

What's New in macOS Sonoma

1. The software—macOS Sonoma

- 1.1. iMac 2019 and later
- 1.2. Mac Pro 2019 and later
- 1.3. iMac Pro 2017
- 1.4. Mac Studio 2022 and later
- 1.5. MacBook Air 2018 and later
- 1.6. Mac mini 2018 and later
- 1.7. MacBook Pro 2018 and later
- 1.8. Backup first using Time Machine or some other method
- 1.9. Install on your Mac
 - 1.9.1. Apple > System Settings > General > Software Update
 - 1.9.2. Apple > System Preferences > Software Update

2. Screen Savers

- 2.1. Download slow-motion screen savers
- 2.2. If you have an Apple TV, you may recognize some of them
- 2.3. They will animate behind the log in window and gradually slow to a stop and become the desktop wallpaper after logging in
- 2.4. Apple > System Settings > Wallpaper
- 2.5. Apple > System Settings > Screen Saver

3. Widgets on Desktop

- 3.1. Control-click the wallpaper and choose Edit Widgets
- 3.2. Search for a widget or look for a category to see its widgets
- 3.3. Click the  button or drag the widget to a location on the desktop
- 3.4. Other icons will scoot out of the way
- 3.5. Control-click a widget to Edit it (for example, pick a different city for weather), change its size, or remove it
- 3.6. More customization at Apple > System Settings > Desktop & Dock
 - 3.6.1. Choose whether or not to show widgets on the Desktop or in Stage Manager
 - 3.6.2. Choose a widget style
 - 3.6.2.1. Automatic: Automatically switch between monochrome and full color

3.6.2.2. Monochrome: Always show widgets in monochrome; the widgets will blend with the wallpaper

3.6.2.3. Full color: Always show widgets in full color

3.6.3. Use iPhone Widgets via Continuity

3.6.3.1. Add iPhone widgets to the desktop if the Mac and iPhone are near each other, on the same wifi network, have the same Apple ID, and are running macOS Sonoma and iOS 17, respectively

3.7. Some widgets are interactive

3.7.1. Reminders, Podcasts, more

4. One more thing about the Desktop

4.1. Click the Desktop to move all open windows aside to access the it

4.2. Apple > System Settings > Desktop & Dock > Click wallpaper to reveal desktop'

5. Videoconferencing features

5.1. Use these in FaceTime; they work with other videoconferencing apps, such as Zoom

5.2. Depending on the Mac you have and the cameras you are using (including iPhone via Continuity Camera)

5.3. Once a video session is established click Video icon  in the menu bar; Zoom uses a purple icon

5.3.1. Presenter overlay

5.3.1.1. Appear in front of a window you are sharing or in a floating circle

5.3.2. Camera options

5.3.2.1. Center Stage

5.3.2.2. Portrait

5.3.2.3. Studio Light

5.3.2.4. Reactions

5.3.2.4.1. Use gestures to share a reaction during a FaceTime call

5.3.2.4.2. Thumbs up, thumbs down, hearts, balloons (peace sign), rain (two thumbs down), and more

6. Safari

- 6.1. Faster and more relevant searches
- 6.2. Make any web page into an app
 - 6.2.1. Open the web page
 - 6.2.2. Choose File > Add to Dock
 - 6.2.3. Give the app a name
 - 6.2.4. Icon added to Dock
- 6.3. One-time verification codes you receive in Mail now autofill in Safari
- 6.4. Private Browsing locks your private browsing windows when you're not using them (after 8 minutes), completely blocks known trackers from loading on pages, and removes identifying tracking added to URLs as you browse

