

**MacTechnics  
January 2025  
Newsletter**



**Happy New  
Year!**



**JANUARY**



**An Apple Products User Group here to inform and help you with your Apple Products—**



**MacTechnics** is celebrating our 40TH Anniversary Year 1984-1985



**Our January Meeting, on the 18th, will be over Zoom at 11AM - Check our website for free Zoom link info or contact us via email at [contact@mactechnics.org](mailto:contact@mactechnics.org) or me at [fseitz@mac.com](mailto:fseitz@mac.com) .**

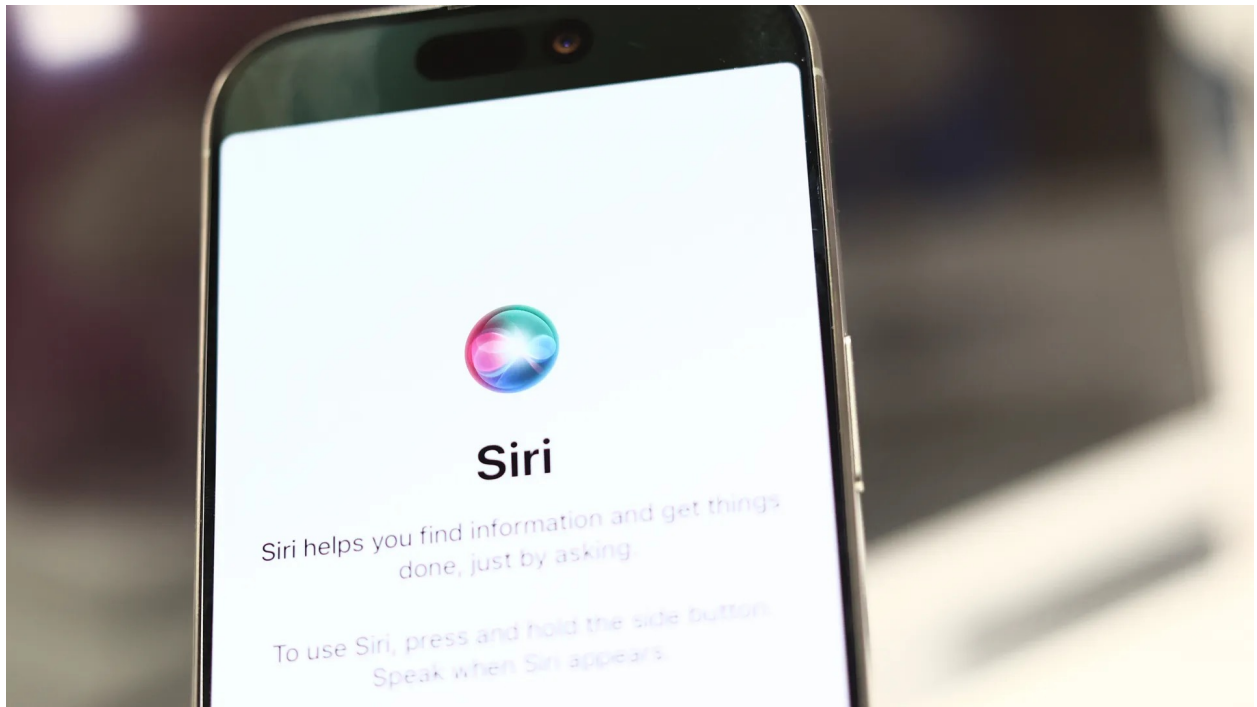
**Subject for January meeting: internet search strategies, downloads and web browsers and of course your questions, issues, and inquiries.**

# I. Apple News

**A. Apple reaches \$95 million settlement in Siri lawsuit. What to know.**



- Kelly Tyko



Apple agreed to a proposed settlement but denies "any and all alleged wrongdoing." Photo: Jakub Porzycki/NurPhoto via Getty Images

[Apple](#) agreed this week to pay \$95 million to settle a class action claiming its voice-activated Siri assistant violated users' privacy by recording conversations, court documents show.

Why it matters: The [tech giant](#) said in the preliminary settlement agreement that it "continues to deny any and all alleged wrongdoing and liability."

- Apple didn't immediately respond to Axios' request for comment.

- A settlement filed Tuesday in an Oakland, California, federal court still requires approval by U.S. District Judge Jeffrey White.

Flashback: In 2019, Apple [suspended](#) a program that had contractors listening to some Siri queries and [apologized](#) for how it handled recordings, Axios' Ina Fried [reported](#).

- The resulting lawsuit, filed in 2019, alleges recordings happened even when users didn't say the prompt "Hey, Siri."

## Apple settlement: Who is eligible to claim \$20

**The big picture: Individuals who purchased or owned devices with Siri enabled between Sept. 17, 2014, and Dec. 31, 2024, may receive up to \$20 per device under the proposed settlement.**

- The amount "will increase or decrease pro rata depending on the total number of valid claims submitted, and Siri Devices claimed," documents show.
- **"Settlement Class Members may submit claims for up to five Siri Devices on which they claim to have experienced an unintended Siri activation during a conversation intended to be confidential or private," the preliminary settlement says.**

## Eligible Apple devices include iPhone, iPad, MacBook

Between the lines: A "Siri device" includes a Siri-enabled iPhone, iPad, Apple Watch, MacBook, iMac, HomePod, iPod touch or Apple TV, the court documents show.

## Apple lawsuit claim form

Yes, but: The claim form, which customers must fill out to receive their payments, is expected to be available after the settlement is approved.

- It will require that claimants confirm under oath that they "purchased or owned a Siri Device in the United States or its territories, and enabled Siri on that device."
- They also need to claim under oath that they "experienced at least one unintended Siri activation" and that it "occurred during a conversation intended to be confidential or private."

## **B. Apple shares the most popular podcasts of 2024**

<https://nr.apple.com/dz0Y0l0uX8>



Today, Apple shared the most popular podcasts of 2024, with year-end charts localized for listeners in nearly 100 countries and regions. The [2024 charts](#) are available in the Browse tab through the end of the year, and include the top podcasts overall, the top new shows that debuted this year, the most followed shows, the most shared shows and episodes, and the top free and subscriber channels. Listeners in over 15 markets can also explore [Shows We Love](#), a curated collection of standout narrative and episodic series that resonated this year.

On Tuesday, December 3, Apple Podcasts will reveal the Show of the Year.



Here are the most popular podcasts of 2024 in the U.S.:

## Top Shows

1. The Daily
2. Crime Junkie
3. The Joe Rogan Experience
4. Dateline NBC
5. SmartLess
6. Huberman Lab
7. This American Life
8. New Heights with Jason & Travis Kelce
9. Up First from NPR
10. Morbid

## Top New Shows

1. The Tucker Carlson Show
2. Three
3. Mortal Sin
4. Drowning Creek
5. The Rise and Fall of Ruby Franke
6. Blood is Thicker: The Hargan Family Killings
7. Noble
8. Murder in the Hollywood Hills
9. Hysterical
10. Who Killed JFK?
- 11.

## Top Series

1. Serial
2. Up and Vanished
3. Three
4. The Bakersfield Three
5. CounterClock
6. Something Was Wrong
7. Dr. Death
8. The Binge Cases
9. Rachel Maddow Presents: Ultra
10. The Binge Crimes

## Top Episodes

1. Crime Junkie: “SERIAL KILLER: The Alphabet Murders Part 1”
2. The Joe Rogan Experience: “#2219 - Donald Trump”
3. The Daily: “Harris Baits Trump: Inside Their Fiery Debate”
4. Dateline NBC: “Dangerous Secret”
5. The Bakersfield Three: “Episode 1: Fight Like a Mother”
6. SmartLess: “Vince Vaughn”
7. Three: “Skylar Is Missing | Chapter 1”
8. Serial: “Serial S04 - Ep. 1: Poor Baby Raul”
9. Mortal Sin: “1 – Ashes to Ashes”

10. New Heights with Jason & Travis Kelce: “Travis Wins on the Road, Jason Celebrates Shirtless and Full Divisional Round Recap | Ep 75”

## Most Shared Shows

1. Huberman Lab
2. Scamanda
3. Wiser Than Me with Julia Louis-Dreyfus
4. The Daily
5. The Bible in a Year (with Fr. Mike Schmitz)
6. The Bible Recap
7. The Mel Robbins Podcast
8. Sold a Story
9. Who Killed JFK?
10. Crime Junkie

## Most Shared Episodes

1. The Tucker Carlson Show: “Calley & Casey Means: The Truth About Ozempic, the Pill, and How Big Pharma Keeps You Sick”
2. The Mel Robbins Podcast: “The #1 Menopause Doctor: How to Lose Belly Fat, Sleep Better, & Stop Suffering Now”
3. The Daily: “The Year of Taylor Swift”
4. Huberman Lab: “Dr. Stacy Sims: Female-Specific Exercise & Nutrition for Health, Performance & Longevity”

5. The Joe Rogan Experience: “#2219 - Donald Trump”
6. The Ezra Klein Show: “Is Tim Walz the Midwestern Dad Democrats Need?”
7. Honestly with Bari Weiss: “Why the Kids Aren’t Alright”
8. We Can Do Hard Things: “263. Healing from Emotionally Immature Parents with Lindsay C. Gibson”
9. Call Her Daddy: “Vice President Kamala Harris”
10. Good Inside with Dr. Becky: “The Anxious Generation with Jonathan Haidt”

## Most Followed Shows

1. The Joe Rogan Experience
2. New Heights with Jason & Travis Kelce
3. Huberman Lab
4. Call Her Daddy
5. The Tucker Carlson Show
6. The Mel Robbins Podcast
7. SmartLess
8. Wiser Than Me with Julia Louis-Dreyfus
9. Crime Junkie
10. The Daily

## Top Subscriber Shows

1. Apple News+ Narrated
2. Morbid
3. Dateline NBC
4. The Rise and Fall of Ruby Franke
5. Dr. Death
6. SmartLess
7. Something Was Wrong
8. Scamtown
9. American Scandal
10. Mortal Sin

## Top Channels

1. Wondery
2. iHeartPodcasts
3. The New York Times
4. audiochuck
5. SiriusXM Podcasts
6. Dateline NBC
7. Dear Media
8. iHeart True Crime
9. Scicomm Media
10. Cumulus Podcast Network

When people want to know which podcasts others are listening to, they open Apple Podcasts. It's the best way to discover and enjoy podcasts and support the creators who make them, with millions of shows

covering practically every topic. Apple Podcasts also features thousands of premium podcasts, so when fans are looking for the ultimate experience of their favorite show, they can easily find it and listen on their iPhone, iPad, Mac, CarPlay, Apple Watch with AirPods, and on the web at [podcasts.apple.com](https://podcasts.apple.com).

## **C. Inside the Audio Lab: How Apple developed the world's first end-to-end hearing health experience**

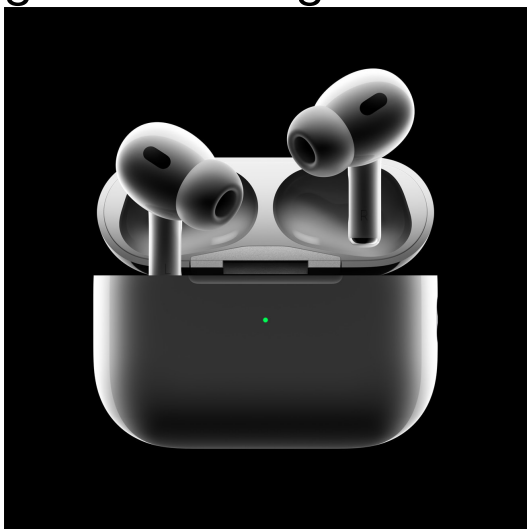
<https://nr.apple.com/dv9j0O5ue3>



The new hearing health features on AirPods Pro 2 are not available in all regions. Hearing Test and Hearing Aid features are regulated health features that require regulatory approval and will be offered after authorization is received. For more information, visit [apple.com/airpods-pro/feature-availability](https://apple.com/airpods-pro/feature-availability).

Apple's state-of-the-art Audio Lab in Cupertino, California, supports the innovative work of its acoustic engineers. They use the lab to conduct user studies in various listening rooms and test new features in its anechoic chambers, which completely absorb reflective sounds and isolate external noise.

The Audio Lab is the hub for the design, measurement, tuning, and validation of all of Apple's products with speakers or microphones. It's also the center for Apple's multiyear, cross-team collaboration to build the groundbreaking new [hearing health features on AirPods Pro 2](#). Available today as a free software update,<sup>1</sup> the end-to-end experience helps minimize exposure to loud environmental noise with Hearing Protection, track hearing with an at-home Hearing Test, and receive assistance for perceived mild to moderate hearing loss using AirPods Pro as a clinical-grade Hearing Aid.



A free software update for AirPods Pro 2 helps users minimize their exposure to loud environmental noise with Hearing Protection, track hearing health with an at-home Hearing Test, and receive assistance for perceived mild to moderate hearing loss using the Hearing Aid feature.

According to the World Health Organization, approximately 1.5 billion people around the world are living with hearing loss. “Hearing loss affects individuals in every region and country, yet often goes unrecognized. Hearing is a core component of communication for so many and is an important factor for health and wellbeing,” says Shelly Chadha, M.D., the World Health Organization’s technical lead for hearing. “Technology can play an important role in raising awareness and providing intervention options for those affected by hearing loss.”

“Every person’s hearing is different, so we created an innovative, end-to-end hearing health experience that addresses this variability in a way that’s both simple to use and adaptable to a wide range of needs. That’s especially important because hearing loss affects people of all ages with different levels of tech savviness,” says Sumbul Desai, M.D., Apple’s vice president of Health. “With the Hearing Aid feature, we wanted to build something so intuitive, it felt like an extension of your senses. We knew the results would literally change people’s lives — and democratize access to treatment for a condition that affects more than a billion people.”



Engineers used highly specialized spaces across the Audio Lab to help make these breakthrough features possible.

“From the quietest sounds we can hear for the Hearing Test feature, to speech in noisy restaurants for the Hearing Aid feature, and even concert levels for Hearing Protection, we can bring the real world into our acoustics facilities with playback of calibrated soundscapes from all over the world, or take accurate acoustic measurements at the touch of a button,” says Kuba Mazur, Apple’s hearing health lead engineer within Acoustics Engineering.

#### **D. AAPL COMPANY**

**Apple to release Q1 2025 earnings report on January 30**



Filipe Espósito



Apple on Friday confirmed that it will release its Q1 2025 earnings report on January 30, 2025. The report will cover [iPhone 16](#) and [Apple Watch Series 10](#) sales more extensively, as well as giving us a hint about sales performance during the holiday season.

## Apple to report Q1 2025 earnings later this month

In [Q4 2024](#), which covered the months of July to September, Apple reported \$94.93 billion in revenue, up 6% year-on-year. The company recorded growth in most of its categories, except for Wearables, Home, and Accessories – which includes [Apple Watch](#), [AirPods](#), and HomePod.

Since new products such as the [iPhone 16](#) and [Apple Watch Series 10](#) were launched in mid-September, the Q4 2024 report only includes data on the first two weeks of sales for these products. With the Q1 2025 report, which covers sales from October to December, we'll have a

clearer picture of how the new devices have been performing so far.

Here's what Apple reported for Q1 last year:

- iPhone revenue: \$69.70B
- Services revenue: \$23.12B
- Mac revenue: \$7.78B
- iPad revenue: \$7.02B
- Wearables, Home & Accessories revenue: \$11.95B

On a related note, [Apple today made official that Luca Maestri has stepped down as the company's CFO](#), and will now lead the Corporate Services teams. Apple's new CFO is Kevin Parekh, who has worked at the company for 11 years and previously led Financial Planning and Analysis, G&A and Benefits Finance, Investor Relations, and Market Research.

As always, Apple will live stream the investor call on its website to discuss the results. The call will be held at 2PM PT/5PM ET with Apple releasing its full earnings report 30 minutes before that. This will be Kevin Parekh's first call as CFO.

## **E. Apple's 'decidedly unattractive' outlook**

# sparks rare bearish call on the stock

An analyst says Apple's stock price bakes in only good news, but he sees more than 20% downside as negative developments pile up

## **F. Apple's adding new AirTag warning labels after violating safety requirement**



Ryan Christoffel

Jan 2 2025 - 9:11 am PT



Apple's AirTag has come with its fair share of safety concerns, most of which have to do with problems like stalking. But now, the company's adding new warning labels after being hit with a violation related to its battery.

# New AirTag warning labels aim to protect children

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) [issued a press release today](#) where it outlines Apple's AirTag violation, and the fix that Apple has reportedly already implemented ([via macReports](#)).

The CPSC notified Apple that AirTag was in violation of warning label requirements related to Reese's Law. Essentially the law requires products with button cell or coin batteries to include warning labels 'to protect children from life threatening ingestion.'

[Here are the details:](#)

Apple's AirTag, a popular tracking device, met the performance requirements for securing the AirTag's lithium coin cell battery; however, the units imported after the March 19, 2024, effective date of Reese's Law did not have the required on-product and on-box warnings concerning the severe risk of injury from battery ingestion if these small batteries are not kept out of reach of children.

Apple has now included a warning symbol inside the battery compartment and changed its box to include required warning statements and symbols. Because a number of violative units have been sold to consumers, and to assist consumers in the future, Apple has updated the instructions that appear in the Find My app each time a user is prompted to change the AirTag battery to now

include a warning about the hazards of button and coin cell batteries.

It is unclear exactly when the changes were made to AirTag hardware, but presumably there are AirTags available for purchase now that include the new warning labels on the box and inside the unit.

Adding warnings inside the Find My app is a nice fix for everyone who has older AirTag devices, too. Perhaps they arrived alongside [AirTag's new iOS 18.2 feature](#).

Have you seen the new warning labels on your AirTag, or in the Find My app? Let us know in the comments.

## **Best AirTag deals and accessories**

- [AirTag 1-pack for only \\$24](#) (normally \$30)
- [AirTag 4-pack for only \\$73](#) (normally \$100)
- [TimeCapsule AirTag 10-year battery case](#)
- [TimeCapsule AirTag 10-year battery case \(2-pack\)](#)
- [AirTag colorful waterproof cases with keychains](#)

## **[G. Samsung reportedly working on a 3-layer stacked camera sensor for iPhone](#)**



Ben Lovejoy

Jan 2 2025 - 6:03 am PT

[2 Comments](#)



[Sony](#) has had the exclusive manufacturing contract for iPhone camera sensors for more than a decade, but Apple analyst Ming-Chi Kuo last year suggested [this would be changing](#) with the [iPhone 18](#). This has now been backed by another report, which provides a little more detail.

The latest one says that [Samsung](#) is working on a 3-layer stacked camera sensor for Apple, which should improve the performance of future iPhone cameras ...

## **Sony's iPhone camera sensors**

Sony has for years made the most advanced smartphone camera sensors, and it's been no secret that they have long made all of the sensors used in iPhones.

If teardowns revealing known Sony model numbers weren't sufficient evidence, Apple CEO Tim Cook made it

clear a couple of years ago, [tweeting about a visit](#) he made to Sony's camera sensor facility in Kumamoto. We've been partnering with Sony for over a decade to create the world's leading camera sensors for iPhone. Thanks to Ken and everyone on the team for showing me around the cutting-edge facility in Kumamoto today.

## **But Samsung may make one for the iPhone 18**

However, [Kuo said last summer](#) that Samsung was expected to make at least one of the sensors for the iPhone 18 in 2026.

Samsung is expected to begin shipping 1/2.6-inch 48MP ultra-wide CMOS image sensors (CIS) to Apple for iPhones as early as 2026, breaking Sony's years-long monopoly on supplying CIS to Apple. To this end, Samsung has established a dedicated team to serve Apple.

Leaker [Jukanlosreve](#), who mostly posts Samsung content, echoes this view, and claims to have some specifics about the sensor.

Exclusive: Samsung is currently developing a "3-layer stacked" image sensor in a PD-TR-Logic configuration for Apple. This sensor is more advanced than Sony's existing Exmor RS, and I believe it cannot be ruled out as a potential candidate for the main sensor.

A stacked sensor is where the processing electronics are mounted directly to the back of the sensor, and a three-layer version would have more of the circuitry attached to



the sensor, which should result in increased signal processing speeds. This would improve the responsiveness of the camera.

Stacked sensors also have the potential to eliminate some sources of noise, boosting image quality.

Separately, Jukanlosreve says Samsung is working on a 500MP sensor for its own smartphones. While this sounds ridiculous, it is consistent with the company chasing [impressive-sounding megapixel numbers](#) even if the end result is far noisier images.

## 9to5Mac's Take

A pair of reports is still relatively slim evidence for what would be a pretty significant change to Apple's supply chain, but there is no doubt that Samsung has been working hard to try to win the iPhone maker's business. Additionally, Apple prefers to have more than one supplier for major components, both for contingency planning and to improve its negotiating strength. So even if Apple continues to use Sony sensors, it's perfectly credible that it would seek to source some from Samsung too.

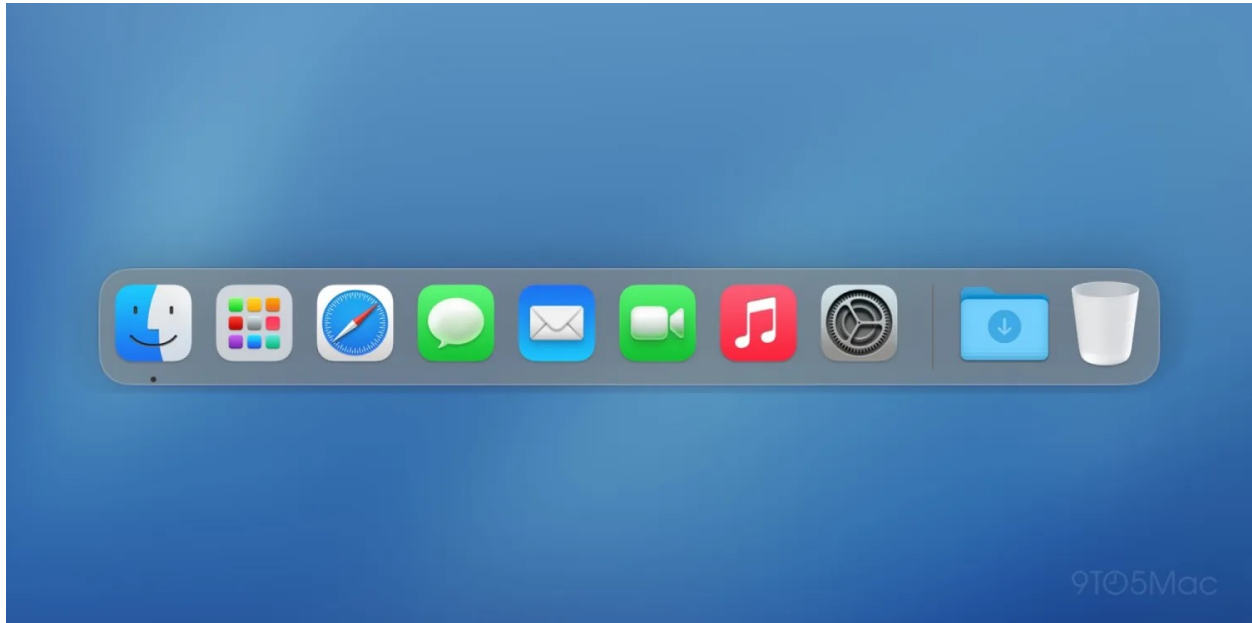
While the report suggests the new sensor might be for the main camera, it seems more likely Apple would test the waters with a secondary sensor at first.

