. It's also rumored to have a pair of design changes: the Dynamic Island instead of a notch, and thinner bezels. MagSafe support is coming too.

Like iPhone 16e, Apple's new budget model will likely cost $599 and still offer only one rear camera.

M5 MacBook Air

Another new MacBook is coming early this year: the M5 MacBook Air.

Very little is known about the update so far, other than it offering the same 13-inch and 15-inch sizes as the M4 model. No design changes are expected either.

Like Apple's other M5 products so far, the MacBook Air will likely be light on changes besides the M5 chip itself and perhaps some smaller additional improvements.

M4 iPad Air

If you want the best possible iPad, the M5 iPad Pro is an excellent option. But lots of users would be well off choosing the much more affordable iPad Air.

Rumors indicate Apple has an M4 iPad Air launching in the months ahead. There's reportedly an OLED iPad Air in the works, but it likely won't launch until next year. Instead, expect the M4 model to offer more power and likely new colors, but not much else different.

Wildcard: New Apple Studio Display

All of the above products are expected to launch in the months ahead. But there's another that might debut soon too: a new Apple Studio Display.

The new Studio Display is rumored to add 120Hz ProMotion support with HDR, an A19 chip, and likely a new Center Stage camera. Since Apple doesn't update its Mac displays very often, we could see some big changes. Which early 2026 Apple products are you most interested in? Let us know in the comments.

Best iPhone accessories

- [AirTag 4-pack (now only $65, down from $99)](#)
- [MagSafe Car Mount for iPhone](#)
- [AirPods Pro 3](#)
- [10-year AirTag battery case 2-pack](#)
- [100W USB-C fast charging power adapter](#)

G. [New MacBook accessory adds touch support to your display](#)

Ryan Christoffel
6 hours ago

[3 Comments](#)

The first touch-enabled Mac is [rumored to launch](#) later this year, but a new third-party 'Magic Screen' accessory says it can bring touch to existing MacBook Air and MacBook Pro displays.

[EXPAND](#)

H.

- CES 2026

[Best of CES 2026: All of the weird, wild, and wonderful reveals from the biggest show in tech](#)

from [9to5Toys](#)

6 hours ago

CES 2026 – the biggest tech event of the year is now in full swing on the strip in Las Vegas with a countless number of new product reveals and wild new concepts. From desktop hologram machines and the new smart LEGO bricks, chargers that turn your phone into an AI robot assistant, the latest e-bikes, solar-powered gazebos, smart goggles, and the latest in electric vehicle tech, CES knows no bounds. We have collected all of the wildest and most intriguing reveals from the show from across our network for your browsing pleasure below.

READ MORE

I.   [This is how long Macs and MacBooks last](#)

FEATURE

Find out how long MacBooks last, how long Apple supports Macs and MacBooks for, and how to tell if a Mac is too old.

III. *Apple Software*

A.   [50 macOS Tahoe Features](#)

New features and lesser-known changes to check out if you're upgrading.

B.   Apple Teases 'Something Big' Coming Soon to Apple Fitness+

Tuesday December 30, 2025 2:11 pm PST by Juli Clover
The Apple Fitness+ Instagram account today teased that the service has "big plans" for 2026. In a video, several Apple Fitness+ trainers are shown holding up newspapers with headlines related to Apple Fitness+. What's Apple Fitness+ Planning for the New Year? Something Big is Coming to Apple

Fitness+ The Countdown Begins. Apple Fitness+ 2026 is Almost Here 2026 Plans Still Under ...
Read Full Article • 121 comments

C.   [10 Mac Apps That Will Change How You Use macOS in 2026](#)

D.   [Everything Apple Is Releasing in 2026: iPhone Fold, LLM Siri, Low-Cost MacBook and More](#)

Wednesday December 31, 2025 10:39 am PST by [Juli Clover](#)
If rumors are accurate, 2026 is going to be a huge year for Apple. We're expecting the first foldable iPhone, an all-new home hub device, updated displays, and possibly, the first OLED MacBook Pro and the first AI smart glasses. Subscribe to the MacRumors YouTube channel for more videos. Apple will split its iPhone launches, introduce a low-cost MacBook, and debut a much smarter, LLM-based...
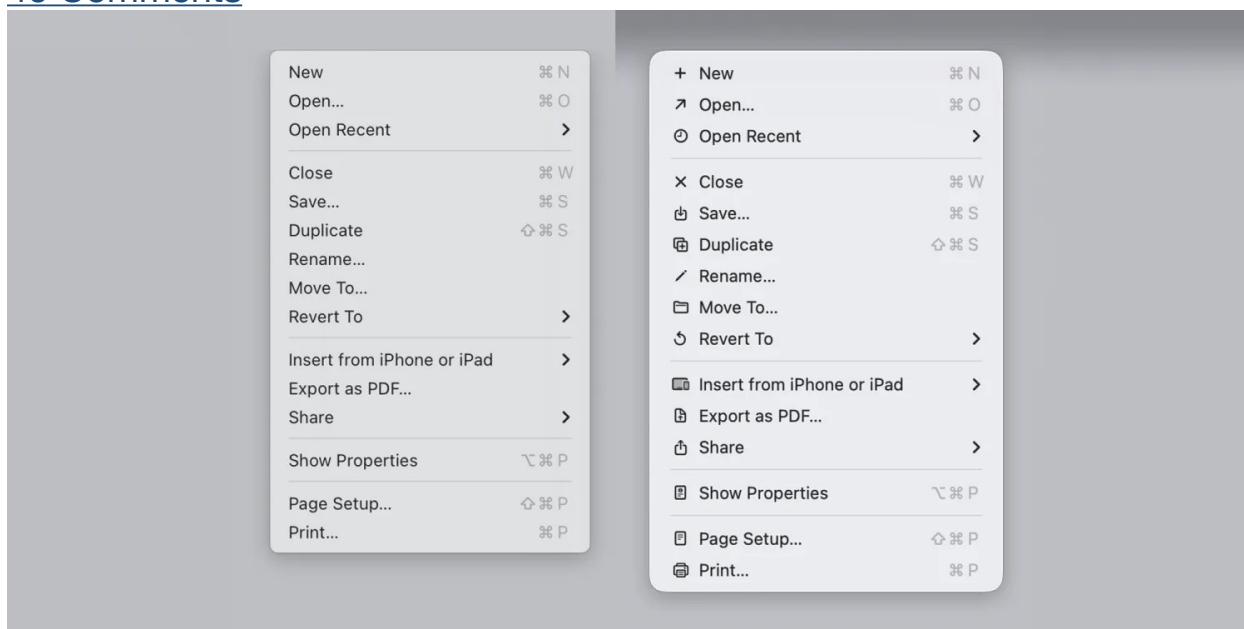[Read Full Article](#) • [100 comments](#)

E.   [macOS Tahoe icons do exactly what Apple said designers should never do](#)

Ben Lovejoy
11 hours ago

40 Comments

macOS Tahoe app icons came under fire late last year with commenters describing them as "terrible" and "objectively bad." In our poll, 9to5Mac readers had exceedingly mixed views.

Software engineer Nikita Prokopov has now drawn attention to the icons used within menus and pointed out that they almost exactly mirror the approach which Apple's Macintosh Human Interface Guidelines advised against back in 1992 …
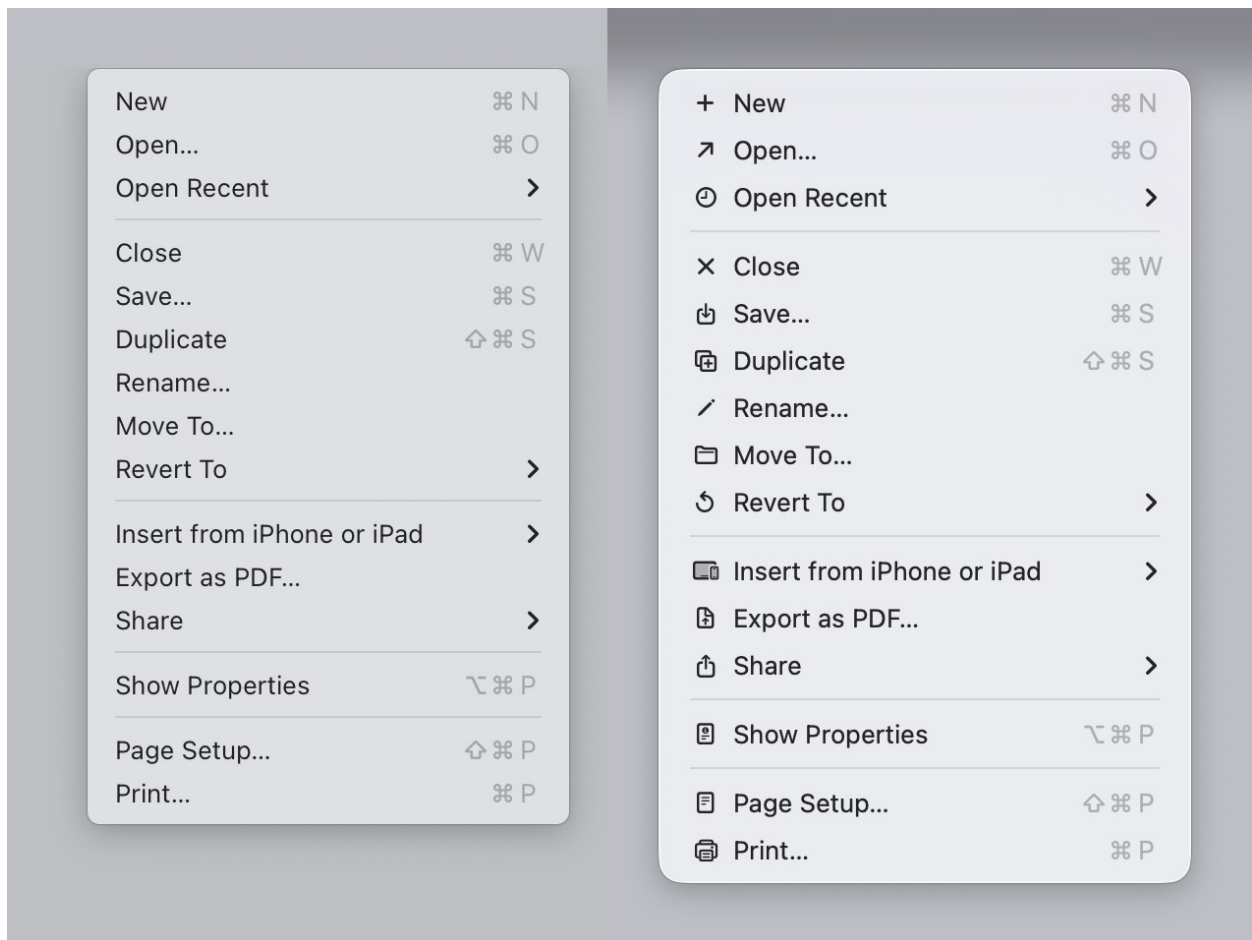
Prokopov shared a graphic from the guidelines which showed what Apple described as an "ugly" menu, with each item having its own icon, contrasted with what the

company considered good practice, which was very few in-menu icons.

Figure 1-3 Don't use arbitrary graphic elements
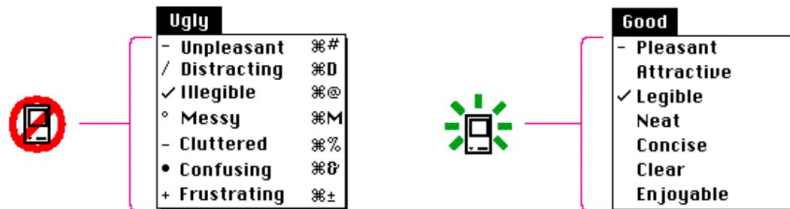
He then points to Apple breaking this guideline with Tahoe menus.

Admittedly, resolutions have improved dramatically since those days, and it could be argued that in-menu icons

today are much clearer, but Prokopov argues against that too.

The main function of an icon is to help you find what you are looking for faster. Perhaps counter-intuitively, adding an icon to everything is exactly the wrong thing to do. To stand out, things need to be different. But if everything has an icon, nothing stands out.

He suggests the approach Microsoft took in the early days, with icons restricted to only the most commonly used functions, is a better one.

But it gets worse. He also points out that Apple uses inconsistent icons for the exact same function in different apps – Including things as basic as New. Depending on the app, Apple uses five markedly different icons to essentially mean the same thing.

