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CREATE A MASKED FACE ID

How to add a second image to your iPhone security



TURBO-CHARGE YOUR MAC

Top tips for making your Mac faster and more efficient!

MASTER iOS 14 NOW

YOUR INSTANT-EXPERT GUIDE TO ALL OF THE NEW APPS AND FEATURES

10 **BEST**
BIG SUR
FEATURES



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Welcome

iCreate 216

“Your Settings icon is soon to display a red dot to herald the arrival of iOS 14”

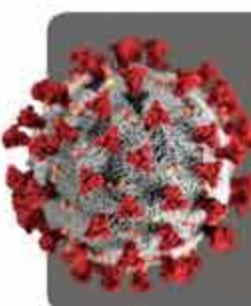


At some point this month, your iOS Settings app icon will become adorned with the telltale red dot to signify that an update is available. And, provided that you regularly heed these alerts and keep your device updated, the upgrade in question will be iOS 14. But rather than let you fumble around blindly, unsure of exactly what is new, what isn't, and what you'll never use anyway, we have put together the ultimate genius guide to mastering the awesome new operating system. We'll show you how to declutter and customise your Home Screen in amazing new ways, how to become an instant expert in the new Translate app, and how to get more from Maps, Messages and the App Store. Turn to page 14 now for instant enlightenment.

Also in this issue, we help get your sluggish, lethargic Mac in peak condition ahead of the macOS Big Sur update and show you how to add a second, masked, Face ID to your iPhone, turn your Wi-Fi password into a sharable QR code and get incredible, live Apple TV-style screen savers on your Mac. The pleasure is truly ours!



Ryan Butt **Editor**



Due to the unprecedented circumstances created by the COVID-19 outbreak, we have been forced to temporarily reduce the page count of **iCreate**. We apologise unreservedly for this and hope that things can return to normal ASAP.

Centers For Disease Control And Prevention's Public Health Image Library (PHIL) #23312

Meet the experts



David Crookes

This issue, our iOS expert shows you how to unlock your devices using your voice and the trick required to add a second, masked Face ID to your iPhone.



Shaun McGill

Our tech specialist helps you administer emergency aid to a sluggish, flatlining Mac, providing proven methods of speeding it up and getting it running at peak performance.



George Cairns

Our creative genius will show you how to make selective tonal adjustments in Photos and how to overcome the challenges of shooting and editing macro subjects.

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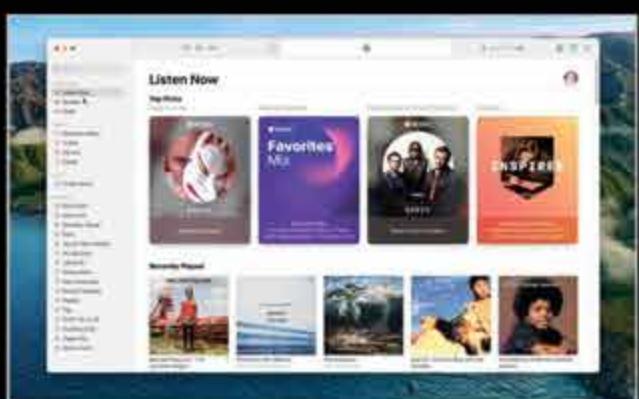
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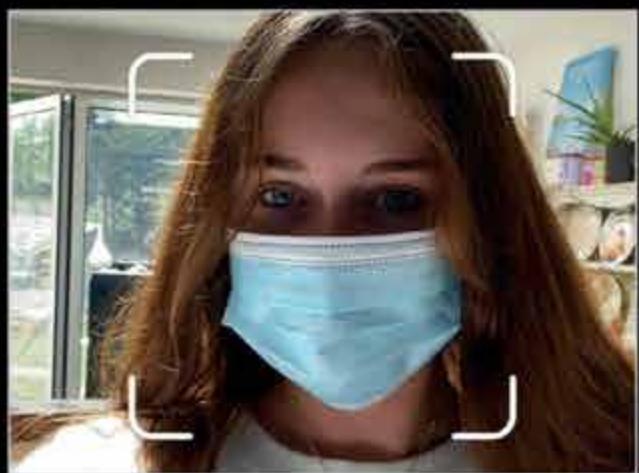
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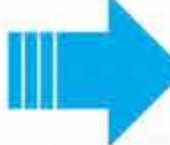
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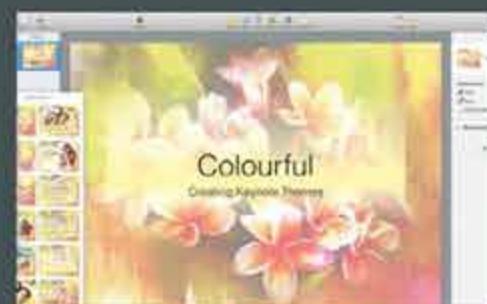
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Apple enters a battle of epic proportions

Apple, Google and Epic Games lock horns over who has the right to control the App Store



EPIC GAMES, PUBLISHER OF THE POPULAR ONLINE MULTIPLAYER GAME FORTNITE HAS FILED A LAWSUIT AGAINST BOTH APPLE AND GOOGLE FOLLOWING ITS GAME'S REMOVAL FROM BOTH COMPANIES' APP STORES. The spat between these three organisations started when Epic Games released an updated version of *Fortnite* that bypassed the usual App Store approval process and circumvented the payment options in both Apple's App Store and Google's Google Play service.

The problems started when Epic Games announced a 20 per cent price reduction on V-Bucks, the in-game currency used in *Fortnite*. "Starting today, any V-Bucks or real-money offers you purchase on PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, PC and Mac are now discounted by up to 20 per cent. You don't need to do anything!" Epic Games posted.

Using a process called Epic Payment, Epic had created a system that circumvented the usual 30 per cent commission taken by Apple's and Google's app stores, and was passing (some) of that saving on to the players of *Fortnite*. Epic Payment still gave players the option to pay more via the usual App Store model, but realistically nobody was going to choose that option, since it worked out more expensive.

Of course, direct payments to Epic contravenes the rules of both app stores, leading Google and Apple to remove *Fortnite* from their services. What's interesting is that Epic was able to apply the update to its apps directly, bypassing the usual App Store approval process, which is another violation of the App Store rules. Apple has released a statement on the situation. Here it is in

*Image credit: Epic Games, Inc



full: "The App Store is designed to be a safe and trusted place for users and a great business opportunity for all developers. Epic has been one of the most successful developers on the App Store, growing into a multibillion-dollar business that reaches millions of iOS customers around the world. We very much want to keep the company as part of the Apple Developer Program and their apps on the Store. The problem Epic has created for itself is one that can easily be remedied if they submit

an update of their app that reverts it to comply with the guidelines they agreed to and which apply to all developers. We won't make an exception for Epic because we don't think it's right to put their business interests ahead of the guidelines that protect our customers."

Apple removed the game swiftly, but Epic Games shot back immediately with a lawsuit and a commercial it had developed just for the occasion that was a parody of Apple's original 1984 TV advert, but this



Closed for business: Searches for *Fortnite* on the Mac and iOS app stores will currently prove fruitless until this situation is resolved... if it can be resolved

time with Apple portrayed as the force of oppression and *Fortnite* characters breaking free from its tyrannical hold.

The civil antitrust lawsuit, filed in the US District Court for the Northern District of California, seeks to establish Apple's App Store as an illegal monopoly, and is seeking injunctive relief to "allow fair competition" in mobile app distribution.

While legal proceedings rumble on, the question is, can you still play *Fortnite* on

your iOS device? The answer seems to be that for the time being you can, so long as you installed it before it was removed from the App Store. However, this does mean that anyone who does currently have the game installed will be unable to update it, which would be a massive blow to the game's Apple-owning fanbase.

While it may be unlikely that Epic Games has a strong enough legal case to force Apple to radically alter its App Store commission model, it is a large company

that is an expert at winning battles in the court of popular opinion, and with a legion of young *Fortnite* gamers on its side, it may well be able to apply enough pressure to Apple's brand that it no longer wishes to see it damaged. While Apple remains the larger of the two companies, this is hardly a David-versus-Goliath fight that we often see when Apple is at loggerheads with developers. As it currently stands though, the future for *Fortnite* on iOS remains in doubt.



Things we learned this month



Apple's Phil Schiller is moving on to a new role [Apple news](#)

 Apple's beloved senior VP of marketing, Phil Schiller is vacating the position and accepting a new role as Apple fellow. Schiller joined Apple in 1987, helping guide Apple's products and marketing for 30 years. "Phil has helped make Apple the company it is today and his contributions are broad, vast and run deep. In this new role he will continue to provide the incredible thought partnership and guidance that have defined his decades at Apple," says Tim Cook, Apple's CEO. In his new role as Apple fellow, Schiller will continue to lead the App Store and Apple Events teams.



Apple's 27-inch iMac gets a major speed boost [iMac news](#)



After Apple announced a switch to Apple Silicon processors at June's WWDC20, Tim Cook said that there would be more Intel iMacs released before the end of the year, and the first one, the new 27-inch iMac, has been announced. The new desktop now features faster performance, SSDs across the line, an improved 5K Retina display, and higher quality speakers, cameras and mics. While it doesn't feature the new Apple Silicon hardware, the new iMac becomes the most powerful and capable iMac you can buy. It features faster Intel processors that can be specced to up to ten cores, double the memory capacity, next-gen AMD graphics and a new nano-texture glass option.

"Now more than ever, our customers are relying on the Mac. And many of them need the most powerful and capable iMac we've ever made," said Tom Boger, Apple's senior director of Mac and iPad product marketing.





Apple is a \$2 trillion company



This month Apple became the first US company worth over two trillion dollars. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Apple's profits have soared thanks to strong online sales. Apple took 42 years to hit the first trillion-dollar barrier in August 2018, but just another two years to smash the two trillion dollar market cap, effectively doubling in valuation. Apple shares are up about 60 per cent on the year to date, and in the past year

have risen by a staggering 120 per cent. Despite initial scepticism when Tim Cook took over as CEO, Apple has gone from strength to strength, shifting its position of being seen as a hardware vendor to a software maker.

Apple is not the first company in the world to reach a market cap of two trillion dollars. That honour belongs to Saudi Aramco, a gas and oil giant based in Saudi Arabia that did so in December 2019, however it was surpassed in value by Apple on 4 August this year.

iPhone 12 with 5G expected in September iPhone news



Apple announces a new iPhone every single year, usually in September, and rumours of an iPhone 12 are heating up. The iPhone 11 was announced on 10 September in 2019 but 2020 has been far from a typical year, which has led many to speculate that we won't see a new iPhone until much later. Either way, stock usually doesn't arrive in stores until October or November. It's expected that the next iPhone will support the 5G standard for faster internet speeds. 5G, however, is not expected to significantly increase unit cost, thanks to Apple being able to source cheaper components for other parts of the iPhone.



Music Radio

Apple revamps its Apple Music Radio offerings Apple Music news



Apple has shaken up its radio offerings with two new stations – Apple Music Country and Apple Music Hits, and a rebranding of its Beats 1 station to Apple Music 1. All stations are available to listen to live without an Apple Music subscription by tapping on the Radio tab in the Music app on Mac or iOS devices. “Apple Music is home – it’s home to artists, it’s home to fans and it’s home to incredible music,” said Zane Lowe, Apple Music’s global creative director and host. Apple Music Hits offers a catalogue of the biggest songs fans love from the Eighties, Nineties and Noughts. Apple Music Country aims to be the definitive place for what is becoming an increasingly diverse genre.

