

What's New in iOS 26

1. The hardware—iPhone 17 family

- 1.1. iPhone 17, iPhone 17 Pro, iPhone 17 Pro Max, iPhone Air
- 1.2. Hardware changes
 - 1.2.1. More higher-end features drift down to the iPhone 17, including front-facing camera improvements, greater minimum storage capacities
 - 1.2.2. Pro phones: a little more battery life, a little faster chip, a little bit better camera
 - 1.2.3. Air: Thinner and lighter, with compromises primarily with the camera and battery life

2. The software—iOS 26

- 2.1. iPhone 11 and later, iPhone SE (2nd Generation or later)
- 2.2. Backup first
 - 2.2.1. On iPhone tap Settings > your name > iCloud > iCloud Backup > Back Up Now
- 2.3. Install on your iPhone
 - 2.3.1. Settings > General > Software Update
- 2.4. Stay current

3. Liquid Glass design

- 3.1. A new design applied to all of Apple's operating systems
- 3.2. A glass-like material overlaying content in buttons and toolbars
 - 3.2.1. Liquid Glass went through a lot of refinement during its development and more tweaks are likely to come
 - 3.2.2. Legibility of text can be at issue at times
 - 3.2.3. Fewer on-screen controls means in might take an extra tap or two to perform an action
 - 3.2.4. Some standard buttons now are displayed with icons—like ⊗ instead of Cancel or ☑ instead of Done
 - 3.2.5. Search fields are often at the bottom of the screen

4. Home Screen

- 4.1. Customizable icons and widgets
 - 4.1.1. Enter jiggle mode by touching and holding an open area of the home screen
 - 4.1.2. Tap Edit > Customize

- 4.1.3. Choose from Default, Dark, Clear, and Tinted icons
- 4.1.4. Tap  to change wallpaper from default to dark
- 4.1.5. Tap the size button to switch between small and large icons
- 4.1.6. Dark icons can Always appear or Automatically appear at sunset
- 4.1.7. Clear icons can be Default, Dark, or switch Automatically at sunset
- 4.1.8. Tinting can take on (1) the color of the iPhone, (2) the color of your Apple-manufactured MagSafe case, (3) any color and opacity you choose, or (4) any color in the wallpaper using the eyedropper tool

5. Lock Screen

- 5.1. Adaptive Time
 - 5.1.1. The clock dynamically adapts to your photo wallpaper and notifications
 - 5.1.1.1. Settings > Wallpaper > +Add New Wallpaper
 - 5.1.1.2. Choose a Photos wallpaper
 - 5.1.1.3. Drag the handle on the lower-right hand corner of the clock to extend the digits
 - 5.1.1.4. Clock will contract on the lock screen when scrolling through notifications
- 5.2. Spatial scenes
 - 5.2.1. When you move your iPhone, your photo comes to life with a new 3D effect
 - 5.2.1.1. Settings > Wallpaper > +Add New Wallpaper
 - 5.2.1.2. Choose a Photos wallpaper
 - 5.2.1.3. If the spatial scene button  is present, the feature is active. Tap it to turn it off .

6. Camera

- 6.1. New icon
- 6.2. Refreshed mode wheel
 - 6.2.1. The two capture modes you use most—Photo and Video—are on-screen. Swipe left or right to access additional modes.
- 6.3. Camera control options

- 6.3.1. Customize which controls appear within the Camera Control and in which order
- 6.3.2. Settings > Camera > Controls—Customize

7. Photos

- 7.1. Updated tab design
 - 7.1.1. Separate tabs for Library and Collections views
- 7.2. Customize the Collections view
 - 7.2.1. Tap Collections, then tap ☰
 - 7.2.2. Tap various icons to change the size of the tiles
 - 7.2.3. Show all Collections or Collapse all Collections
 - 7.2.4. Tap Reorder and drag to change the order of the Collections
 - 7.2.4.1. Collections can no longer be hidden; instead collapse them by tapping ☑
- 7.3. View photos as spatial scenes
 - 7.3.1. Tap a photo
 - 7.3.2. Tap the spatial scene button 🏠

8. Safari

- 8.1. New rounded tab design at the bottom the screen
 - 8.1.1. Settings > Apps > Safari Tabs to choose from Compact, Bottom, or Top options
 - 8.1.2. Touch and hold the buttons to reveal menus with various options (Share, New Tab, Close Tab, Close All Tabs, etc.)

9. FaceTime

- 9.1. New landing page with tiled design
 - 9.1.1. Optional Unknown Callers filter enabled through the Filters button ≡
 - 9.1.2. Once in a FaceTime call, the More button ☰ can access SharePlay, screen sharing, and Live Translation

10. Apple Intelligence

10.1. Live Translation

10.1.1. Messages

10.1.1.1. Automatically translate incoming texts, including group messages

10.1.1.2. Type in your preferred language; your message will be delivered in both the original and translated languages.

10.1.1.2.1. Tap to open a conversation

10.1.1.2.2. Tap the person's name

10.1.1.2.3. Turn on Automatically Translate and pick a language

10.1.2. FaceTime

10.1.2.1. See translated captions in your preferred language

10.1.2.2. Within FaceTime and during a call, tap , then choose Live Captions

10.1.3. Phone

10.1.3.1. Follow along with spoken and text translation in your preferred language

10.1.3.2. Within the Phone app, tap , then tap Live Translation

10.1.3.3. Select languages for From and To

10.1.3.4. Tap Start Translation

10.2. Genmoji

10.2.1. Combine emoji to create something new

10.2.2. Open the emoji keyboard, then tap Genmoji

10.2.3. Describe your Genmoji, or tap a suggestion, or pick a person from the Photos app upon which to base the Genmoji

10.3. Image Playground

10.3.1. Add expressions (e.g., happy, sad, shocked) to images of people

10.3.2. Add different styles using ChatGPT, such as watercolor or oil painting

10.3.3. Create Genmoji in Image Playground

10.4. Visual Intelligence

10.4.1. Take screenshot, then use Ask button  to ask ChatGPT or the Search button  to search Google to interpret what's in the screenshot