As if that weren't bad enough, he also points to examples where Apple uses the exact same icon to mean completely different things! For example, the icon for a new note in the Notes app is the same one as the "edit address" icon in the Contacts app.

His blog post is illustrated with a great many examples, as well as suggested improvements using fewer icons and colour coding them. It's definitely worth checking out. Once you've taken a look at his examples, do share your thoughts in the comments.

- Official Apple Store on Amazon
- NordVPN – privacy-first VPN with no logs and independent audits to verify
- Official Apple iPhone Air cases and bumpers

- [iPhone Air MagSafe Battery](#)
- [Official iPhone cases: iPhone 17](#) | [iPhone 17 Pro](#) and [Pro Max](#) | [iPhone Air](#)

Image: [Nikita Prokopov](#). Via [Daring Fireball](#).

IV. IOS KORNER

A. [iOS 26.2 Brings Upgrades for Liquid Glass, AirDrop, and Apple Music](#)

The latest iOS update means more ways to enable Liquid Glass, new security features for AirDrop file sharing, and new ways to keep on top of your Reminders.

By [Will McCurdy](#)
December 14, 2025

(Credit: Nasir Kachroo/NurPhoto via Getty Images)

Apple has now rolled out iOS 26.2, bringing a few helpful—if small—new features for iPhone 11 or 2nd-generation iPhone SE and later users, MacRumors reports.

If you enjoyed the Liquid Glass feature Apple added in iOS 26.1, it's now also being added to the Lock Screen. You can now use a slider inside your Lock Screen options to make the clock more or less transparent, while you can also still opt for a completely solid clock. In contrast, iOS 26.1 only made it possible to make your Liquid Glass material either Clear or Tinted. Liquid Glass is also being incorporated into other parts of the OS, including the Measure app, Apple's free ruler-like measuring tool.

If you're the forgetful type, the Reminders tab now has an option to add an alarm for when the reminder is due. You'll need to toggle the Urgent option when setting up the reminder to create the alarm. If you choose to snooze the reminder, it will show a Live Activity countdown on the Lock Screen that includes an option to complete the reminder or reschedule it.

The update adds a new layer of verification when you're using AirDrop with unknown contacts, allowing you to share files more securely. Apple has introduced an option to generate an AirDrop code on the device you want to share a file with. This code can then be entered on your device to complete the transfer. These codes allow AirDrop to work between the two devices <u>for 30 days before automatically deactivating.</u>

Apple Music is also getting a few helpful updates if it's something you regularly use offline. You can now see the lyrics to the song you're playing when not connected to Wi-Fi or cellular data…

B. [iOS 26.1 Update Offers Liquid Glass Controls, Bevy of Handy New Features](#)

The first major iOS 26 update brings live translation improvements, streamlined gesture controls, new visual settings, and more. Updates are also available for iPadOS and macOS.

By <u>Jon Martindale</u>

November 4, 2025

(Credit: Apple) Apple has launched <u>iOS 26.1</u>, its first updates since the <u>iOS 26</u> launch in September.

Compatible with iPhone 11 series and later and the second-generation iPhone SE devices, this update brings with it a number of quality-of-life changes, including new language support in Apple Intelligence, better live translation support, and improved gesture controls in a range of apps and services, among others.

Apple's iOS 26 debuted with an overhauled Liquid Glass visual design to give the latest iPhone OS a wonderfully uniform look. Call screening and hold assist were really useful additions, and the Spatial Scenes can make a real difference to wallpapers and photos. If we had any complaints, it's that there were some obvious bugs and the interface needed just a few tweaks here and there. Update 26.1 may fix most of our concerns.

The new update brings improvements to Apple Intelligence language support, adding Danish, Dutch, Norweigian, and Turkish, among others. It's also added Chinese (both simplified, and traditional) to <u>Live Translation on AirPods</u>, as well as Italian, Japanese, and Korean. Elsewhere, Apple has left-aligned text and icons for more comfortable interface viewing and navigation, and there's a new video scrubber in photos to slide through the few frames of animation.

Liquid Glass has been updated with a <u>new option to choose</u> between the default clear look, or a tinted look that can increase opacity in certain apps and notifications on the lock screen, making them easier to read. There are also new toggles in the Settings menu for haptic feedback, single-

touch actions, and lock-screen swipe to open to camera. In a tweak of its gesture support, Apple added "Slide to Stop" swipe actions to Alarms and Timers (so everyone stops turning off their alarm when they're trying to snooze) and the Music MiniPlayer now supports swipes to go to next and previous track.

The Fitness app has been updated to add support for custom workouts, letting you set your own exercise regime, and Apple has improved FaceTime audio quality in low-bandwidth conditions, so if you don't have great signal, you should at least be able to hear who you're speaking to, even if the video quality isn't excellent.

To better protect younger iPhone users, too, Apple has instigated a new Communication Safety and Web content filter system that will automatically limit adult website access on child accounts for ages 13-17 (although the specific ages do vary by region).

The new update also introduced Apple's Security Improvements feature via a revamped Rapid Security Responses toggle. You can turn this off and on in the Settings menu, but it effectively means security updates are installed automatically, speeding up your device's protective measures so you are never caught out.

You can update your device by going to Settings > General > Software Update. The update is available for all iPads and iPhones that are compatible with the iOS 26 update.

Apple today also released the 26.1 versions of iPadOS, macOS Tahoe, tvOS, watchOS, and visionOS. As MacRumors notes, iPadOS 26.1 revives Slide Over, a multitasking feature that Apple axed in iPadOS 26...

C. [Apple iOS 26.3 Release Date: The First Major iPhone Update Of 2026 Is Almost Here](#)

By[David Phelan](#),Senior Contributor. I write about lifestyle tech

Jan 01, 2026 at 05:00pm EST

Apple's next iPhone software update, unless there's a small release to squish some bugs in the interim, will be iOS 26.3. That software began its journey through developer beta on Dec. 15. A new report sheds light on exactly when the general release will be.

Apple iPhone 17
ANADOLU VIA GETTY IMAGES

"Apple tends to ship its "x.3" iOS updates in late January. The dates move around by a day or two, but the window

stays nearly the same year after year. If Apple sticks to its recent pattern, iOS 26.3 should arrive in the last week of January 2026," MacObserver reported.

Warning: Apple's Latest iPhone Update Has Unexpected Consequences For Nearly A Billion Users
By David Phelan

There had been speculation that because iOS 26.1 landed later than is Apple's custom, in early November rather than late October. But the Cupertino giant seemed to have caught up with itself after that, and the most recent big update, iOS 26.2, went on release on Dec. 12, even if that release took some commentators by surprise by landing on a Friday instead of the customary Monday or Tuesday.

One thing seems certain about iOS 26.3: there won't be an accompanying iOS 18 release for those wanting to keep their iPhones safe from bugs and security risks. There was an iOS 18.7.2 release alongside iOS 26.1, and it looked like iOS 18.7.3 was on its way, but in the end that was only released for iPhones which aren't capable of handling iOS 26....

D. [15 New Things Your iPhone Can Do in iOS 26.2](#)

Tuesday December 23, 2025 3:25 am PST by [Tim Hardwick](#)

Apple this month rolled out iOS 26.2, the second major point update for iPhones since iOS 26 was released in September, and there are at least 15 notable changes and improvements worth checking out. We've rounded them up below.

Apple is expected to roll out iOS 26.3 to compatible devices sometime in late January 2026. Until then, here's what's new in iOS 26.2.

1. Set a Reminder Alarm
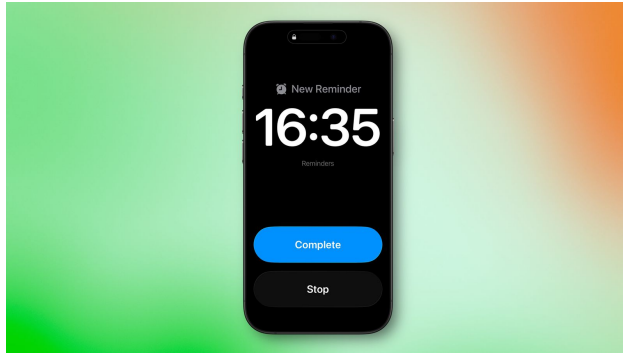
iOS 26.2 brings a new alarm capability to the Reminders app. When you create a reminder, you can toggle on an "Urgent" option so that, at the due time, your iPhone sounds an alarm rather than simply showing a notification.

2. Adjust Liquid Glass Clock

Apple's latest update adds a new slider under the "Liquid Glass" Lock Screen settings that gives much finer control over the clock's appearance. You can choose to make the time display nearly fully transparent, or more frosted and opaque, rather than being limited to the previous fixed presets.

3. AirDrop Files to People Not in Contacts
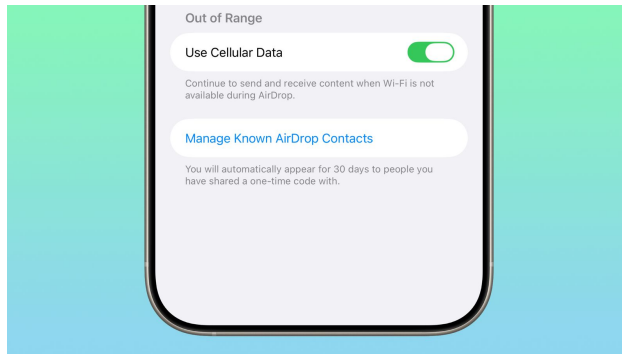
iOS 26.2 introduces a one-time AirDrop code system, letting you share files with someone even if they're not in your contacts. Once generated, the code remains valid for 30 days. Apple also includes a "Manage Known AirDrop Contacts" pane so that you can see and manage the people you've shared codes with.
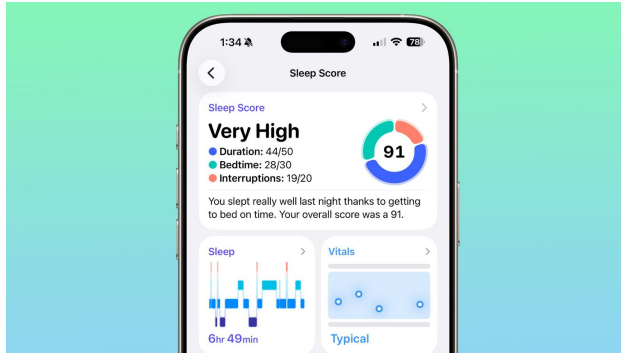
4. View Apple Music Lyrics Offline
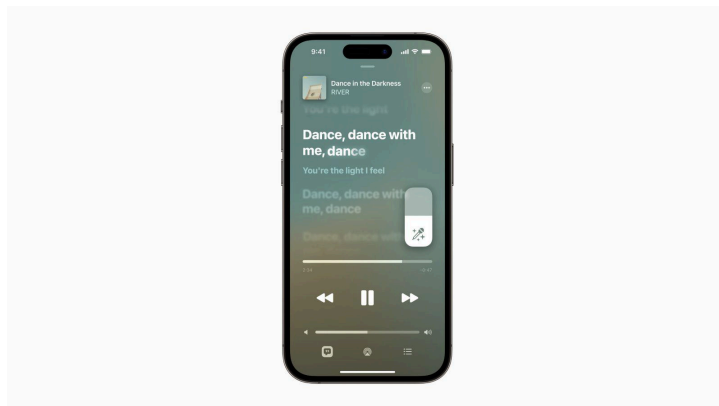
Apple Music is gaining offline lyrics support, so you can now view song lyrics in the app even when your iPhone isn't connected to Wi-Fi or mobile data.

5. Get a Better Sleep Score

If you wear your Apple Watch in bed, it's worth knowing that Apple has reworked its Sleep Score scoring tiers, with the aim of better matching typical sleep-quality experiences. Now, "Very Low" runs 0–40 (previously 0–29), "Low" 41–60, "OK" 61–80, "High" 81–95, and "Very High" 96–100 (previously labelled "Excellent").

6. Automatically Create Podcast Chapters

The Podcasts app can now automatically generate chapters for individual episodes. This means that rather than fixed chapter markers, the app will create them for you – and episode transcriptions now let you tap on mentions of other podcasts or links.