## **[H. The iconic macOS Dock has just turned 25](#)**



Filipe Espósito  
7 hours ago

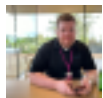
[1 Comment](#)



Apple's macOS has changed a lot since its first version, but it still retains a lot of elements from the early days that make macOS unique. One of those elements is the iconic Dock, which lets users keep their favorite apps accessible with just a click – and you may not have known this, but the macOS Dock just turned 25, and there's a cool story behind it.

[EXPAND](#)

## [I. \*\*Bloomberg: Apple 'investigating' bringing cellular to the Mac for the first time\*\*](#)



Chance Miller

Dec 6 2024 - 12:07 pm PT



Earlier today, [Bloomberg detailed](#) Apple's multi-year plan to ditch Qualcomm and debut its own modem technology in the iPhone and iPad.

In a [follow-up report](#) this afternoon, Bloomberg says that Apple is also "investigating the idea of bringing cellular connectivity to the Mac for the first time" as part of these efforts.

**[J. M4 MacBook Air: Four new features are coming very soon](#)**

**K. Rumor Replay: New iPads on the way, Apple Invites app, and more**

**L. TikTok 'going dark' in the US on January 19 looks more likely than ever**

## **II. Apple Hardware +Others**

**A. Apple's all-new Mac mini is more mighty, more mini, and built for Apple Intelligence**

The compact, do-it-all desktop now features the power of M4 and M4 Pro, and marks an important environmental

milestone as the first carbon neutral Mac



With M4 and M4 Pro, the new Mac mini brings incredible performance and connectivity in a design that's small enough to fit in your hand.

## **B. [AirPods Pro 3: Three new features are coming this year](#)**





AirPods Pro 3 are coming later this year. Despite Apple continuing to [make AirPods Pro 2 better](#) with new software features, there's still a hardware successor on the way soon. AirPods Pro 3 are expected to arrive in September alongside the iPhone 17 line, here are three new features we're looking forward to.

## Brand new H3 chip



According to [Mark Gurman at Bloomberg](#), AirPods Pro 3 will come with a brand new H3 chip.

Sometimes a new Apple chip only offers modest improvements. We've seen this with the M-series chips in Macs and iPads, A-series chips in iPhones, and even the Apple Watch's S-class chips.

But so far with the AirPods' H-series chips, upgrades have been big.

No doubt this is due to the extended development time between updates. AirPods Pro's H1 chip stuck around for three years before AirPods Pro 2 introduced the H2. And now, when AirPods Pro 3 arrive it will have been another three year wait for the H3 chip.

[Here's how Apple explained the H2's capabilities when AirPods Pro 2 debuted:](#)

the power of the new H2 chip provides an exceptional acoustic experience and cancels up to twice as much noise over the previous generation AirPods Pro. With a new low-distortion audio driver and custom amplifier, AirPods Pro now offer richer bass and crystal-clear sound across a wider range of frequencies...The powerful H2 chip enables on-device processing, which reduces loud environmental noise [with Adaptive Transparency] — like a passing vehicle siren, construction tools, or even loud speakers at a concert.

We've also seen the H2 power several new feature updates over the past couple years, so the H3 will no doubt unlock plenty of its own new features when it arrives.

My personal hope: improved battery life.

## **New AirPods Pro 3 design**



Gurman [also reports](#) that AirPods Pro 3 are getting ‘a new design.’

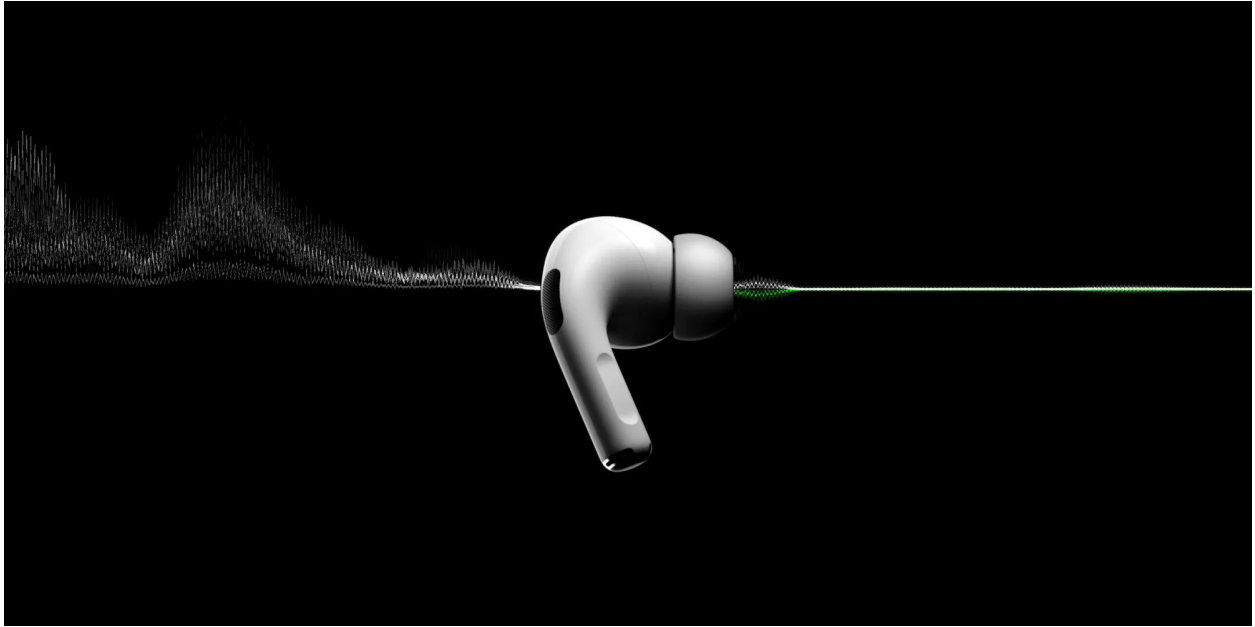
That’s unfortunately all of the info we have right now on the redesign.

I wouldn’t expect significant changes, since AirPods Pro’s design has generally been a big hit, and even inspired the redesigned [AirPods 4](#).

However, some small changes to the stem size perhaps, or fit in the ear, could be in store.

## **Upgraded noise cancellation feature**

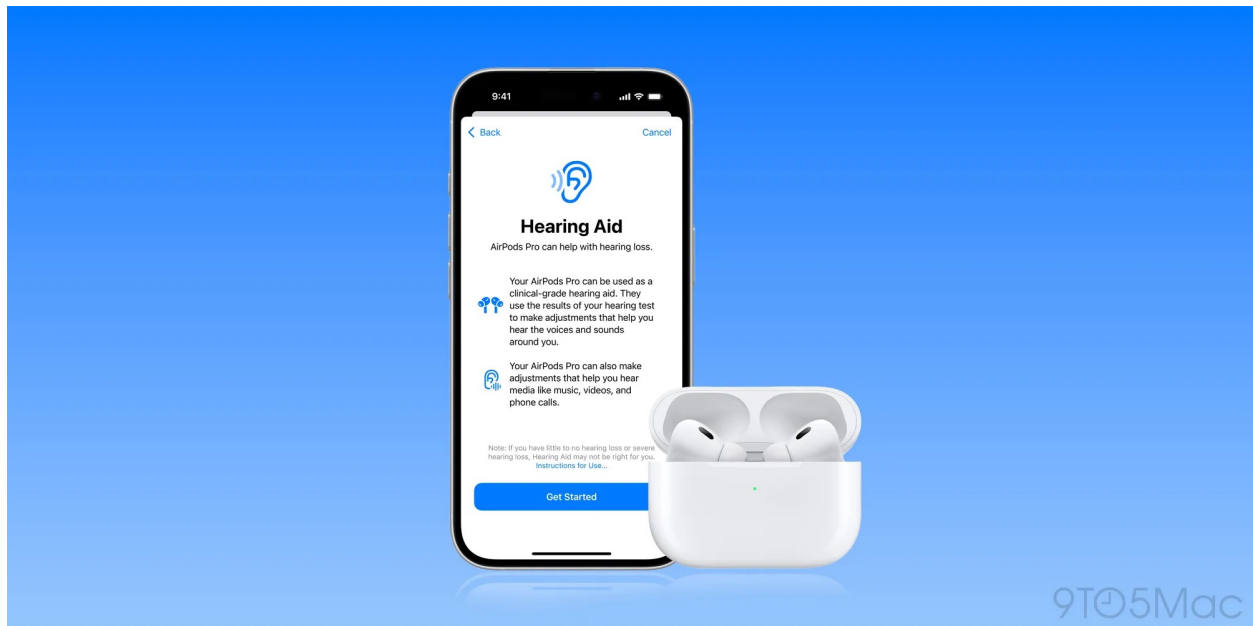




One of AirPods Pro 2's biggest selling points, at least for me, was its improved Active Noise Cancellation (ANC) feature.

Apple, according to [at least one report](#), is planning to bring similar upgrades to its next AirPods Pro model. AirPods Pro 3's new ANC will reportedly be 'much better' than the existing feature, no doubt powered by the new capabilities of the H3 chip.

## **Wildcard: New health feature(s)**



I include this as a wildcard bonus because there's less certainty around it, but Gurman [recently reported](#) that three or more health features were in the works for future AirPods models:

- heart rate monitoring, similar to what the Apple Watch offers
- temperature sensing
- plus new sensors that would enable 'a slew of physiological measures'

Out of this list, Gurman believes heart rate monitoring should be ready to ship with AirPods Pro 3.

However, due to the extra caution, care, and even regulatory approvals that tend to accompany health features, it could potentially be delayed.

Apple recently shipped its [first big health features](#) for AirPods Pro 2 in iOS 18.1, but it sounds like much more is on the way.

## **AirPods Pro 3 features: wrap-up**

AirPods Pro 2 are one of Apple's best products, and the three years between updates only serves to build anticipation for their successor. As content as I am with my AirPods Pro 2, there's no doubt AirPods Pro 3 will be an instant purchase for me.

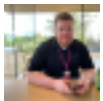
What features do you hope to see in AirPods Pro 3? Let us know in the comments.

## **Best AirPods deals and accessories**

- [AirPods Pro 2 \(now only \\$189, down from \\$249\)](#)
- [Memory foam AirPods Pro eartips for a more comfortable fit](#)
- [AirFly SE for connecting AirPods to in-flight headphone jacks](#)
- [Belemay leather case for AirPods Pro](#)
- [Magnetic strap neckband for preventing lost AirPods](#)

## **C. LG unveils new hybrid floor lamp that hides a built-in projector and Bluetooth speaker ahead of CES 2025**

## **D. Apple releases limited edition AirPods 4 for 'Year of the Snake'**



Chance Miller

Jan 3 2025 - 8:31 am PT



Last week, Apple [announced](#) a special edition version of the AirTag in Japan to celebrate the “Year of the Snake.” Apple has since followed that up with a limited-edition version of AirPods 4, available exclusively in select regions.

For New Year 2024, Apple [launched](#) a special version of AirPods Pro to celebrate the “Year of the Dragon.” For 2025, AirPods 4 are the ones getting that special edition treatment. The “Year of the Snake” version of AirPods 4 feature a snake-style engraving on the charging case. The box also features a special emblem on the side as well.

Apple warns that these special edition AirPods 4 headphones are only available while supplies last: The Year of the Snake Special Edition AirPods 4 with Active Noise Cancellation are available at an Apple Store and [apple.com](https://apple.com) while supplies last. Each customer can only purchase up to 2 units. If you need to replace or

repair The Year of the Snake Special Edition AirPods 4 with Active Noise Cancellation, subject to supply, we may provide you with standard edition AirPods 4 with Active Noise Cancellation for replacement or repair.

As of right now, the “Year of the Snake” version of AirPods 4 is available in the following regions:

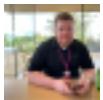
- [China](#)
- [Singapore](#)
- [Hong Kong](#)
- [Taiwan](#)

Availability could expand to other regions as Apple continues to update its website. Apple is also [selling](#) a handful of other “Year of the Snake” accessories from the likes of Belkin, Satechi, and Otterbox.

My favorite AirPods accessories

- [Belkin Cleaning Kit for AirPods Pro](#)
- [Spigen AirPods Pro lanyard](#)
- [Native Union Leather Case for AirPods Pro](#)
- [Belkin MagSafe Charger, 3-in-1 Wireless Charging Stand](#)
- [Twelve South HiRise 3 Deluxe](#)

## **E. Samsung is already working on its iPhone 17 Air copycat**



Chance Miller

Jan 3 2025 - 7:44 am PT

Apple is expected to release an all-new “iPhone 17 Air” model this year, prioritizing form over function. A new supply chain report today reiterates what to expect from the iPhone 17 Air size and pricing, but it also says Samsung is already hard at work on its copycat...

## **The latest on the iPhone 17 Air**

The report comes from [Sisa Journal](#), a South Korean news outlet that doesn’t have a long-term established track record of Apple rumors. Nonetheless, the report corroborates a few previously reported tidbits about the iPhone 17 Air.

First, the report says the device will measure 6.25mm thick. This aligns with [previous reporting](#) and would make the iPhone 17 Air Apple’s thinnest iPhone ever. The current iPhone 16 models measure 7.80mm thick, while the iPhone 16 Pro models measure 8.25mm. Apple’s thinnest iPhone to date is the iPhone 6, which measured 6.90mm thick.

Today’s report also corroborates [previous reporting](#) from The Wall Street Journal and says the iPhone 17 Air will serve as the replacement for the “Plus” model in Apple’s lineup. As such, it will reportedly retain the same starting price at \$899.

Finally, the story says Samsung has already fired up its photocopiers and is working on a “Galaxy S25 Slim” model to be released this year. The report suggests that

Samsung “belatedly” planned this device after the first rumors of the iPhone 17 Air surfaced last year. Samsung’s work on a “Galaxy S25 Slim” has also been [corroborated by other outlets](#).

As a refresher, the iPhone 17 Air is [expected](#) to feature a 6.6-inch display with ProMotion support for refresh rates up to 120Hz. It will reportedly feature a single 48MP camera on the back combined with a 24MP front-facing camera. Inside, the iPhone 17 Air will reportedly pack an A19 chip rather than the A19 Pro paired with 8GB of RAM.

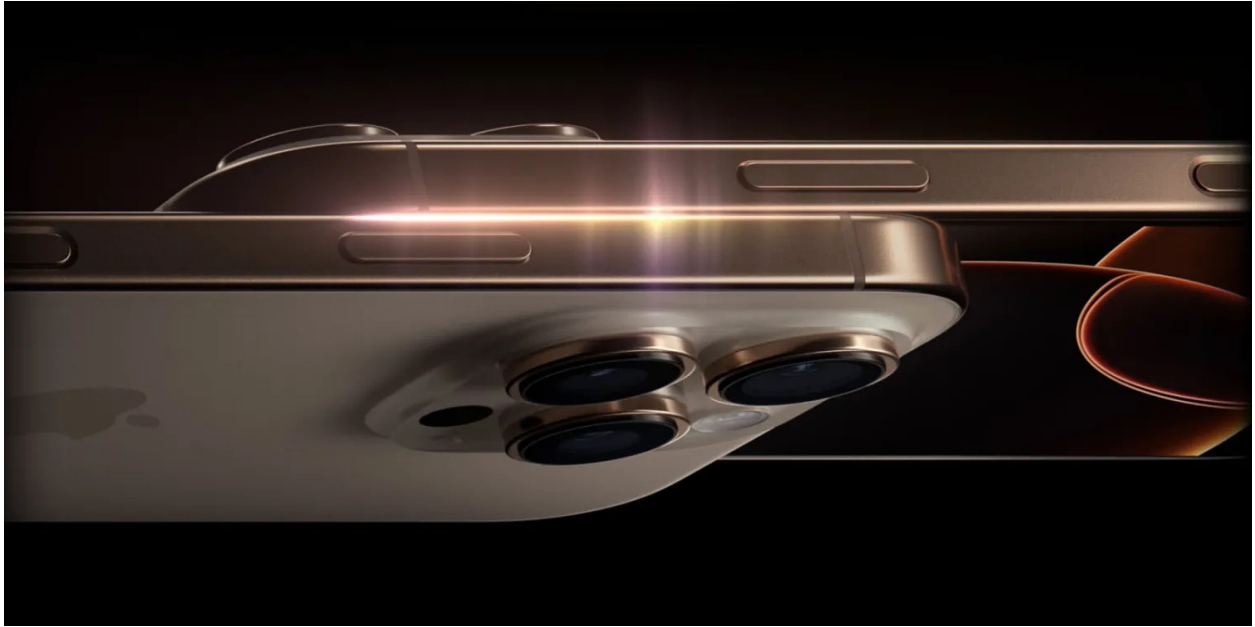
You can keep up with all the latest [iPhone 17 Air rumors in our dedicated guide](#). [The device will](#) reportedly be released later this year, likely in September alongside the rest of the iPhone 17 lineup.

## **F. Five new iPhones are launching this year, here’s what’s coming**



Ryan Christoffel

Jan 2 2025 - 7:45 am PT



Apple has a lot of successful products, but its biggest by far is the iPhone. This year, Apple has five new iPhone models coming, here's what to expect from each one.

## **iPhone SE 4**



**This spring**, Apple's budget-friendly iPhone is scoring some major upgrades in its first update since 2022.



For starters, the iPhone SE is losing the Home Button and adopting an edge-to-edge OLED display with a notch. The new SE will also boast several features of the flagship iPhone 16, such as:

- A18 chip
- 8GB of RAM
- Apple Intelligence support
- 48MP main camera
- USB-C port

We're also expecting Apple's first in-house 5G modem to debut in the iPhone SE 4, rounding out an **especially compelling** budget option.

## iPhone 17 Air



This fall, Apple will launch four new iPhone 17 models. The arrival of four new iPhones each fall has become standard practice, but this year one of those models will carry big changes.

The iPhone Plus is going away, replaced by the iPhone 17 Air.

iPhone 17 Air will prioritize form over function. It will have specs similar to the base iPhone 17, such as the A19 chip (not A19 Pro) and 8GB of RAM (not the 12GB coming to the Pro line). But it will demand a higher price point for its ultra-thin, futuristic design.

The 17 Air will be Apple's **thinnest iPhone ever**, with a unique **new display size** that could be a perfect compromise between the two Pro models.

Two more expected Air features: Apple's in-house 5G modem, and a high-refresh display.

Following years of very minor iPhone design changes, iPhone 17 Air will offer an exciting new look that could make this year's iPhone decision **especially difficult**.

## iPhone 17 Pro



While iPhone 17 Air will be the shiny, exciting new thing, Apple's not slouching with its Pro line.

The iPhone 17 Pro will offer the same 6.3-inch display as the 16 Pro, but come with some design changes of its own. For example, it's getting a **redesigned frame** with aluminum replacing titanium, and a **larger, rectangular camera bump**.

Internally, iPhone 17 Pro will feature:

- A19 Pro chip
- 12GB of RAM, the most ever in an iPhone
- Qualcomm's 5G modem

There will almost certainly be some nice rear camera upgrades to accompany the redesigned camera bump. But for the first time in a while, the selfie camera's getting some love too.

Across the entire iPhone 17 lineup, Apple's **upgrading the front camera** from 12MP to 24MP for improved performance.

## iPhone 17 Pro Max



As always, iPhone 17 Pro Max will get all the best features of the smaller iPhone 17 Pro, but with some small perks such as better battery life thanks to the larger size.

New for this year, the 17 Pro Max will be getting a **smaller Dynamic Island** than every other model. It's unclear how much smaller, but we're especially interested to see if this change corresponds with Face ID finally **being embedded** in the display—thus enabling the smaller cutout.

It's possible the Pro Max model will also have some camera advantages not found in the smaller 17 Pro, but so far there have been no rumors on that front.

## iPhone 17



Rounding out the 2025 lineup is Apple's base iPhone 17. Last year's iPhone 16 was one of the **strongest base models** in years. We'll have to wait and see if that happens again this year, but here's a general rundown of what to expect:

- 24MP front camera



- A19 chip
- 8GB of RAM
- the same 6.1-inch display as iPhone 16

There will surely be some other details on the base model that emerge in the months ahead, but for now, it looks like the device will have some stiff competition not only from the Air and Pro line, but from the cheaper iPhone SE 4.

## **New iPhones in 2025: wrap-up**

Whether you're interested in the high end iPhone 17 Pro Max, the budget-friendly iPhone SE, or something altogether new like the iPhone 17 Air, 2025 looks set to be a strong year for the iPhone.

Which new iPhone do you expect to buy this year? Or will you hold off upgrading? Let us know in the comments.

## **Best iPhone accessories**

- [Anker 100W charging brick for fast charging](#)
- [6.6ft USB-C cable for longer reach](#)

- [AirPods Pro 2 \(currently only \\$189, down from \\$249\)](#)
- [MagSafe Car Mount for iPhone](#)
- [HomeKit smart plug 4-pack](#)

## **G. Two HUGE Changes Coming To MacBooks, Finally!**



## **H. Apple's BIGGEST Event of 2025; LEAKS OF 7 NEW PRODUCTS!**

### **I. New HDMI 2.2 protocol aims to considerably reduce audio latency**



Filipe Espósito  
7 hours ago

[0 Comments](#)



The HDMI Forum, which manages the specifications for the HDMI connection, announced on Monday version 2.2 of the protocol. HDMI 2.2, as it's called, increases bandwidth and aims to considerably reduce audio

latency. Read on as we detail what exactly changes with the new HDMI 2.2 protocol....