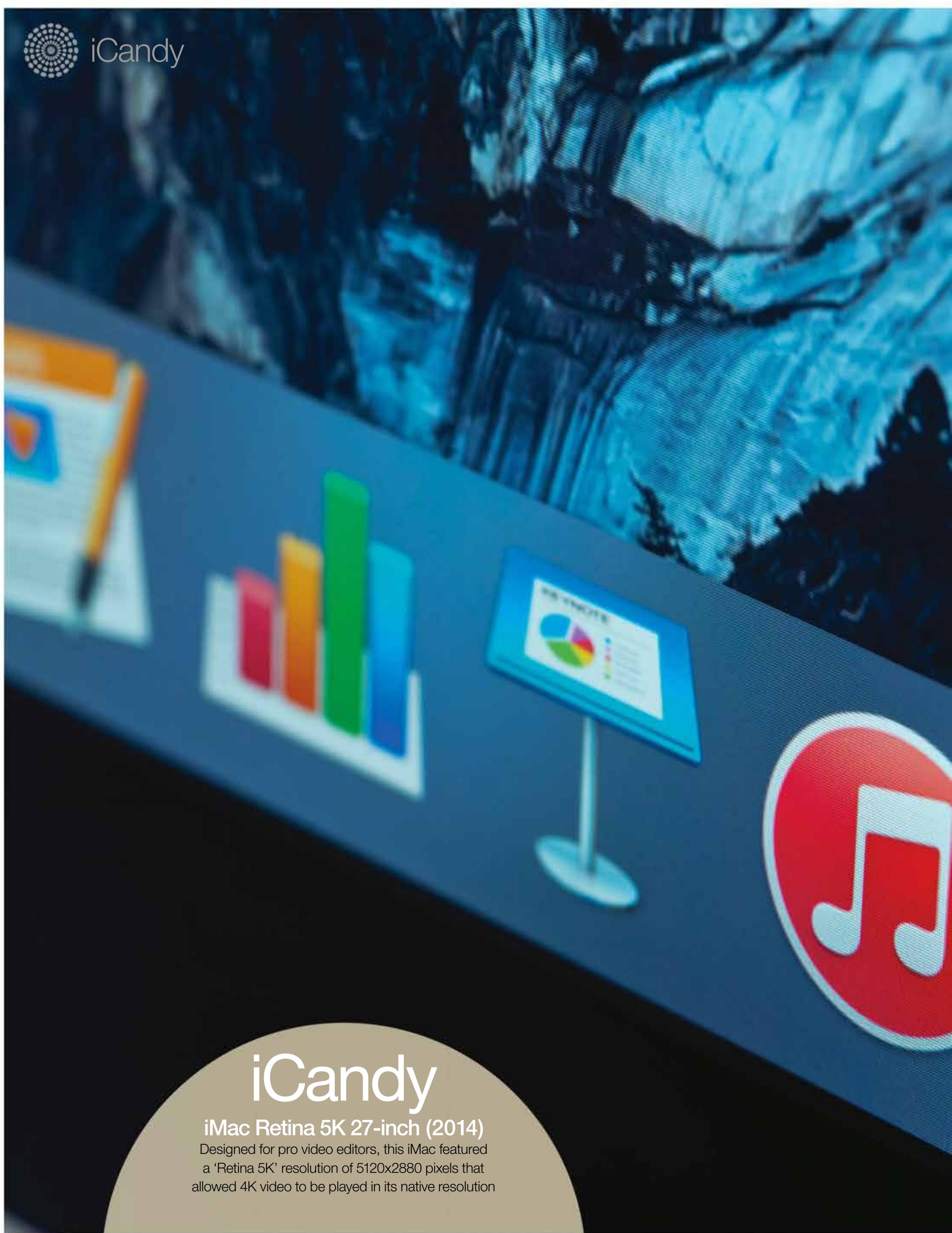


iCandy

iCandy

iMac Retina 5K 27-inch (2014)

Designed for pro video editors, this iMac featured a 'Retina 5K' resolution of 5120x2880 pixels that allowed 4K video to be played in its native resolution





MASTER iOS 14 NOW

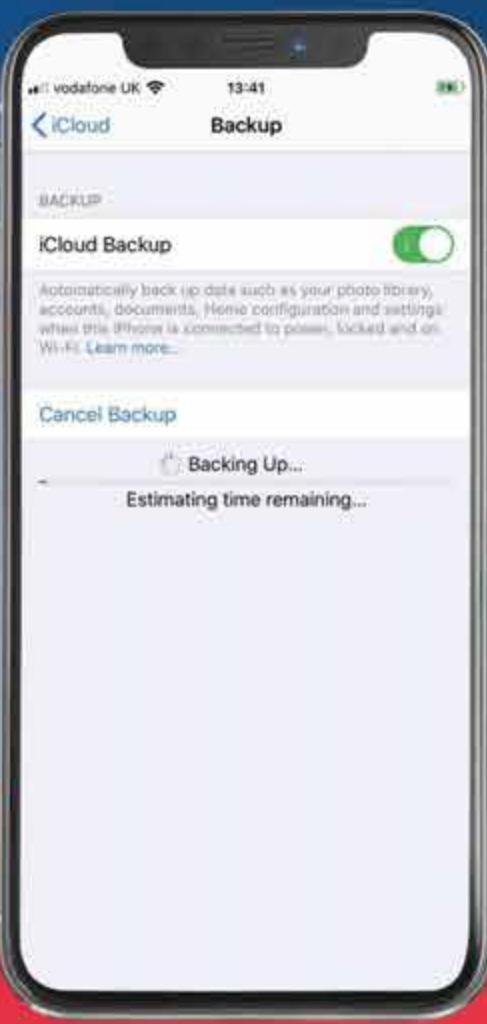
Go and grab yourself the big new update and then become an instant expert on all of the new apps and features

Get excited because iOS 14 is now with us – or at least it should be within the next couple of weeks! Apple's big new update for 2020/21 was first unveiled at the COVID-19-enforced 'virtual' WWDC back in June, and it demonstrated a stack of neat new features, enhancements and a brand-new app.

Since it was first released as iPhone OS back in 2007, iOS has continued to grow, introducing bold new additions and becoming ever-more intuitive to use. Although Apple is never entirely first with certain features (iOS 14 finally has Home Screen widgets, for example, something Android has delivered for years), its cautious approach to introducing certain features means that they essentially arrive fully formed so as to genuinely benefit the way you use your iOS devices. It's always been a steady evolution, which means you will never be left staring at your device in bewilderment after updating because iOS is so easy to use. Just get tactile with your device, tap here, press there and you soon pick up on the new stuff. But, of course, **iCreate** is always here to help. So if you really want to hit the ground running with iOS 14 and learn about all of the new features and how to use them to become an instant expert, then read on as we fill you in on all of the essential settings, demonstrate how to access and utilise the new features, and showcase all of the cool stuff you need to know.

Before you update

In a state of frenzied excitement, it is easy to rush into installing a new update on our devices. But before you do that, it is good practice to perform a couple of quick back ups, just in case anything goes wrong during the installation process and you need to restore your device. This is what we recommend doing...



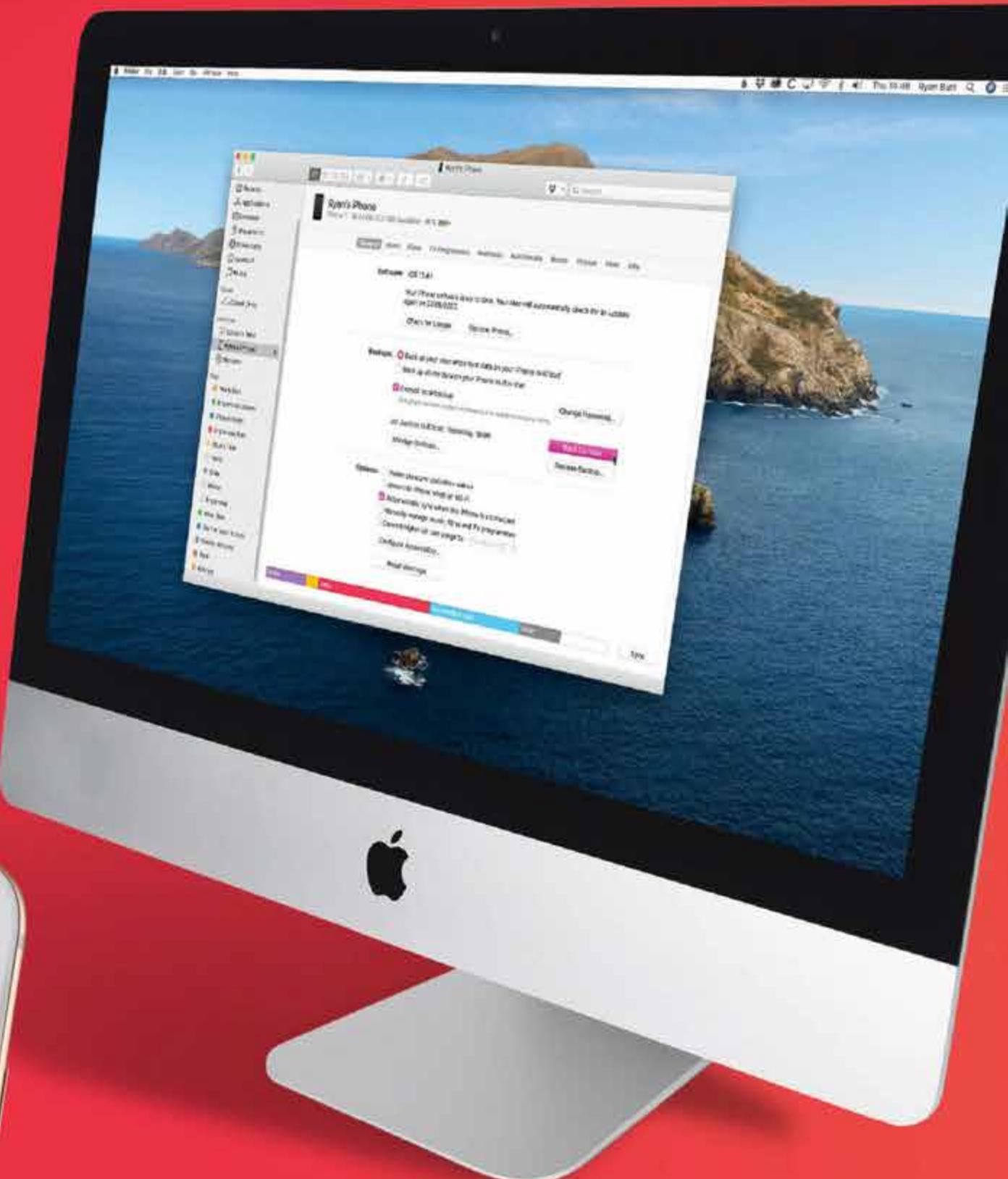
1 Open Settings

Go to Settings>Apple ID>iCloud and then scroll down to 'iCloud Backup'. Although iCloud Backup should already be turned on, tap on 'Back Up Now' to instantly save your data and settings.

2 Back up to Mac

It can't hurt to make a secondary backup to your Mac, too.

Connect your iOS device to your Mac, press cmd+N to open a new window and click on your device in the sidebar. Click 'Back Up Now'.



3 Grab the update

Now, on your iOS device, go to Settings>General and tap on the 'Software Update' option. This will search for available updates. When iOS 14 is available, tap on 'Download and Install'.

Master iOS 14 now!

New ways to personalise your iOS device

The iOS 14 update will allow a far greater degree of personalisation to your iOS Home Screen. Beyond the new wallpapers, you can incorporate widgets for the first time, hide Home Screens and access all of your apps more easily through the App Library. Here, we will guide you through how each new feature works.

Change wallpaper

Go to Settings>Wallpaper>Choose a New Wallpaper to explore the new backgrounds offered by iOS 14. You can pick from a selection of new Dynamic, Stills and Live wallpapers.

Hide Home Pages

Rather than having multiple Home Pages to swipe through, iOS 14 gives you the option of hiding any that you don't need, with the new App Library doing the heavy lifting.

Your iOS 14 Home Screen

How to better manage and personalise your display



Integrated widgets

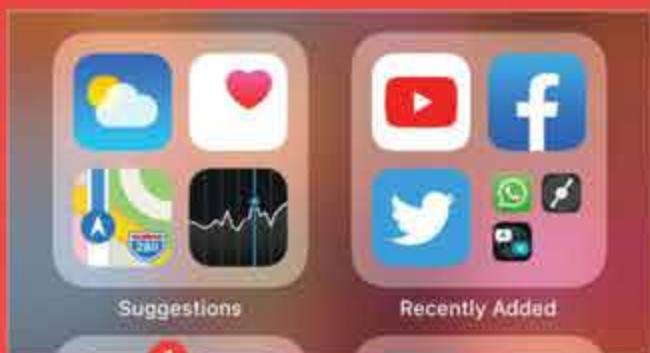
Swipe right to view the new-look widgets screen and then press and hold on a widget and drag it over to your Home Screen. Your app icons will be rearranged to accommodate the new widget.

App Library

Swipe all the way to the left to view your App Library, which neatly arranges all of your apps into sections and eradicates the need for multiple Home Screens.

Introducing the App Library

Designed to unclutter your Home Screen, reduce the need for multiple pages of apps and to help you find that app that you need quicker, iOS 14 introduces a new feature called App Library. Here's how it works...



1 Swipe left

From your Home Screen, swipe to the left until you come to the App Library. This neatly categories all of your apps into sections to make them easier to find.