7. Manage Websites Where Passwords Aren't Saved
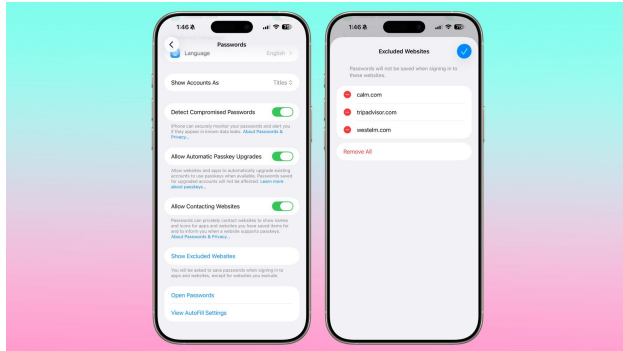
In the Passwords app's main settings menu, there's a new section allowing you to review and manage websites where you have deliberately avoided saving credentials. It gives you finer control over which domains are excluded from password storage.

8. Get AirPods Live Translation in EU

Apple's latest update expands the reach of AirPods Live Translation to countries in the European Union. The feature was previously unavailable in the EU due to Apple's ongoing regulatory compliance work.

9. Flash iPhone Screen for Alerts

In the Accessibility settings, under "Flash for Alerts," you can now choose to have your iPhone screen flash when a notification

arrives, rather than just the rear camera's LED flash. You can configure it to use the screen flash alone, the LED flash, or both simultaneously, giving you more flexibility for alert styles.

10. Quicker Access to Apple News Sections

The Apple News app gets a refreshed interface. The top-of-feed buttons now let you jump quickly into categories (e.g. sports, business, food, puzzles) instead of scrolling or tapping through menus.

11. Manage Safety Alerts

iOS 26.2 introduces an "Enhanced Safety Alerts" section in Notifications settings that centralizes earthquake alerts, imminent-threat alerts, and also includes a new location-based "improved alert delivery" option, helping ensure the reliability of alerts.

12. Sort Games by Size

In the Games app library, there's now an option to sort games by size (in addition to name or recent). It should prove useful if you want to clear storage or identify large games quickly. Beyond sorting, the update also brings support for controller-based navigation and real-time challenge-score updates while playing.

13. Disable Pinned Messages in CarPlay

For CarPlay users, iOS 26.2 lets you disable the new "pinned messages" view in the Messages app – restoring the older, classic messages interface if you prefer that simpler look while driving.

14. Replace Siri Side Button Functionality (in Japan)

For iPhone users registered in Japan, iOS 26.2 lays the foundation for replacing the default voice assistant triggered by the Side button from Siri to a third-party voice assistant (for example, Gemini or Alexa), giving users a choice at the system level for the first time.

15. Multitask More on iPad

For iPad users, iPadOS 26.2 restores some multitasking flexibility, and allows you to drag and drop apps from the App Library, Dock, or Spotlight into Split View or Slide Over. The change should make window and multitask management on iPad more fluid.

E. [iPhone 17 vs iPhone 17 Pro vs iPhone Air](#)

Apple's four new iPhones feature more differences between the latest models than ever before, so which one should you buy?

F. [Apple Intelligence Guide](#)

Apple Intelligence is what Apple calls its artificial intelligence feature set, previewed at WWDC in June 2024. The first Apple Intelligence features launched with iOS 18.1, iPadOS 18.1, and macOS Sequoia 15.1, and additional features came in iOS 18.2, iPadOS 18.2, and macOS Sequoia 15.2. There's still more to come, though, and the rest of the Apple Intelligence features are set to come later in 2025….

G. [How to Free Up Space on Mac: Quick and Effective Methods](#)

Liam Anderson
December 12, 2024
MACMACBOOKS

Macs can run out of storage space, which can slow down their performance or even prevent you from saving new files. However, there are several quick and effective methods to help you reclaim valuable storage. These range from simple actions, such as emptying the Trash, to more advanced techniques like using Optimized Storage or removing duplicate files.

This article outlines these methods, compares their effectiveness, and addresses common questions about managing storage on your Mac. By following these tips, you can keep your Mac running smoothly and efficiently.

Macintosh HD   348.39 GB of 494.38 GB used

146.14 GB

495 GB
Solid State
Apple Fabric
Drive

● Documents ● Other Users & Shared ● iOS Files ● Trash

● Applications ● Mail ● Messages

Macintosh-Data   -77.1 MB of 494.38 GB used

348.32 GB   146.14 GB

◌ Other Volumes
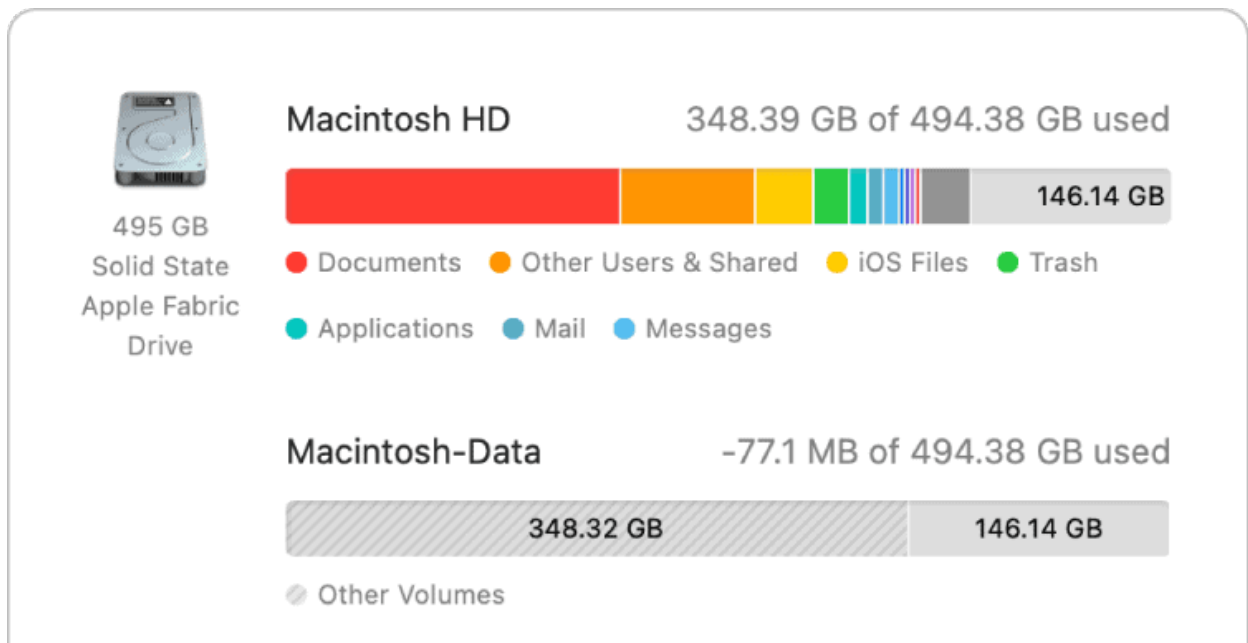
Effective Mac Storage Management

Quick Ways To Free Up Space

If your Mac is running low on storage, there are simple steps you can take. These steps will help you quickly reclaim space. We will explore some of these methods.

EMPTY THE TRASH

The Trash holds deleted files. These files still take up space. Emptying the Trash is a fast way to free up space. Right-click the Trash icon and select "Empty Trash".

DELETE LARGE FILES

Large files like movies and videos use a lot of storage. Find and delete files you no longer need. You can use Finder to sort files by size. This makes it easy to find large files.

UNINSTALL UNUSED APPS

Apps you don't use take up space. Uninstall apps you no longer need. Dragging the app to the Trash does not always remove all files. Use the app's uninstaller if it has one.

USE OPTIMIZED STORAGE

macOS has a feature called Optimized Storage. It can store files in iCloud. This frees up space on your Mac. You can access these files when you need them.

Go to System Settings > Apple ID > iCloud > Optimize Mac Storage.

More Advanced Methods

If the quick methods are not enough, try these:

REMOVE DUPLICATE FILES

Duplicate files waste space. Use a duplicate file finder app to find and remove them. There are many apps available for this.

CLEAN UP SYSTEM FILES

System files can take up space. Use a cleaning app to remove temporary files and caches. Be careful when deleting system files. Removing the wrong files can cause problems.
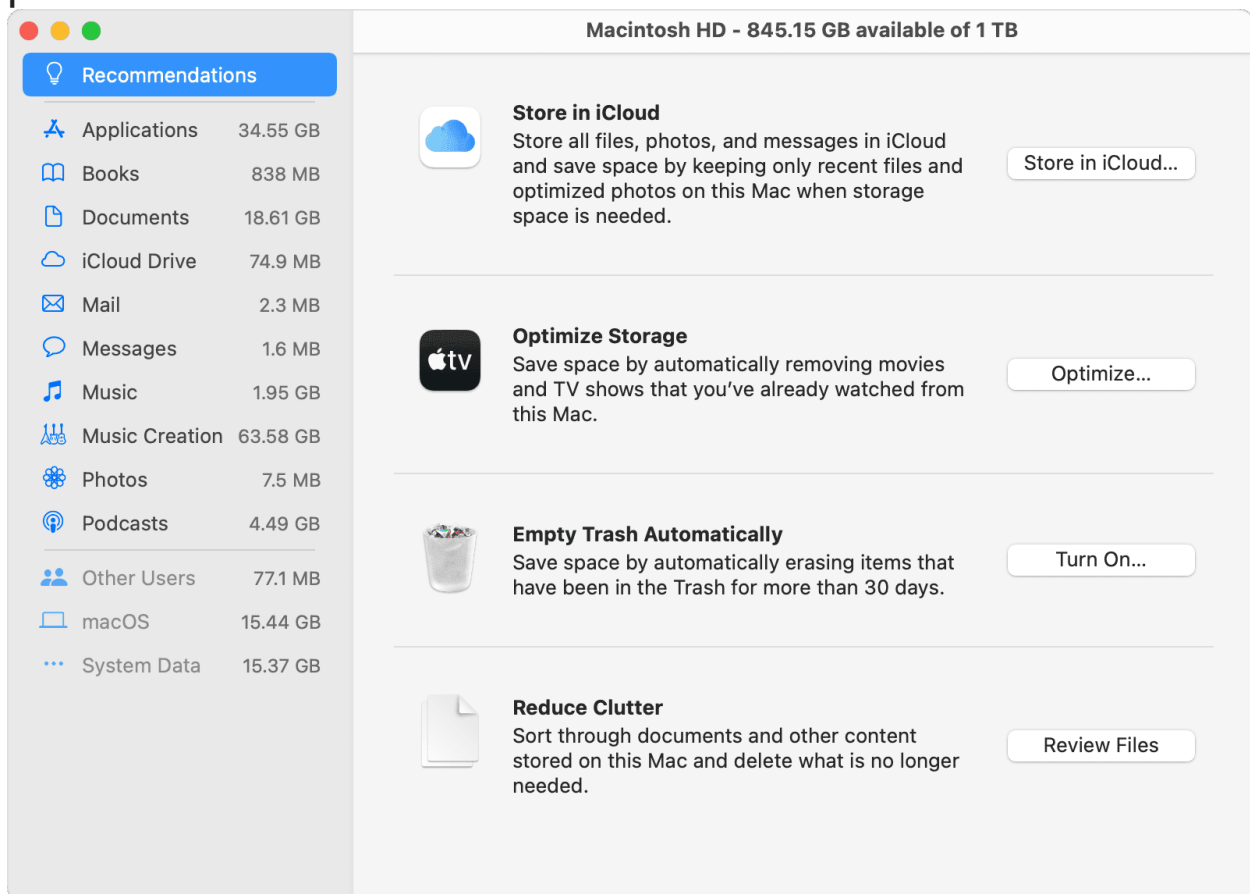
Comparison Of Methods

Here is a table comparing the different methods:

Method	Difficulty	Space Freed
Empty Trash	Easy	Small to Medium
Delete Large Files	Easy	Medium to Large
Uninstall Unused Apps	Easy	Medium
Use Optimized Storage	Easy	Medium to Large
Remove Duplicate Files	Medium	Medium
Clean Up System Files	Medium	Medium to Large

Questions You Might Have

HOW DO I FIND LARGE FILES?
Open Finder. Press Command + F. Click "Kind" and select
"Other". Choose "File Size". Set the size limit.

ARE CLEANING APPS SAFE TO USE?
Some cleaning apps are safe. Others are not. Research
apps before you use them.