## J. Windows users are finally getting a good alternative to Apple's Magic Trackpad



Michael Burkhardt

| Jan 6 2025 - 1:16 pm PT



At CES 2025, Hyper unveiled the HyperSpace Trackpad Pro – a first of its kind. [Apple's Magic Trackpad](#), so far, has been the only good external multi-touch trackpad on the market. Hyper aims to change that with this new



product, and unlike the [Magic Trackpad](#), it'll also work super well for Windows users.

## HyperSpace Trackpad Pro

Trackpads have never been a strong suit on Windows devices, even on laptops. They'll often have poor sensitivity, lack multitouch gestures, or have poor palm rejection, leading to an overall bad experience. There also aren't great options for desktop users.

Even with the Mac, Apple is practically the only company making a premium external [trackpad](#).

That's what the HyperSpace Trackpad Pro aims to solve. Hyper is making a premium external trackpad with support for multitouch gestures, good palm rejection, and precise gestures. It features a wedge design, has two rubber feet on the bottom, is made of aluminum, and offers a glass surface.

It'll be available for \$129.99, similar to [Apple's Magic Trackpad](#). They'll begin shipping towards the end of Q2 2025, likely around May or June. It offers one month of battery life, and recharges via USB-C.

 HYPER |  CES™

**2025 Innovations**



**HyperSpace®**

Trackpad Pro

Hyper is also announcing a palm rest accessory, giving users a place to leave their hands next to the trackpad, similar to a laptop.

## Hydra app

On top of this, Hyper is developing a new app for Windows users called Hydra, allowing customers to develop custom shortcut zones, map deep clicks on trackpads to certain commands, and develop application-specific profiles, in case you want different shortcuts for different apps.



At their CES Unveiled booth, Hyper told us that this level of deep optimization for Mac users would be achievable, but it might take a little bit longer to develop.

Nonetheless, it's an exciting time if you're a creative, heavy user, or just want a better trackpad experience on Windows! It's also nice to see innovation in this space for Mac users, since only Apple serves this market currently with the [Magic Trackpad](#).

As mentioned earlier, the HyperSpace Trackpad Pro will be available in late Q2, but you can sign up to get notified for the launch at [Hyper's website](#).

# K. Apple is redesigning the Magic Mouse: Here's what we know so far



Michael Burkhardt

Dec 29 2024 - 10:06 am PT



Mark Gurman from Bloomberg recently reported that Apple will be redesigning the Magic Mouse – for the first time since its introduction in 2009. In the mouse's fifteen-year history, the design has remained mostly the same, besides the switch from AA batteries to Lightning in 2015, and Lightning to USB-C in 2024. However, that'll soon be changing.

## Charge port placement

One of the biggest critiques of the [Magic Mouse](#) has been the charging port. You have to plug it in from the bottom to charge it, which also means you can't use your computer while your mouse needs to recharge.

Some [Magic Mouse](#) defenders will say that this is better for your battery health, while others will say that you're realistically only recharging it every 6 weeks, so it's a nonissue. They may have a concept of a point, but that doesn't change the fact that it's annoying.

Nonetheless, Gurman reports that this will be changing with the next-gen Magic Mouse:

Apple is looking to create something that's more relevant, while also fixing longstanding complaints — yes, including the charging port issue.

So, sometime in the near future — this will no longer be a concern.

## Ergonomics

We don't have specifics on what the new [Magic Mouse](#) will actually look like, other than the fact that it'll be completely rethought, hopefully with better ergonomics. Apple aims to make a mouse that fits in better, perhaps something similar to an [MX Master](#):

The good news is, there's a new Magic Mouse in the works. I'm told that Apple's design team has been prototyping versions of the accessory in recent months,

aiming to devise something that better fits the modern era.

In a computing world now infused with touch screens, voice commands and hand gestures, the mouse isn't as crucial as it once was.

Many Mac users enjoy [Logitech's MX Master](#) mouse because of its ergonomics and additional features, though you do lose out on some of the multi-touch gestures that the [Magic Mouse](#) offers. It'd be cool to see Apple offer the best of both worlds.

## Release date

The new [Magic Mouse](#) is in early development, and likely won't see a release until sometime in 2026. Gurman says he "wouldn't expect anything in the next 12 to 18 months." Apple is also working on a redesigned [MacBook Pro with OLED in 2026](#) – so we'll potentially see the two debut together.

## **[L. 10 Types Of Accessories You Should Consider Getting For Your Mac/ Macbook](#)**

There are lots of useful accessories you can get for your Mac, ranging from \$4 to \$500 or more. Take a look at 10 very useful accessories you can get, what they will do for you, how to search for one online and what to look for when purchasing.

# III. Apple Software

## A. Apple reveals 2024's most downloaded apps and games on the App Store

<https://nr.apple.com/dJ8p8J6Er1>

As 2024 comes to a close, Apple is excited to unveil the most downloaded apps and games of the year across iPhone, iPad, and Apple Arcade, with charts localized for users in more than 30 countries and regions. Now available on the App Store's Today tab, the year-end charts include the top free and paid apps and games, as well as the top Apple Arcade games. Users can also discover the [2024 App Store Award](#) winners, 17 exceptional apps and games selected by App Store Editors that helped users ignite their creativity, achieve new milestones, and cherish everyday moments with family and friends across the App Store and the Apple ecosystem.

The App Store is the safest and best place for users to discover and download apps and games, thanks to the integration of industry-leading tools, technologies, and expert human curation led by App Review and Editorial teams. As part of this trusted discovery experience, App Store Editors around the world recommend tens of thousands of apps annually across the Today, Apps, and Games tabs to help users discover the best apps, games, in-app events, original stories, in-depth interviews, collections, and more.

Check out this year's most downloaded iPhone and iPad [apps](#), [games](#), and [Arcade](#) charts of 2024 in the U.S.

## **B. [Final Cut Pro 11 begins a new chapter for video editing on Mac](#)**

Intelligent new features, timesaving tools, and new creative options come to Final Cut Pro across Mac, iPad, and iPhone, plus editing for spatial video

## **C. [Apple Intelligence errors with news alerts keep piling up, here's the latest](#)**





Ryan Christoffel



Apple Intelligence notification summaries are, in my view, one of the early [killer AI features](#). But they're not without their flaws, as the BBC has continued highlighting via several new examples today. Here are the latest Apple Intelligence errors with news alerts.

## **BBC News highlights ongoing Apple Intelligence errors**

Last month, the BBC [publicly aired its grievances](#) with Apple over its new AI notification summary feature. Added [in iOS 18.1](#), the feature allows Apple Intelligence to summarize a notification's info rather than providing the actual content as written.

Apple Intelligence is currently available in beta, so Apple says you should expect mistakes and report them so the system can continually be improved.

The BBC is taking that message to heart. The December example involved AI claiming, via a summarized BBC News alert, that Luigi Mangione had shot himself. This was entirely untrue.

Now today, the BBC's Imran Rahman-Jones [has published](#) several more examples of Apple Intelligence errors its users have reported ([via AppleInsider](#)).

A news summary from Apple falsely claimed darts player Luke Littler won the PDC World Championship – before he has even played in the final.

The incorrect summary was written by artificial intelligence (AI) and is based on a BBC story about Littler winning the tournament semi-final on Thursday night.

Within hours, another AI notification summary falsely told some BBC Sport app users that Tennis great Rafael Nadal had come out as gay.

There are undoubtedly countless more examples users have seen, so I wouldn't be surprised if stories like this continue to become more common.

## 9to5Mac's Take

Notification summaries are prone to mistakes for all kinds of apps, but understandably they can be especially problematic when summarizing breaking news.

Summarizing the contents of what is already a summary seems a bit unnecessary in the first place, so I wonder if Apple's ultimate remedy will be disabling AI summaries for news apps by default.

Do you think these Apple Intelligence errors are a serious issue? How have summaries been in your experience? Let us know in the comments.

## **Best iPhone accessories**

- [Anker 100W charging brick for fast charging](#)
- [6.6ft USB-C cable for longer reach](#)
- [AirPods Pro 2 \(currently only \\$189, down from \\$249\)](#)
- [MagSafe Car Mount for iPhone](#)
- [HomeKit smart plug 4-pack](#)

## **D. [Security Bite:](#)** **Malware your Mac can** **detect and remove**



Arin Waichulis

Jan 2 2025 - 7:28 am PT



Hello 2025...and goodbye 2024! It's been an exciting first year hosting the [Security Bite](#) column on 9to5Mac. I had the privilege of talking with many leaders in the security industry and traveling to places I never thought I'd find myself. In October, I took to the column on the road—sky and tracks, too—traveling to Kyiv to meet with world-class security engineers and to attend [Objective-See's](#) Objective for the We v2.0 event. It was an experience I've yet been able to put into words—maybe a story for another day.

I digress. In this final edition of Security Bite for fiscal 2024, I updated a story that I started working on in May of last year. Because Apple is continuously updating its XProtect suite to combat the latest malware trends, this piece will continue evolving.

Ever wonder what malware macOS can detect and remove without help from third-party software? Apple continuously adds new malware detection rules to Mac's

built-in XProtect suite. While most rule names (signatures) are obfuscated, with a bit of reversing engineering, security researchers can map them to their common industry names. See below what malware your Mac can remove!

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About Security Bite: Security Bite is a weekly security-focused column on 9to5Mac. Every week, [Arin Waichulis](#) delivers insights on data privacy, uncovers vulnerabilities, and sheds light on emerging threats within Apple's vast ecosystem of over 2 billion active devices. Stay secure, stay safe.

The image is a dark-themed advertisement for Mosyle's Apple device security solution. At the top center is the Mosyle logo, and at the top right is a yellow button that says "REQUEST YOUR TRIAL". The main headline reads "Protecting Apple devices at Work is all we do." Below this is the sub-headline "Apple-Specific Next Generation Endpoint Security for Organizations." On the left side, there is a silhouette of a laptop with a padlock icon on its screen. On the right side, there are four feature boxes, each with an icon and text: 1. A green shield icon with "Fully Automated Hardening & Compliance." 2. A blue shield icon with "Next-Generation Mac EDR." 3. A blue icon with "100% 011" and "Only AI-Based Automated Zero Trust for Mac." 4. A yellow key icon with "Privilege Management with Admin On-Demand."

## XProtect, Yara rules, huh?

XProtect was introduced in 2009 as part of macOS X 10.6 Snow Leopard. Initially, it was released to detect and alert users if malware was discovered in an installing file.

However, XProtect has recently evolved significantly. The retirement of the long-standing Malware Removal Tool (MRT) in April 2022 prompted the emergence of XProtectRemediator (XPR), a more capable native anti-malware component responsible for detecting and remedying threats on Mac.

The XProtect suite utilizes Yara signature-based detection to identify malware. [Yara](#) itself is a widely adopted open-source tool that identifies files (including malware) based on specific characteristics and patterns in the code or metadata. What's so great about Yara rules is any organization or individual can create and utilize their own, including Apple.

As of [macOS 15 Sequoia](#), the XProtect suite consists of three main components:

1. The XProtect app can detect malware using Yara rules whenever an app first launches, changes, or updates its signatures.
2. XProtectRemediator (XPR) is more proactive and can detect and remove malware by regular scanning with Yara rules, among other things. These occur in the background during periods of low activity and have minimal impact on the CPU.
3. The latest version of macOS includes XProtectBehaviorService (XBS), which monitors system behavior in relation to critical resources.

Unfortunately, Apple mostly uses generic internal naming schemes in XProtect that obfuscate the common malware names. While this is done for good reason, it makes it challenging for those curious to know exactly what malware XProtect can identify.

For example, some Yara rules are given more obvious names, such as XProtect\_MACOS\_PIRBIT\_GEN, a signature for detecting the Pirbit adware. However, in XProtect, you'll largely find more generic rules like XProtect\_MACOS\_2fc5997 and internal signatures that only Apple engineers would know, like XProtect\_snowdrift. This is where security researchers like [Phil Stokes](#) and [Alden](#) come in.

Phil Stokes with Sentinel One Labs manages a handy [repository on GitHub](#) that maps these obfuscated signatures used by Apple to more common names used by vendors and found in public malware scanners like

VirusTotal. Moreover, Alden has recently made [significant advancements](#) in understanding how XPR works by extracting Yara rules from its scanning module binaries.

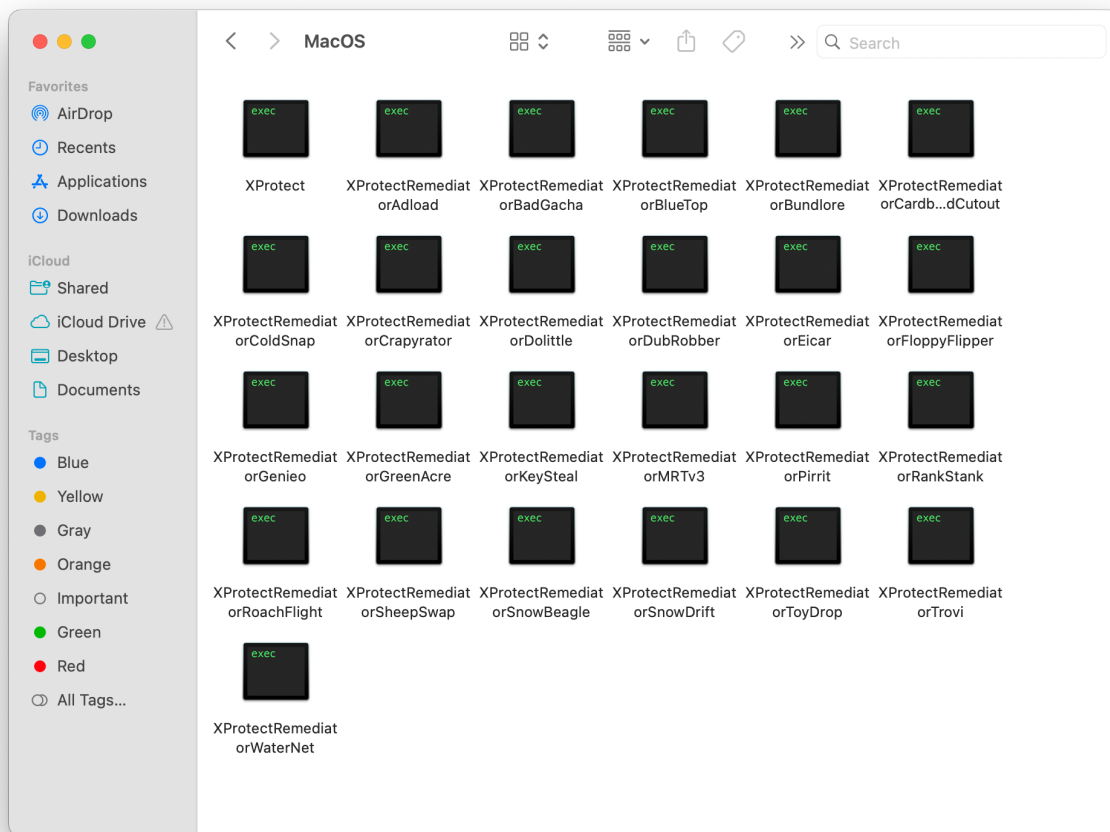
## How do I find XProtect on my Mac?

XProtect is enabled by default in every version of macOS. It also runs at the system level, completely in the background, so no intervention is needed. Updates to XProtect also happen automatically. Here's where it's located:

1. In Macintosh HD, go to Library > Apple > System > Library > CoreServices
2. From here, you can find remediators by right-clicking on XProtect
3. Then click Show Package Contents
4. Expand Contents
5. Open MacOS

Note: Users shouldn't rely entirely on Apple's XProtect suite, as it's made to detect known threats. More advanced or sophisticated attacks could easily circumvent detection. I highly advise the use of third-party malware detection and removal tools.





24 scanning modules in XProtectRemdiator v147

## What malware can it remove?

While the XProtect app itself can only detect and block threats, it comes down to XPR's scanning modules for removal. Currently, we can identify 14 of the 24 remediators in the current version of XPR (v147) to keep malware off your machine.

1. Adload: Adware and bundleware loader targeting macOS users since 2017. Adload was capable of avoiding detection before last month's [major update](#)

to XProtect that added 74 new Yara detection rules all aimed at the malware.

2. BadGacha: Not identified yet.
3. BlueTop: “BlueTop appears to be the Trojan-Proxy campaign that was covered by Kaspersky in late 2023,” says Alden.
4. CardboardCutout: Not identified yet.
5. ColdSnap: “ColdSnap is likely looking for the macOS version of the SimpleTea malware. This was also associated with the 3CX breach and shares traits with both the Linux and Windows variants.”  
SimpleTea (SimplexTea on Linux) is a Remote Access Trojan (RAT) believed to have originated from the DPRK.
6. Crapyrator: Crapyrator has been identified as macOS.Bkdr.Activator. This is a malware campaign uncovered in February 2024 that “infects macOS users on a massive scale, potentially for the purpose of creating a macOS botnet or delivering other malware at scale,” states Phil Stokes for Sentinel One.
7. DubRobber: A troubling and versatile Trojan dropper also known as XCSSET.
8. Eicar: A harmless file that is intentionally designed to trigger antivirus scanners without being harmful.
9. FloppyFlipper: Not identified yet.
10. Genieo: A very commonly documented potentially unwanted program (PUP). So much so that it even has its own Wikipedia page.

- 11.GreenAcre: Not identified yet.
- 12.KeySteal: KeySteal is a macOS infostealer initially observed in 2021 and added to XProtect in February 2023.
- 13.MRTv3: This is a collection of malware detection and removal components grandfathered into XProtect from its predecessor, the Malware Removal Tool (MRT).
- 14.Pirrit: Pirrit is a macOS Adware that first surfaced in 2016. It's known to inject pop-up ads into web pages, collect private user browser data, and even manipulate search ranking to redirect users to malicious pages.
- 15.RankStank: "This rule is one of the more obvious, as it includes the paths to the malicious executables found in the 3CX incident," says Alden. 3CX was a supply chain attack attributed to the Lazarus Group.
- 16.RedPine: With lower confidence, Alden states RedPine is likely in response to TriangleDB from Operation Triangulation.
- 17.RoachFlight: Not identified yet.
- 18.SheepSwap: Not identified yet.
- 19.ShowBeagle: Not identified yet.
- 20.SnowDrift: Identified as [CloudMensis](#) macOS spyware.
- 21.ToyDrop: Not identified yet.
- 22.Trovi: Similar to Pirrit, [Trovi](#) is another cross-platform browser hijacker. It's known to redirect search results,

track browsing history, and inject its own ads into search.

23. WaterNet: Not identified yet.

## More in Apple security

- [How MacPaw is making cybersecurity accessible to everyone; my exclusive interview from Kyiv](#) When MacPaw offered to fly me out to Kyiv, Ukraine, to meet and interview the folks leading Moonlock, its cybersecurity division, I jumped at the opportunity. Here's our discussion.
- [A newly-released app lets you regularly scan your iPhone for Pegasus spyware](#) – which can access almost all the data on a phone – for a one-off cost of just one dollar.
- [Moonlock Lab released its 2024 Threat Report](#), detailing how AI tools like ChatGPT are helping to write malware scripts, the shift to Malware-as-a-Service (MaaS), and other interesting statistics it's seeing through internal data.
- [Mosyle exclusively reveals to 9to5Mac details on a new family of Mac malware loaders](#). Mosyle's Security Research team discovered these new threats are written in unconventional programming languages and use several other sneaky techniques to evade detection.

## **E. macOS Sequoia v.15.2 has backup BUGS affecting Time Machine, CCC, AND MORE (i.e. Apple Music, Contacts)!**



Ben Lovejoy

| Dec 19 2024 - 5:25 am PT

16 Comments



One or more backup bugs in macOS 15.2 Sequoia is affecting Apple's own Time Machine utility, as well as third-party apps SuperDuper and CarbonCopyCloner. Initially the problem appeared to affect bootable backups only, but it now appears that it is either more general than this, or there is more than one bug affecting Mac backups

...

# Things started with SuperDuper

SuperDuper developer Shirt Pocket originally used its own code to create bootable backups of Mac volumes, before Apple locked things down so that developers had to use the company's own replicator functionality.

After SuperDuper bootable backups began failing, [the company investigated](#) and found that the bug was in Apple's replicator code in macOS 15.2.

macOS 15.2 was released a few days ago, with a surprise. A terrible, awful surprise. Apple broke the replicator.

Towards the end of replicating the Data volume, seemingly when it's about to copy either Preboot or Recovery, it fails with a Resource Busy error. In the past, Resource Busy could be worked around by ensuring the system was kept awake. But this new bug means, on most systems, there's no fix. It just fails.

Since Apple took away the ability for 3rd parties (eg, us) to copy the OS, and took on the responsibility themselves, it's been up to them to ensure this functionality continues to work. And in that, they've failed in macOS 15.2. Because this is their code, and we're forced to rely on it to copy the OS, OS copying will not work until they fix it.

[Synology said](#) that the same issue is impacting bootable backups to its NAS systems.

# Wider macOS 15 Sequoia backup bug(s)

CarbonCopyCloner was also affected, which again normally supports bootable backups, but then users reported that (non-bootable) Time Machine backups [were also failing](#).

MacOS 15.2 breaks Time Machine backups. A friend had his entire backup history blown away by Time Machine.

Top comment by [Shivam Pandey](#) Liked by 0 people

I've been struggling with this macOS 15.2 backup issue as well. My Time Machine backups failed, and I felt lost trying to figure out how to recover my data. I used Stellar Data Recovery for Mac, which helped me retrieve everything I thought I had lost. While the underlying issue with Apple's replicator code still isn't resolved, I'm grateful I didn't lose any important files. Hoping Apple addresses this soon.

[View all comments](#)

The issue appears to be specific to Apple Silicon Macs.

We've reached out to Apple for comment, and will update with any response.