2 Find alphabetically

If you tap on the search field at the top of the App Library then your apps will be listed alphabetically. Enter keywords to jump to the one you need instantly.

3 Toggle settings

Go to Settings>Home Screen and tick the 'App Library Only' option. New apps will then only appear in your App Library and not clutter your Home Screen.



Some widgets have custom options for you to explore. To find out which, long-press on a widget and see if the 'Edit Widget' option appears.

Managing and editing widgets

Rather than existing in their own section, widgets can now appear with your app icons on your Home Screens to provide at-a-glance info and add more personalisation to your device.



1 Swipe right

From your Home Screen, swipe right to access the widgets screen and display the available widgets. You will instantly notice that some are different sizes. You can control this.

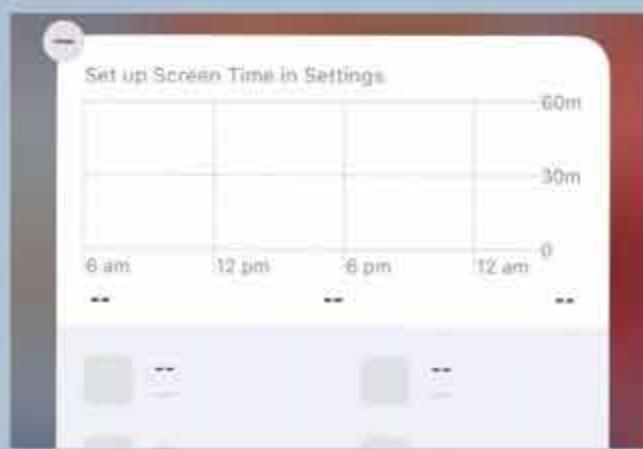


3 Drop the widget

When the widget is dragged to your Home Screen, the app icons will reposition themselves in accordance with where you place the widget.

2 Grab a widget

Press and hold on a widget until a menu appears and slide your finger to the right. The menu will vanish but the widget will move with your finger. Drag to it your Home Screen.



4 Edit widgets

On the widget screen, scroll down to the bottom and then tap on 'Edit'. Tap '+' to change the sizes and add more. Scroll down again and tap on the 'Customise' option.

Add Widgets

Get timely information from your favourite apps, at a glance. Add a new widget or organise your widgets below.

MORE WIDGETS

+ WhatsApp

5 Add widgets

Any third-party apps that you have installed that come with custom widgets will be displayed here. Tap on the '+' icon to add a widget and then reposition as desired.

Hide your Home Screens

Keeping with the uncluttered Home Screen theme, you can actually hide unneeded Home Screens and rely on the App Library alone to find apps. Press and hold on a free area of the display until the app icons start shaking and '-' icons appear next to them, then tap on the dots at the bottom of the screen. This will display your current Home Screen(s) – simply tap the tick icon under a Home Screen to hide it.



Using the Smart Stack

When you swipe right to access the widgets screen, pay attention to the feature at the top, this is the Smart Stack. Essentially a portal through which you can access a multitude of your favourite widgets,

the Smart Stack will take up less space on your Home Screen than multiple widgets, and you can swipe up or down on it to cycle through the various widgets.



Master iOS 14 now!

Get familiar with Translate

New iOS updates usually bring tweaks, refinements and enhancements to your existing apps, all of which we will cover later, but they also sometimes bring entirely new apps. In the case of iOS 14, the new arrival is Translate, a simple way to converse in foreign languages using your iOS device.

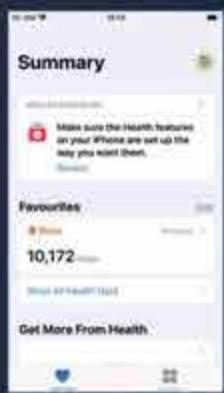
Existing app enhancements

Check out these minor upgrades to some of your other favourite iOS applications



Weather

The main interface now includes high and low temperatures for your area, plus possible info on severe weather events, such as thunderstorms.



Health

Now included is a Health Checklist to make sure that the Health features are set up the way you want them. There is also support for Sleep tracking.



Music

The newly added 'Listen Now' section showcases new music based on your interests as well as being a one-stop hub for recent listens, mixes and more.

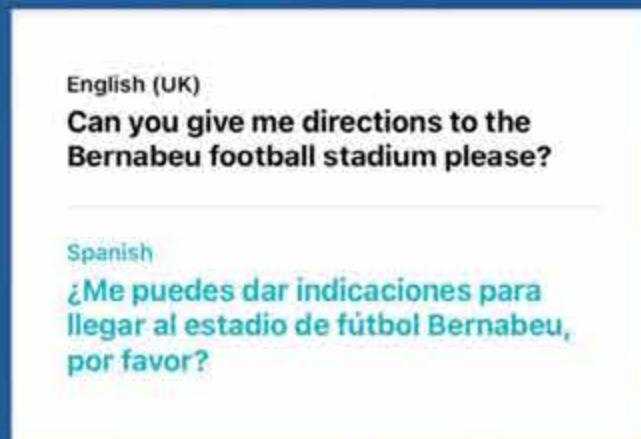
Universally speaking

The only new app that has been added to your device in iOS 14 is Translate. Through this app you can converse with people in different languages as naturally as speaking, almost.



1 Choose languages

Tap on the two language boxes at the top of the interface and then choose your native language (left) and the language you would like to translate to (right).



2 Write or speak

2 Write or speak

You can then either type your text into the main field or tap on the microphone icon to speak it. The latter is obviously quicker and more natural for the recipient.



3 Show or play

When your text has been entered it will be instantly translated to the other language and displayed underneath your original text. Tap on the play icon to have the translated text spoken.



4 Add to favourites

Tap on the star icon underneath the translated text to save it (handy if you are likely to need it again). Tap on the 'Favourites' icon at the bottom to access it.

5 Use the dictionary

Tap on the book icon underneath the translated text and you will be able to access a dictionary for your chosen language. You can then tap to highlight words and get info.



Going back to your widgets, you can long-press your Smart Stack and tap 'Edit Stack' to edit which widgets are included and the order they appear in.

A natural way to converse

Why the Translate app works better in landscape...

Conversation mode

While using the Translate app, move your device into the landscape orientation and the interface of the app will instantly change to 'conversation mode'.

Two-sided

The way the information is presented in conversation mode means that your text sits to the left of the screen and the translated text is placed on the right, like a two-sided conversation.

English (UK)

Can you give me directions to the Bernabeu football stadium please?

Spanish

¿Me puedes dar indicaciones para llegar al estadio de fútbol Bernabeu, por favor?

Go bigger

Tapping on this icon will zoom in on the text, making it easier for the other person to read, if they aren't relying on the audio translation.

Auto-detect

In this mode, the app can detect (or you can trigger it manually by tapping the mic icon) which language is being spoken and then translate it to either side of the screen accordingly.

Play it again

You can tap on this play button at any time to play the translated text repeatedly. Handy if the other person doesn't catch it initially.

On-device translation

In order to work, the Translate app uses your mobile data. However, if your data is running low or you're visiting a no-signal area, you can ensure that the translation is done exclusively on your device. Here, we'll show you how to enable this mode.



1 Open Settings

Go to Settings>Languages and then turn on On-device mode. This means that the translation will be done on-device, which can be quicker but maybe less accurate.

2 Open the app

Open Translate and tap on one of the language buttons at the top. This will display all of the available languages. Scroll down to the 'Available Offline Languages' section.

3 Download languages

In this section, tap on the arrow next to the languages you need in order to download them to your device. Tap 'Done' when you have finished. Now you're all set up.

New things you can do in your favourite apps

Now that we have taken you through the entirely new stuff that iOS 14 has to offer, it's time to check out the key enhancements within the apps you use every day. These include the App Store, Maps, and Messages, and over the next four pages we'll transform you into an instant expert.

What is an App Clip?

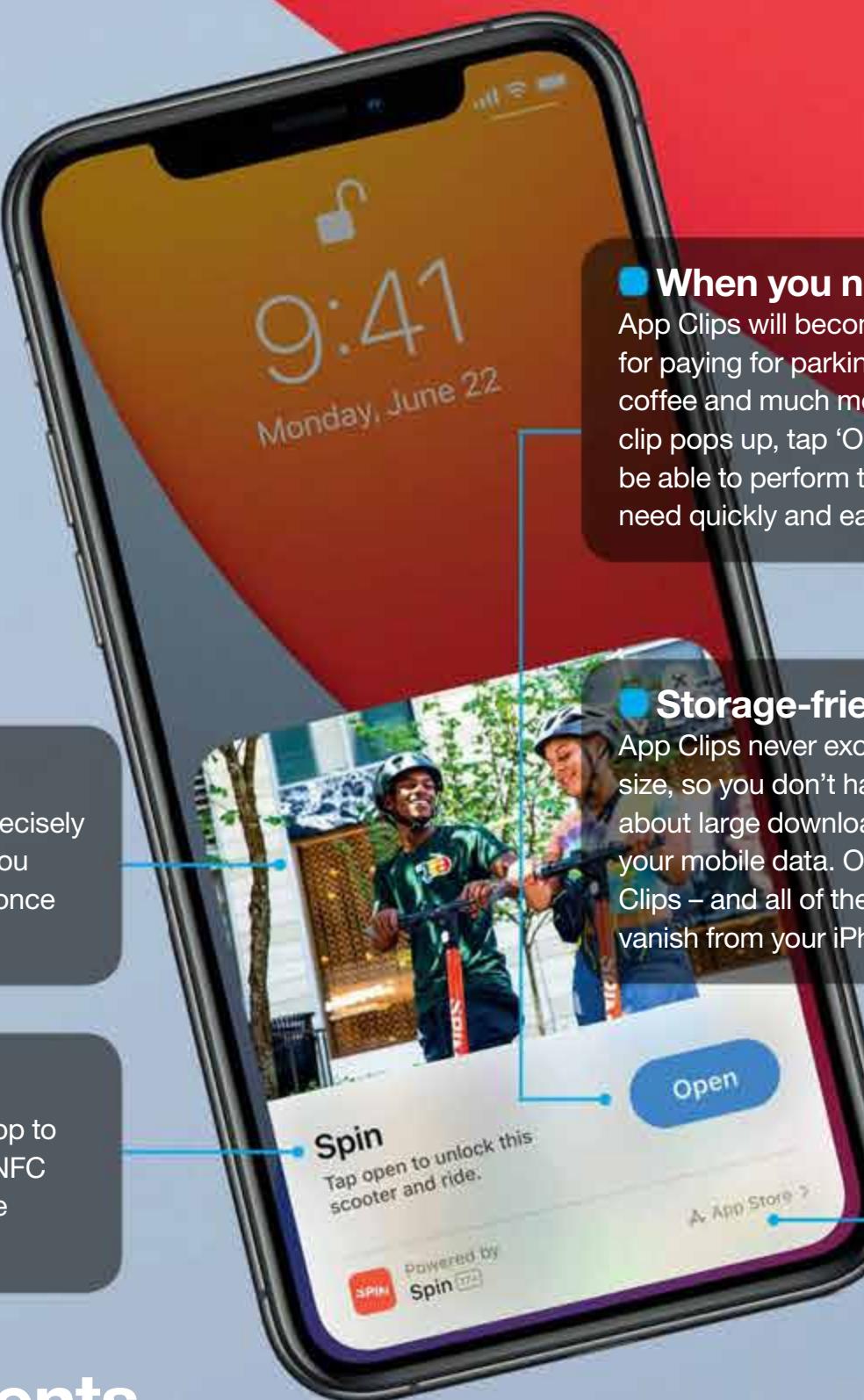
App Clips are 'lite' versions of apps that give you precisely the functionality you need at the time you need it. You aren't downloading the full app, just a portion, and once you have completed the action, it is gone!

Accessing clips

You can access App Clips by using your Camera app to scan QR codes or pointing your iPhone at Apple's NFC codes. As the tools for creating these become more widespread, the more you'll see dotted around.

Using App Clips

How to utilise specific features without downloading the app



When you need them

App Clips will become widespread for paying for parking, buying a coffee and much more. When the clip pops up, tap 'Open' and you'll be able to perform the task you need quickly and easily.

Storage-friendly

App Clips never exceed 10MB in size, so you don't have to worry about large downloads eating into your mobile data. Once used, App Clips – and all of their data – will vanish from your iPhone.

View your achievements

Apple has finally rescued Game Center from iOS obscurity and built it into the iOS 14 App Store. You can now get an overview of your gaming activity and view all of your epic achievements.