Managing Storage On Other Devices

The need to manage storage is not unique to Macs. iPhones and iPads also have limited storage. Many of the same principles apply. You can delete unused apps, remove large files like videos, and use cloud storage to free up space. On mobile devices, it is also useful to check app storage settings. Some apps store a lot of data. You can often clear this data within the app's settings to reclaim storage space. Regularly managing storage across all your devices ensures they run smoothly.

Managing Mac Storage Space

VIDEO
How to free up space on your Mac on macOS Catalina or earlier — Apple Support

Macs offer several built-in tools to help users optimize storage space. The Storage Management feature provides a clear overview of disk usage, categorizing files and suggesting ways to free up space. iCloud integration

allows users to store files, photos, and videos in the cloud, freeing up local storage.

Users can delete large, unnecessary files and clear out old backups to reclaim space quickly. The Photos app offers options to optimize storage by keeping full-resolution images in iCloud while storing smaller versions locally. Emptying the Trash and clearing browser caches can also help.

For more advanced cleanup, third-party apps like CleanMyMac X and Gemini 2 can identify and remove duplicate files, temporary data, and other space-hogging items. These tools often provide a more comprehensive approach to storage management.

Frequently Asked Questions

Finding And Removing Large Files On Mac

Mac users can locate and delete large, unnecessary files by using Finder's search function. Click on the Finder icon, then select "File" and "Find." Use the size filter to show files larger than a specific size. Sort results by file

size to identify the biggest space-hogs. Right-click unwanted files and select "Move to Trash" to delete them.

Clearing 'Other' Storage On Mac

To reduce 'Other' storage on a Mac:

1. Empty the Trash
2. Clear browser caches
3. Remove language files you don't use
4. Delete old backups and downloads

Use third-party cleaning apps for a more thorough cleanup of system junk and temporary files.

Storage Management For MacBook Air

MacBook Air users can optimize storage by:

- Using iCloud for photos and documents
- Uninstalling unused apps
- Removing old iOS backups
- Emptying the Trash regularly

Enable "Optimize Mac Storage" in iCloud settings to automatically remove local copies of files stored in the cloud when space is low.

Resolving Full Storage On MacBook Pro

If a MacBook Pro shows full storage:

1. Check storage breakdown in "About This Mac"
2. Delete large, unnecessary files
3. Move data to external drives
4. Use cloud storage services

Consider upgrading the internal SSD if storage issues persist after cleanup efforts.

Automatic Deletion Of Temporary Files On Mac

Macs don't have a built-in feature to automatically delete all temporary files. Users can:

- Use third-party cleaning apps with scheduled cleanups
- Create custom scripts to clear specific cache folders
- Set up Automator workflows for regular maintenance

Manual deletion through Terminal commands is also an option for tech-savvy users.

Monitoring And Maintaining Mac Disk Space

To keep track of Mac disk space:

1. Use the built-in Storage Management tool
2. Install disk space analyzer apps
3. Set up low disk space alerts

Perform regular cleanups and consider upgrading storage or using external drives for long-term file storage.

Categories
Mac, Macbooks

How to Fix iOS 18.2 Problems

The Best Phones for Kids: Top Picks for 2025

H. Apple Passkey Guide (2026)

Mike Harmon
December 30, 2025
APPS
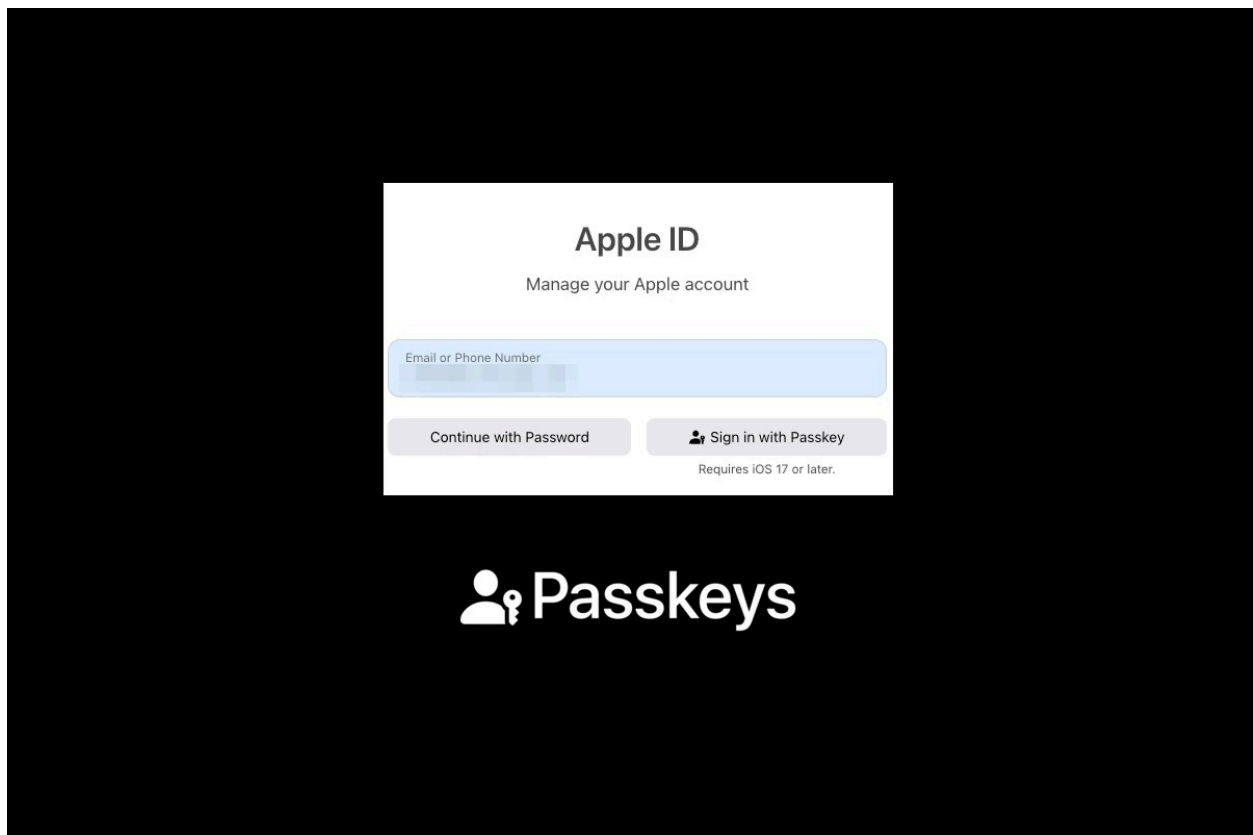
Tired of struggling with passwords? Apple's passkeys offer a simpler and safer way to sign in to your favorite apps and websites. Passkeys are replacements for passwords that work across your Apple devices, making login faster and more secure. You can create and save passkeys on your iPhone to replace traditional passwords for supported websites and apps, eliminating the frustration of forgotten credentials and security risks.

Apple has designed passkeys to provide what many users have wanted for years – security without the hassle. Unlike traditional passwords, **passkeys can't be phished** and don't need to be remembered. They use advanced encryption to protect your accounts while making the

sign-in process much easier. Your fingerprint or face scan is all you need to access your accounts.

The system works seamlessly across the Apple ecosystem, with your passkeys stored securely in iCloud Keychain. This means you can start using a service on your iPhone and continue on your Mac without any extra steps. Managing your passkeys is simple through your device settings, giving you full control over your digital identity.

Apple Passkey Guide (2026)

Apple Passkeys are Apple's password-less sign-in system designed to make logging in faster, safer, and easier. By 2026, passkeys are widely supported across apps, websites, and devices, replacing traditional passwords for many services.

This guide explains what Apple Passkeys are, how they work, how to use them, and what to do if something goes wrong…(Read more by clicking on link in title)

I. Restart Mac in Safe Mode: A Step-by-Step Guide

Ali Mohammadi

Restarting a Mac in safe mode is a trusted method to diagnose issues related to the startup process. Safe mode, also known as safe boot, loads the operating system without any unnecessary programs or extensions which could be causing problems. This can be particularly useful when a Mac is not starting up as it normally does, or when the system is behaving unpredictably.

Safe mode also performs a check of the startup disk, so it can not only help with troubleshooting but also with disk repair. Starting a Mac in safe mode varies slightly depending on if the computer uses Apple silicon or an Intel processor. In any case, the process is

straightforward and can lead to resolving issues that prevent the Mac from operating smoothly.

Restart Mac in Safe Mode: A Step-by-Step Guide

Starting your Mac in Safe Mode is a powerful troubleshooting step when your computer is running slowly, freezing, or behaving unexpectedly. Safe Mode limits what macOS loads at startup, helping you identify and fix software-related issues.

This guide walks you through what Safe Mode is, when to use it, and how to restart any Mac in Safe Mode, including both Apple silicon and Intel-based models.

What Is Safe Mode on Mac?

Safe Mode (also called Safe Boot) starts macOS with only essential system components. When your Mac starts in Safe Mode, it:

- Checks your startup disk for errors
- Loads only required system extensions
- Disables third-party startup items and login items

- Clears certain system caches

If a problem doesn't occur in Safe Mode, it's likely caused by a third-party app, extension, or login item.

When Should You Use Safe Mode?

Use Safe Mode if your Mac is experiencing:

- Slow startup or shutdown
- Frequent crashes or freezes
- Apps that won't open
- Display issues
- Kernel panics
- Problems after installing new software

How to Restart a Mac in Safe Mode

The steps depend on whether your Mac uses Apple silicon (M1, M2, M3, etc.) or an Intel processor.

✅ Safe Mode on Apple Silicon Macs (M1, M2, M3, and newer)

1. Shut down your Mac completely
   - Click Apple menu > Shut Down, and wait until the screen turns off.
2. Press and hold the Power button
   - Keep holding it until you see "Loading startup options."
3. Select your startup disk
   - Usually labeled Macintosh HD.
4. Hold the Shift key, then click Continue in Safe Mode
5. Log in to your Mac
   - You may need to log in twice. This is normal in Safe Mode.

✅ You'll see "Safe Mode" in the menu bar once macOS finishes loading.

✅ Safe Mode on Intel-Based Macs

1. Restart or power on your Mac
2. Immediately press and hold the Shift key
3. Release the Shift key when you see the login window

4. Log in to your Mac

✅ The words "Safe Boot" will appear in the menu bar if Safe Mode is active.

How to Exit Safe Mode

Exiting Safe Mode is simple:

1. Click the Apple menu
2. Select Restart
3. Let your Mac start normally (do not hold any keys)

Your Mac will return to its standard startup mode.

What to Do After Starting in Safe Mode

Once in Safe Mode, try the following:

- Open apps to see if the issue still occurs
- Remove recently installed apps or extensions
- Check System Settings > General > Login Items and disable unnecessary items
- Run Disk Utility > First Aid

- Update macOS and installed apps

If the issue does not occur in Safe Mode but returns after restarting normally, a third-party app is likely the cause.

Safe Mode Limitations

While in Safe Mode, some features may not work, including:

- Wi-Fi or Bluetooth (may be limited)
- Graphics acceleration
- Video playback
- Certain USB or Thunderbolt devices

This is expected behavior.

Final Thoughts

Restarting your Mac in Safe Mode is one of the easiest and most effective ways to troubleshoot macOS issues. Whether you're using an Apple silicon or Intel-based Mac, Safe Mode can help you identify problems and restore stability.

Key Takeaways

- Safe mode helps diagnose startup issues on a Mac.
- It performs a disk check and prevents non-essential programs from loading.
- The process for entering safe mode differs between Apple silicon and Intel Macs.

Preparing to Start Mac in Safe Mode

VIDEO
[How To Get Your Mac Into Safe Mode | Mac Tutorial | Quick & Easy Guide](#)

Before attempting to start your Mac in Safe Mode, it's important to understand the requirements and functions. This ensures a smooth process and helps you troubleshoot issues more effectively.

Checking System Requirements

Starting your Mac in Safe Mode begins by confirming your Mac type. This is crucial as the steps differ between Apple Silicon Macs and Intel-based Macs.

- Apple Silicon Macs: First, make certain your Mac is completely powered off. Only then should you proceed.
- Intel Macs: You can start from either an off state or during a reboot.

You can check your Mac type by selecting the Apple menu and clicking About This Mac. The details there provide the information you need.