## MacBook Air M1 slow and buggy after macOS 15.2 update

So I recently updated my MacBook Air m1 to Mac OS 15.2. It's so laggy and filled with lots of bugs like Wi-Fi disconnects

randomly, Safari just bricks, and so on. Also, the animations are inconsistent, Music crashes and Contacts won't let me add new people. Please fix these issues in the upcoming update soon.

## **Sequoia 15.2 will not mount 6tb Lacie drive**

Recently updated to Sequoia 15.x then to 15.2 and now my external 6TB Lacie drive is not visible.

I see a lot of posts regarding HD not visible anymore after updating to Sequoia.

Not visible using disk utility or when I search for it via terminal. I wish it were a newer M version. It's a 3.5GHz 8-core Intel Xeon W and i don't see that option with in those parameters. :-(. And just now i realized if i leave that drive plugged in via the USBC connection, the computer will not startup. I get the progress bar and it stalls 1/3 of the way and nothing. When i unplug, force restart, the computer will start up. I'm so over Apple turning into Microsoft.

## **Sequoia 15.2 update means MS Teams app won't open**

Updated to Sequoia 15.2 last night and now MS Teams won't open. Need it urgently for work purposes. Anyone have any solutions?



## **Sequoia 15.2 upgrade causing a very sluggish machine.**

I cannot open most apps after and pre Sequoia 15.2 upgrade and a reinstall of the OS too. It's back to being sloooooow very much like Sonoma did. It feels like two years of fighting the Mac, something we always seem to be doing with a PC!

## **MacBook M3 Pro Max freezing after macOS Sequoia 15.2 update**

Ever since I've gotten Mac OS Sequoia 15.2, my Mac has been freezing and I have been needing to force quit some of the apps including Safari or Finder. If I for instance, want to move a folder on my desktop, it won't let me and it just freezes. I've also noticed this if I have multiple tabs open in Safari. I have a MacBook M3 Pro Max with 64GB of ram and a 2TB hard drive. I feel that these issues should not be happening and I feel that this is some buggy software. I'm a student and would like to have some of these issues fixed in some upcoming software updates. I've never had any of these issues before the latest Mac OS Sequoia 15.2 version. I would appreciate any tips or advice on how to deal with these bugs. Thank you.

## **Installed Sequoia and Apple Contacts not loaded....**

Installed Sequoia and Apple Contacts not loaded.

Exported contacted from iPhone and the import function on iMac freezes.

### kySkiFlipper

User level:

Level 1

I think that 15.2 has a major problem with Thunderbolt. I have two LG 4Ks connected and the machine won't even boot with 15.2. If i unplug one it boots. I can then connect the second monitor but none of the thunderbolt drives are connected. I reverted back to 15.1. I had had enough. Definitely report it on feedback like.



### 86macse

User level:

Level 1

14 points

Jan 3, 2025 1:10 PM in response to moni\_w

We have a 2 MacOS Sequoia 15.2 network and both have problems we have never had with our Brother printer. The Mac's print to it but on subsequent print jobs has forgotten the printer. We can add on the same one, and it becomes the 2nd printer. Now we have 2. And so on... 3, 4...

Also, I run Chrome with Duckduckgo as a web browser. Many of the sites that worked perfectly with OS 15.1 now are

broken. MacOS Sequoia 15.1 seemed flawless 2 weeks ago, but the update isn't very good.



AIWeir

User level:  
Level 4

3,663 points

Dec 29, 2024 3:17 PM in response to moni\_w

That folder on your Desktop is probably part of iCloud if you didn't create it.

Have you tried a different browser other than Safari, like Brave or Opera? Safari isn't the only browser. I use Brave and much prefer it to Safari.



**86macse**

User level:  
Level 1

14 points

Jan 3, 2025 1:11 PM in response to moni\_w

We have a 2 MacOS Sequoia 15.2 network and both have problems we have never had with our Brother printer. The Mac's print to it but on subsequent print jobs has forgotten the printer. We can add on the same one, and it becomes the 2nd printer. Now we have 2. And so on... 3, 4...

Also, I run Chrome with Duckduckgo as a web browser. Many of the sites that worked perfectly with OS 15.1 now are broken. MacOS Sequoia 15.1 seemed flawless 2 weeks ago, but this update isn't very good.



ZephyrDynamics

User level:  
Level 1

12 points  
Jan 3, 2025 1:33 PM in response to moni\_w

Not quite completely related but I've noticed lag on my M4 MacBook Pro when it comes to opening apps like System Settings. Most of the time it takes 2 to 3 seconds to open, (while for some strange reason every other app opens super fast.) It varies quite a lot, and I hope this is fixed in an update.

**BekahD2**

User level:  
Level 1

8 points  
Jan 4, 2025 10:57 AM in response to moni\_w

I'm having the exact same issue—and it didn't start happening until I did the software update. I have cleaned out memory and storage and done a million things, but I really think it's an issue with the newest update. I hope this gets resolved soon; it has been super disruptive to my work.

**PRP 53**



User level:

**Level 10**

92,761 points  
[Jan 2, 2025 7:26 AM in response to moni\\_w](#)

Where applicable and if applicable ...

There are 3 Categories of Third Party Software / Services that are baffling.

Why some users insist on installing and using the below software is beyond me.

In no special order

## **Commercial VPNs**

They may not be what one believes they are doing for the computer and what they actually are doing behind the scenes

<https://gist.github.com/joepie91/5a9909939e6ce7d09e29>

## **Third Party Security Software**

There are no known Windows-like Viruses in the wild that self replicate and affect macOS, because of the underlying UNIX Foundation and Permission Limitation.

The Operating System resides in a [Sealed and Read Only Volume](#) that cannot be opened by the User nor by Third Party Applications.

The Only thing this Antivirus software is protecting is the Bank Account of the Developers and for zero return to the User aside from the problems this software creates.

[Security. Built right in](#)

[Mac app security enhancements](#)

[The Built in Security is all that is required to protect the computer.](#)

[Protecting against malware in macOS](#)

Third Party Disk Cleaners / Optimizer

Any Third Party Applications that will interfere with the normal operation of the OS, is an invitation for disaster.

Certain Applications maybe available on the Apple Apps Store - this only means the Developer is prepared to pay Apple a percentage on each sale.

What the Application may do to the computer is up to the User to check this out before purchase

To put the Third Party Disk Cleaner / Optimizer in context and the damages it may have or has already done.

This type of applications can or will Muck Up your User Account ( Home Folder ) of this machine.

It does not touch the Operating System itself unless you consider your User Account ( Home Folder ) as part of the Operating System.

The Operating System is hosed...

# F. How To Fix macOS Sequoia 15.2 Problems

Olivia Garcia

December 12, 2024



macOS Sequoia 15.2 brings new features and improvements to Apple computers. Users may encounter issues after updating. Common problems include slow system performance, app crashes, and connectivity issues with USB devices.

Fixing these issues often involves simple steps. Restarting the Mac can resolve many problems, especially memory leaks. Checking Activity Monitor helps identify resource-hungry apps. Closing these apps or force quitting them can improve system speed.



USB connectivity problems may require unplugging and reconnecting devices. In some cases, users might need to update device drivers or reset the System Management Controller (SMC). These steps can often restore normal functionality to macOS Sequoia 15.2.

# Troubleshooting macOS Sequoia 15.2 Issues

If you're experiencing problems with macOS Sequoia 15.2, this troubleshooting guide offers a range of solutions to help you resolve common issues. From Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity problems to app crashes and slow performance, we'll cover a variety of troubleshooting steps and advise when it's time to seek professional assistance.

## General Troubleshooting Steps

Before diving into specific problems, try these general troubleshooting steps:

- **Restart Your Mac:** This simple step can often resolve minor software glitches.
- **Check for Updates:** Ensure macOS Sequoia 15.2 itself is fully updated. Go to System Settings > General > Software Update.
- **Check Internet Connection:** A stable internet connection is crucial for many macOS functions.

- Check System Status: Visit the Apple System Status page to see if there are any known outages or issues with Apple services.

# Common MacOS Sequoia 15.2 Problems And Solutions

## WI-FI CONNECTIVITY ISSUES

- Restart Your Router/Modem: This can often resolve network connectivity problems.
- Forget and Rejoin the Wi-Fi Network: Go to System Settings > Wi-Fi, select your network, click the “...” button, and choose “Forget This Network.” Then, rejoin the network.
- Check Wi-Fi Diagnostics: Hold down the Option key and click the Wi-Fi icon in the menu bar. Select “Open Wireless Diagnostics.”
- Create a New Network Location: Go to System Settings > Network > Location, then click the dropdown to edit locations. Click the + button to add a new location.

## BLUETOOTH CONNECTIVITY PROBLEMS

- Turn Bluetooth Off and On: Toggle Bluetooth off and on in System Settings > Bluetooth.
- Remove and Re-pair Bluetooth Devices: Remove the device from the Bluetooth list and then pair it again.
- Reset the Bluetooth Module: Hold down Shift + Option keys, then click the Bluetooth icon in the menu bar. Select “Debug” then “Reset the Bluetooth module”.

## APP CRASHING OR FREEZING

- Force Quit the App: Press Command + Option + Escape, select the app, and click “Force Quit.”

- **Check for App Updates:** Open the App Store and check for updates for the problematic app.
- **Reinstall the App:** If updates don't help, try uninstalling and reinstalling the app.
- **Boot into Safe Mode:** Restart your Mac and immediately hold down the Shift key. This disables third-party extensions and startup items. If the problem doesn't occur in Safe Mode, a third-party app or extension may be the cause.

## **SLOW PERFORMANCE**

- **Check Activity Monitor:** Open Activity Monitor (Applications > Utilities) to see which processes are using the most resources.
- **Close Unnecessary Apps:** Close any apps you're not using.
- **Free Up Disk Space:** Ensure you have sufficient free disk space.
- **Run First Aid in Disk Utility:** Open Disk Utility (Applications > Utilities) and run First Aid on your startup disk.

## **OTHER POTENTIAL ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS**

- **Login Problems:** If you have trouble logging in, try resetting your password using your Apple ID.
- **Graphics Issues:** If you experience graphical glitches, make sure your graphics drivers are up to date (check for macOS updates).

# **When To Seek Professional Help**

If you've tried these troubleshooting steps and the problems persist, it's time to seek professional help from Apple Support or an authorized Apple service provider. They have the tools

and expertise to diagnose and fix more complex hardware or software issues.

## Summary Of Troubleshooting Steps

Problem	Troubleshooting Steps
General Issues	Restart Mac, check for updates, check internet, check system status
Wi-Fi	Restart router/modem, forget/rejoin network, Wi-Fi diagnostics, reset network location
Bluetooth	Toggle Bluetooth, re-pair devices, reset Bluetooth module
App Crashing	Force quit app, check for app updates, reinstall app, safe mode
Slow Performance	Check Activity Monitor, close apps, free up disk space, Disk Utility, First Aid

## Key Takeaways

- Restarting the Mac resolves many **common issues** in macOS Sequoia 15.2
- Checking Activity Monitor helps identify problematic apps affecting performance
- Troubleshooting USB connectivity often involves simple hardware actions

# Identifying Common Issues and Initial Troubleshooting

.macOS updates, while generally bringing improvements and new features, can sometimes introduce unexpected issues.

MacOS Sequoia 15.2 users may encounter various issues that impact system performance and functionality. Addressing these problems often involves checking for software updates and optimizing hardware performance.

## Software Updates And Compatibility

MacOS Sequoia 15.2 requires regular updates to **fix bugs** and improve stability. Users should check for system software updates in the System Settings app. These updates often resolve kernel panics and memory leaks.

Some apps may not work correctly with Sequoia 15.2. Users can check the App Store or developer websites for compatibility information. Outdated apps might cause crashes or slow system performance.

Safe Mode helps isolate software-related issues. To **enter Safe Mode**, users should restart their Mac and hold the Shift

key during startup. This mode disables third-party extensions and performs a basic disk check.

## Optimizing Hardware Performance

**Activity Monitor** is a useful tool for identifying resource-intensive processes. Users can open it from the Applications > Utilities folder. It shows CPU, memory, and disk usage for all running apps and processes.

High memory usage often leads to slow performance. Closing unused apps and browser tabs can free up RAM. Restarting the Mac regularly helps clear temporary files and reset memory allocation.

Battery drain is a common issue on MacBooks. Users can check battery health in System Settings > Battery. Reducing screen brightness and turning off unnecessary features like Bluetooth when not in use can extend battery life.

For Macs with Apple Silicon chips, ensuring the latest firmware is installed is crucial. System updates often include firmware improvements that enhance performance and stability.

## Frequently Asked Questions

macOS Sequoia 15.2 users may encounter various issues. Here are solutions to **common problems** that can arise after updating to this version.

## **What Steps Can Be Taken To Resolve Wi-Fi Connectivity Issues After Upgrading To MacOS Sequoia 15.2?**

Users can try resetting the Wi-Fi connection. They should turn off Wi-Fi, wait for 30 seconds, and turn it back on. If this doesn't work, they can forget the network and rejoin it.

Another option is to reset the Mac's network settings. Users can do this by going to System Settings > Network > Advanced and clicking "Remove" next to the Wi-Fi network name.

If problems persist, users should create a new network location. They can do this in System Settings > Network > Location > Add a new location.

## **How Can I Restore File Synchronization With iCloud**

# Following The MacOS Sequoia 15.2 Update?

Users experiencing **iCloud sync issues** should first check their internet connection. A stable connection is crucial for iCloud to function properly.

They can then sign out of iCloud and sign back in. This process often resolves syncing problems. Users should go to System Settings > Apple ID > Sign Out.

If issues continue, users should restart their Mac. After restarting, they should open Finder and check if iCloud Drive is visible in the sidebar.

## What Are Common Troubleshooting Methods For Addressing Slow System Performance In MacOS Sequoia 15.2?

Users can start by checking Activity Monitor to identify resource-intensive apps. They should close unnecessary applications to free up system resources.



Clearing cache files can help improve performance. Users can use built-in tools or third-party applications to remove temporary files and free up disk space.

Updating all installed applications is also important. Outdated apps may not be optimized for Sequoia 15.2, leading to performance issues.

## **Can You Advise On How To Fix Unexpected App Crashes In MacOS Sequoia 15.2?**

Users should first ensure all apps are up to date. Developers often release updates to fix compatibility issues with new macOS versions.

If a specific app keeps crashing, users can try deleting its preferences file. This file is usually found in ~/Library/Preferences/.

For persistent issues, users can try reinstalling the problematic app. They should first uninstall the app completely, restart the Mac, then reinstall the latest version.

# **How Do I Repair Boot Problems Encountered With MacOS Sequoia 15.2?**

Users facing boot issues should try starting in Safe Mode. They can do this by holding the Shift key during startup.

If Safe Mode works, users can then restart normally. This process often resolves temporary issues preventing normal boot.

For more serious problems, users can use macOS Recovery. They should restart the Mac and hold Command + R until the Apple logo appears.

## **What Should I Do If I Experience Graphics Or Display Issues With MacOS Sequoia 15.2?**

Users can start by resetting the NVRAM. They should shut down the Mac, then turn it on and immediately press Option + Command + P + R for about 20 seconds.

Checking for updates to graphics drivers is crucial. Users should open System Settings > General > Software Update to check for any available updates.

If problems persist, users can try changing the display resolution. They can do this in System Settings > Displays and select a different option.

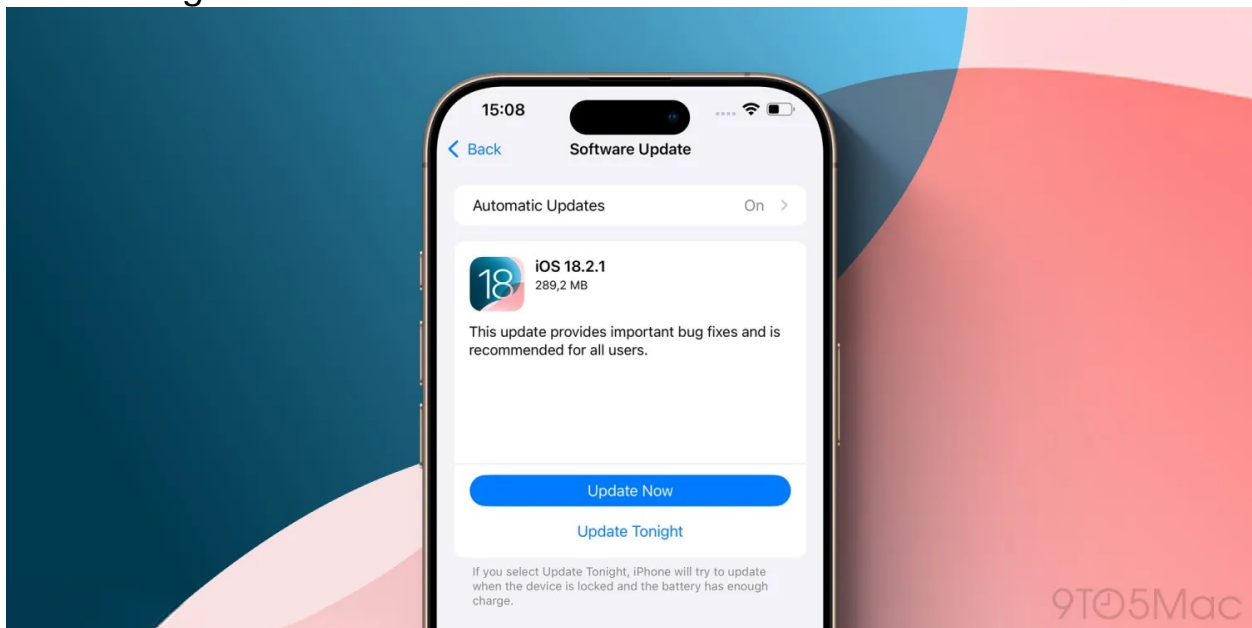
## **G. [Updated] Common macOS Sequoia Issues and Their Fixes**



# H. iOS 18.2.1 now available for iPhone users



Chance Miller  
13 hours ago



Apple has released iOS 18.2.1 for iPhone users today. The update comes just under a month [after iOS 18.2 was released](#) with new Apple Intelligence features, the redesigned Mail app, and more.

## iOS 18.2.1 details

iOS 18.2.1 can be downloaded by going to the Settings app, choosing General, then tapping Software Update.

The new release comes with the build number 2A3798. Apple has also released iPadOS 18.2.1 for iPad users. No updates are available for the Apple Watch, Mac, Apple TV, Vision Pro, or HomePod.

Apple's release notes are short and sweet: "This update provides important bug fixes and is recommended for all users."

There's no word on what exactly Apple has addressed with the iOS 18.2.1 release for iPhone users. The release notes, however, make it clear that we shouldn't expect any major new features.

Meanwhile, Apple continues to beta test iOS 18.3. The company released the first beta in December and we expect a new beta as soon as this week, with a release to everyone at the end of the month.

If you spot anything new in iOS 18.2.1, let us know in the comments below, on [X @9to5Mac](#), and [Threads @9to5Mac](#). More details to come.

## **I. Security Bite:** **macOS malware** **'Banshee' found using**

Apple's own code to  
evade detection

**IV.DEALS**

A.



- [DEALS 9TO5TOYS 9TO5TOYS LUNCH BREAK](#)

[Deals: Apple Watch Series 10 \\$103 off, M4 Pro MacBook Pro \\$250 off, iPhone 16 cases, chargers, more](#)



Justin Kahn

Jan 3 2025 - 8:47 am PT

[0 Comments](#)

Alongside ongoing deals on M4 iPad Pro models at up to \$300 off and a return all-time low on Twelve South's awesome Find My wall charger, we have a new set of offers to take us into the weekend today. Firstly, you'll find open-box Apple Watch Series 10 models with full Apple warranties at up to \$103 off today to join a straight up \$250 price drop on the M4 Pro MacBook Pro. Those offers join the first notable deals on the new Beats iPhone 16 case designs and more. Everything is waiting down below.



## Score a Jet Black Apple Watch Series 10 at \$103 off today, deals from \$296 (open-box, 1-yr. Apple warranty)

While we are still tracking solid Black Friday pricing across a number of Apple Watch Series 10 configurations, this morning we spotted a rare chance to save even more. Best Buy has “excellent” condition open-box listings on the [Jet Black models starting from \\$295.99 shipped](#) right now – that’s \$103 off the regular price tag and \$33 under the Amazon and Best Buy all-time lows we are tracking right now. You’ll find all of the latest open-box pricing links for each model [on this landing page](#) underneath of the “Add to Cart” button.

- 42mm Apple Watch Series 10 \$329 (Reg. \$399)
- 46mm Apple Watch Series 10 \$359 (Reg. \$429)
- 42mm Apple Watch Series 10 GPS+Cell \$429 (Reg. \$499)



- 46mm Apple Watch Series 10 GPS+Cell \$459 (Reg. \$529)
- 46mm Apple Watch Series 10 GPS+Cell \$679 (Reg. \$749)
  - Titanium model

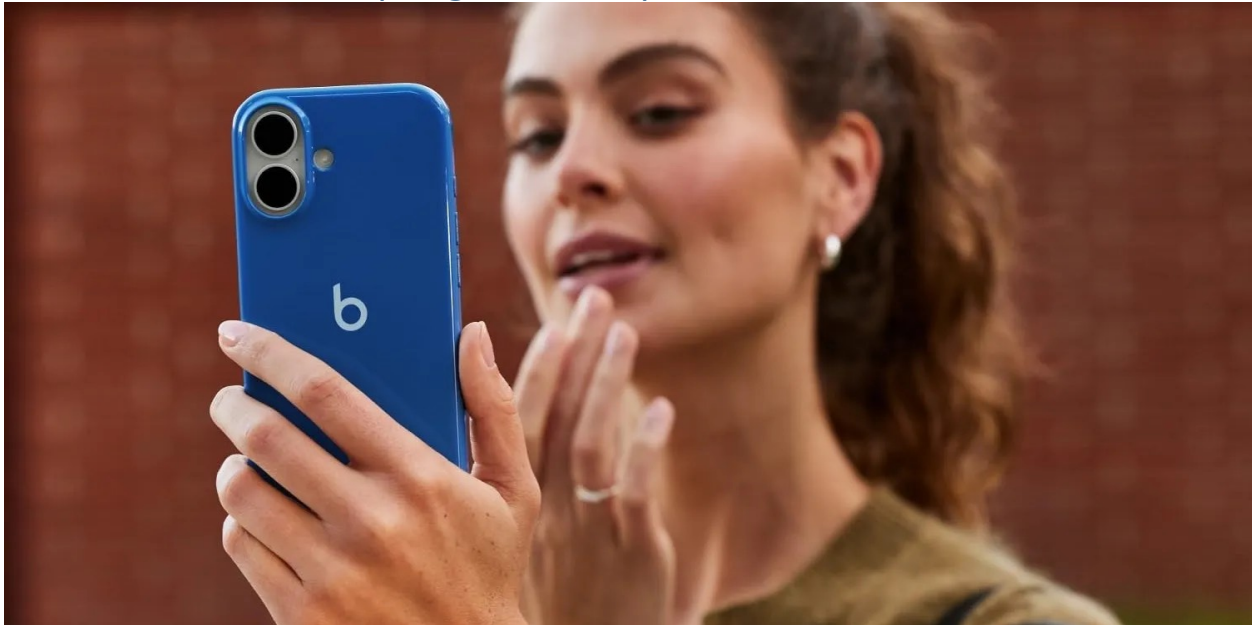


## Apple's 16-inch M4 Pro MacBook Pro with 24GB of RAM is \$250 off today, deals from \$1,459

There were some surprisingly great deals on the M4 MacBook lineup over the holidays last year, but if you're still looking for an upgrade there are some price drops at the ready right now. One of the more notable deals on tap right now is Amazon's offering the new 16-inch M4 Pro MacBook Pro with 24GB of RAM and the 512GB internal SSD down at \$2,249 shipped.