1 Tap avatar

While in the App Store, tap on your avatar (Memoji) in the top-right and then tap on the new 'Game Center' option at the top. This will take you to the overview screen.

2 Edit profile

You can change your nickname, set a special Game Center avatar and view friend suggestions. Scroll down and then tap on the 'Achievements by Game' option.

3 View Achievements

All of the games that have Achievements will be listed alphabetically. Tap on a game and you'll be able to see how many 'cheevs' you have unlocked and how to unlock others.



To make it quicker to read QR codes for App Clips, go to Settings>Control Centre and then add the 'QR Code Reader' feature to your Control Centre.

Mask-up your Memoji

The iOS 14 update brings a selection of new ways to edit your Memoji, including the option to add a face mask. To do this, open Messages, tap on the App Store icon to the left of the text field and tap the Memoji icon. Now tap '...' in the top-left of the drawer and select 'Edit'.

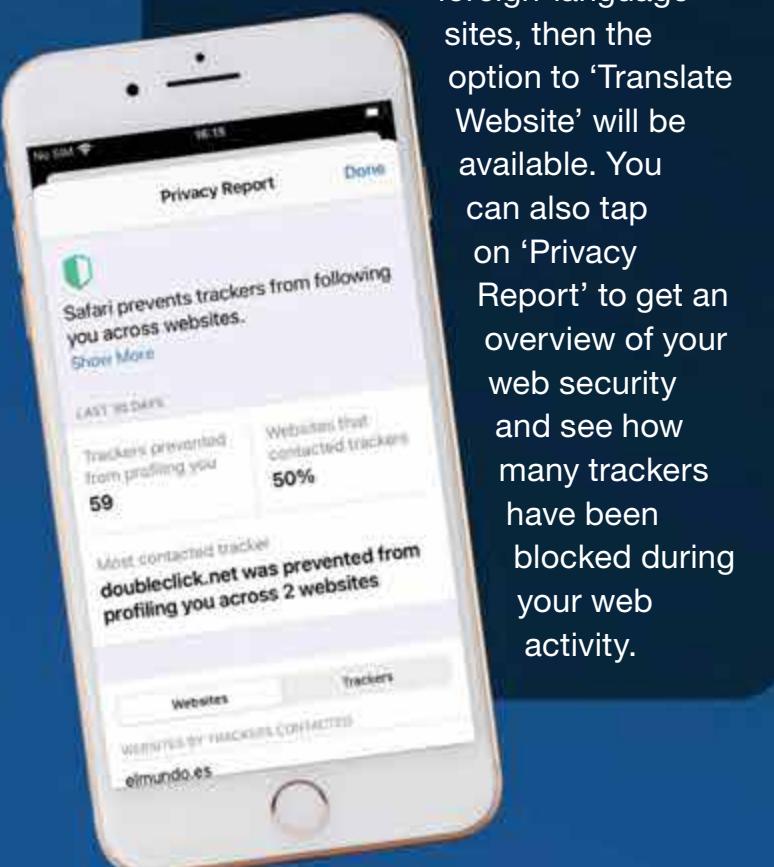
Swipe left until you come to 'Headgear' and scroll to 'Face Covering'. Select an option (and the colour), then tap 'Done'.



Better Safari security

When browsing websites in Safari, tap on the 'AA' icon to the left of the search bar and you'll notice that the menu of options has been expanded. If you are browsing

foreign-language sites, then the option to 'Translate Website' will be available. You can also tap on 'Privacy Report' to get an overview of your web security and see how many trackers have been blocked during your web activity.



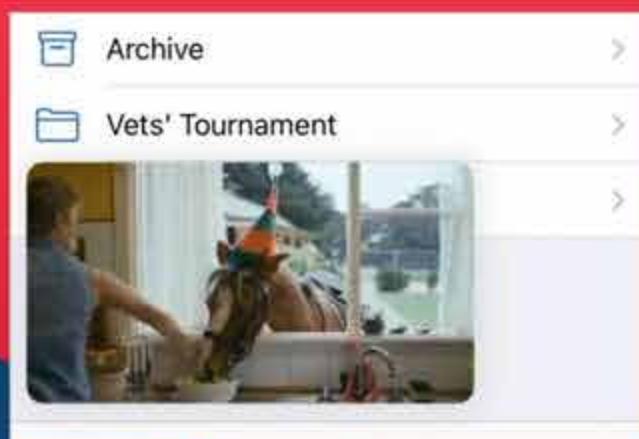
Using Picture in Picture mode

iOS 14's, PiP mode lets you reduce a video or FaceTime call to a small window on your Home Screen that stays present while you perform other tasks. Here, we'll show you how it works...



1 Watch a video

Start watching a video on your iPhone, such as a movie preview from the iTunes Store (sadly, PiP doesn't work for third-party apps yet), and then tap to show the controls.



3 Move it around

If you drag the video window it will snap to either of the four corners of your screen. You can also press the Home button to exit the current app and do something else while continuing to watch.



4 Start automatically

Go to Settings>General>Picture in Picture and turn on 'Start PiP Automatically'. Now, the video will auto-reduce to PiP mode just by pressing the Home button.

2 Tap the icon

You will see the Picture in Picture icon appear in the toolbar at the top of the screen. Tap it and the video will be reduced to a small window in the top-right corner of the display.



5 Close window

Tap on the video window to see the controls, then you can close it (stop watching) by tapping the 'X' icon or tap the PiP icon to take the video back to its original app.

Master iOS 14 now!

Better group chats

The iOS 14 Messages app makes it easy to keep track of your group conversations

Look who's talking

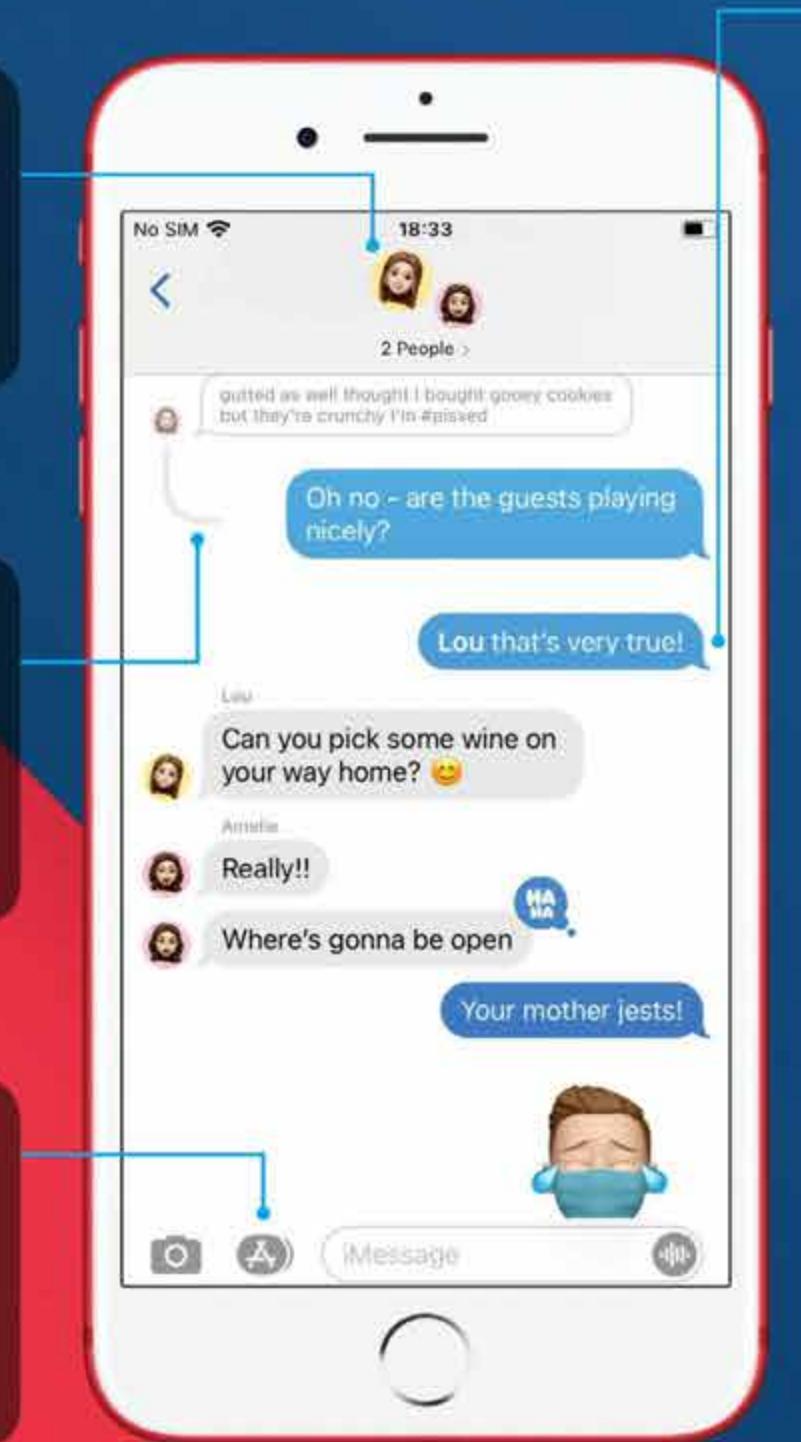
The banner at the top of the group chat shows exactly who is included in the group. The avatar of the person who has posted most recently will appear largest.

In-line replies

Rather than questions and queries getting lost in the conversation thread, you can reply to group posts individually. It means that nobody's voice goes unheard!

Add some sparkle

The app drawer is still on-hand to allow you to express yourself better within your group chats. As usual, you can add Memoji stickers and various other effects by tapping on the App Store icon.

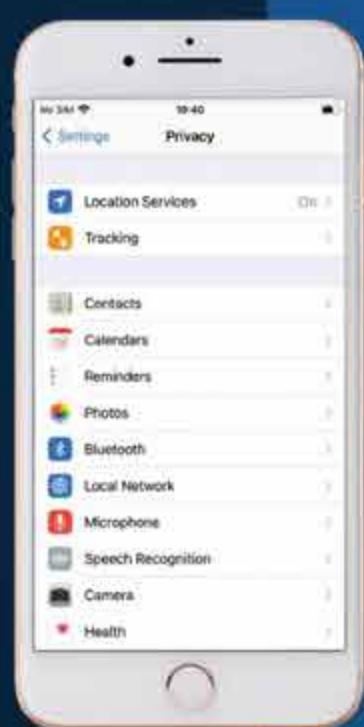


Mentions

If someone has posted a message that concerns everyone in the group and you would like to raise a point about it, for example, you can add a mention so people know that a message is directed at them.

Tracking controls

In iOS 14, developers must get your express consent before tracking you with their apps, so you get to choose the apps that can track you. If you wish to disable the feature that allows apps to ask permission to track you, then go to Settings>Privacy>Tracking and then turn off the 'Allow Apps to Request to Track' option.



How to use the new group chat features

Now that you know exactly what is new within the Messages group chat feature, it is time to learn exactly how you apply these new functions. Here's how to become an instant genius in group messaging.



1 Reply individually

To send replies to individual members, press and hold on the person's message until a list of options appears and then tap 'Reply' before typing and sending your message.

2 Add a mention

If you want to mention someone within one of your group chats, simply start off by writing their first name into the text field. The typed name will change colour when entered.

3 Tap to confirm

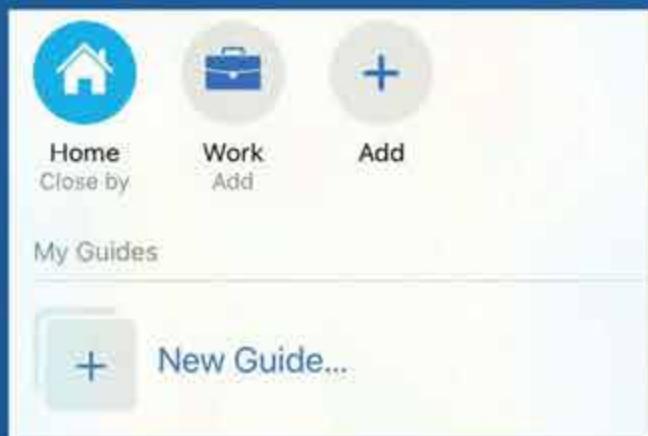
Select the name and a floating contact card will appear – tap on this to confirm and the name will turn blue. Then you can carry on writing and sending your message.



Regarding the Maps app directions for bikes, bear in mind that it may take a while for the service to update to include most locations.