7. Shared passwords and passkeys

- 7.1. Password and passkey sharing comes to the keychain
- 7.2. Your iPhone, iPad, and Mac need to be using the latest version of iOS, iPadOS, or macOS to use the password or passkey you share
- 7.3. Create as many groups as you want
- 7.4. Passwords or passkeys can only be shared with one group
- 7.5. Passwords/passkeys are moved from your collection to a shared group
- 7.6. Any member of the group can add, view, remove, or edit passwords and changes are shared with everyone in the group
- 7.7. Creating a group
 - 7.7.1. Apple > System Settings > Passwords
 - 7.7.2. Click + then click New Shared Group
 - 7.7.3. Enter a name for the group
 - 7.7.4. Click Add People
 - 7.7.4.1. People must be in your contacts app
 - 7.7.4.2. Shared Groups can contain other existing groups
 - 7.7.5. Click Create
 - 7.7.6. As the person creating the group, only you can add and remove people from the group, rename the group, and delete the group.

7.8. Sharing passwords with a group

7.8.1. Apple > System Settings, Passwords

7.8.2. Select a group

7.8.3. Click the Add button, then choose Move Passwords to Group

7.8.4. Select the accounts with passwords or passkeys you want to share

7.8.5. Click Move

7.8.6. The people in the group can now use your passwords or passkeys for the accounts you selected. The next time they open Passwords settings, they'll be prompted to accept or decline your invitation.

7.8.7. Click Notify via Messages to notify the people in the group that you've shared with them. If you don't want to notify them, click Not Now

8. One more thing about passwords

8.1. Autofill passwords and verification codes from iCloud Keychain into websites in Chrome and Edge with the iCloud Passwords extension

8.2. Extension used to work only on PCs, now it works on the Mac in Chrome and Edge

8.2.1. Chrome web store: <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/icloud-passwords/pejdijmoenmkgeppbflobdenhhabjlaj>

8.2.2. Microsoft Edge Add-Ons: <https://microsoftedge.microsoft.com/addons/detail/icloud-passwords/mfbcdcnpokpoajjiilocoachedjkima>

9. Autocorrect and dictation

9.1. More accurate autocorrect, now with explicit language

9.2. Enhanced predictive text recommendations while typing

9.2.1. Tap the space bar to complete a word or phrase

10. Other niceties

10.1. Siri

10.1.1. Settings > Siri & Spotlight > Listen for "Siri" or "Hey, Siri"

10.2. Grocery list in Reminders

10.2.1. Add a List

10.2.2. Choose Groceries as the List Type

10.2.3. Items added to the list are automatically grouped into sections

10.3. Messages

10.3.1. Swipe right on a bubble to reply inline

10.3.2. Shared location updates In real time

10.3.3. Catch-up arrow

10.3.3.1. Jump to the first unread message in a group conversation by clicking the arrow visible in the top-right corner

10.4. Notes

10.4.1. Start in Notes, finish in Pages

10.4.1.1. Open a note

10.4.1.2. Do some writing

10.4.1.3. Click the Share button 

10.4.1.4. Choose Open in Pages

10.5. Photos albums for Cats and Dogs

10.5.1. Open a photo

10.5.2. Add name for the cat or dog

10.6. Auto-cleanup of verification codes in Mail and Messages

10.6.1. Apple > System Settings > Passwords > Password options > turn on Clean up Automatically

10.7. Personal voice

10.7.1. A speech accessibility tool for people who are at risk of losing their voice to create a voice that sounds like them privately and securely on Mac, and use it with Live Speech in phone and FaceTime calls.

10.7.2. Apple > System Settings > Accessibility > Personal Voice

10.7.3. Speak various phrases to allow the Mac to create model of your voice

10.7.4. It'll take a while to do and take a while for the Mac to process

10.8. Apple ID

10.8.1. Sign in with any email address or phone number on file in your account

10.8.2. Create a passkey for use when signing in on the web

11. Good places for help

- 11.1. Apple Support: apple.com/support/
- 11.2. Apple's macOS webpage: <https://www.apple.com/macos/sonoma/>
- 11.3. Me: Mike Matthews mamathews@icloud.com (925) 876-4098

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