11. Phone

- 11.1. Unified layout (optional on iPhone; tap Filters button ≡ and choose Classic or Unified)
- 11.2. Call filtering
 - 11.2.1. Screened calls from unknown numbers are placed in a new area of your call list and out of your way
 - 11.2.2. Tap ≡ > Manage Filtering and turn on Call Filtering—Unknown Callers
 - 11.2.3. Tap ≡ > Unknown Callers to review if any number should be marked as known
- 11.3. Hold Assist
 - 11.3.1. Keep your spot in line while you wait for a live agent
 - 11.3.2. Once a live agent becomes available, the Phone app rings you to return to the call and lets the agent know that you'll be there shortly
 - 11.3.3. Tap ≡ > turn on Hold Assist Detection
- 11.4. Screen Unknown Callers
 - 11.4.1. Screen incoming calls from unknown numbers
 - 11.4.2. Tap ≡ > Manage Filtering > Screen Unknown Callers—Never I Ask Reason for Calling I Silence
 - 11.4.3. Call screening picks up the call for you and asks for a name and reason for the call before the phone even rings
 - 11.4.4. Make an informed decision on whether to pick up, decline, or ask for more information
- 11.5. Live Voicemail
 - 11.5.1. See a transcription of the message someone is leaving you and answer the call before it ends
 - 11.5.2. Respond from the incoming call screen
 - 11.5.3. Tap ≡ > Manage Filtering > turn on Live Voicemail

12. Messages

- 12.1. Add background images to iMessage conversations, including groups
 - 12.1.1. Pick a color, photo, suggested image, or use Image Playgrounds to create one
 - 12.1.1.1. Open a conversation and tap the person/group's name

12.1.1.2. Tap Backgrounds

12.1.1.3. Pick or create a style

12.2. Conduct polls (Apple Intelligence required)

12.2.1. Tap  next to iMessage field and then tap Polls

12.2.2. macOS 26 required to respond to polls

12.3. Screen unknown senders

12.3.1. Settings > Apps > Messages > Screen Unknown Senders

12.3.2. Screened messages from unknown numbers are placed in a new area of your conversation list and out of your way

12.3.3. Once you approve a screened number, they can call or text you across Phone, FaceTime, and Messages.

12.4. Text filters

12.4.1. Organize messages from unknown senders by opting in to sorting messages into Promotions (offers, marketing, subscriptions) and Transactions (receipts, bills, confirmations)

12.4.2. Settings > Apps > Messages > Text Message Filter > On

12.4.3. Also creates a Drafts filter for messages you haven't finished yet

12.4.4. Filter Spam; tap to turn on

12.4.5. Access via the Filters button  in the Messages app

12.5. Unknown Senders—Allow Notifications

12.5.1. Select which types of messages—Time Sensitive, Personal, Transactions or Promotions—from unknown senders you want to be notified about

12.5.2. Settings > Apps > Messages > Unknown Senders—Allow Notifications...

12.5.3. Messages in the selected categories will show notifications and appear in the main conversation list for eight hours

13. Wallet

13.1. Order tracking

13.1.1. Using Apple Intelligence, Wallet will find emails sent by either merchants or delivery carriers and pull together your full order details, order progress notifications, and more

- 13.2. Updated airline boarding passes include terminal info and the ability to share Live Activities, such as flight tracking

14. Apple Games

- 14.1. One app to house all your games in a single library
- 14.2. Compete with friends through Game Center
- 14.3. Also includes Apple Arcade games

15. Files

- 15.1. Browse files as a list with collapsible folders
 - 15.1.1. In the Files app, tap More ☰ > List
- 15.2. Choose which app to open a file
 - 15.2.1. Touch and hold the document and tap Open With...
- 15.3. Customize folder colors and icons
 - 15.3.1. Touch and hold a folder, then tap Customize Folder & Tags...
 - 15.3.2. Tap Tags and pick a color; tap an icon or an emoji

16. Preview

- 16.1. Preview app (on the Mac for years) comes to the iPhone (and iPad)
- 16.2. Use it to view images and PDF files
- 16.3. Export PDFs to different file types
- 16.4. AutoFill PDF forms
- 16.5. Markup PDF files

17. Battery

- 17.1. Settings > Battery
- 17.2. Additional battery details
- 17.3. Estimated time to charge is available while charging
- 17.4. Power Mode—Adaptive
 - 17.4.1. Conserve your phone's battery life on high usage days

- 17.4.2. Using machine learning, your device will automatically look for ways to save power on your device, so you can continue to use your device until you can make it to a charger

18. Anything else?

19. Good places for help

- 19.1. Apple Support: apple.com/support/
- 19.2. Tips app—*all* the user guides are here
- 19.3. Apple's iOS webpage: <https://www.apple.com/os/ios/>
- 19.4. Me: Mike Matthews mamatthews@icloud.com (925) 876-4098

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