Create a Guide in Maps

The ‘Collections’ feature has been renamed ‘Guides’ in the iOS 14 Maps app, and it is a handy way of organising collections of places that you’d like to visit on a holiday, for example.



1 Add Guide

In the Maps app, swipe up from the search field and, in the My Guides section, tap on ‘New Guide’ and then give it a name. Next, tap ‘Done’ followed by ‘Create’.



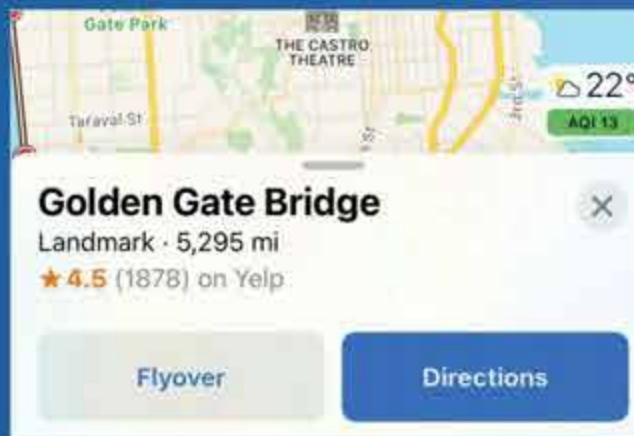
3 Save to guide

When the info page is displayed, swipe up until you see the ‘Save to...’ option and then tap on it. You will now see your recently created Guide, so tap on it to save the location.



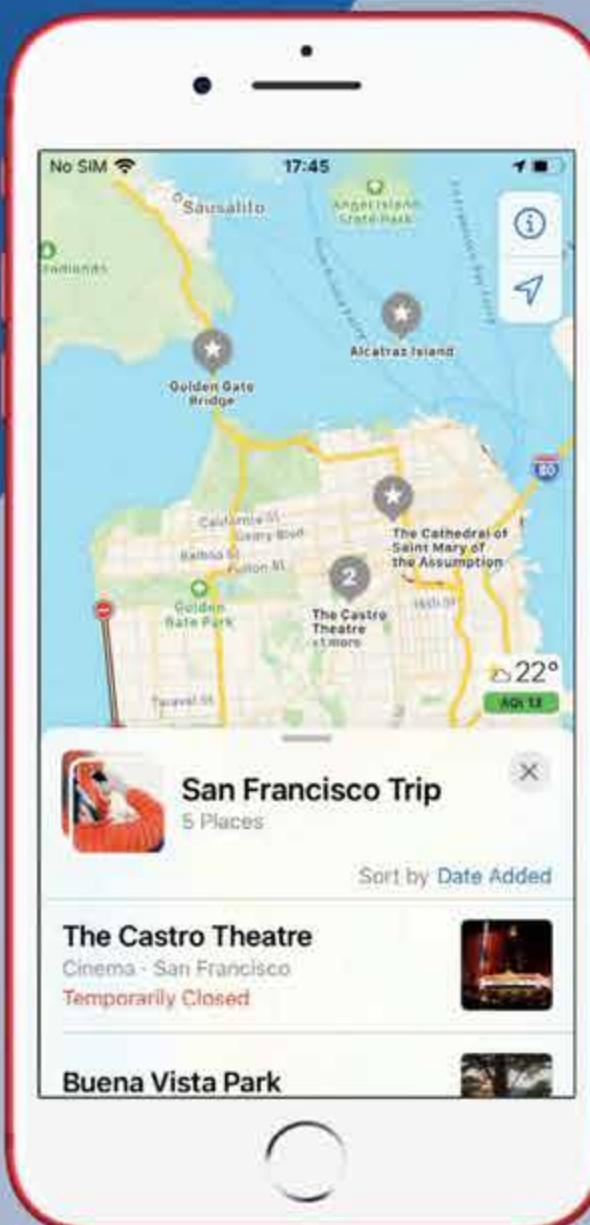
4 View your guide

After adding some more locations, you can access and view your Guide by swiping up from the search field and then tapping on it. You can also edit and share it with other people from here.



2 Find a place

Now, back in the main Maps app, navigate to the place that you would like to base your Guide on, zoom in and then tap on a location that you would like to add.

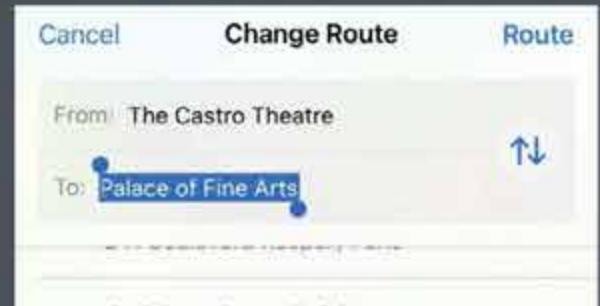


5 Find on map

Swipe back down to hide the Guide and reveal the map. Now you’ll see all of the locations that have been added to your Guide will be displayed on the map, making them easy to find.

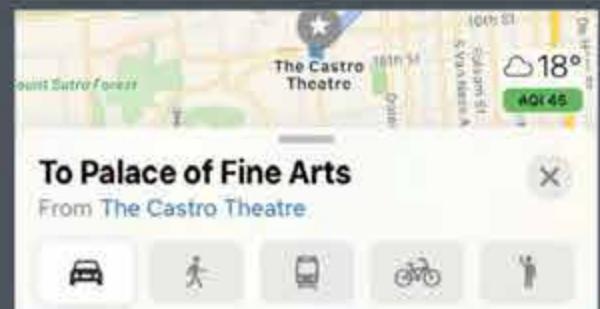
Get cycling with Maps

Are you doing the decent thing and ditching four wheels in favour of two? Then the iOS 14 Maps app is on hand with a brand-new feature to help you get from A to B on your bike.



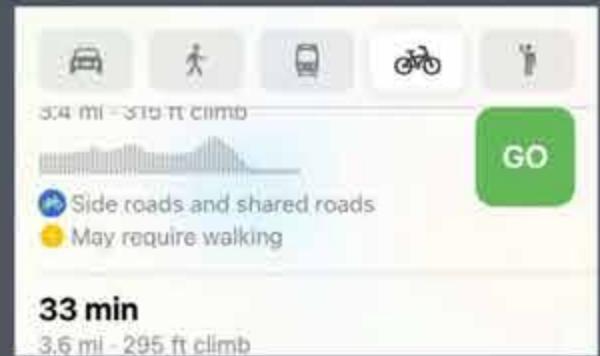
1 Select locations

Start planning your journey as you would if you were driving by selecting a destination and tapping ‘Directions’. At this point you can change ‘From: My Location’ to a custom start point.



2 Get route

Next, tap on ‘Route’ and the directions to your destination will be calculated. When the directions are presented, tap on the new bicycle icon from the row of possible modes.



3 What to avoid

The directions will instantly be changed to a bike-friendly route, complete with elevation info (so you know how steep the terrain is). Swipe up to the ‘Avoid’ section to toggle on ‘Hills’ and ‘Busy Roads’.



Levels and curves

How to make more effective selective tonal adjustments by tweaking points on a curve

Developer
Apple Inc

Difficulty



Time needed

10

Download available



In high-contrast scenes, your camera may prioritise its settings to reveal shadow detail, causing highlights to be overexposed.

If the camera prioritises to capture a bright sky, then your subject's shadows can be lost in silhouette. The Photos app has sliders that enable you to claw back shadow or highlight detail, but these may not be powerful enough. Fortunately, you can summon the Curves panel to target and tweak specific tones and reveal missing details. We'll also look how the Levels panel provides an additional way to make selective tonal adjustments. We've provided a camera raw file to work with, as this format contains more information about hidden shadows and highlight details than a compressed JPEG does.



Before

After

Here we'll teach you how to use the Photos app to rescue details obscured by dark shadows or bright highlights

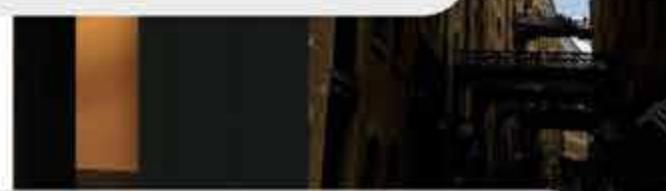
Adjust exposure with Curves

Selectively lighten shadows and darken highlights



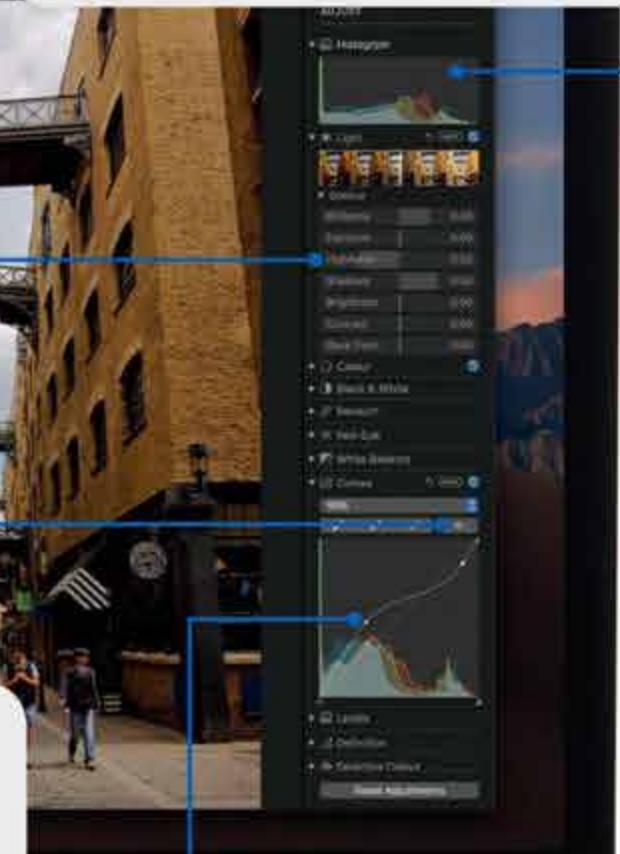
Selective adjustments

The Light panel's options enables you to selectively lighten shadows without overexposing highlights. You can also darken highlights without underexposing shadows. The Brilliance tool also helps reveal missing tonal detail.



Healthy histogram

Our start image was underexposed, so the histogram's graph was clumped towards the left to indicate strong shadows. After tweaking the shot's tones, the edited histogram has spread to the right, indicating that more shadow and midtone detail is visible.



Knowledge base

Helpful histograms

The histogram graph enables you to diagnose problems with a photo. If the graph is clumped to the left then the shot is underexposed. A graph clumped to the right indicates an overexposed shot. We can tweak the tones until the histogram graph stretches from the left to the right, indicating the presence of shadows, midtones and highlights that we'd find in a correctly exposed image.

Add control point

The control point tool enables you to sample a particular tone in the shot, such as an underexposed shadow. After taking a sample, the tool adds a control point to the curve. By dragging the point you can lighten or darken the sampled tone.

S-curve

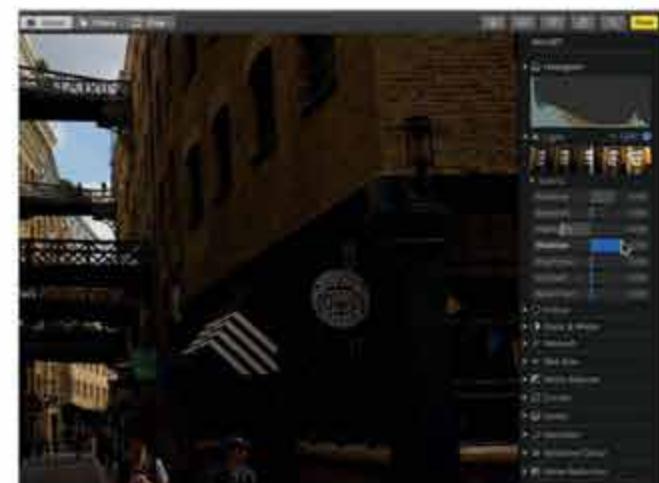
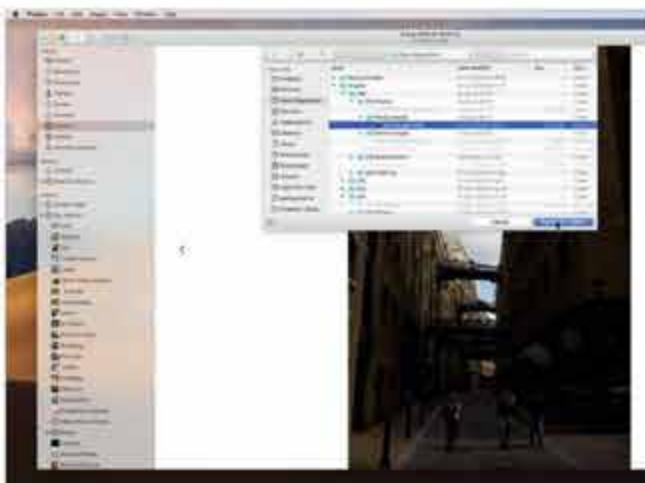
Here we've pushed a control point upwards to lighten shadows and dragged another point down to darken highlights. This creates a classic s-shaped adjustment curve that reveals missing shadow and highlight detail.