- 14-inch M4 MacBook Pro 16GB/512GB from \$1,459 (Reg. \$1,599)

- 14-inch M4 Pro MacBook Pro 24GB/1TB from \$2,179 (Reg. \$2,399)



## Apple's new redesigned **Beats iPhone 16 Camera Control** cases see first deals today from **\$41**

### **B. Today's best accessory and charging deals:**

- Add UGREEN's Nexode 65W 3-port charging station with Qi2 wireless charger to your desk at \$60
- Make your iPhone float just about anywhere with this gooseneck MagSafe mount at \$10
- Throw VOLTME's 10,000mAh 30W power bank in your bag while it's only \$14

- Say goodbye to distracting cables with this 254-inch 3-cord cover kit at \$19
- Just \$12 gets you a 2-pack of Anker USB-C wall chargers with included USB-C cables today
- Score Belkin's 20W USB-C travel-friendly foldable wall charger for just \$6.50 today
- This desk lamp is also a 7-in-1 USB-C power strip, now \$16 Prime shipped

**C.**

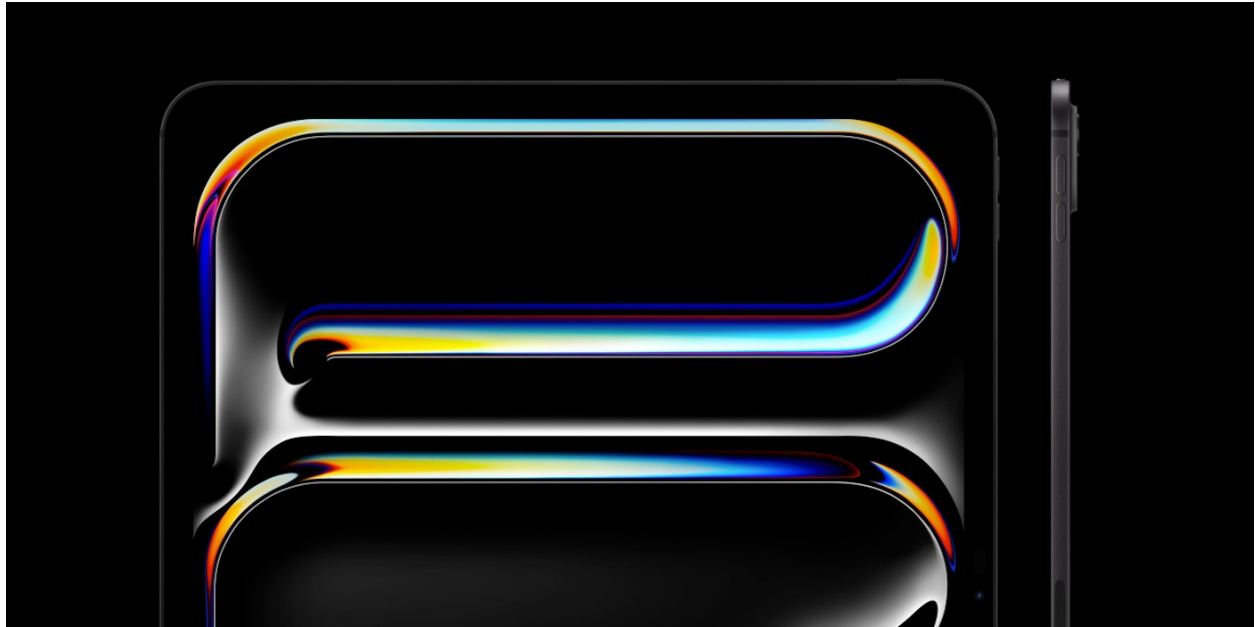


## All-time low pricing returns on Twelve South's PlugBug USB-C Wall Charger with Find My from \$56

Amazon is bringing back all-time low pricing on one of 2024's best tech accessories today, the [Twelve South PlugBug USB-C Wall Charger with Find My](#). You'll find the 2-port 50W model

down at \$55.99 and the 4-port 120W model on sale for \$97.99 shipped via Amazon right now – the 2-port is matching the all-time low and the 120W is within a couple bucks.

**D.**



**Apple's 1TB 13-inch M4 iPad Pro returns to holiday pricing at \$200 off, 2TB 11-inch now \$300 off**

Joining ongoing \$200 price drops on the lower storage-capacity models (down below), Amazon has also now brought back its deal on the **1TB 13-inch M4 iPad Pro at \$1,699 shipped**.

Also **matched over at Best Buy**, you're looking at a regularly \$1,899 configuration that's now \$200 off the going rate to match our pre-holiday mention and land on par with the best price we have tracked on Amazon for the 1TB model in Space Black.

**M4 iPad Pro 11-inch**

- Apple M4 iPad Pro 11-inch 256GB \$899 (Reg. \$999)
  - Or Wi-Fi + Cell from \$1,099 (Reg. \$1,199)
- Apple M4 iPad Pro 11-inch 512GB \$1,099 (Reg. \$1,199)
  - Or Wi-Fi + Cell from \$1,299 (Reg. \$1,399)
- Apple M4 iPad Pro 11-inch 1TB \$1,484 (Reg. \$1,599)
  - Or Wi-Fi + Cell from \$1,699 (Reg. \$1,799)
- Apple M4 iPad Pro 11-inch 2TB \$1,699 (Reg. \$1,999)
  - Or Wi-Fi + Cell from \$1,999 (Reg. \$2,199)

## M4 iPad Pro 13-inch

- Apple M4 iPad Pro 13-inch 256GB \$1,099 (Reg. \$1,299)
  - Or Wi-Fi + Cell from \$1,299 (Reg. \$1,499)
- Apple M4 iPad Pro 13-inch 512GB \$1,299 (Reg. \$1,499)
  - Or Wi-Fi + Cell from \$1,549 (Reg. \$1,699)
- Apple M4 iPad Pro 13-inch 1TB \$1,699 (Reg. \$1,899)
  - Or Wi-Fi + Cell from \$2,024 (Reg. \$2,099)
- Apple M4 iPad Pro 13-inch 2TB \$2,098 (Reg. \$2,299)
  - Or Wi-Fi + Cell from \$2,299 (Reg. \$2,499)



## Add a refurb Apple Watch Ultra down at \$419 to your 2025 health/fitness kit (Orig. \$799)

If you're looking to add the Apple Watch Ultra to your 2025 fitness regimen without spending anywhere near the Black Friday deal prices on a series 2, never mind the full \$799, Best Buy Geek Squad refurbished units are a solid option. Seeing an Apple Watch Ultra 2 even close to \$700 in new condition these days (Black Friday and Prime Day fall included) is a notable deal, but [landing an original one from \\$419.99 shipped via Woot's Amazon storefront](#) is a fantastic way to save a ton.

This is \$380 under the regular new price you'll pay at Apple for a series 2 and \$199 under the original price on the OG model – they [start at \\$735 on Amazon](#) right now. You'll find a couple different configurations available at the \$499.99 price point right now via Best Buy: [Natural Titanium with the Midnight Ocean Band](#) and [Natural Titanium with the Green Alpine Loop](#), but the one config at Amazon is much lower than that.



Score a new iPhone 16 over the holidays? Apple's next-gen 25W MagSafe Charger now down at \$28 (Nearly 30% off)



Still live: Metal Arc iPhone bumper cases with our exclusive deal code



Introducing 9to5Toys Steals – a new deal format to save you even more money on everyday essentials

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[Moza Vision GS review: The premium sim racing wheel with a rotating touch screen \[Video\]](#)

[Review: Next Level Racing's \\$300 Formula Lite Pro living room-friendly racing cockpit \[Video\]](#)

[Review: Beyerdynamic MMX 300 Pro goes back to the basics and I love it \[Video\]](#)

[NZXT H7 Flow review: New PSU placement gives cool GPU temps \[Video\]](#)



[Are Wireless earbuds any good for gaming? ASUS Cetra Speednova review \[Video\]](#)  
[The \\$400 Moza R3 for Xbox is finally available! But should you buy it? \[Video\]](#)  
[Is the Turtle Beach Burst II Air a 47g bargain gaming mouse at just \\$99?](#)

# V. IOS KORNER

**A. [These US carriers currently support RCS messaging on iPhone](#)**



Michael Burkhardt



**With iOS 18, Apple introduced support for RCS messaging, a new protocol that enhances the texting experience between iPhone and Android users.** Unlike SMS, you can see read/delivered receipts, send larger files, and have typing indicators, features that were previously missing. At first, only the big three carriers supported RCS messaging. Since then, a lot more have joined in on the fun.

This list is based on information [directly from Apple](#), and will be updated as new carriers are added.

Supported carriers:

- AT&T
- Boost Mobile (requires [iOS 18.2](#))
- C Spire
- Consumer Cellular
- Cricket
- FirstNet

- H2O Wireless
- Metro by T-Mobile
- PureTalk
- Red Pocket
- Spectrum Mobile
- T-Mobile
- TracFone / Straight Talk
- US Cellular
- Verizon
- Visible
- Xfinity Mobile

This is obviously far more than what we had at launch, which was primarily just AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile. There's a lot more support from MVNOs (mobile virtual network operators, ie small carriers) – but it still isn't very complete.

Some notable exceptions from the list are Mint Mobile and Ultra Mobile, which have around 3 million subscribers in the US.

Mint Mobile and Ultra Mobile are particularly interesting because they were both [acquired by T-Mobile](#) earlier this year, but seemingly T-Mobile hasn't yet gotten around to supporting the feature on its new sub-brands.

Have you gotten to use RCS messaging with iOS 18 yet? What do you think about it? Let us know in the comments below.

## B. [iPhone 17 Air Is Coming, Here's Why It Matters!](#)

## C. [Apple Intelligence now requires almost double the iPhone storage it needed before](#)



Apple Intelligence arrived on [compatible iPhones, iPads, and Macs](#) via a staggered rollout. There were new features launched in both iOS 18.1 and iOS 18.2. Now, we know exactly how much those additional features are costing in terms of iPhone storage space.

## **Apple Intelligence now requires 7GB of free storage per device**

When the [first wave](#) of Apple Intelligence features arrived in iOS 18.1, Apple published a [variety of requirements](#) for use.

Among those requirements was [4GB of available iPhone storage](#) space.

This made sense, because one of the [privacy features](#) of Apple Intelligence is that most of its features run on-device by default. And in order to do that, your device needs to download the AI models—which eats into your storage space.

We always knew that the 4GB requirement would increase over time, as more AI features debuted.

But now we know that it's already almost doubled [following iOS 18.2's release](#).

[Per Apple's website](#), Apple Intelligence now requires 7GB of free storage.

The same 7GB number applies whether you're using an iPhone, iPad, or Mac.

But it also, since each product does its own on-device processing, adds up for multi-device use.

If you want to use AI features across all three devices (which I'd assume most of us do), that's a grand total of 21GB of free space being used by Apple Intelligence.

And unfortunately, if you're tight on storage, there's no way to reduce the requirement by disabling certain features.

## **Why the requirement increased, and what to expect in the future**

iOS 18.2 introduced big new AI features, including:

- [Genmoji](#)
- [ChatGPT in Siri](#)
- [Image Playground](#)
- [Visual intelligence](#)

- [Compose with ChatGPT](#)
- [and more](#)

Scanning this list, I understand why the storage requirement had to increase.

But as more Apple Intelligence features continue arriving, on-device storage is going to become more in-demand than ever before.

Looking ahead, Apple so far doesn't appear to be adding new AI features to iOS 18.3—but new betas could change that.

In April's iOS 18.4 release though, some [big Siri changes](#) are coming. Siri upgrades will undoubtedly bump the 7GB requirement even higher.

We could be looking at 10GB requirements per device in just the next few months, before any of iOS 19's new features debut.

Big takeaway? It may be time to start upgrading the standard storage tier you opt for with your next iPhone, iPad, or Mac purchase.

Are you concerned about Apple Intelligence storage requirements? Let us know in the comments.

## **Best iPhone accessories**

- [Anker 100W charging brick for fast charging](#)
- [6.6ft USB-C cable for longer reach](#)
- [AirPods Pro 2 \(currently only \\$189, down from \\$249\)](#)
- [MagSafe Car Mount for iPhone](#)
- [HomeKit smart plug 4-pack](#)

## D. Rumor Replay: iPhone 17 display features breakdown, plus iPhone 16E



Ryan Christoffel

| Jan 2 2025 - 12:25 pm PT



This is [Rumor Replay](#), a weekly column at 9to5Mac offering a quick rundown of the most recent Apple product rumors, with analysis and commentary. Today: the iPhone 17's display features and a possible new iPhone 16E branding for the iPhone SE. Here are this week's Apple rumors.

# iPhone 17 lineup's display features



This week, Weibo leaker Digital Chat Station [posted](#) the following about the iPhone 17 line:

Judging from the supply chain materials, the standard version of the iPhone 17 series is likely to have a high refresh rate.

Details here are pretty minimal, but the leak corroborates a [Ross Young report](#) that ProMotion and always-on would come to the base iPhone 17 and 17 Air.

## My takeaways

This report is more interesting than it first appears, mainly for what it doesn't say.

Apple could very well add 'high refresh rate' to the base iPhone 17 and 17 Air, but [not give them](#) the full 120Hz ProMotion feature.



Supply chain reporting can't tell us much about the software features that hardware will enable.

Even if every iPhone 17 model includes many of the same display components, Apple could choose to reserve full ProMotion for the 17 Pro and Pro Max, and give a lesser 90Hz feature to the cheaper 17 and 17 Air.

What will they do? That's anyone's guess. But we could very well see the iPhone 17 line continue being split into two different classes, even if the more affordable models do get some new display features.

## iPhone 16E as the new iPhone SE?



Apple's next iPhone will arrive this spring as a big revision to the iPhone SE. Leaker Majin Bu [has claimed](#) that Apple is changing the device's name, though.

Rather than iPhone SE, he says the new name will be iPhone 16E.

## My takeaways

Bu's mixed track record with leaks gives me pause here. But as [my recent overview](#) of the upcoming 2025 iPhones shows, the new iPhone SE will have an awful lot in common with the iPhone 16.

Shared features include:

- A18 chip
- 8GB of RAM
- Apple Intelligence support
- 48MP main camera
- USB-C port

The design will be slightly different, with the SE sporting a notch rather than Dynamic Island. But otherwise, there are lots of similarities here.

I don't expect Apple to actually make this change, since the SE name is established and even used for other products like the Apple Watch.

But if there was ever a year to change the iPhone SE's name, this spring's big overhaul would be the time.

What do you expect from iPhone 17 display tech? Do you think the iPhone SE will get a new iPhone 16E name? Let us know in the comments.

## Best iPhone accessories

- [Anker 100W charging brick for fast charging](#)
- [6.6ft USB-C cable for longer reach](#)

- [AirPods Pro 2 \(currently only \\$189, down from \\$249\)](#)
- [MagSafe Car Mount for iPhone](#)
- [HomeKit smart plug 4-pack](#)

## **E. iPhone 17 Air: Design, cameras, pricing, and more**



Chance Miller

Jan 2 2025 - 12:24 pm PT



According to multiple sources, Apple is planning an [all-new iPhone 17 model](#) for this year with a dramatic design overhaul. Here's everything we know so far about the so-called iPhone 17 Air (which could also be called the iPhone 17 Slim or something completely different).

### Table Of Contents

- iPhone 17 Air design
- Display
- Cameras

- Performance
- Modem
- Pricing
- iPhone 17 Air release date

## iPhone 17 Air design

The big selling point of the iPhone 17 Air will be its design. According to The Information, Apple is focusing on form over function with this new iPhone model. This means we can expect a dramatically different design compared to current iPhone models, but at the cost of higher-end specs and features.

The iPhone 17 Air will reportedly be “significantly thinner” than the current iPhone designs. [The Information claims](#) the device will be made from aluminum rather than titanium like the current iPhone Pro models. Ming-Chi Kuo, however, [has said](#) the iPhone 17 Air will feature a blend of titanium and aluminum.

## Display



According to Ming-Chi Kuo and analyst Jeff Pu, the iPhone 17 Slim will feature a 6.6-inch display. The display is expected to feature a resolution of approximately 2,740 x 1,260 pixels. Reliable analyst Ross Young [has indicated](#) the display will more specifically measure 6.55 inches. The screen is expected to feature ProMotion capabilities with a refresh rate up to 120Hz.

Furthermore, The Information has reported that the iPhone 17 Air will have a “smaller hole and pill-shaped cutout for its front-facing camera and sensors.” This could be due to new “metalens” technology Apple is developing for the iPhone’s proximity sensor. [Jeff Pu has reported](#) that the “metalens” technology will help Apple dramatically reduce the size of the Face ID sensor.

Finally, a rumor posted to Weibo in March claimed that Apple is developing a new coating technology for future iPhone displays that could debut with the iPhone 17 lineup. This would allegedly make future iPhone displays

“more scratch-resistant” and add a new anti-reflection layer.

## Cameras



According to multiple sources, one big design change with the iPhone 17 Slim will be that it features a single camera on the back. Currently, the iPhone 16 features two cameras while the iPhone 16 Pro features three cameras. This is one of the concessions Apple will apparently make to make the iPhone 17 Air as sleek and thin as possible. The iPhone 17 Air’s camera will reportedly be the same 48MP sensor that is currently on the iPhone 16 models today. The front-camera, however, will reportedly be upgraded from 12MP to 24MP across the entire iPhone 17 lineup.

Interestingly, [The Information](#) has reported that the iPhone 17 Air’s rear camera could be relocated from the upper-left corner of the back of the phone to the top center. This

would be a dramatic change to the camera layout that the iPhone has used for its entire history.

## Performance

The iPhone 17 Air will [reportedly](#) feature an A19 chip rather than an A19 Pro. It's also expected to have 8GB of RAM. This separates it from the iPhone 17 Pro models, which will reportedly feature the A19 Pro chip paired with 12GB of RAM.

We haven't heard much about what to expect from the performance of the A19 chip. Apple, however, isn't [expected to make the switch](#) to TSMC's next-generation 2nm fabrication process until 2026. This suggests the A19 and A19 Pro will be manufactured using a 3nm process. The process, however, is expected to be an upgraded N3P fabrication process for improved performance and efficiency.



# Modem

The iPhone 17 Air could be one of the first iPhones to use Apple's own 5G modem. Currently, iPhones sold today use modems supplied by Qualcomm. Apple has been developing its [own modem technology for years](#) as part of its efforts to reduce its reliance on Qualcomm.

The iPhone SE 4 coming in early 2025 is [expected to be](#) the first iPhone to use Apple's modem. Ming-Chi Kuo has [reported that](#) the iPhone 17 Air will also adopt Apple's custom modem. Kuo has also reported that the modem will not only handle 5G, but also Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and GPS.

Bloomberg reports that Apple's first modem will also find its way to the iPhone 17 Air this year. The modem will be worse than Qualcomm's modems in key ways. Most notably, it will lack support for mmWave 5G, which is the ultra-fast version of 5G adopted largely by Verizon in major cities. Speeds will top out at around 4 gigabits per second, which is slow than Qualcomm's non-mmWave modems.

# Pricing

[According to The Information](#), the iPhone 17 Air "could be priced higher than the iPhone Pro Max" models. For context, the iPhone 16 Pro Max starts at \$1,200. This means the iPhone 17 Air could start at \$1,300 or higher. With that said, however, analyst Jeff Pu has said that he expects the iPhone 17 Slim to have an all-new design and form factor and to [serve as a "replacement" for the Plus](#)



[model](#). It's unclear if he is referring to a "replacement" in terms of pricing, screen size, or some other factor.

Furthermore, The Wall Street Journal has also [reported](#) that the iPhone 17 Air will be "cheaper than Pro models," not more expensive. This again suggests that the iPhone 17 Air will take the spot of the iPhone 16 Plus in the lineup, which starts at \$899.

Generally, pricing and marketing names are the final thing to leak about a new iPhone – if they leak at all. This is because most iPhone hardware rumors emerge from Apple's supply chain, while marketing and pricing details are generally only known inside small teams at Apple itself.

## **iPhone 17 Air release date**

As of right now, the iPhone 17 lineup is expected to be announced and released in September of 2025. As always, this timeline can shift based on production and supply chain issues.

It's also important to remember that because we're still months away from the announcement of the iPhone 17 lineup, it's possible that Apple's plans change.

What do you think of the iPhone 17 Air rumors so far? Would you be willing to compromise specs and performance to get an ultra-thin iPhone? Let us know down in the comments.

My favorite iPhone 16 accessories:

- [Anker Power Bank with built-in USB-C Cable](#)

- [Charge your iPhone, Apple Watch, and AirPods at the same time](#)
- [Bring wireless CarPlay to any car](#)
- [Anker MagSafe Power Bank](#)

## F. [When will Apple release iOS](#)

### [18.3?](#)



Chance Miller

Dec 31 2024 - 12:51 pm



Apple [released](#) the first beta of iOS 18.3 two weeks ago. However, if you aren't on the beta testing train, you shouldn't have to wait much longer for Apple to release the update to everyone.