Understanding Safe Mode Functions

Safe Mode on a Mac performs checks during startup. It verifies your startup disk and loads only essential kernel extensions. It also disables third-party fonts and clears certain caches, such as system cache and kernel cache. This is like giving your Mac a fresh start.

Here's what Safe Mode does:

- Scans the disk: It checks for file system issues that could be causing problems.
- Blocks startup and login items: Apps that usually open automatically won't do this in Safe Mode.
- Disables third-party fonts: Only fonts that come with your Mac remain active.

- Deletes font caches, kernel cache, and system cache: This helps remove corrupted data which may resolve performance issues.

By understanding these functions, you prepare to troubleshoot software and hardware issues effectively. Safe Mode helps identify problems by limiting what runs on your Mac. This makes it a valuable first step in the troubleshooting process.

Steps to Restart Mac in Safe Mode

When your Mac starts acting up, restarting it in Safe Mode can be a helpful troubleshooting step. This special boot mode performs certain checks and prevents some software from automatically loading or opening.

Restart Process For Intel-Based Macs

For MacBooks with Intel processors, the restart in Safe Mode is straightforward. First, shut down the Mac. Then, power it on and immediately press and hold the Shift key. When you see the Apple logo, you know the process has started. Let go of the Shift key when the login window

appears. You should enter your password and move forward. With this done, your Mac should now be in Safe Mode.

Restart Process For Apple Silicon Macs

Apple Silicon Macs like the M1 MacBooks need different steps. First, shut down your device. Hold down the power button until the Startup Options appear. Click the gear icon labeled Options. Next, select a volume. Press and hold the Shift key and click "Continue in Safe Mode". Then release the Shift key. After logging in, your Mac should be operating in Safe Mode.

J. [How to Print a Screenshot on Mac](#)

Owen Woods
January 5, 2026
MACOS

Capturing a screenshot on a Mac is a simple process that can be useful for a variety of tasks, from creating tutorials to saving a memorable conversation. macOS provides built-in shortcuts to take screenshots in different ways. You can capture the entire screen, a specific window, or a selected portion. Once taken, the screenshot can be found as a .png file on the desktop or in a specified folder, ready for viewing, editing, or printing.

Printing the captured screenshot involves opening the image file, typically with the Preview app that comes installed on all Macs. The file can also be opened with other image-editing applications if needed. After opening

the image, the print option within the application allows you to print the screenshot with your connected printer.

How to Print a Screenshot on Mac

You can't print a screenshot directly with a keyboard shortcut on macOS, but you can easily capture the screenshot and then print it.

Step 1: Take a Screenshot

Use one of these keyboard shortcuts:

Capture The Entire Screen

- Command (⌘) + Shift + 3
- Saves the screenshot to your desktop (by default).

Capture A Selected Area

- Command (⌘) + Shift + 4
- Drag to select the area you want to capture.

Capture A Complete Window

- Command (⌘) + Shift + 4, then press Spacebar
- Click the window you want to capture.
-

Screenshot Toolbar (All Options)

- Command (⌘) + Shift + 5
- Choose capture options, timers, and save locations.

Step 2: Open the Screenshot

- Click the screenshot thumbnail that appears in the bottom-right corner, or
- Double-click the screenshot file on your Desktop or in Finder.

The screenshot will open in Preview by default.

Step 3: Print the Screenshot

1. With the screenshot open in Preview, click File in the menu bar.
2. Select Print (or press Command ⌘ + P).
3. Choose your printer.
4. Adjust settings such as:
   - Paper size
   - Orientation
   - Scale

- Color or black & white

5. Click Print.

Optional: Resize or Crop Before Printing

Crop The Screenshot

- In Preview, click the Selection Tool.
- Drag to select the area you want.
- Click Tools → Crop.
-

Resize The Image

- Go to Tools → Adjust Size.
- Change dimensions or resolution for better print quality.

Printing Without Saving the Screenshot

If you want faster printing:

1. Take a screenshot.
2. Click the thumbnail immediately.

3. Click File → Print before closing it.

Troubleshooting Tips

Screenshot is too large or small

- Adjust the Scale option in the Print dialog.

Print looks blurry

- Use a larger capture area.
- Avoid excessive resizing.
- Check printer quality settings.
-

Can't find the screenshot

- Default location is Desktop.
- Check Command ⌘ + Shift + 5 → Options to see or change the save location.

Summary

1. Take a screenshot (⌘ + Shift + 3 / 4 / 5)
2. Open it in Preview
3. Press ⌘ + P to print

Key Takeaways

- Macs offer various shortcuts to take screenshots.
- Screenshots are automatically saved as image files.
- Use Preview or another image viewer to print screenshots.

Taking Screenshots on a Mac

Mac users have various options for taking screenshots, whether capturing the entire screen, a portion of it, or a specific window. Simple keyboard shortcuts enable these functions, which store images on the desktop by default.

VIDEO
How to Print Screen or Take Screenshot on Mac? | Shortcut & Method

Capturing The Entire Screen

To take a snapshot of everything on your Mac's display, press Shift-Command-3. This command captures the entire screen. If you use multiple screens, it will take a separate screenshot for each display.

Capturing A Selected Portion

For more control, press Shift-Command-4. This turns the cursor into a crosshair. Click and drag to select the area you wish to capture. Upon releasing the mouse or trackpad button, the Mac saves the selected portion as an image file.

Capturing A Specific Window Or Menu

To capture just one window or menu, press Shift-Command-4 and then tap the Spacebar. The cursor changes to a camera icon. Hover over the window or menu, and click to take the shot. This function highlights the chosen area, ensuring only the selected window or menu is captured.

Managing and Editing Screenshots

When using a Mac, taking screenshots is a simple task but managing them requires knowledge of system preferences and editing tools. This section will guide you through adjusting settings, editing captures with precision, and sharing your screenshots efficiently.

Accessing And Changing Screenshot Settings

Mac allows you to configure screenshot settings through System Preferences. You can set options like save location, choosing between saving to the desktop, clipboard, or a designated folder. To change these settings, one must go to System Preferences, click on Keyboard, choose the Shortcuts tab, and select Screenshots. Here, you can assign where screenshots are saved and even set a timer for delayed captures.

Editing And Annotating Screenshots

After capturing, screenshots open directly in the Preview app where detailed edits can be made. Use Markup tools to add text boxes, shapes, and draw on your screenshot. To further customize, change the font style, size, and color. If more advanced tools are needed, third-party apps like Monosnap, Skitch, or Snagit offer enhanced features for annotation and editing.

File Management And Sharing

Upon editing, one can save the screenshot as a PNG file or convert it to another file format using the Save As option. This is important for situations where different formats are required for sharing purposes. For quick sharing, use the Share button within Preview to send screenshots via email, messages, or social media. Additionally, consider organizing screenshots in folders within Finder to keep your files sorted for easy access.

V. Deals

A. [Amazon Takes $50 Off Apple Watch SE 3, Starting at $199](#)

Saturday January 3, 2026 9:35 am PST by Mitchel Broussard
Amazon this weekend has the Apple Watch SE 3 on sale at all-time low prices, starting at **$199.00** for the 40mm GPS model. These prices are matching the Black Friday discounts we tracked in November, but stock is low, particularly on the 40mm GPS model.

B. [Get this M3 iPad Air with 5G for less than Apple charges for the Wi-Fi model](#)

Get a 13-inch screen and 5G for under $800

By Michael Simon 5 days ago

C. [Last call for Christmas: These $199 AirPods Pro 3 are the perfect gift](#)

The newest AirPods Pro are down to $199 and will still arrive in time for Xmas.

D. [The M4 MacBook Air returns to its $749 all-time low](#)

That's a $250 discount for one of the best laptops out there, with time to get it before Christmas.

E. [Best iPad Deals: Avoid paying full price for a new iPad](#)
UPDATED

Save money on the full range of iPads with our round up of the best iPad, mini, Pro and Air deals with buying advice.
By Karen Haslam 10 hours ago

F. [Best Apple deals for January 2026: New year, new savings!](#)
UPDATED

We've used our expert experience with Apple products and pricing history knowledge to find the best deals on Apple products in the U.S. and U.K.
By Karen Haslam and Michael Simon 15 hours ago

G.

[Check off your New Year's resolution list with $100 off the Apple Watch Series 11](#)
Get a brand new Apple Watch for as low as $299 in this Amazon sale.
By Michael Simon 4 days ago

H. [Amazon Introduces Massive Discounts on M5 iPad Pro, Get Up to $518 Off Select Models [Updated]](#)

Wednesday January 7, 2026 7:14 am PST by Mitchel Broussard

Amazon this week is offering discounts across the M5 iPad Pro lineup, including both 11-inch and 13-inch models. The highlight this time around is the 2TB Wi-Fi 11-inch M5 iPad Pro, which is on sale for **$1,480.80** with an on-page coupon, a massive discount of $518 on the original price of $1,999.00.

Note: MacRumors is an affiliate partner with some of these vendors. When you click a link and make a purchase, we may receive a small payment, which helps us keep the site running.

Otherwise, prices start at **$899.99** for the 256GB Wi-Fi 11-inch M5 iPad Pro at Amazon, down from $999.00. Many of the deals in this sale match — or beat — the record low prices we tracked during Black Friday.

For the larger models, you can save up to $180 on the 13-inch M5 iPad Pro on Amazon this week. If you're shopping for the 2TB Nano-Texture Glass Wi-Fi model, Amazon has this tablet for **$2,219.00**, down from $2,399.00, as well as a few other 13-inch models between $100 and $170 off.

11-Inch M5 iPad Pro

- 256GB Wi-Fi - $899.99 ($99 off)
- 512GB Wi-Fi - $1,099.00 ($100 off)
- 1TB Wi-Fi - $1,499.99 ($99 off)
- 1TB Nano-Texture Glass Wi-Fi - $1,576.00 ($123 off)
- 2TB Wi-Fi - $1,480.80 ($518 off)
- 2TB Nano-Texture Glass Wi-Fi - $1,999.00 ($100 off)

13-Inch M5 iPad Pro

- 256GB Wi-Fi - $1,199.99 ($99 off)
- 512GB Wi-Fi - $1,399.99 ($99 off)
- 1TB Wi-Fi - $1,785.00 ($114 off)
- 2TB Wi-Fi - $2,092.09 ($206 off)
- 2TB Nano-Texture Glass Wi-Fi - $2,219.00 ($180 off)

If you're on the hunt for more discounts, be sure to visit our Apple Deals roundup where we recap the best Apple-related bargains of the past week.

Update: The on-page coupon deal on the 2TB Wi-Fi 11-inch iPad Pro has expired.

VI. TIPS & TRICKS

E. [15 New Things Your iPhone Can Do in iOS 26.2](#)

F. [Your iPhone Can Ask Why Someone's Calling Before You Pick Up](#)

G. [Image Playground Guide](#)

H. [Use Edge Light for Better Video Calls in macOS](#)

Thursday December 18, 2025 8:36 am PST by Tim Hardwick

Apple in macOS Tahoe 26.2 introduced Edge Light, a clever new feature that turns your Mac's display into a virtual ring light during video calls. Instead of fumbling with external lighting equipment, your Mac can now illuminate your face automatically when you're sitting in a dark room. Basically, Edge Light adds a soft glow around the edges of your display to brighten your face during video ...

[Read Full Article](#) • [60 comments](#)

I. [Make Your iPhone Display Flash for Alerts](#)

Wednesday December 17, 2025 3:17 am PST by Tim Hardwick

Unlike some Android phones, iPhones don't have a dedicated notification LED that lights up when you get a call, text, or other alert. What iPhones do include is an optional Accessibility feature for the deaf and hard of hearing that blinks the rear camera flash and provides a visual cue for incoming notifications. And in iOS 26.2, Apple has added the ability to flash the front display, too....

Read Full Article • [29 comments](#)

J. [Do More With Spotlight in macOS Tahoe](#)

Wednesday December 3, 2025 4:21 am PST by Tim Hardwick

In macOS Tahoe 26, Apple gave Spotlight a major update with a visual overhaul, clipboard access, and Actions for performing tasks within apps directly from the search bar. There's quite a lot of hidden potential in Spotlight's new manifestation. Below, we've put together a cheat sheet of Spotlight functionality to help you make the most of it. Getting Started With Spotlight You can open...