To see how your edited image is shaping up, press the M key. This lets you toggle between a before and after version of the shot.

Step-by-step

Target tones using curves



1 Import photo

Choose File>Import and select our 'Curves_start.CR2' file. Click the 'Review for Import button'. Double-click on the imported photo's thumbnail. Click the 'Edit' button.

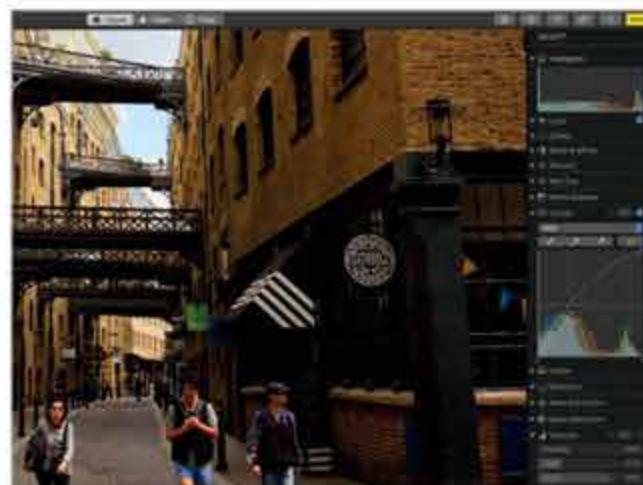


4 Add curve control point

In the Curves panel, click the 'Add Points' icon (to the right of the three eyedroppers). Click on a shaded midtone cobble. A control point appears near the bottom-left of the curve.

2 Analyse histogram

Toggle open the histogram. The graph peaks at both ends, indicating dark shadows and bright highlights. Note there's little midtone information visible in the middle.

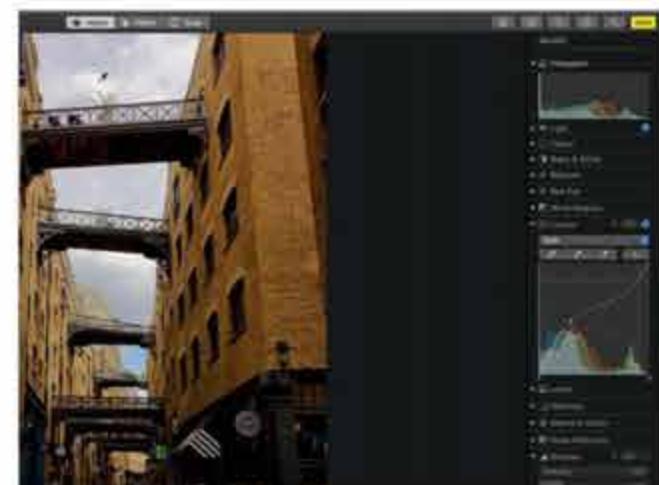


5 Adjust the curve

Drag the curve control point upwards to brighten the underexposed shadows. The curve will bulge upwards and lighten some of the midtones and highlights, too.

3 Selective tone tweaks

Open Light's options. Drag Highlights left to -0.50 to reveal missing sky. Drag Shadows right to 0.50 to show shadow detail. Push Brilliance to 0.20 for more midtones.



6 Adjust brighter areas

Click on the 'Add Point' icon. Click to sample the lighter clouds. This places a control point near the top-right of the curve. Drag it down to restore detail to the sky's highlights.

Adjusting Levels

A photo's shadows, midtones and highlights are reproduced using a series of grayscale tones. These tones are measured in levels. The darkest, blackest shadows have a level of zero. The brightest, whitest highlights have a level of 255. The rest of the shadows, midtones and highlights have levels that fall between these two extremes. You can use Photos' Levels tool to remap incorrectly exposed tones to lighter or darker levels. This is another effective way of making selective tonal adjustments.



1 Analyse histogram

Import 'Levels_start.jpg'. The histogram shows that this shot lacks strong shadows at the left. It also lacks strong highlights at the right. Toggle open the Levels panel.



2 Remap tones

Drag the Luminance tone handles as shown to remap the shot's levels. The adjusted histogram graph now indicates a wider range of tones.



Produce true colours by editing footage in iMovie

How to tackle tints and counteract colour casts

Developer
Apple Inc

Difficulty



Time needed

15

Download available



In certain lighting conditions, such as shade, you may find that some subjects in your video clips suffer from a cold blue colour cast. Alternatively, colours under artificial lighting sources may be too warm, causing skin tones to look orange. Some clips may also suffer from green or magenta tints.

Your iPhone's Camera app performs an auto white balance operation to help it capture true colours. Some third-party apps (and most camcorders) also have a range of white balance presets such as 'daylight' or 'cloudy'. These help the camera warm up or cool down colours to make them look more natural.

If your iPhone or camcorder does add a colour cast or tint to a clip, you can use tools in iMovie to produce more accurate colours with ease. Here, we'll take a look at some of the options.



iMovie has a suite of colour-correcting tools to help naturalise the hues of your footage

True colours

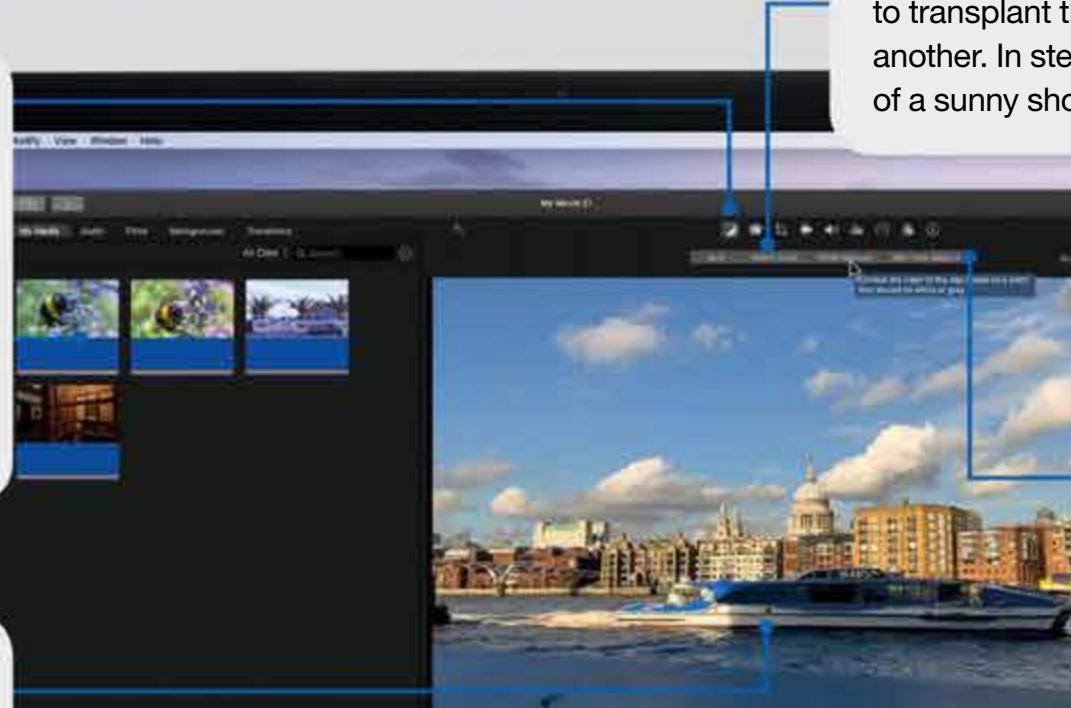
Master colour-correction tools

Color Balance

The Colour Balance icon gives you access to a suite of tools that can counteract cold or warm colour casts produced by your camcorder's incorrect white balance settings or mixed lighting conditions.

White Balance

The White Balance tool's eyedropper analyses whether a clip is too cold (blue) or too warm (orange). It then warms up or cools down the sampled area's colour cast to create more natural looking colours throughout the shot.



Match Color

This colour-correcting tool enables you to transplant the colours from one clip to another. In step eight we use the warm colours of a sunny shot to warm up a cold blue clip.

Skin Tone Balance

The standard White Balance eyedropper can make skin tones look orange and oversaturated. This eyedropper tool warms up cold shots without oversaturating Caucasian skin tones.

Knowledge base

Colour Temperature

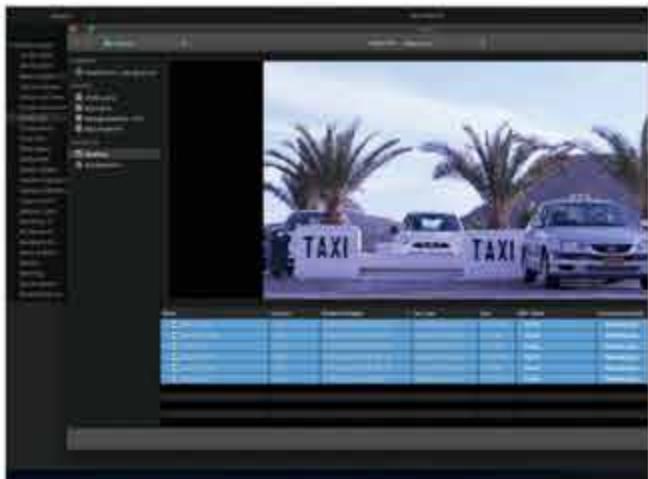
Different light sources have different colour temperatures, which is measured in degrees kelvin (K). For example, daylight has a colour temperature of around 5200K. Tungsten light has a temperature of 3200K. Daylight is cooler than tungsten light, so it can make a clip look too cold and blue. Warmer tungsten light can add an orange hue to your subject.



After performing a white balance operation you can compare the original frame with the fixed version by clicking the toggle switch above the viewer.

Step-by-step

Clobber colour casts and tints



1 Import clips

In the My Media panel, click on 'iMovie Library'. Choose File>New Event. Label the event 'Colour Fix'. Click 'Import Media'. Browse to our supplied start clips. Click 'Import All'.



2 Add to timeline

Drag 'Cold' to the timeline. This clip suffers from a blue colour cast and a magenta tint. Click the Color Balance icon above the viewer. Select the White Balance button.



3 White balance

Click the eyedropper tool on an area that should be white. The eyedropper detects that the area is too cool so it warms it up to create neutral tint-free whites. Click the tick.



4 Healthier skin tones

Drag 'Skintone' to the timeline. This indoor clip's warm artificial light has made the skin tones look too orange. We can prioritise the white balance operation to suit Caucasian skin.



5 Take a sample

Select the Skin Tone Balance button. Click to sample part of the hand. Skin Tone Balance will adjust the clip to produce neutral cast-free whites without over-warming any skin tones.



6 Too warm

Drag the 'Warm' cast into the timeline. This clip's artificial lighting has added a warm wash of colour to the scene. You can cool down the colours to make them look more natural.



7 Cool it down

Select the Color Balance icon, then click the White Balance button. Click to sample an area that should be grey or white (such as the notices). This will cool down the warm colours.



8 Match the colour

Drag 'Match 01' and 'Match 02' to the timeline. Select the cold Match 01 clip. Click the Match Color button. Click on the warmer Match 02 clip to transfer its colours over.



9 Manual adjustments

Add 'Mixed Lighting'. Select the Color Correction icon. Drag the Temperature slider right to balance between warming the shadows without over-warming the sunlit buildings.





Final Cut Pro X

Showcase a miniature world with Final Cut

How to overcome the challenges of shooting and editing macro subjects

Developer
Apple, Inc

Difficulty

Time needed

15

Download available



The iPhone 11 Pro has a telephoto lens that lets you get closer to your subject, but to capture tiny subjects in detail you'll need a third-party macro lens. ShiftCam produces a five-in-one multi-lens iPhone 11 Pro case that includes two macro lenses. These 10x and 20x optical lenses enable you film tiny details, such as a bee pollinating flowers. Macro lenses also



Third-party macro lenses add a beautiful blur and let you see delicate details

produce a beautiful blurred background bokeh that frames the foreground subject. As bees are constantly on the move, you need to shoot them handheld and this can lead to blurry, shaky clips. Follow our steps to shoot smoother, sharper shots of your moving macro subjects. We've provided you with macro clips that you can edit in our step-by-step walkthrough.