Here's when to expect Apple to release iOS 18.3...

## iOS 18.3 release date

Apple's beta testing schedule for iOS 18.3 will almost certainly mirror the beta testing process of iOS 17.3 last year. Here are the dates of iOS 17.3's beta testing cycle:

- Beta 1: December 13, 2023
- Beta 2: January 3, 2024
- Beta 3: January 9, 2024
- Release Candidate (RC): January 17, 2024
- Public release: January 22, 2024

This suggests that Apple will release iOS 18.3 beta 2 as soon as later this week or early next week, followed by just one more beta and the RC.

## **What's new in iOS 18.3?**

While iOS 18.1 and iOS 18.2 were major updates for iPhone users, iOS 18.3 is a much smaller release. The update focuses on bug fixes and performance improvements and does not include any new Apple Intelligence features.

- Robot vacuum support in the Home app
- Tweaked icon for the Image Playground app
- Bug fixes for the Writing Tools API and Genmoji
- You can now log in to the Feedback app using Face ID or Touch ID
- The icon for the Camera Control menu in the Accessibility page of Settings now supports dark mode

Apple is expected to pick up the pace again with iOS 18.4, including major new Apple Intelligence features. iOS

18.4 is expected to enter beta testing later this month and be released to everyone in March or April.

**G. [iOS Decoded – iOS 18.3 beta 2 changes and features \[Video\]](#)**



# VI.TIPS & TRICKs

A. PSA: Look out for hyper-personalized phishing attacks, powered by AI



Ben Lovejoy

Jan 2 2025 - 5:15 am PT

## [2 Comments](#)



Phishing attacks are about to get a whole lot more convincing. A new report warns that scammers are now using [AI](#) to scrape information about you from your online profiles in order to send hyper-personalized emails which target your login credentials.

By finding out everything from your employer to your interests, scammers can send emails which have a far greater chance of appearing to be genuine ...

Phishing has been around forever. A scammer sends out mass emails claiming to be from banks, email providers, crypto currency providers, and popular companies like Amazon and [Apple](#).

The fake content is usually intended to create a sense of urgency. For example, your bank warning you about a fraudulent transaction, Amazon sending you an invoice for an expensive product you haven't ordered, or Apple telling you your iCloud account is about to be cancelled.

The hope is that victims will be panicked into clicking the link and using their login credentials before they've had time to think about whether or not it is real.

Most of these attacks are very generic, but a [Financial Times](#) report warns that this is now changing. Scammers are starting to use AI to scrape public profiles in order to generate emails which appear to know a lot about you, and are therefore likely to fool more people into thinking them genuine.

Leading companies such as British insurer Beazley and ecommerce group eBay have warned of the rise of fraudulent emails containing personal details probably obtained through AI analysis of online profiles.

“This is getting worse and it's getting very personal, and this is why we suspect AI is behind a lot of it,” said Beazley's chief information security officer Kirsty Kelly.

“We're starting to see very targeted attacks that have scraped an immense amount of information about a person.”

Highly personalized phishing emails are also far more likely to make it through filters created by both corporations and email providers like Apple and Google. Right now, the main targets appear to be corporate employees, with the AI bots even copying the writing style of particular companies from their websites and other public content to add weight to their scams. But it's likely the same techniques will be used against consumers too, doing things like scraping your social media profiles.

The main safeguard against phishing attacks is to never click on links sent in emails. Always use your own bookmarks, or type in a known URL.

## **B. Tips and tricks to get the most out of your CarPlay experience**

**CarPlay** is an [Apple](#) standard that enables a car radio or [automotive head unit](#) to be a display and controller for an [iOS](#) device. It is available on [iPhone 5](#) and later models running [iOS 7.1](#) or later.

More than 800 car models support CarPlay, according to Apple.<sup>[1]</sup> Vehicle owners can add support by installing certain [aftermarket vehicle audio](#) products.<sup>[2]</sup>

Most CarPlay systems connect to iOS through [USB](#),<sup>[2]</sup> some are wireless,<sup>[3]</sup> and wireless support can be added through aftermarket dongles.

Chance Miller

Dec 31 2024 - 9:39 am PT





For the vast majority of people, CarPlay is a must-have. Apple's in-car experience provides a vastly superior infotainment experience than most options from carmakers. There's quick access to your favorite apps, integration with Siri, seamless connectivity, and more. Here are some of my favorite tips and tricks for making sure you're getting the most out of your CarPlay experience...

## [How To Use CarPlay! \(Complete Beginners Guide\)](#)

[iOS 18.1 Apple CarPlay is HERE! |  
10 NEW FEATURES!](#)

# Customize your CarPlay apps and Home Screen



A lot of your favorite apps are probably available on CarPlay, but that doesn't mean you want all of them on your CarPlay Home Screen. Thankfully, it's easy to adjust those options.

1. Open the Settings app on your iPhone
2. Tap "General"
3. Tap "CarPlay"
4. Tap your car's name and choose "Customize"

Here, you'll see a full list of all the CarPlay apps on your phone. You can simply tap on the red minus sign to hide apps from appearing on CarPlay.

You can also rearrange your CarPlay Home Screen while on this page of the Settings app. Simply drag the apps into your desired order using the three lines on the right side of the app icons.

- [These are the best CarPlay apps for iPhone](#)
- [These are the best CarPlay apps for EV owners](#)

## CarPlay wallpapers



While you can't use any photo as your CarPlay wallpaper, Apple does offer a selection of pre-installed options.

1. Open the Settings app on CarPlay itself
2. Select "Wallpaper"
3. Choose your desired wallpaper and tap "Set"

Apple [adds new wallpaper options](#) to CarPlay from time to time, but there's still only a limited number of choices available.

# Wireless or wired?

CarPlay works both wired and wirelessly, depending on your car's make and model. Wired CarPlay generally provides a faster and more reliable experience. While using wireless CarPlay, you might experience some latency when doing things like changing songs and accessing Siri.

Here's my strategy:

- I use wireless CarPlay for quick trips around town when I'm getting in and out of the car multiple times of the car as I run errands.
- I use wired CarPlay for longer road trips where I'm in the car for extended periods of time.

Again, your mileage may vary depending on your car. There are, however, ways to bring wireless CarPlay to any car. My personal recommendation is [the Carlinkit 5.0 adapter](#), which converts your car's wired CarPlay implementation to a wireless experience [for under \\$60](#).

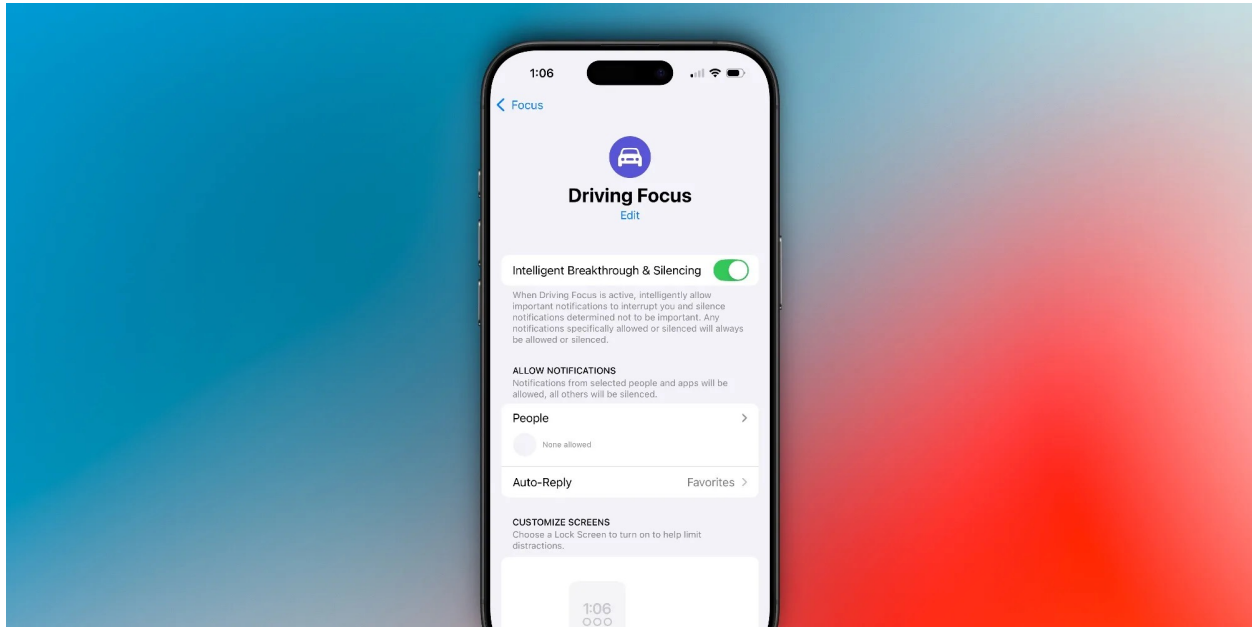
## Dark mode

CarPlay is available in light mode and dark mode interfaces. In the Settings app via CarPlay, you can choose between three options:

1. Light
2. Dark
3. Automatic

I use the automatic setting, which switches between light and dark modes based on time of day and other exterior lighting factors.

# Driving Focus mode



One of the most important benefits of CarPlay is that it enhances in-car safety by discouraging you from picking up your phone. First, there's the Driving Focus mode. This blocks incoming notifications, messages, and calls so your focus remains on the road.

You can customize the Driving Focus mode via the Settings app on your iPhone. You can choose to allow notifications from specific contacts and enable an automatic reply feature that tells people who text you that you're driving. You can also choose to enable Driving Focus when connected to CarPlay automatically.

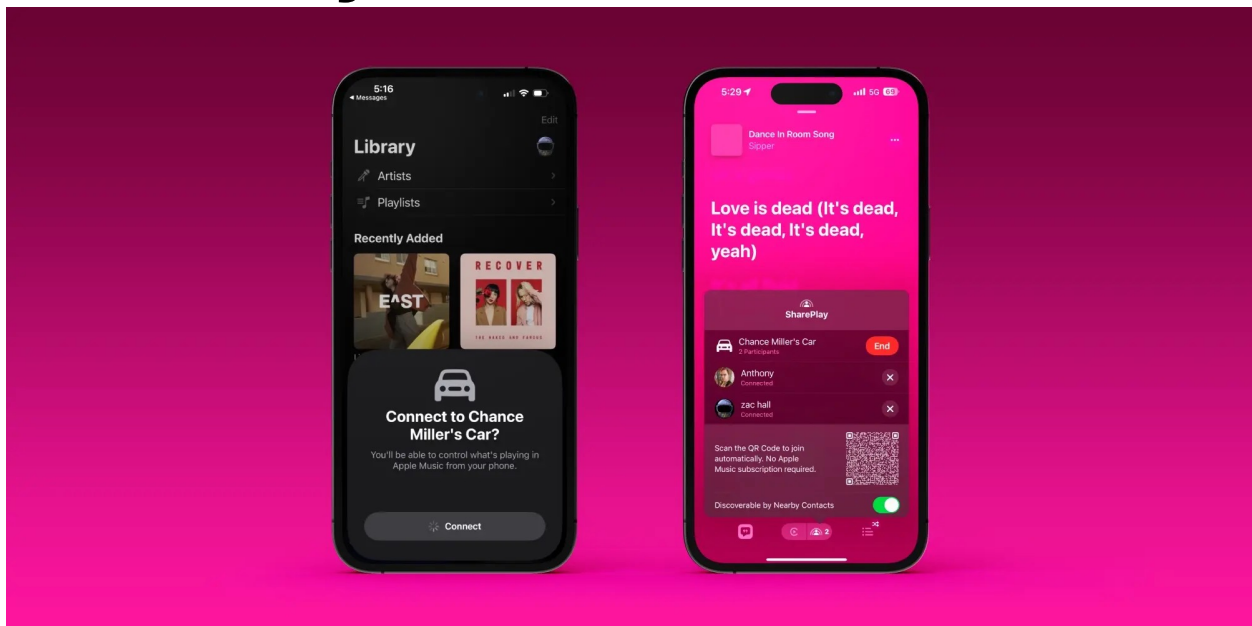
## Announce Messages

Announce Messages is a popular iPhone feature that works with Siri to read your messages aloud. Then, you can choose to reply to that message using your voice.

The feature works with Apple's Messages app as well as third-party apps like WhatsApp.

1. Go to Settings > Siri & Search > Announce Notifications on your iPhone
2. Turn on Announce Notifications and select supported apps
3. In CarPlay, make sure Announce Messages with Siri is enabled in the CarPlay Settings app

## SharePlay



If you're like me, you prefer to have control of the music while you're driving. However, if you want other people in your car to be able to contribute songs to the queue, CarPlay has you covered.

You'll see a SharePlay icon in the upper-right corner on the Apple Music Now Playing screen. By tapping on this icon, you'll be prompted to generate a QR code that others can scan. Once they scan this QR code, a pop-up

will appear, informing you that someone is interested in joining your SharePlay session.

Once that person joins, the other people can contribute songs to the queue, see what's currently playing, and rearrange the queue – even if they don't have Apple Music.

## Wrap up

Are you a CarPlay user? If so, what are some of your favorite tips and tricks? Let us know down in the comments.

The elephant in the room, of course, is Apple's [highly-anticipated next-generation CarPlay](#) platform.

Unfortunately, there are very few details available on when that will actually materialize.

If you're an electric vehicle owner, charge up your car at home with rooftop solar panels. To make sure you find a trusted, reliable solar installer near you that offers competitive pricing on solar, [check out EnergySage](#), a free service that makes it easy for you to go solar. They have hundreds of pre-vetted solar installers competing for your business, ensuring you get high quality solutions and save 20-30% compared to going it alone. Plus, it's free to use and you won't get sales calls until you select an installer and share your phone number with them.

**C. [How to use AirPlay to stream video or mirror the screen of your iPhone or iPad to another screen/TV](#)**

**D. [10 Reasons You Should Be Using AirDrop To Transfer Files](#)**

**E. [How To Use Airdrop On Mac - Full Guide](#)**

**F. [10 Ways To Transfer Files Or Photos Between Mac, iPhone and iPad](#)**

**G. [How to Type ° Degree Symbol in macOS](#)**



Rajesh Mishra

Published: April 29, 2022

Unlike most common symbols that you can easily find on your Mac's keyboard, the ° symbol doesn't have a dedicated key for it. That means, whenever you want to type the degree symbol on your Mac, you probably



search for it on Google and copy-paste it into the document you're working on. However, there's a much easier way to type the degree (°) symbol in macOS, and that's exactly what we're going to learn about in this article.

# How to Insert a Degree Symbol on Mac

There are multiple ways to type the degree ° symbol in Mac. We will discuss all these methods in this article, and you can use any one of these for typing the degree symbol easily. As always, you can use the table of contents below to check out whichever method suits your needs best.

## Table of Contents

### 1. Use the Degree (°) Keyboard Shortcut on Mac

By far, the easiest way to type the degree symbol in macOS is by using the dedicated [keyboard shortcuts](#). Here's what these shortcuts are.

- **Option+Shift+8:** This is the actual keyboard shortcut for typing the degree symbol on Mac (°)
- **Option+K:** This is the keyboard shortcut to type the diacritic mark (º), which looks similar to the degree symbol, but is smaller, and the usage is different. Though you can use it to imply degrees in your documents, we would recommend sticking with the option + shift + K shortcut.
- **Option + 0 (zero):** This is another mark, which, while similar in appearance to the degree symbol, is actually very different in usage. This is the masculine ordinal indicator (º) You can read more about it over [here](#).

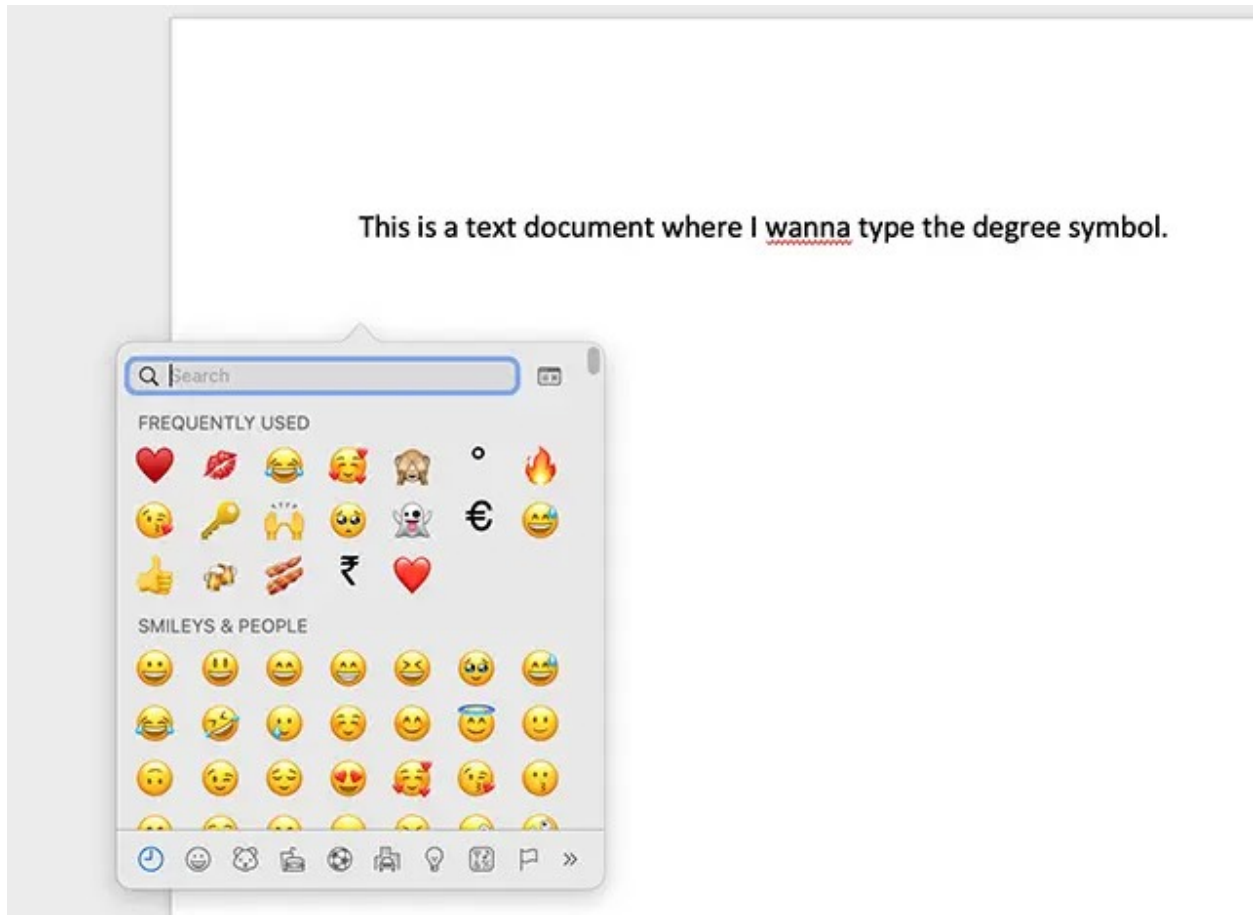
These shortcuts work across macOS, regardless of the app you're typing in. So whether you're writing an online article (as I am), or editing a document in Word, Libre Office, or any other text editor for Mac, you can use these shortcuts to type degree (°), diacritic (º) or the masculine ordinal indicator (º).

## 2. Type Degree Symbol on Mac Using Emoji Keyboard

Alternatively, you can also use the Emoji and Symbols keyboard to insert degree temperature symbol on your macOS device. Here's how to use it.

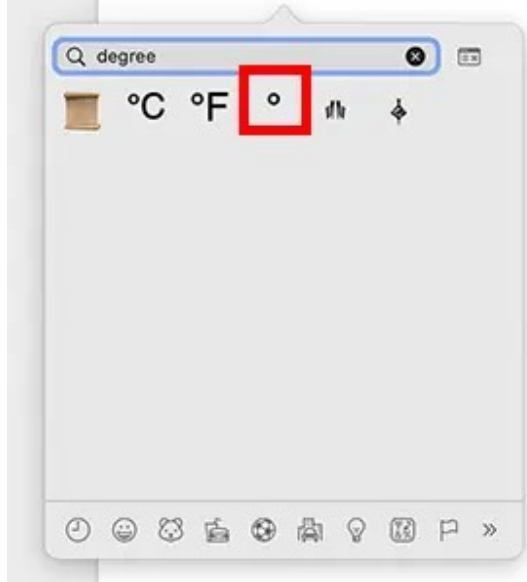
- Press ‘control + command + space’ when editing text in any software on your Mac. This will open up the emoji keyboard.

Note: You can also open up the emoji keyboard by heading to “Edit -> Emoji & Symbols” in the menu bar.



- Here, search for ‘degree’ in the search box, and choose the degree icon. You can also choose °F and °C directly from here if needed.

This is a text document where I wanna type the degree symbol.

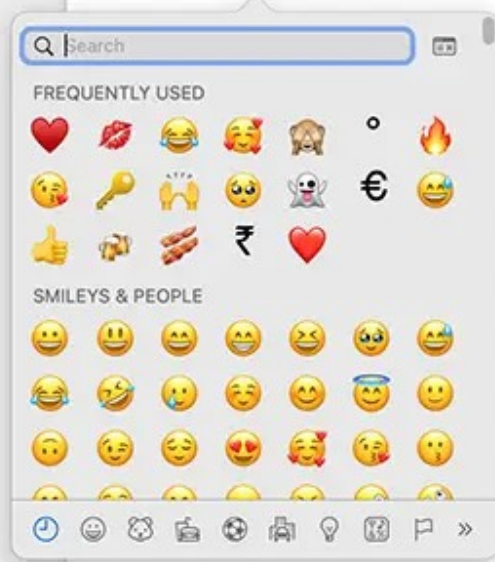


### 3. Type Degree Symbol on New MacBooks with Globe Key

New MacBooks, as well as new Apple keyboards have a Globe key along with the Fn (function) key. You can use this to quickly open up the Emoji & Symbols keyboard and type the degree symbol.