Read Full Article

K. [iOS 26: See Your Full Call History With Any iPhone Contact](#)

Wednesday October 8, 2025 1:16 am PDT by Tim Hardwick

Buried within iOS 26 is a hidden history that lets you see every call you've ever exchanged with a specific contact, potentially going back years. You might not know it, but you can access this detailed call history on your iPhone in seconds. Viewing the new extended history screen can come in handy when you need to recall when you last spoke with someone. It's also pretty useful when you...

Read Full Article • 60 comments

L. How to uncover vital Mac details with the System Information app

The System Information tool can provide in-depth data about the hardware and software on your Mac.

By Lance Whitney
Contributor, Macworld NOV 4, 2021 2:30 AM PDT
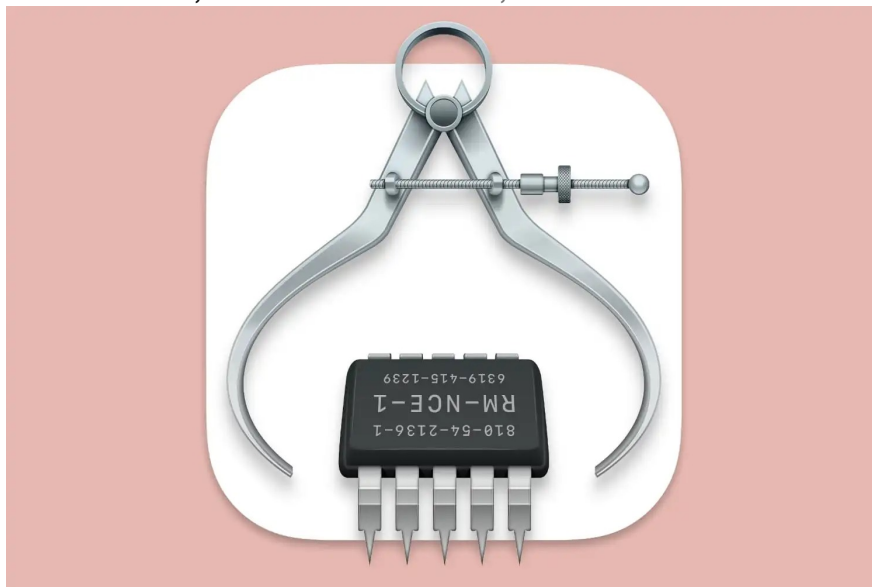
Image: Apple

If you're looking for specific hardware or software information about your Mac, maybe to troubleshoot a problem, perhaps to upgrade your system, or possibly to check on the versions of certain installed applications, you can dig up all that data and more through the Mac's System Information utility. Built into macOS, System Information provides a wealth of details about your hardware, software, and network. Here's how it works.

You can open System Information one of two ways. In Finder, click the Go menu, browse to Utilities, and in the window that appears, open the System Information app. Alternatively, click the Apple menu, select About This Mac. At the popup window, select System Report.

System Information starts with an overview of your hardware. The first screen shows your Mac's model name, processor name and speed, number of processors, amount of memory, serial number, and other data. In the left column is a list of main categories, and you can drill down to see details on specific components of that category.

MacBook Air

Hardware Overview:

Model Name: MacBook Air
Model Identifier: MacBookAir9,1
Processor Name: Dual-Core Intel Core i3
Processor Speed: 1.1 GHz
Number of Processors: 1
Total Number of Cores: 2
L2 Cache (per Core):   512 KB
L3 Cache: 4 MB
Hyper-Threading Technology: Enabled
Memory: 8 GB
System Firmware Version: 1554.140.20.0.0 (iBridge: 18.16.14759.0.1,0)
Serial Number (system):
Hardware UUID:
Provisioning UDID:
Activation Lock Status: Enabled

Lance's MacBook Air 2020 › Hardware

Get information about the components of your Mac in System Information.

Here are a few examples for the Hardware category. if you're having trouble coaxing sound out of your Mac, check Audio for info on your audio setup. Having issues with Bluetooth? Dive into the Bluetooth section. If your battery seems to run out of juice too quickly, take a look at Battery. Check Memory if you want to upgrade or replace your RAM. Go to Storage for details on your hard drive if you plan to replace it.

The Network section is useful if you're bumping into connectivity issues. Click the entry for Network for an overview of your ethernet and Wi-Fi components. The section for Firewall shows the current status in case any applications are being blocked on your network. Locations displays information on the different connections, such as ethernet and Wi-Fi. And Wi-Fi shows details on your wireless connection.

The Software section displays your macOS version and other info. If you need to know the version number for an installed program, go to Applications and scroll down the list. To see which fonts are installed, check out the Fonts category. And to find out which apps automatically start up, click the Startup items category.

MacBook Air

Application Name	^ Version	Obtained from	Last Modified	Kind
LocationMenu	1.0	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
loginwindow	9.0	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
Mail	14.0	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
MakePDF	10.1	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
ManagedClient	13.3	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
Maps	3.0	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
MassStorageCamera	1711.5.2	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
Memory Slot Utility	1.5.3	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
Messages	14.0	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
Microsoft AutoUpdate	4.37	Identified Developer	7/26/21, 11:51 AM	Universal
Microsoft Edge	92.0.902.55	Identified Developer	7/23/21, 9:51 AM	Universal
Microsoft Excel	16.51	Identified Developer	7/26/21, 11:51 AM	Universal
Microsoft OneNote	16.51	Identified Developer	7/26/21, 11:51 AM	Universal
Microsoft Outlook	16.51	Identified Developer	7/26/21, 11:51 AM	Universal
Microsoft PowerPoint	16.51	Identified Developer	7/26/21, 11:51 AM	Universal
Microsoft Word	16.51	Identified Developer	7/26/21, 11:51 AM	Universal
Migration Assistant	11.5	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
Mission Control	1.2	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
MobileDeviceUpdater	1.0	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
MRT	1.81	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
Music	1.1.6	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
nbagent	1.0	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
NetAuthAgent	6.2	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
Network	1.0	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
Network Utility	1.9.2	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
News	6.4.1	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal
Notes	4.8.1	Apple	1/1/20, 3:00 AM	Universal

Microsoft Word:

Version: 16.51
Obtained from: Identified Developer
Last Modified: 7/26/21, 11:51 AM
Kind: Universal
Signed by: Developer ID Application: Microsoft Corporation (UBF8T346G9), Developer ID Certification Authority, Apple Root CA
Location: /Applications/Microsoft Word.app

Lance's MacBook Air 2020 › Software › Applications › Microsoft Word

System Information isn't just about hardware. You can get data about the software on your Mac, too.
IDG

You'll also find a few useful options via the System Information menus. To cut down on all the details displayed, click the Filemenu and select Show Less Information. If you're working with Apple tech support on an issue and need to send them details on your Mac, click the File menu and select Send to Apple. Finally, if you have to write down the serial number for your Mac but can't see the screen, click the File menu and select Speak Serial Number to hear it read aloud.

M. [As a Mac expert, these are the first 9 tweaks I recommend for every new MacBook](#)

By [Alex Blake](#)
Contributor

The best things you should do first, from sorting out its apps to protecting your privacy.

N. *MAC 911*

By [Glenn Fleishman](#), Contributor, Macworld

[How to block annoying, reoccuring, unwanted website](#)

[Push notifications on your Mac](#)

***Y*ou could see scams, spam, and phishing without quite knowing why. (i.e. MacAfee Warnings, subscription renewals, etc .) A simple Safari setting solves it.**

Push notifications were the best thing since sliced bread when they appeared first in Android and later in iOS and iPadOS. Instead of requiring a lot of attention, a notification can appear briefly, is easily dismissed, and can be controlled—you can suppress apps from showing them all together, all the way to allowing Critical Alerts in some apps for events you absolutely don't want to miss a message about.

Apple gingerly added push notifications to Safari in macOS to let websites access the system-wide notification system because the

increasing reliance on web apps (a website that provides an app-like set of features) means you could have a tab open performing tasks that require your attention.

It's a double-edged sword, though: spammers, scammers, and assorted thieves and ne'er-do-wells take advantage of any opening to try to part you from your money through lies and fear.

A malicious site can leverage push notifications to fill the right edge screen with unwanted alerts.

How can this happen? You visit a safe site that, through the vagaries of ad networks, is hosting an advertisement that either you click on without realizing the danger or the bad ad runs illegitimate JavaScript to force open a window or prompt you to open one. You might also visit a URL for a site that has been hijacked or failed
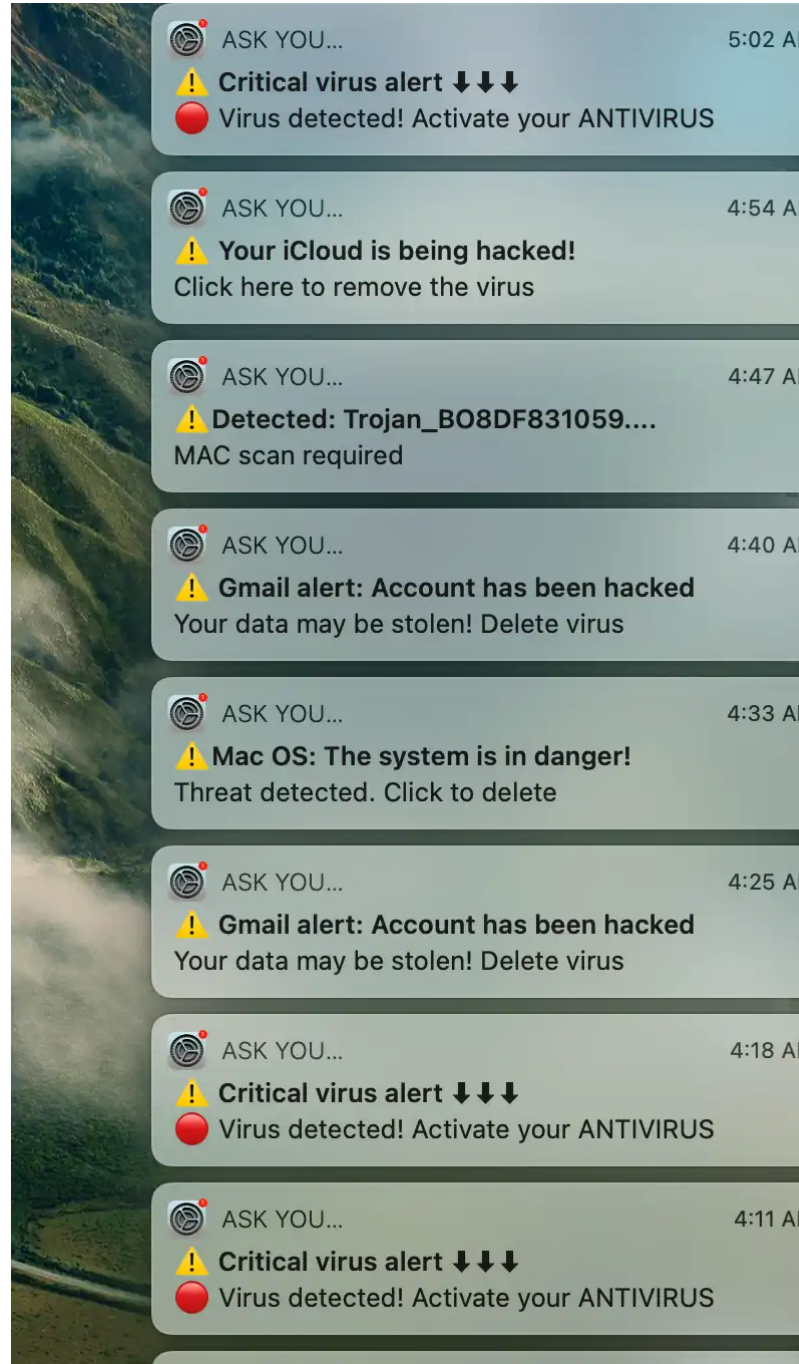
to renew its domain registration, and now you're on a page of no repute.

However you get there, a malicious site incorporates a request in the page you load that triggers Safari to prompt you to ask if you want to enable notifications for the site or not. This is harder to trigger in iOS and iPadOS, which only allow notifications from web pages you've added to your home screen.