Edit macro source clips

Enhance a sequence with post-production effects

Source clips

Our source clips are very short (less than a second) as they filmed a fast-moving macro subject at a high frame rate of 240 frames per second. The handheld camera work is very wobbly when played in real time but looks smooth and stable when slowed down.



Split edit

By detaching a clip's audio track we can extend it over the following clip. This sound bridge helps knit the clips together into a more seamless sequence. Here the sound of a flying bee overlaps two shots.

Knowledge base

ShiftCam five-in-one lens case

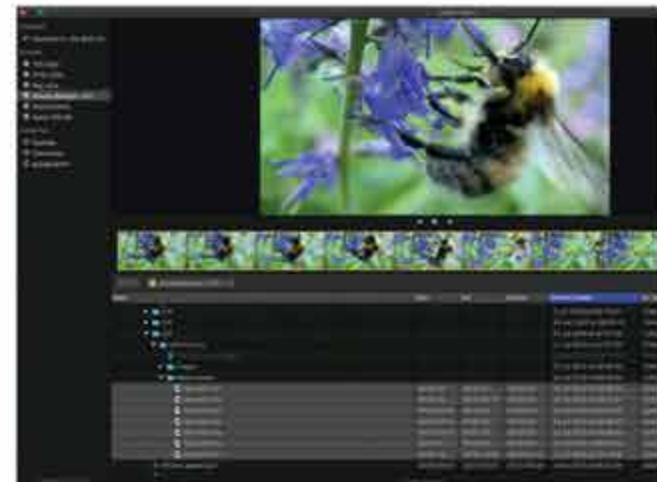
In addition to the ShiftCam's 10x and 20x macro lenses, it boasts a 180-degree fish-eye lens which creates eye-catching wide-angle images. You can also get closer to distant subjects thanks to the ShiftCam's 4x optical zoom lens. A circular polariser helps you reduce glare when shooting through glass. You can pick up a ShiftCam for £89.99 from www.shiftcam.uk.



To make the ShiftCam lens focus on a subject, you need to move the iPhone as close as you can. This can be a challenge when shooting living subjects!

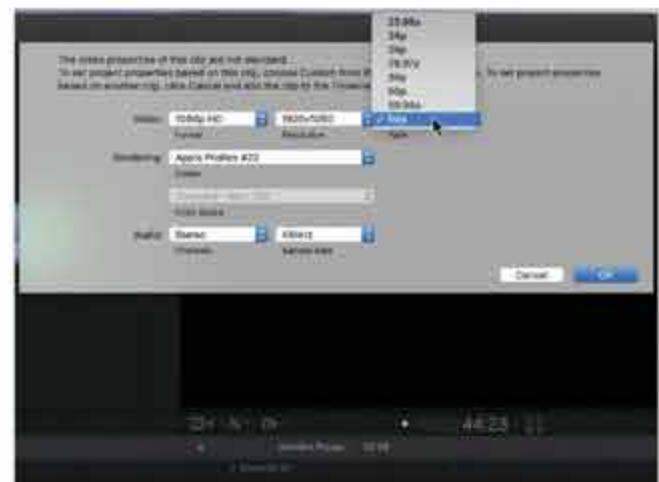
Step-by-step

Capture smooth, sharp macro shots



1 Set up Slo-Mo

In the Camera app, swipe to the Slo-Mo mode. In the corner of the iPhone 11 Pro's screen, tap to choose HD and 240fps. This is the key to a producing a smooth camera move.



2 Choose a macro lens

Slide the ShiftCam so its macro lenses overlap the iPhone's cameras. Tap the 1x icon to film through the 10x macro lens. Move close to your subject to get it in focus.



3 Import macro clips

In Final Cut Pro X choose File>New Event. Label it 'Macro'. Select File>Import>Media and browse to our supplied Slo-Mo macro bee clips. Click 'Import Selected'.



4 Choose a frame rate

Drag 'Macro01' to the timeline. A project frame rate of 60 ensures smooth playback. 60 is a factor of the clip's 240fps frame rate. Other rates might create jerky footage.



5 Retime the clip

Our 240fps clip is short, so let's fix that. Choose Modify>Retime>Slow>10%. Press cmd+Z to zoom in on the clip in the timeline. Play the clip to see the smooth footage.



6 Copy and paste

Click on Macro01. Choose Edit>Copy. Add 'Macro 02'. Click on that clip and choose Edit>Paste Attributes. Tick 'Retiming'. Click Paste to create a longer smoother clip.



7 Create audio bridge

Add the remaining clips and retime them. Click 'Macro03'. Choose Clip>Detach Audio. Trim two seconds from the end of Macro03 so the buzzing sound extends into Macro04.

8 Add bokeh effects

Click on 'Macro05'. To complement the particles of pollen, go to the Light section of the Effects browser. Drag 'Bokeh Random' onto Macro05. This adds floating pollen-like circles.



9 Post-production effects

From the Transitions browser, drop a Cross Dissolve between some of the clips. This helps the clips mix from one shot to the next. Our supplied music links everything together.



How to record multiple takes

Use the cycle area to capture multiple takes across tracks

Developer
Apple Inc

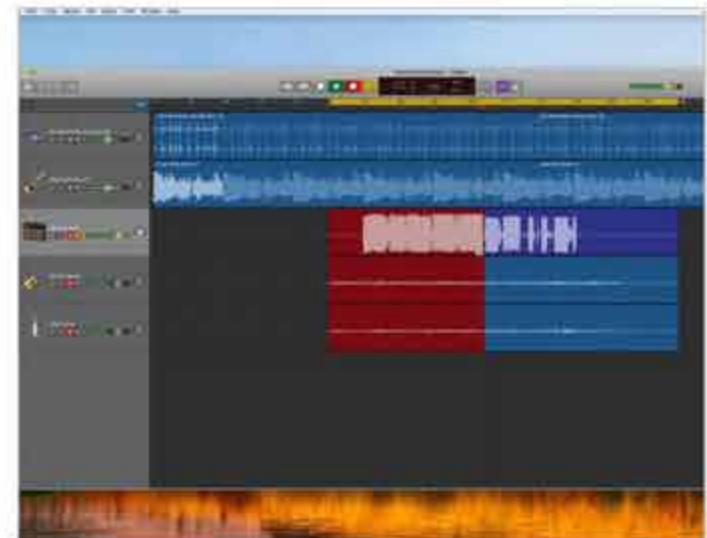
Difficulty



Time needed

20

Most of us begin with GarageBand by composing from its library of loops. However, musicians and performers will quickly want to master recording, too. In many ways this is where the software comes into its own, with intuitive methods for capturing ‘takes’ of direct instrumentation or microphone vocals. Realising that even the most seasoned star doesn’t always record perfectly in one pass, GarageBand allows us to keep recording audio within a section repeatedly. So in this guide we’ll examine how the cycle area achieves this, explaining how multiple takes within a cycle can then be auditioned and chosen, while also discovering the technique for recording more than one input simultaneously across multiple tracks.



GarageBand enables you to keep recording audio within a section repeatedly to get the desired results...

Just for the record

A closer examination of the core recording controls

Record Enable

Once they are added to track headers, these little buttons can be toggled on to flash and prime the track for recording multiple audio inputs across each one simultaneously when the project’s master record commences.

Multiple takes

Multiple takes captured within a track cycle area overlay one another as independently recorded regions. The number is in the top-left corner and clicking it shows the takes pop-up for selection.



Record button

The master record button is between the play and cycle buttons in the control bar. Use this or tap the R key shortcut to start recording, clicking stop or tapping spacebar to halt.

Cycle area

Toggle the cycle area on/off using this control bar button or the C key. A yellow strip in the timeline below marks a project section that will repeatedly be recorded inside.

Knowledge base

Delete Unused Takes

When it comes to selecting the best of multiple takes, you pick and preview between each ‘stack’ of region recordings via the takes pop-up. Selecting one brings it to the top so you can play it, before deleting each if necessary. Alternatively, pick your favourite and choose ‘Delete Unused Takes’ to remove all the others.

Step-by-step

How to record multiple takes



To capture multiple software instrument takes (green) in a cycle, visit Preferences and choose 'Create Takes' from General>Cycle On/Off.



1 Project launch

To start, you need GarageBand launched and either an existing project opened or a new one created with at least a single audio track receiving an input signal to record.



4 Number crunch

Don't worry, each take has been recorded without losing those prior. You can navigate between them by clicking the little number badge in the top-left corner of the region.

2 Cycle selection

The cycle area marks a spell in the timeline where the playhead will repeatedly record. Toggle this yellow strip on with the C key before sizing and positioning accordingly.

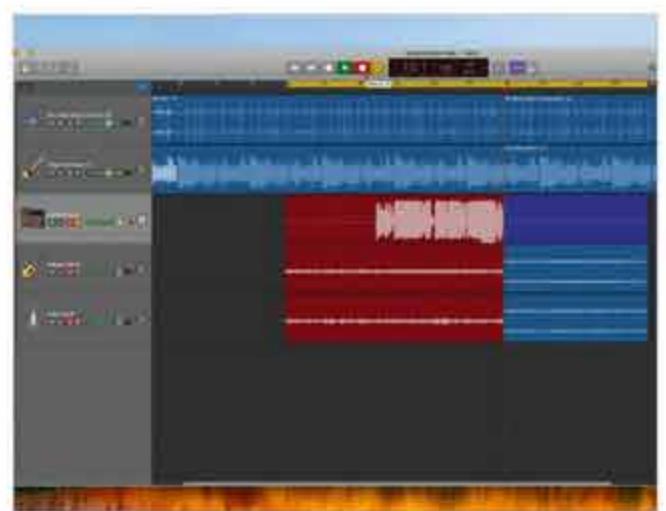


5 Audition process

This shows a takes pop-up menu that, crucially, lets you click a take from its list of passes to shuffle it up to the top of the pile to 'audition' it during project playback.

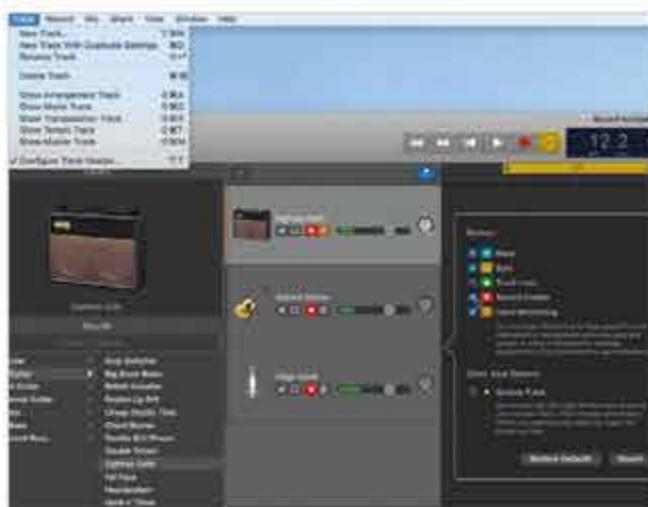
3 Repeat performance

Click the Record button in the control bar and keep performing as the cycles repeat, noticing how each recording pass goes over the previous take until you click stop (S).



6 Multiple tracks

If you have several audio inputs available across a number of tracks, you can also 'multi-track' record during each pass while still capturing a take through every cycle.



7 Configure header

Navigate to Track>Configure Track Header from GarageBand's top file menu. This shows a special pop-up menu where you need to check 'Record Enable' under Buttons.



8 Record enabling

With Record Enable buttons now inside our track headers, click on each to initialise every desired track you wish to record simultaneously during a recording.



9 Press record

Enabled tracks show their buttons flashing red and when you click the main project record button, you will see that the audio input signals are captured now to each one.



Logic Pro X

Creating a reverse reverb effect

Use Logic's reverse audio function to create stunning transitions between song sections

Developer
Apple Inc

Difficulty

Time needed

15

For those of you who are looking for ways to add a bit of professional polish to your tracks, transitions between song sections are a great area to focus on, and one super effective trick you can use to enhance these special moments is the reverse reverb technique.