- **When typing, just press the globe key on your keyboard and the emoji keyboard will pop-up. Now, you can search for 'degree' and type the degree symbol (°) easily.**

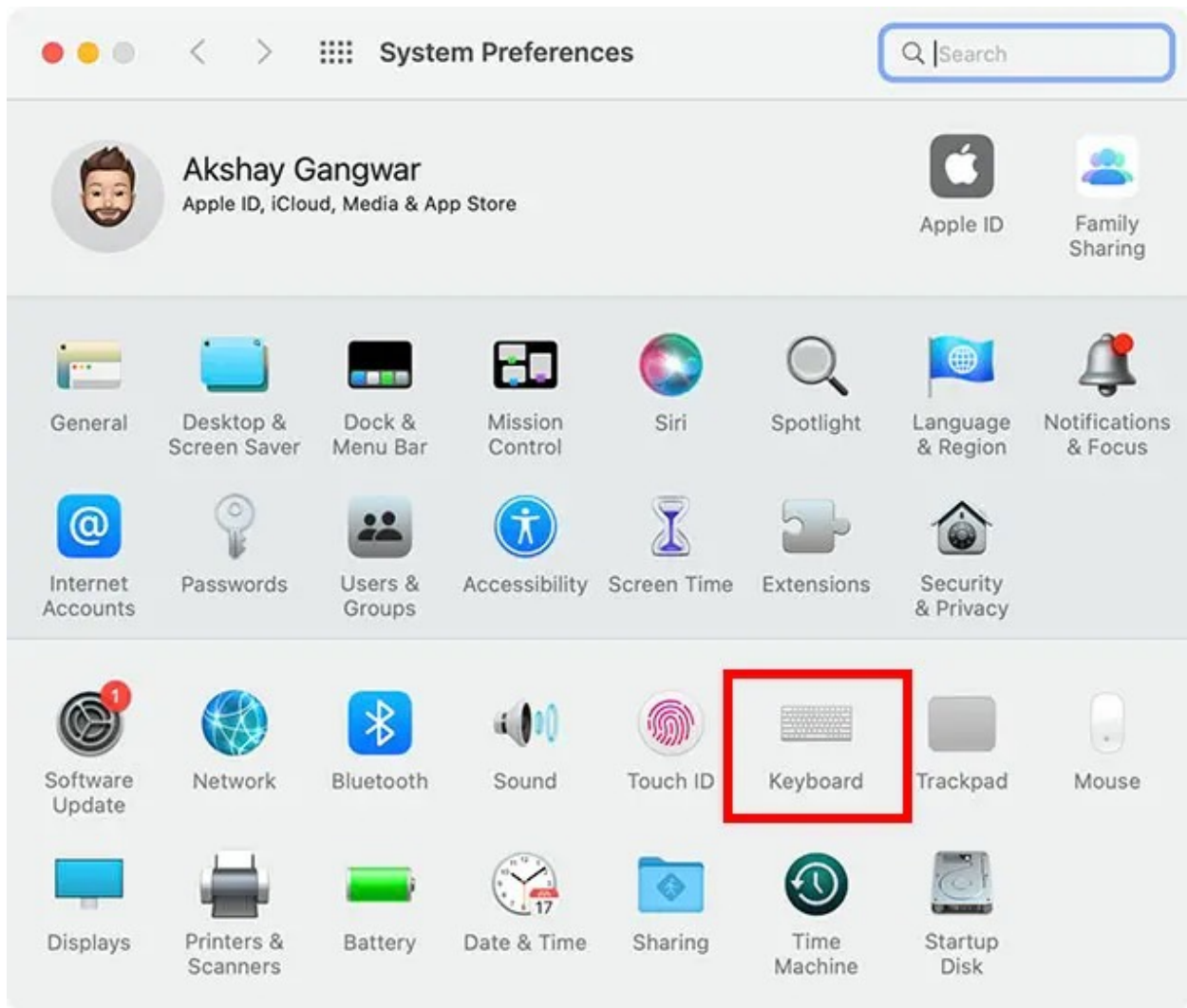
This is a text document where I wanna type the degree symbol.



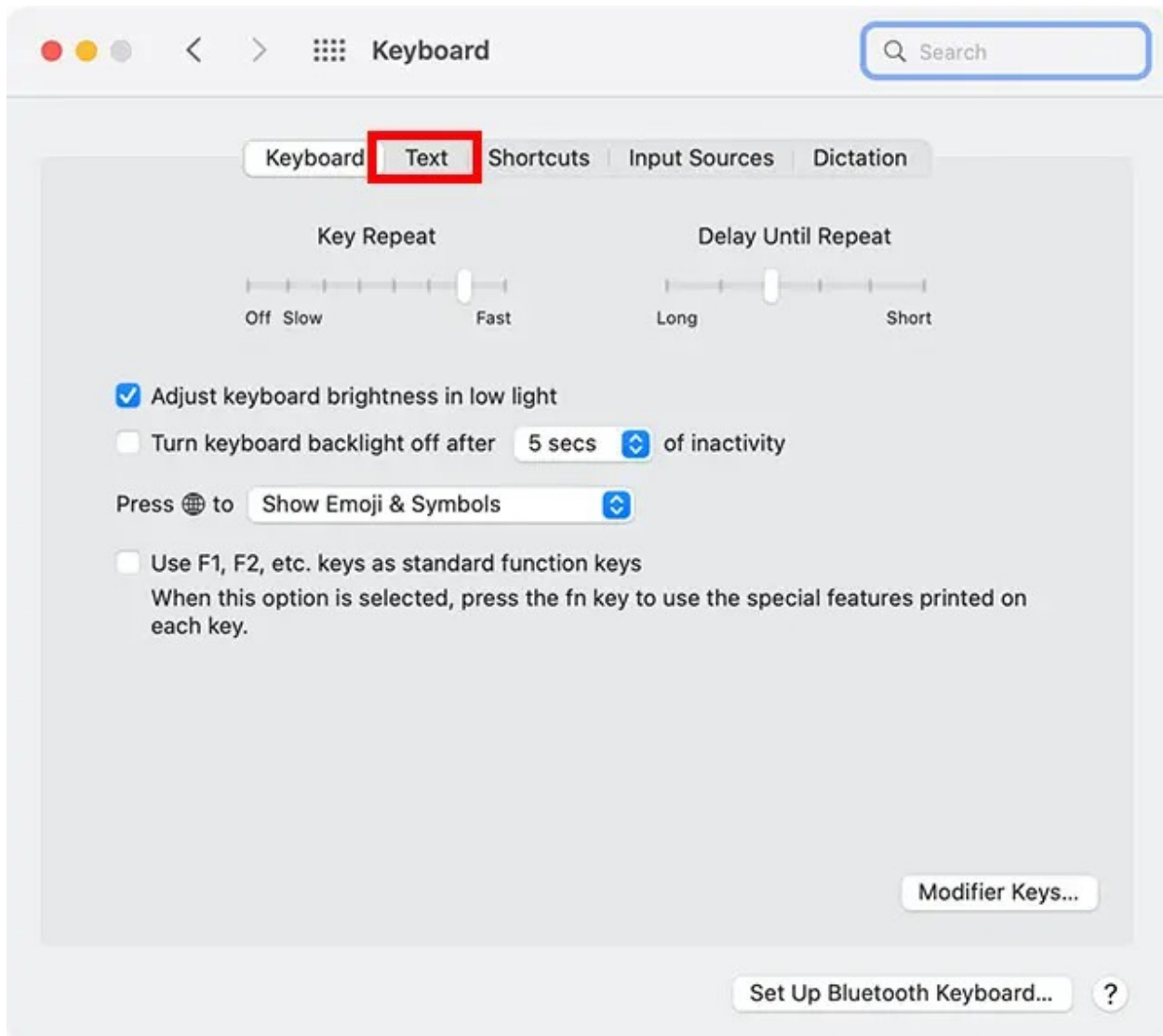
## 4. Use Text Replacement to Type Degree Symbol on macOS

Even though the keyboard shortcut shift + option + 8 is quite an easy way to type the degree symbol on a Mac, if you're looking for an even more seamless method to do the same, you can use text replacement to achieve this. Here's how to use text replacement to type degree symbol on Mac.

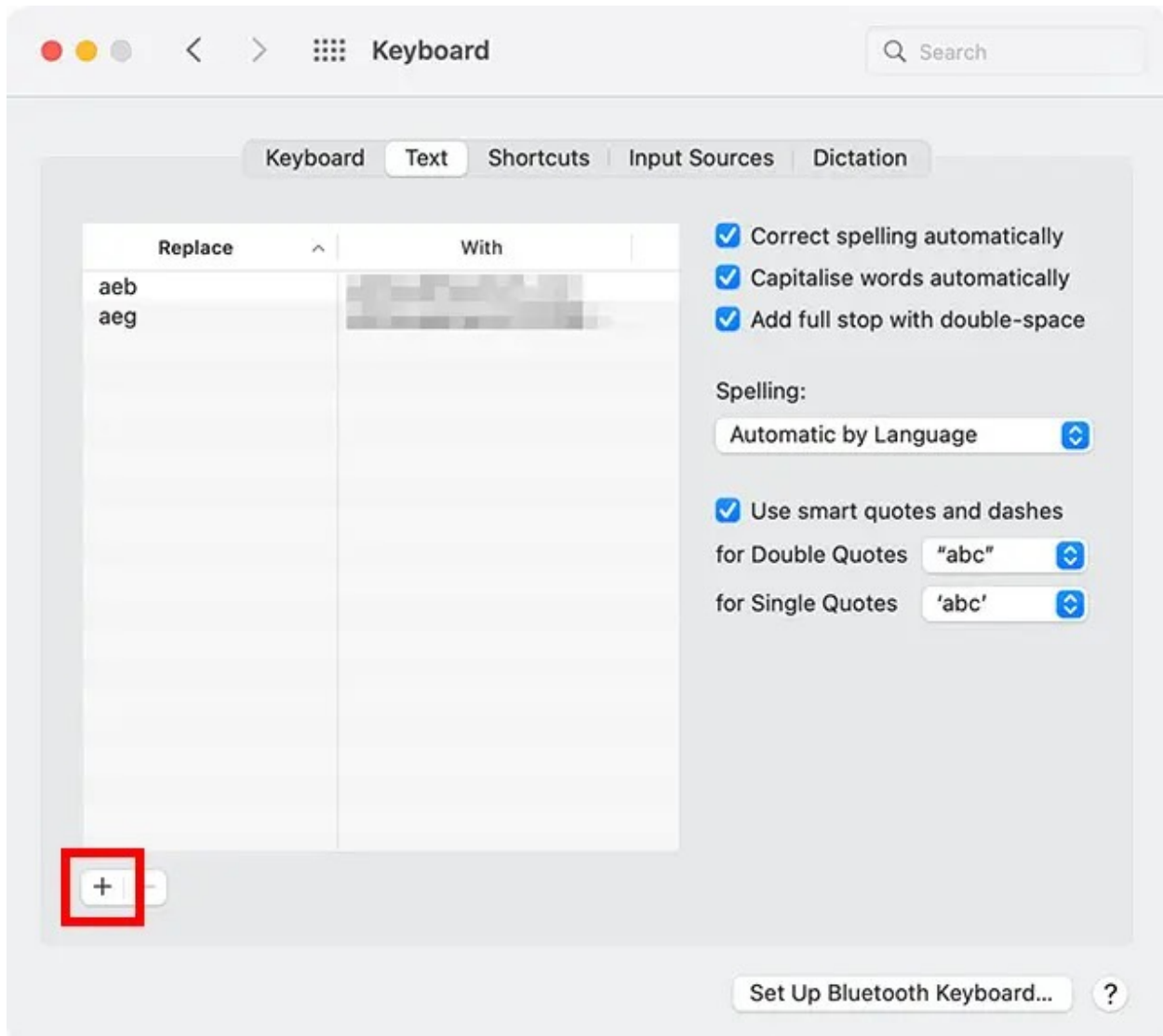
- Open System Preferences and go to 'Keyboard'.



- On the top navigation bar, click on 'Text'.

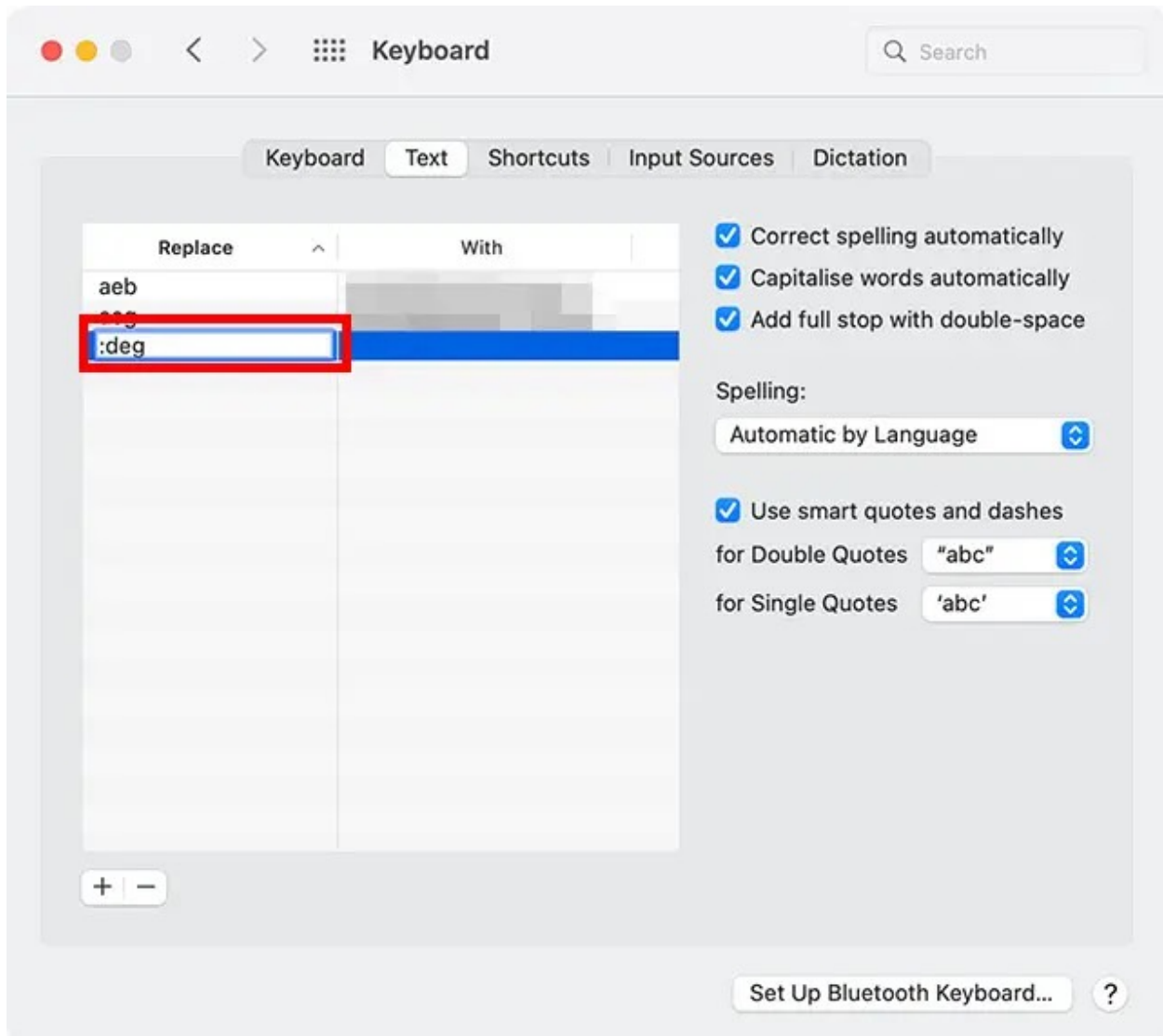


- Here, you can create custom text replacements. Click on the '+' icon.

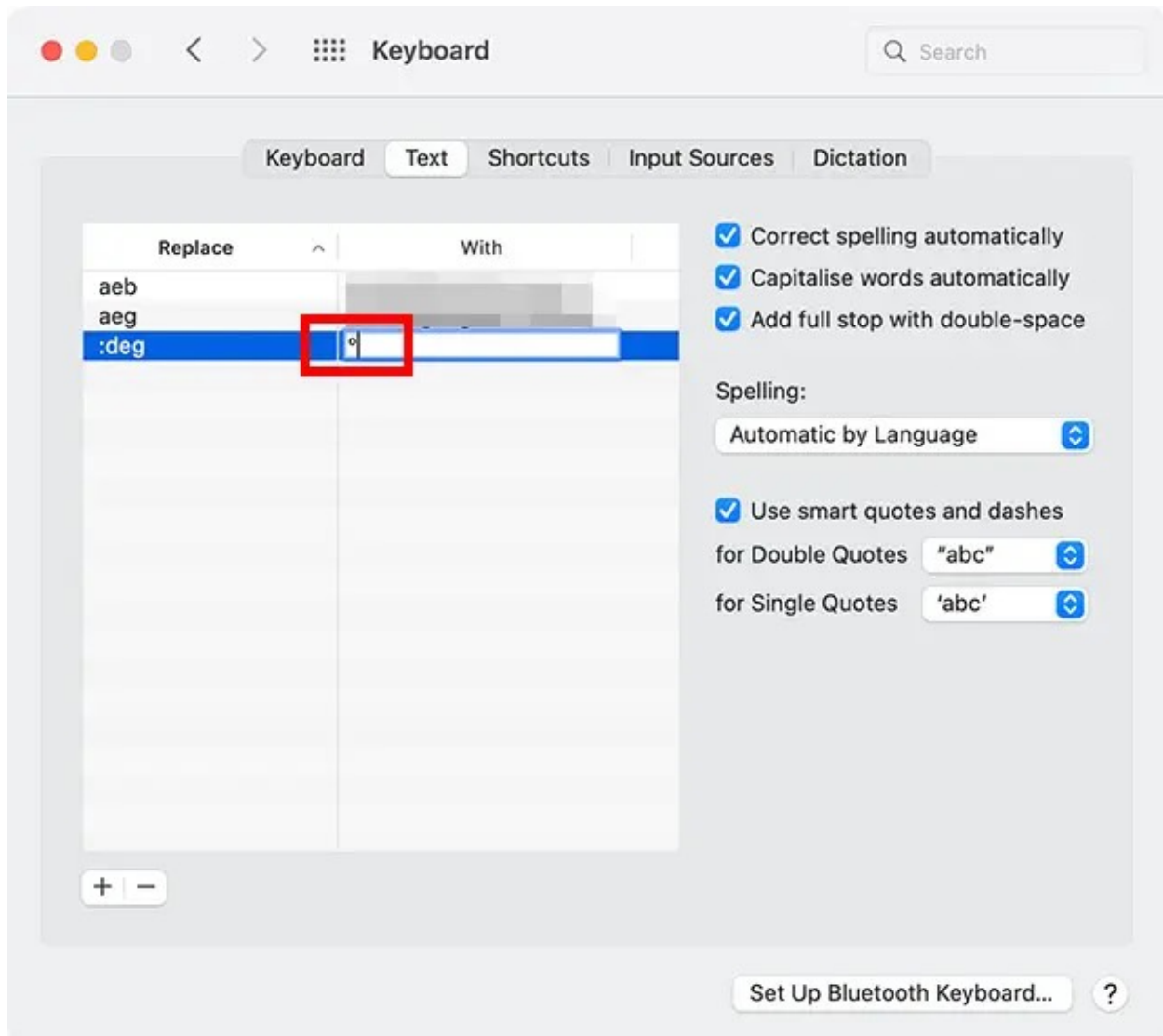


- Type the custom text you want to use. For example, I want to use “:deg” to type the ° symbol, so I’m typing “:deg” in the ‘Replace’ column.





- In the 'With' column, type the degree symbol using the shift + command + 8 keyboard shortcut.



That's it, now whenever you type “:deg” and hit the space bar, macOS will replace it with the degree (°) symbol automatically.

## Type Degree Sign With Ease on Your macOS Device

Well, those were the various methods you can use to type degree symbol (°) in macOS. As you can see, there are

keyboard shortcuts you can use, a dedicated emoji and symbols keyboard, and you can even utilise text replacement in Mac to quickly type degree symbol whenever you need it. So, which method of typing ° on Mac are you going to use? Let us know in the comments.

## **H. 12 Must Know iOS Features for 2025!**

## **I. iOS 18 Calendar Tips Organize Like a Pro**

## **J. iPhone Tips for Seniors: iOS 18 7 New Features!**

## **K. 30 Hidden NEW Features in iOS 18**

## **L. 5 iPhone Settings You Need To TURN OFF Right Now!**

Here are five iPhone settings you need to turn off right now so you can fully utilize your device and not be held back by unnecessary inconveniences.

## **M. iOS 18.2 Settings To Turn OFF Now! (Important!)**

iOS 18.2 is here with a bunch of new settings that affect your battery life and privacy. David walks you through the redesigned Battery section of Settings with the new charge limit slider, shows you how to save money on subscriptions with an awesome hack, how to navigate GPS and location services on your iPhone, how to take better photos, and a whole lot more.

## **N. How to connect FireWire devices into new Macs with Thunderbolt 3/USB-C**

In this video I show the few options you have to connect older legacy FireWire 400/800 devices to a new Mac which only has Thunderbolt 3/USB-C ports. The same process works with Mac's that have the new Thunderbolt 4 connections as well!