Misleading messages on macOS Safari

When Apple first introduced the feature to macOS, it only allowed developers to trigger a standard dialog box that said Don't Allow and Allow, with Allow highlighted. Not long after, Safari began to allow a custom opt-in message and design. The text that appears can be entirely misleading: it's possible that you would click a button intending to not allow alerts and actually have opted in to them. **For instance, the text that misled one Macworld reader says:**

[space]ask you

ASK YOU...   20m ago
System Mac OS is infected!
Choose an action to restore the system

ASK YOU...   28m ago
⚠️ **Critical virus alert ⬇⬇⬇**
🔴 Virus detected! Activate your ANTIVIRUS

ASK YOU...   35m ago
⚠️ **Your iCloud is being hacked!**
Click here to remove the virus

ASK YOU...   42m ago
⚠️ **Mac OS: The system is in danger!**
Threat detected. Click to delete

ASK YOU...   50m ago
⚠️ **Mac OS: The system is in danger!**
Threat detected. Click to delete

ASK YOU...   57m ago
⚠️ **Critical virus alert ⬇⬇⬇**
🔴 Virus detected! Activate your ANTIVIRUS

ASK YOU...   2:31 PM
⚠️ **Critical virus alert ⬇⬇⬇**
🔴 Virus detected! Activate your ANTIVIRUS

ASK YOU...   2:23 PM
⚠️ **Gmail alert: Account has been hacked**
Your data may be stolen! Delete virus

ASK YOU...   5:02 A
⚠️ **Critical virus alert ⬇⬇⬇**
🔴 Virus detected! Activate your ANTIVIRUS

ASK YOU...   4:54 A
⚠️ **Your iCloud is being hacked!**
Click here to remove the virus

ASK YOU...   4:47 A
⚠️ **Detected: Trojan_BO8DF831059....**
MAC scan required

ASK YOU...   4:40 A
⚠️ **Gmail alert: Account has been hacked**
Your data may be stolen! Delete virus

ASK YOU...   4:33 A
⚠️ **Mac OS: The system is in danger!**
Threat detected. Click to delete

ASK YOU...   4:25 A
⚠️ **Gmail alert: Account has been hacked**
Your data may be stolen! Delete virus

ASK YOU...   4:18 A
⚠️ **Critical virus alert ⬇⬇⬇**
🔴 Virus detected! Activate your ANTIVIRUS

ASK YOU...   4:11 A
⚠️ **Critical virus alert ⬇⬇⬇**
🔴 Virus detected! Activate your ANTIVIRUS

Confirm that you're not a robot, you need click Allow

I must have been taken in once because I found this entry in Apple menu > System Settings > Notifications on my Mac.

As long as the web page remains open, even if it's in a window or tab you're not viewing, it can send you notifications. **Because Apple shows the favicon of the website (a small icon set by the site owner), as part of the notification, it can be quite misleading.**

For example, in the figure below, the favicon is a System Preferences icon with a red dot overlaid.

A reader sent these screens of malicious notifications from the "Ask You" site.

That gives the impression it's a macOS notification **but it's not.**

Clicking the notification takes you to the web page trying to sucker you, and then the site tries to lure you into installing malware, typing in your credit-card number, or much worse.

All that said, you can easily defeat the creeps who set you up by disabling notifications. (And find and close that tab or window!)

In macOS:

1. In Safari, go to Safari >
2. Settings/Preferences >
3. Websites.

4. Find the entry for the website. If you can't find it by domain, look for the icon, as in the figure below.

5. Choose Deny from the popup menu to the right of the site name or select the item and click Remove.
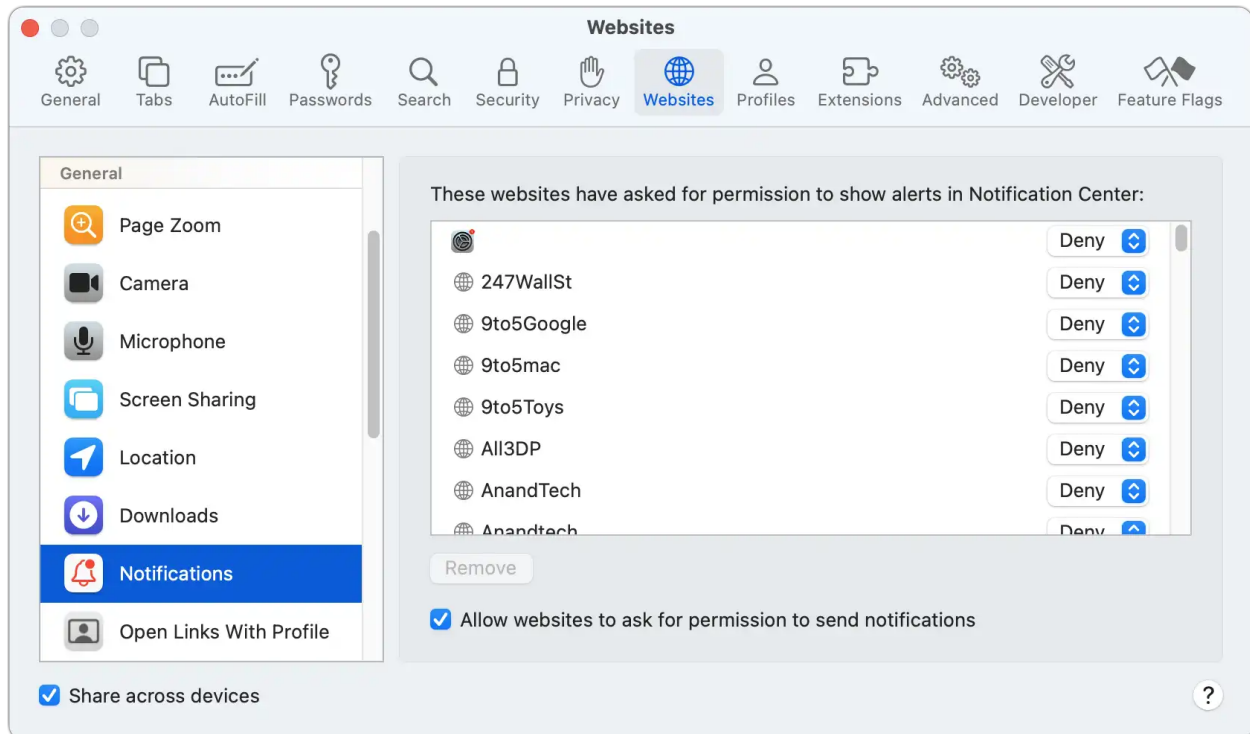
Use Safari's Websites pane with Notifications selected at left to block sites from popping up alerts.
Foundry

How do you decide whether to choose Deny or click Remove?

- Choosing Deny means if you visit the site again, an alert about wanting to notify you won't appear.

- Removing the entry means it doesn't appear in the Notification settings/pane in System Settings/Preferences or in Safari's Websites list.
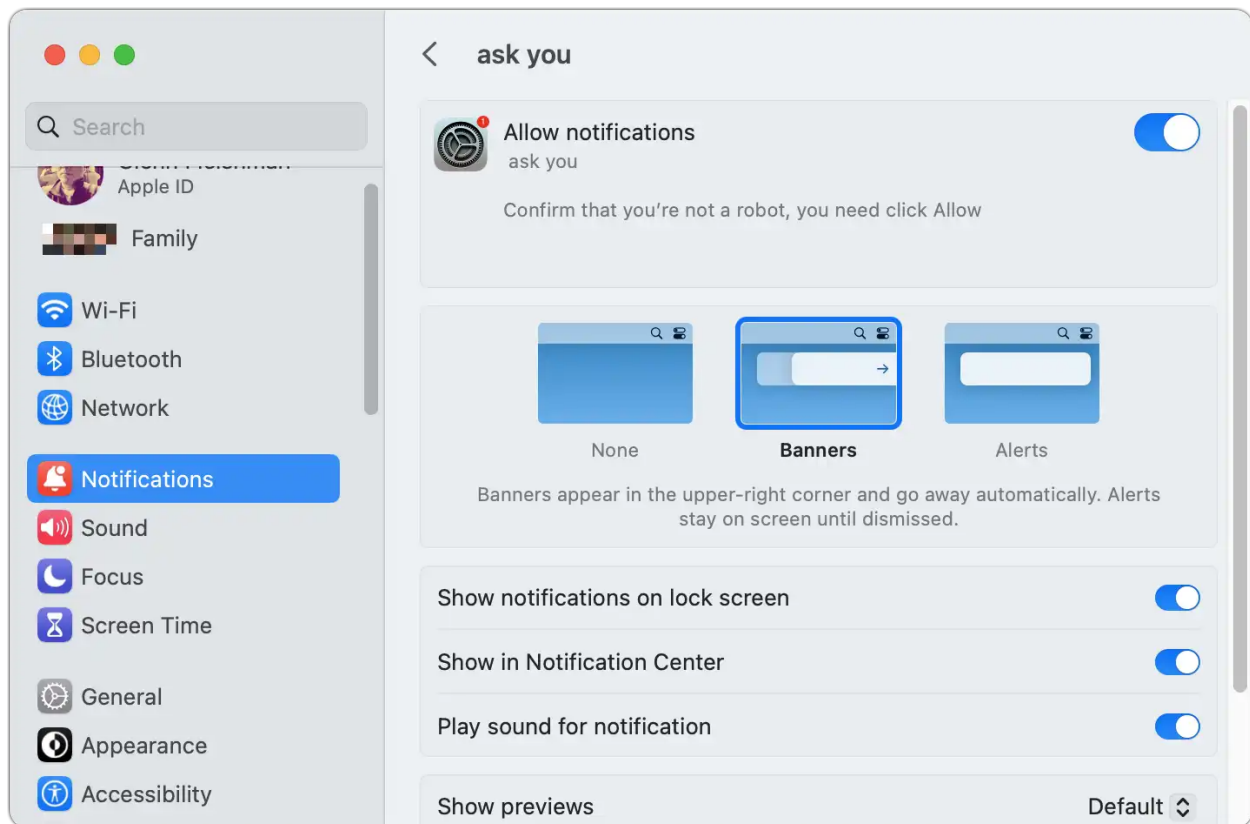
You can also use Apple menu >

System Settings >

Notifications

to disable notifications directly.

Safari and the Notifications settings don't seem to communicate directly:

I had the malicious site described above set to Deny in Safari, **yet in Notifications** it was shown as enabled!

The System Settings/Preferences Notifications controls don't seem to match Safari's.
Foundry

In iOS/iPadOS:

1. Go to Settings > Notifications
2. Find the entry for the home page web app by title, and disable notifications for it.
3. Also, you might want to remove that from your home screen altogether–that site is sending you unwanted notifications!

EXPLORE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- How do I disable notifications for all websites on Safari?

- How do I manage website notifications on my iPhone or iPad?

- Can I use Safari's private browsing mode to avoid website notifications?

- How do I disable notifications for a specific website on iOS?

- How do push notifications work on Mac?

A.I. Search

N. Apple secretly boosted Wi-Fi speeds on your Mac

[and iPad–here's how to get it](#)

The latest free software updates has a hidden feature that bumps bandwidth.