# 0. Thunderbolt 3 vs.



USB Alternate Modes  
USB/DP

Thunderbolt™ 3

Micro USB



## USB-C - What Is The Difference? [Simple Guide]

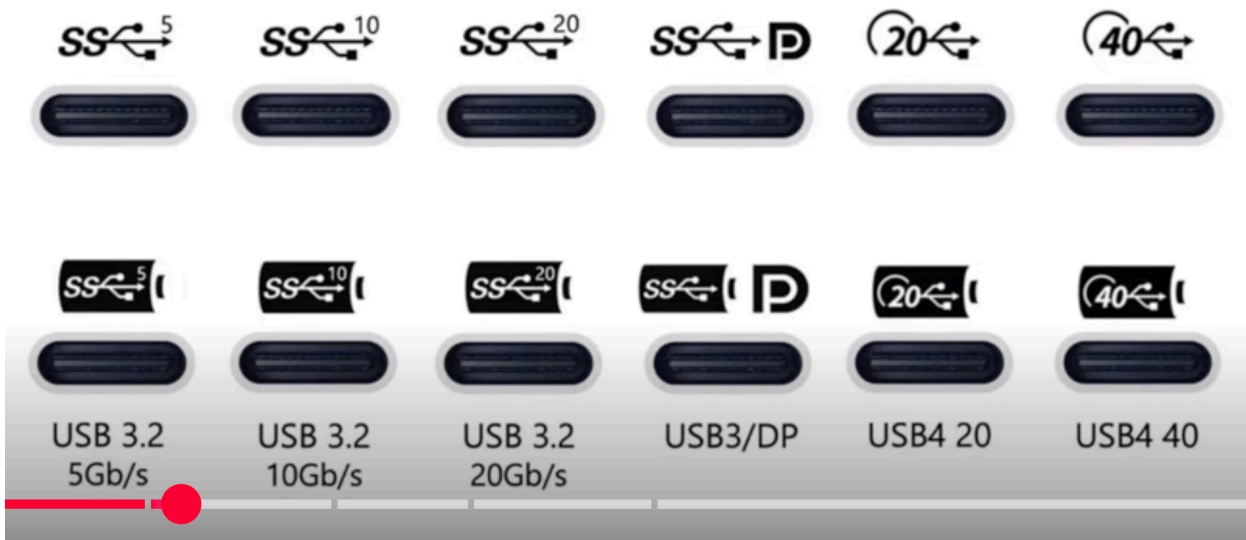
This video explains the difference between Thunderbolt 3 and USB-C, two technologies that use the same connector. It explores the history of USB and how USB-C is a connector that supports various USB technologies, while Thunderbolt 3 is a separate hardware interface. The video highlights the key differences between the two, including their data transfer speeds.






# P. USB-C vs

# Thunderbolt 4 - The

# Differences Explained In

# Under 5 Minutes!

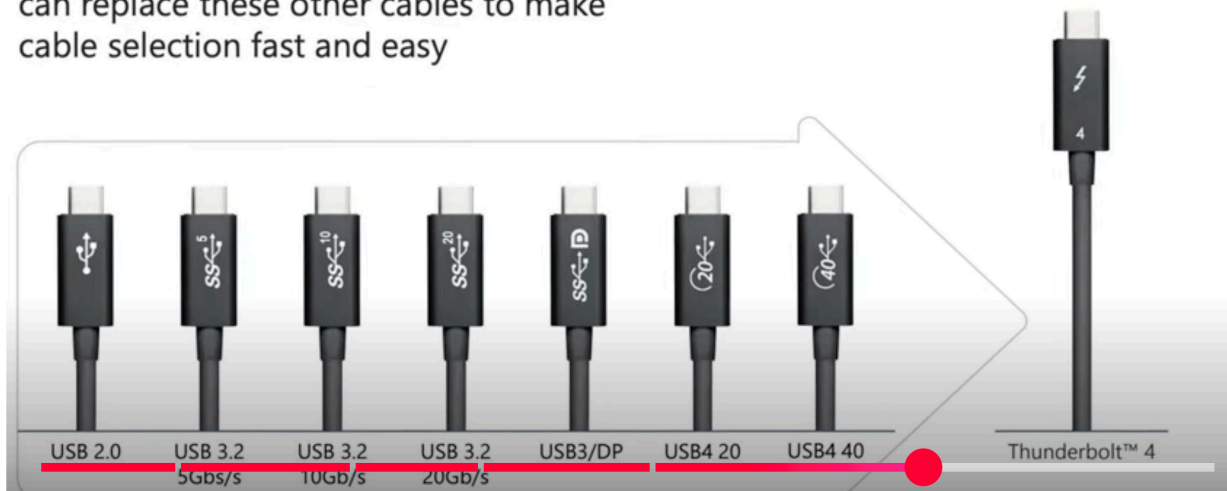


	 DisplayPort 1.4	 DisplayPort 1.3	 DisplayPort 1.2	 HDMI 2.0b	 HDMI 1.4
Total Bandwidth	32.40 Gbit/s	32.40 Gbit/s	21.60 Gbit/s	18.0 Gbit/s	10.2 Gbit/s
Maximum Total Data Rate	25.92 Gbit/s	25.92 Gbit/s	17.28 Gbit/s	14.4 Gbit/s	8.16 Gbit/s
Max. Sample Rate	1536 kHz	768 kHz	768 kHz	192 kHz	192 kHz
Maximum Audio Channels	32	8	8	32	8

## Cable simplification

One Thunderbolt 4 universal cable can replace these other cables to make cable selection fast and easy

Just look for the  
Thunderbolt™



**What is the difference between USB-C and Thunderbolt? This video is a simple guide that will help you understand the key differences and help you understand which one you may need.**

## [Q. Understanding the Difference Between Mac USB and Thunderbolt Ports](#)

It is easy to be confused by the different types of ports on Mac, especially then names like USB and Thunderbolt are sometimes uses interchangeably. Learn the differences between these kinds of ports and how to avoid confusion when talking about them.

**Port: Thunderbolt 1/2**

**Connection: Thunderbolt 1/2**



to your Mac.

**What Can It Do?**

- Screens / Video Out
  - Mini DisplayPort
  - HDMI/Other adapters
- Storage
  - External Drives
- eGPU
- Video Capture
- Networking
- Docks
  - USB-A
  - Audio
  - Firewire, etc

## **R. Stop Doing These 8 Things On Your Mac**

As someone who has been helping people with their Macs for a long time, I see lots of things people do with their Macs that if they stopped it would solve a lot of problems. Learn from my past experience and years of teaching to prevent current and future problems.

## **S. 10 Hidden Copy and Paste Functions on a Mac.**



Beyond basic Copy and Paste, you can do things like copy without text styling, or copy only the style. You can copy and paste files. You can copy text without even opening the document. You can even copy and paste between your Mac and iPhone.

## T. 60 Mac Tips for new setups (macOS Sequoia edition) [Video]



Jeff Benjamin

Nov 19 2024 - 4:49 pm PT



If you just picked up a new M4 Mac or plan on performing a fresh install of macOS, you'll need to change and configure many settings to meet your needs. In this

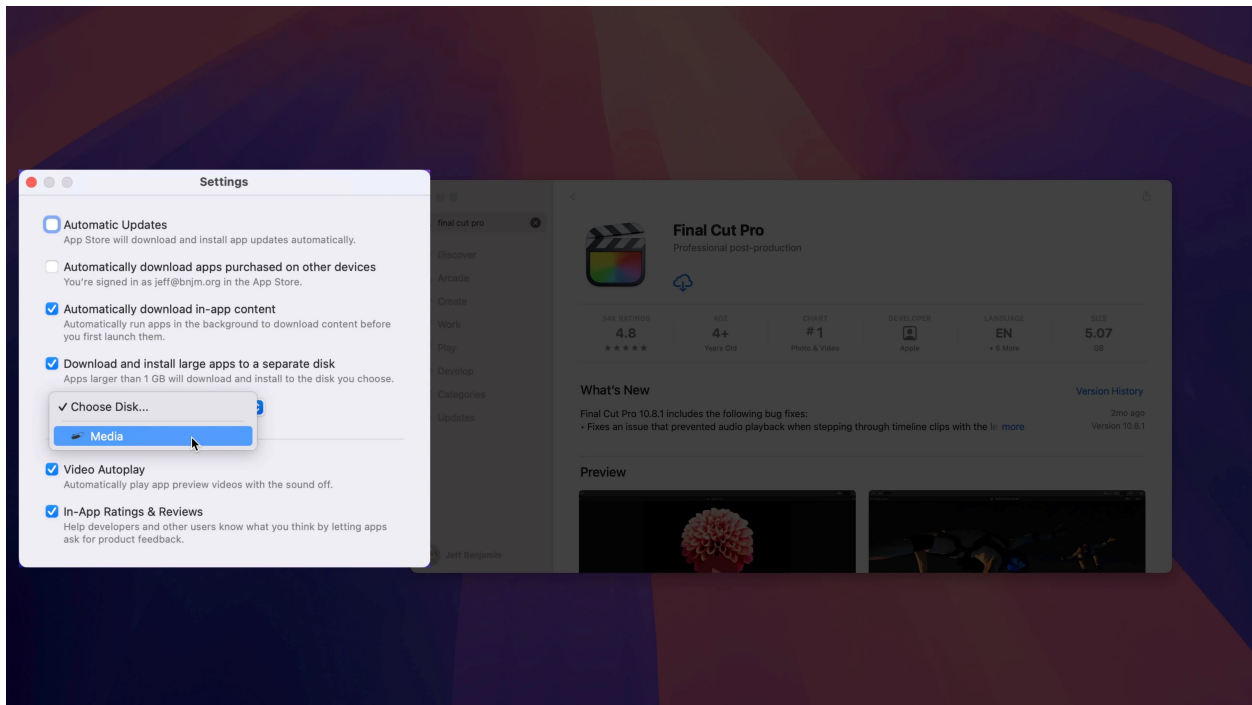
updated Mac getting started guide, I walk through 60 different tips and tricks to help optimize your setup.

**Even if you're an experienced macOS user, chances are you'll find a handful of new tips. Watch our video walkthrough, and [subscribe to 9to5Mac on YouTube](#) for more.**

In this written post, I'm including just a few of the items I cover in the video, but it will give you a good idea of what type of content you can expect to find in the full video. Here are a few of my favorite Mac tips:

## Configure App Store to install large apps to external disk

This is a new feature for macOS Sequoia and one that's a massive win for users looking to get by with minimal disk space. After all, [the base Mac mini, although an incredible value](#), only comes with 256GB of flash storage. The good news? You can add storage via external USB-C and Thunderbolt drives, and then install large apps from the App Store to an external drive.



Step 1: Open the App Store.

Step 2: Open App Store settings via the menu bar.

Step 3: Click the check box next to Download and install large apps to a separate disk.

Step 4: Select your external drive.

Any app that you download from the App Store greater than 1GB in size will now automatically be downloaded and installed to external storage. But make sure it's fast external storage – I recommend [Samsung's speedy T9 drive](#), which provides a great bang for the buck – otherwise, it could affect the app's performance.

## Video: 60 Mac Tips for new setups (2024 Sequoia edition)

# **60 Mac / macOS Getting Started Tips! (2024 edition) Do you know them all?**

Subscribe to 9to5Mac on YouTube for more videos

## **Add web apps to the Dock**

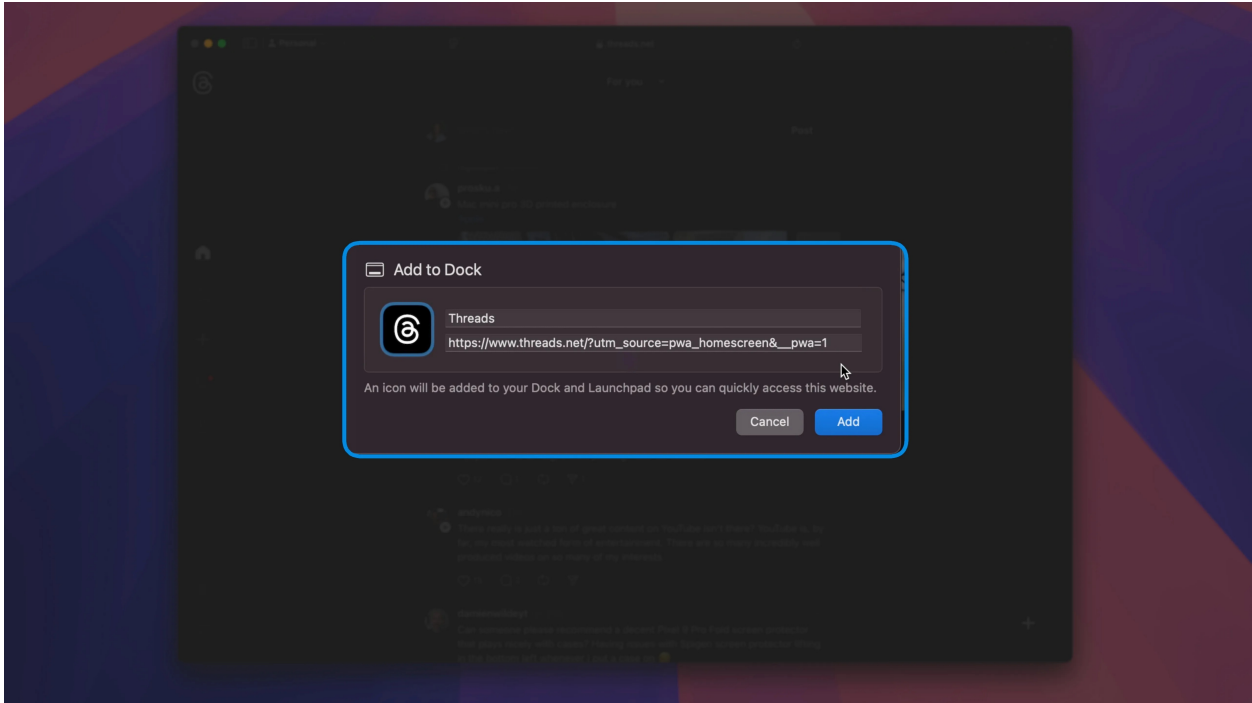
macOS Sequoia lets you easily add web apps to the Dock via Safari, which is handy for adding Threads or [BlueSky links](#) directly to the Dock.

Step 1: Open Safari and open the website you wish to convert to a web app.

Step 2: Click File in the menu bar and select Add to Dock.

**U. [Wish you could rearrange CarPlay apps like on iPhone?](#)**

# There's a way, but it's weird

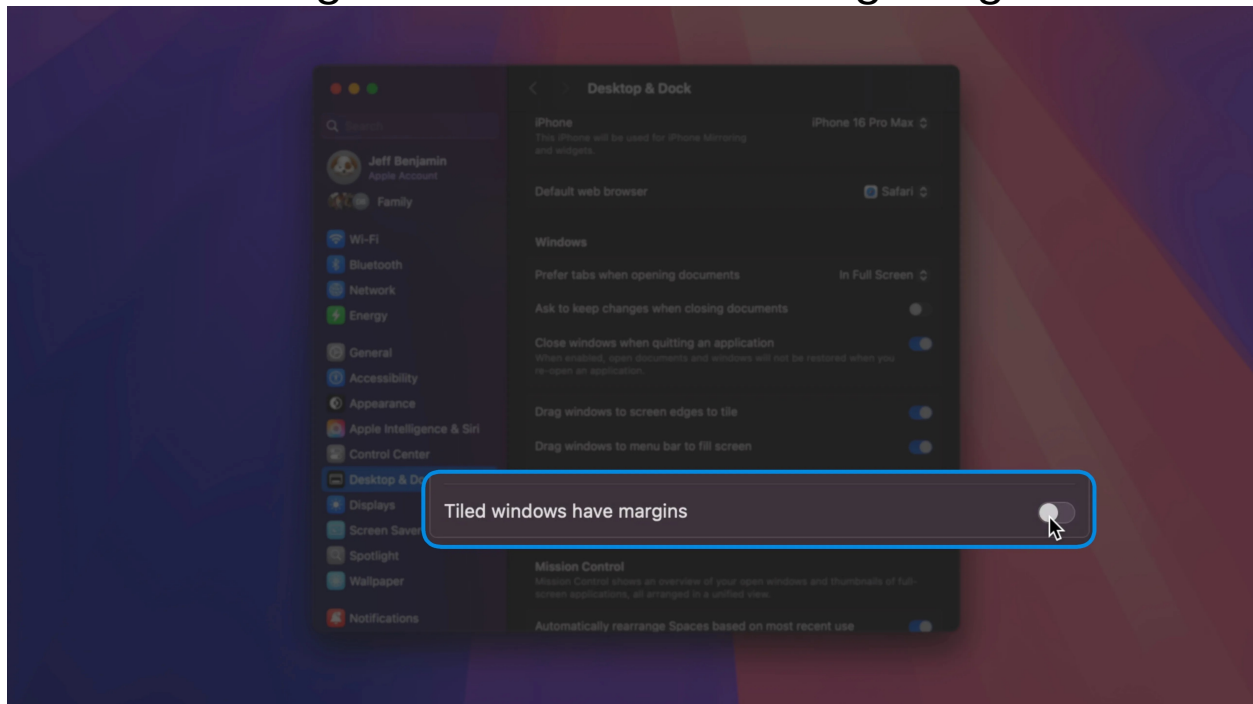


Web apps are stored permanently in the dock and act as standalone applications apart from Safari with separate cookies. They feature their own app icons, appear in LaunchPad, can receive notifications, and customize preferences.

## Remove window tiling margins

Sequoia added a much-needed native window tiling feature that lets you quickly create tiled layouts by dragging your windows to the side of the screen or using keyboard shortcuts. By default, tiled windows feature

margins that result in small gaps between each window. Here's how to get rid of the window tiling margins.



Step 1: Open System Settings.

Step 2: Click Desktop & Dock.

Step 3: Scroll down and disable the Tiled windows have margins setting under the Windows heading.

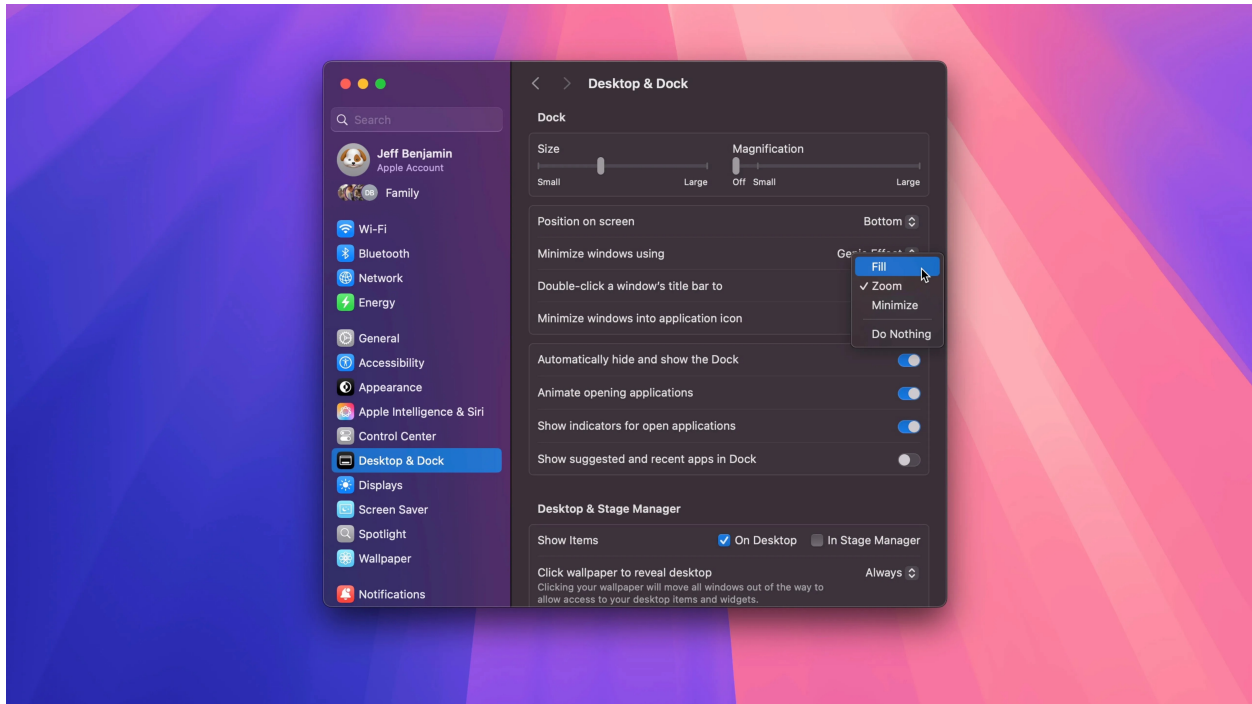
## Double-click the title bar to maximize a window

Another macOS Sequoia first: you can now double-click a window's title bar, and instead of performing the weird zoom feature, you can make it maximize the window to fill the screen.

Step 1: Open System Settings.

Step 2: Click Desktop and Dock.

Step 3: Under the Dock heading, click the drop-down box next to double-click a window's title bar to and select Fill.



## Stop showing desktop when clicking wallpaper

It's one of the most annoying recent features added to macOS: you click the wallpaper, and the desktop automatically shows, hiding everything else. It's a cool feature, but it has bad implementation. Instead, it's better to use a Hot Corner shortcut to do that. At any rate, here's how to stop this.

Step 1: Open System Settings.

Step 2: Click Desktop and Dock.

Step 3: Under the Desktop & Stage Manager heading, click the drop-down box next to Click wallpaper to reveal desktop, and select Only in Stage Manager.



## 9to5Mac's Take

Again, that's a look at just five tips that help improve macOS overall. If you're just getting started with a new Mac, or you're reinstalling macOS Sequoia, then be sure to [watch the video](#) for a walkthrough of an additional 55 handy tips and tricks.

# VII. Miscellaneous



## **A. LG set to showcase next-gen hybrid floor lamp planter and end table with auto watering systems at CES 2025**

## **B. CES 2025: The 12 most impressive products so far**

CES is in full swing, and we've seen major announcements from the likes of TCL, Roborock, MSI, and more. Here's our roundup of the new tech you don't want to miss.



Written by Allison Murray, Staff Writer

Jan. 7, 2025 at 1:58 p.m. PT

Reviewed by Jason Hiner

## table of contents

1. AI-integrated TVs
2. A premium entry-level TV you can pre-order
3. Over-the-counter continuous glucose monitors
4. A device that gives your phone a full charge in seconds
5. Circular's smart ring gets upgrades
6. A robot vacuum with an arm
7. World's first 500W charger
8. Smart home collaborations
9. TCL's new devices are easy on the eyes
10. Lots of laptops
11. A hands-free smart lock
12. An alternative to Dolby Atmos



Kerry Wan/ZDNET

The biggest week in tech is here: the annual [Consumer Electronics Show \(CES\)](#). ZDNET is on the ground in Las Vegas and also keeping a virtual eye on the products and concepts that debuted on the show's first day.

Also: [The best CES 2025 products you can buy right now](#)

So far, we've seen announcements from big names like Samsung, Abbott, and Dell, as well as new and innovative brands with cool concepts. Here's the tech gear that has impressed us the most.....

**C. Best of CES 2025:  
All of the wildest and most  
intriguing gear, new  
releases, and hands-on  
features [Updated]**