By David Price 11 hours ago

O.   # [iOS 26: Switch Back to the Classic Phone App Layout](#)

Tuesday November 4, 2025 3:50 AM PST by [Tim Hardwick](#)

Apple's redesigned Phone app in iOS 26 introduces a unified view that combines recents, favorite contacts, and search on a single screen. But if you prefer the familiar tabbed interface from iOS 18, you can easily switch back to the classic layout.
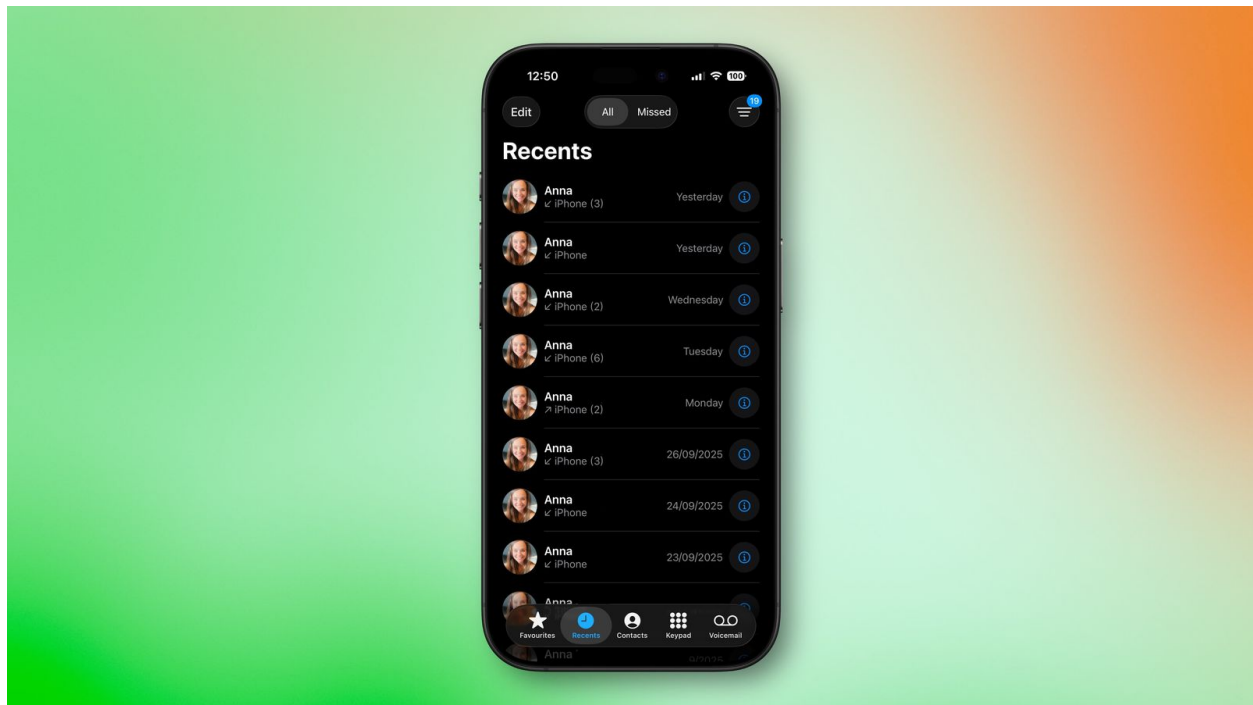
The Classic Phone app layout in iOS 26

What's Different in iOS 26

The new unified design consolidates recent phone activity into one streamlined view in which your favorite contacts appear at the top for quick access. You can navigate to Contacts, Keypad, and Search through the bottom tab bar, while screens for voicemail and missed calls can be accessed via the three-line icon in the top-right corner.

Switching Back to the Classic View

If you don't get on with the new look in iOS 26, here's how to revert to the traditional Phone app layout:

1. Open the Phone app on your iPhone.

2. Tap the three-line icon in the upper right corner of the screen.

3. Select **Classic** from the popup menu that appears.
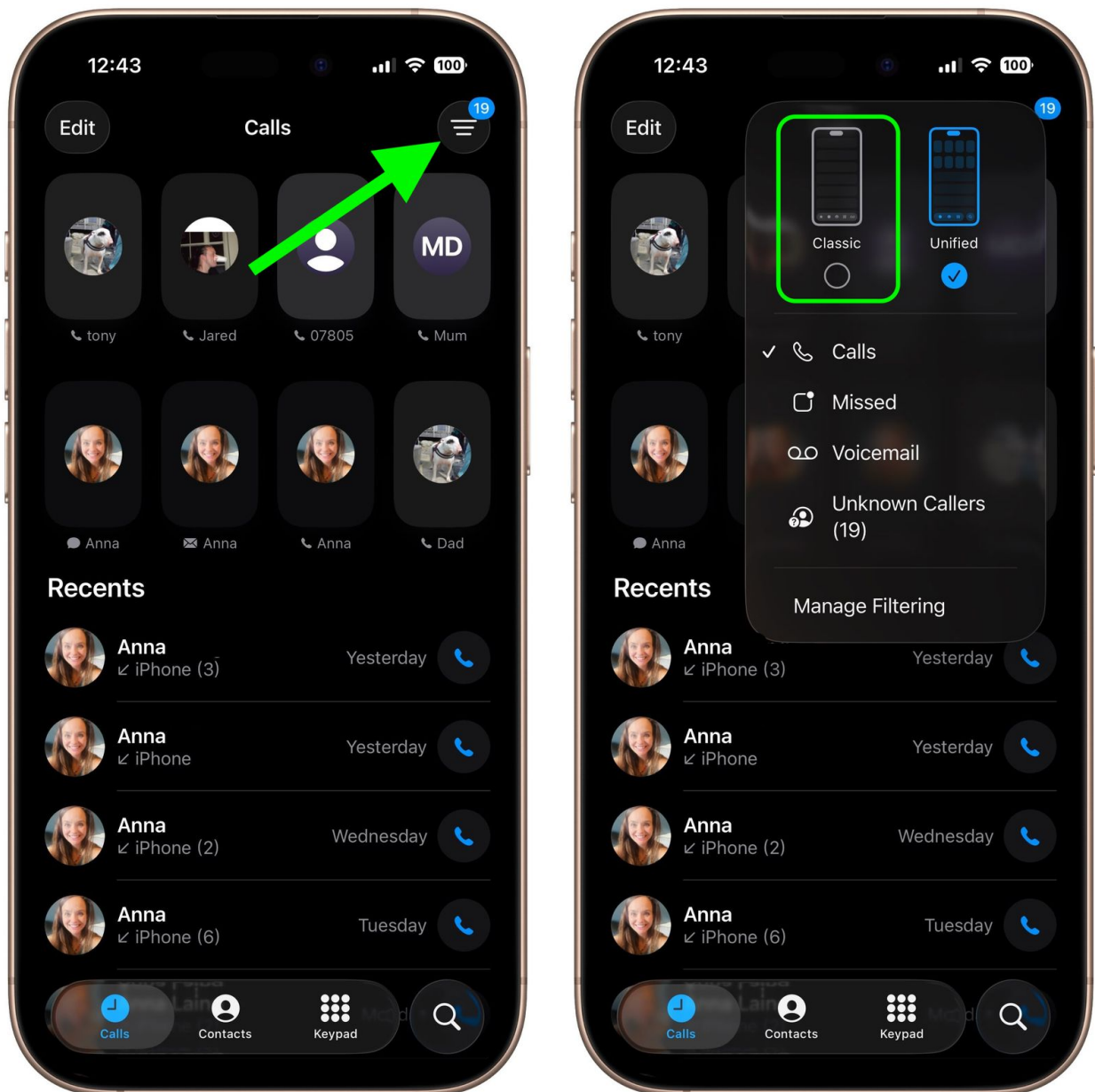
Your Phone app will immediately switch to the original iOS 18 design, with separate tabs for Recents, Contacts, Keypad, and Voicemail along the bottom.

Switching Back to the Unified View

Changed your mind? You can return to the new unified layout at any time in the following way:

1. Tap the three-line icon in the upper right corner of the Phone app.

2. Select **Unified** from the popup menu.

The unified view becomes your new default until you switch back again. Your preference persists across app launches, so you won't need to change it every time you open the Phone app.

P. [iOS 26.1: Reduce Liquid](#)

Glass Effects With Apple's New Toggle

Tuesday November 4, 2025 3:49 AM PST by Tim Hardwick

With iOS 26, Apple introduced a radically new design material called Liquid Glass which focuses on transparency in order to let the content on your display shine through the controls. Not everyone likes it though – so Apple has responded by adding a new toggle in iOS 26.1 that lets you tone down the effects.

Any major design change can create controversy as people get used to the new look, but Apple's debut of Liquid Glass in iOS 26 proved particularly divisive, with its buttons and menus that change color and refract digital light like they're physical objects. Some people appreciate the translucent

effects, while others find them distracting or harmful to readability.

Fortunately, Apple has listened, and in its first iOS 26.1 point update now available, the company has introduced a new toggle that should hopefully ease some of the criticism. Apple says that the new setting was added after user feedback during the beta testing period suggested that some people would prefer to have a more opaque option for Liquid Glass.

The toggle lets you select from a clear look for Liquid Glass, or a tinted look. Clear is the current Liquid Glass design, which is more transparent and shows the background underneath buttons, bars, and menus, whereas tinted increases the opacity of Liquid Glass and adds more contrast.

Tone Down Liquid Glass in iOS 26.1

If you're not a fan of the look, or are having trouble with readability, then make sure that you update to iOS 26.1 when it's released (likely early November) and then follow these steps.

1. Open the Settings app on your iPhone or iPad.

2. Tap **Display & Brightness**.

3. Tap **Liquid Glass**.

4. Tap **Tinted** to increase opacity and add contrast, or **Clear** for more transparency.
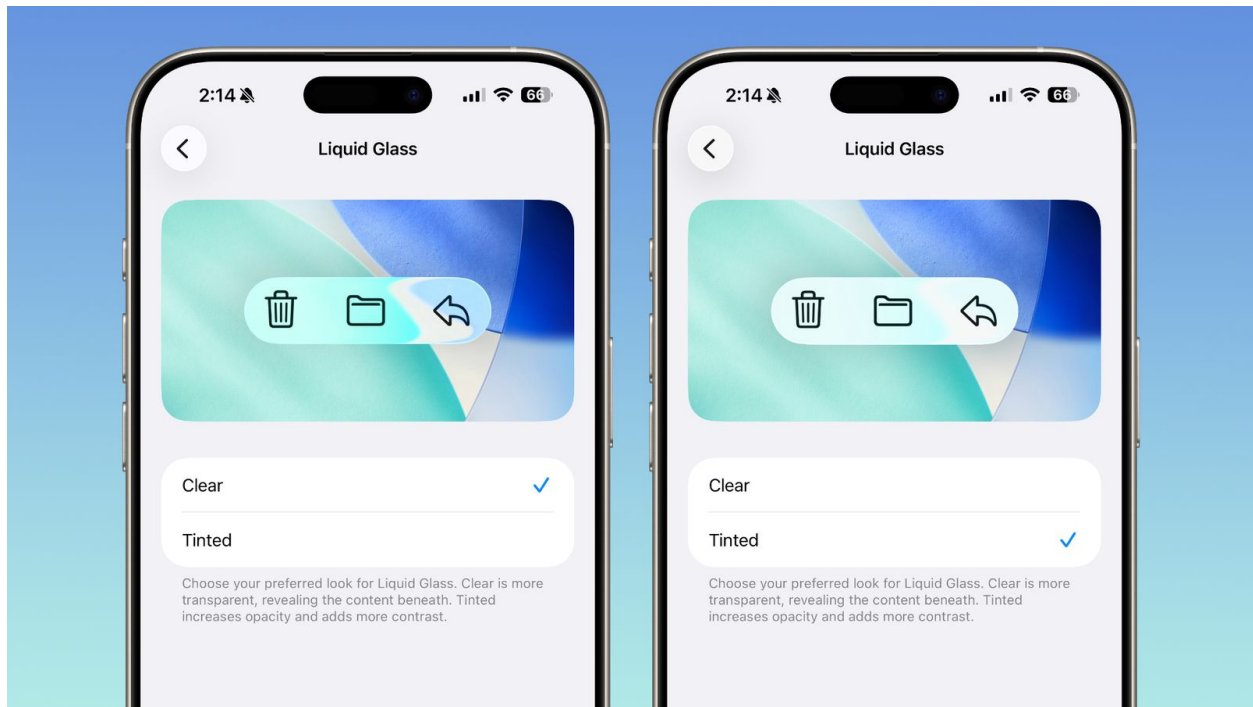
That's all you need to do – the change is applied immediately. **If you're on macOS Tahoe 26.1, you can find the same setting available on your Mac in System Settings → Appearance**.

VII. Miscellaneous

A. [CES 2026: Birdfy Debuts Hummingbird and 360-Degree Vista Feeders](#)

Friday January 2, 2026 11:21 am PST by Juli Clover

Birdfy today debuted two new products, the Birdfy Feeder Vista and the Birdfy Hum Bloom, which join the company's line of camera-equipped accessories designed for bird watching.

The Birdfy Feeder Vista is a 360-degree smart bird feeder that features two cameras able to capture 14-megapixel panoramic images and record 6K HD video. The Vista is a pole-based camera option that offers a bottom-up feeding system. There's an air pump that feeds seed into a sealed lower container to the feeding

tray, so there is no seed hopper that blocks the view of the camera.

B. [Track a Flight on Your iPhone](#)

Tuesday December 23, 2025 2:27 am PST by <u>Tim Hardwick</u>
Flight tracker apps are a popular way to keep tabs on planes in the sky, because when you're preparing to fly or when someone you know is on board a flight, you can use them to check that things are still on schedule. But if you have an iPhone, you don't need to download and install a third-party app to track a flight – it's a handy built-in feature of the operating system. The ability to …
[Read Full Article](#) • <u>24 comments</u>