This was a complicated process in the days of tape machines, involving flipping reels of tape



Logic Pro's reverse reverb technique can be used to help polish up the transitions between song sections...

upside down so they played back to front. These days, however, the miracle of the multifunctional digital audio workstation has made it so that the trick can be pulled off with just a few mouse clicks. However, as with everything, you need to know how to do it properly in order for it to be effective. So simply follow the steps on the next page to become well (re)versed in the technique.

Reverse psychology

Breathe life into your song transitions

Work placement
This type of effect works especially well when used to announce a new section of a song. Create it from a segment of the first bar and it creates a natural build, preparing the ear for when the new section comes in.

EQ and balance
Once you've got it in the right place, EQ the effect again to taste – roll off some low end, cut some low mids, and add in some highs as needed. Finally, balance it into the mix using the channel fader.

Delete source file
Once the reverse effect has been created, you can safely delete the copied section it was generated from, as it's no longer needed in the project.

Fade in
If the reverb tail doesn't fade in how you'd like, you can tailor it to your own taste using the Fade tool. You can also adjust the start point by dragging the region's left border.

The screenshot shows the Logic Pro X interface with several tracks visible in the timeline. A red region labeled 'LPX Reverse Reverb 122' is selected. Below it, a blue region labeled 'LPX Reverse Reverb 122_bip' is shown. The 'Channel EQ' window is open at the bottom, showing a frequency response curve. On the left, the mixer shows various faders and knobs. The overall interface is dark-themed.

For a quick way to access the 'Bounce Regions in Place' window, just use the **ctrl+B** shortcut on your computer keyboard.

Step-by-step

Creating reverse reverb FX



1 Create copy

Choose the section of your song you want the effect to lead up to, then copy that section to a new audio track. We're using the first bar of our example track's chorus.



2 Insert Channel EQ

Solo the new track and click the EQ box in the channel inspector to insert a Channel EQ. Use the settings shown to remove some high and low frequencies from the target region.



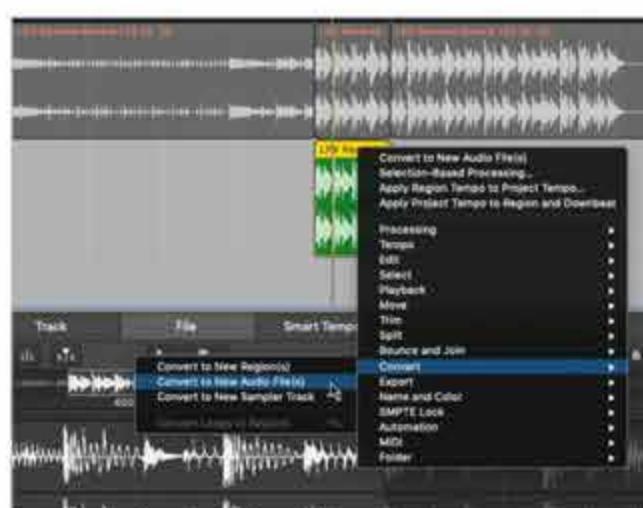
3 Insert reverb plugin

Insert a reverb plugin in the Audio FX slot after the EQ – Logic's Chromaverb is ideal. We're using the Spaces>Cathedral preset for a large, cavernous reverb effect.



4 Adjust settings

Crank Chromaverb's decay time up to ten seconds and set the plugin's output balance controls to 0% Dry and 100% Wet, so we're getting all reverb and no dry signal at all.



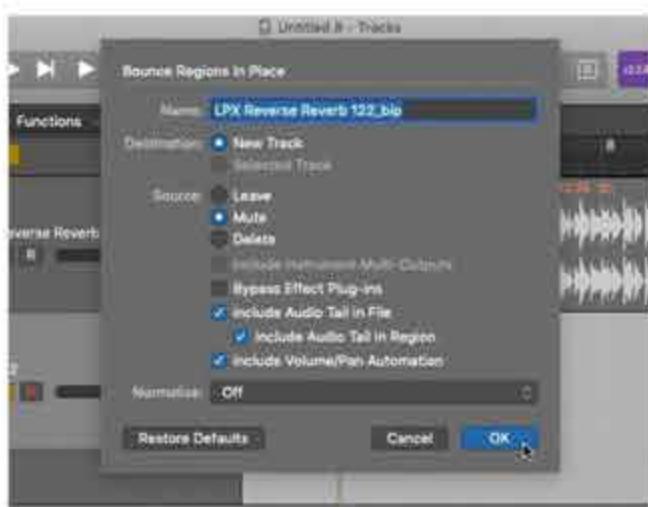
5 Create new file

Right-click the copied region and choose Convert>Convert to New Audio File. This will allow you to destructively edit this new region without affecting the original audio.



6 Select reverse

Double-click the bounced region to open the Sample Editor and open the File tab. In the Sample Editor's local menu, choose Functions>Reverse to reverse the selection.



7 Bounce in place

In File>Bounce>Regions in Place, select 'Destination: New Track' and 'Source: Mute'. Tick 'Include Audio Tail in File' and 'Include Audio Tail in Region', then hit 'OK'.



8 Back again

Solo the new track, then double-click the newly-bounced region and perform the same reverse operation as before in the Sample Editor. This creates a reversed reverb tail.



9 Trim and align

Use the scissors tool to cut the highest point of the reversed waveform, then line it up visually to the downbeat you need it to end on. Then unsolo the track and enjoy!

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Create a secret admin account

How to hide an administrator account from general view for added security

Developer
Apple Inc

Difficulty



Time needed



15

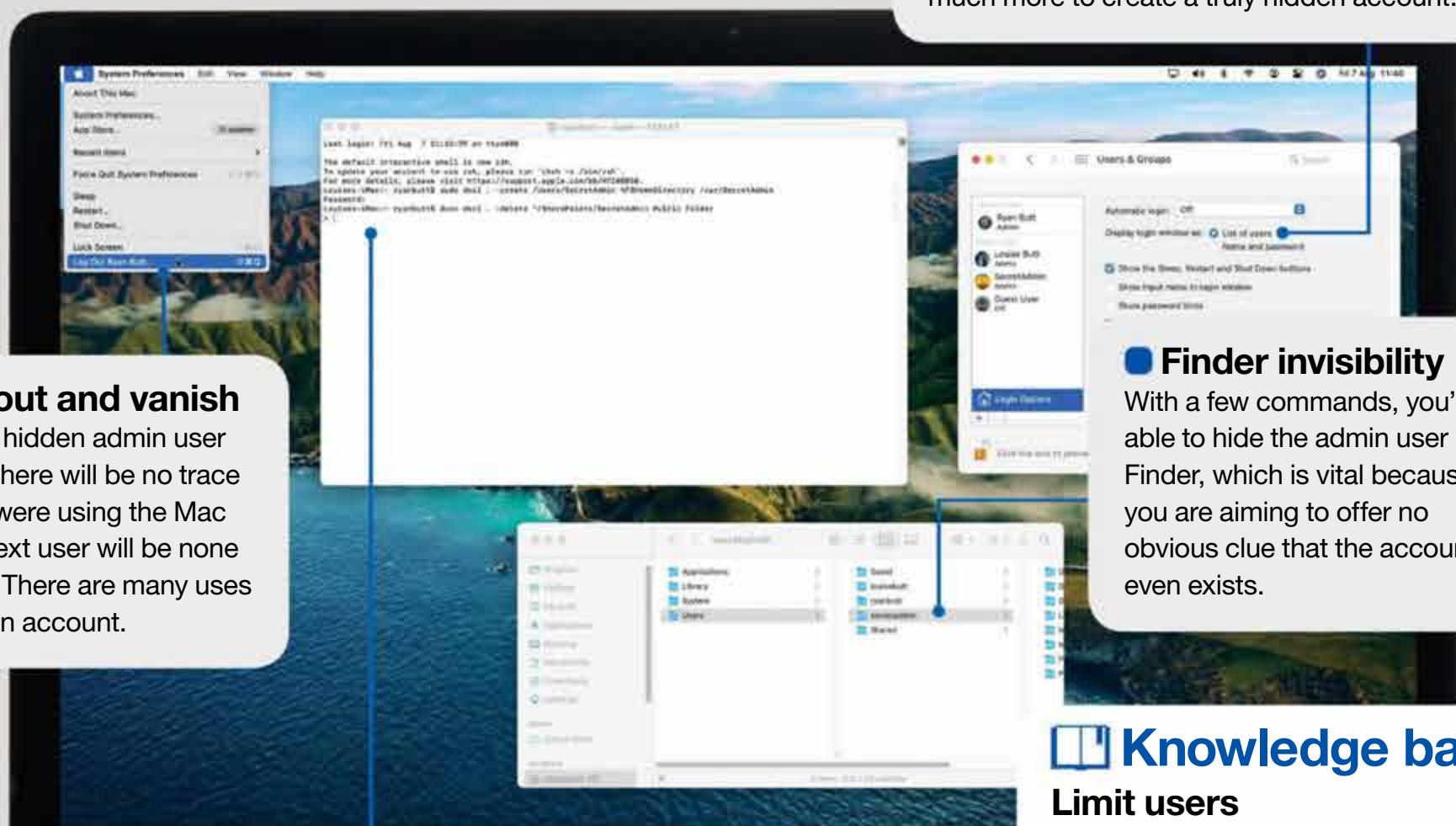
Creating an admin account that is hidden from other users is very useful for a number of reasons. The obvious one is that people cannot attempt to make use of it and, although it is not necessarily a sophisticated security measure, it will be more than enough to stop most people knowing that it is even there. The other reason is more generic, but having a second admin account makes sense just in case you lose access to the main account, at which point it can be used to recover from major problems that you may otherwise be locked out of. The process is fairly straightforward but you will need to be precise to ensure that you do not lock yourself out of your Mac. As is always the case with Terminal, type carefully and make sure you put the spaces in the right place.



Follow these steps and when someone logs into your Mac, they will see no username options for the hidden account

Hide a user everywhere

Check different apps to make sure you're truly hidden



Log out and vanish

When the hidden admin user logs out, there will be no trace that they were using the Mac and the next user will be none the wiser. There are many uses for such an account.

Simple commands

The Terminal commands you need to use are not too complex, but make sure that you understand what they do before you use them. Go to <http://support.apple.com/en-us/HT203998> for more details.

Hide user accounts

You can hide usernames in the login screen in System Preferences>Users & Groups, but an admin can change this setting. You need to do much more to create a truly hidden account.

Finder invisibility

With a few commands, you'll be able to hide the admin user in Finder, which is vital because you are aiming to offer no obvious clue that the account even exists.

Knowledge base

Limit users

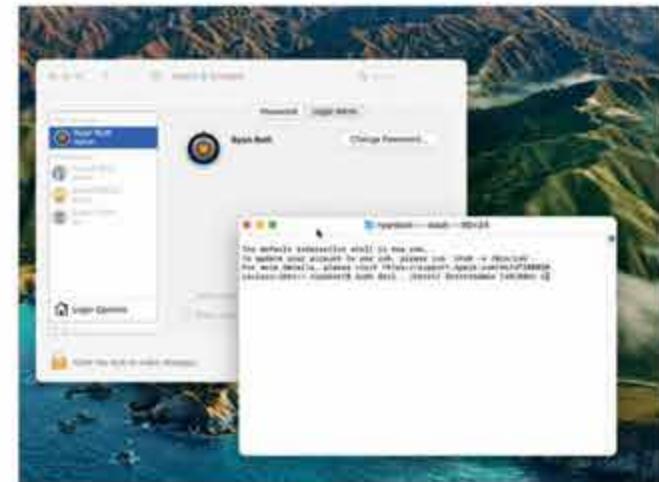
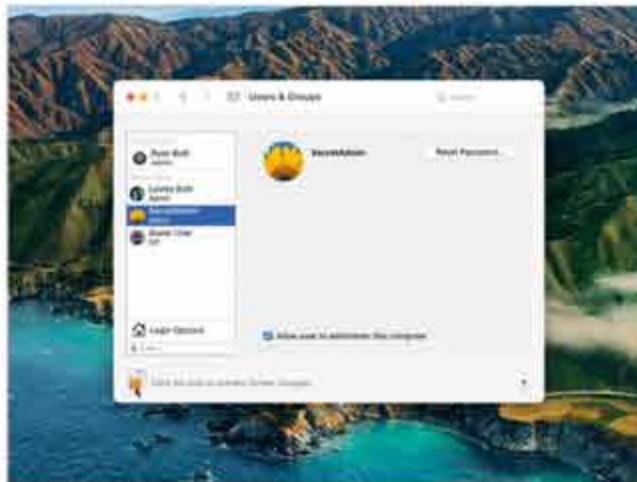
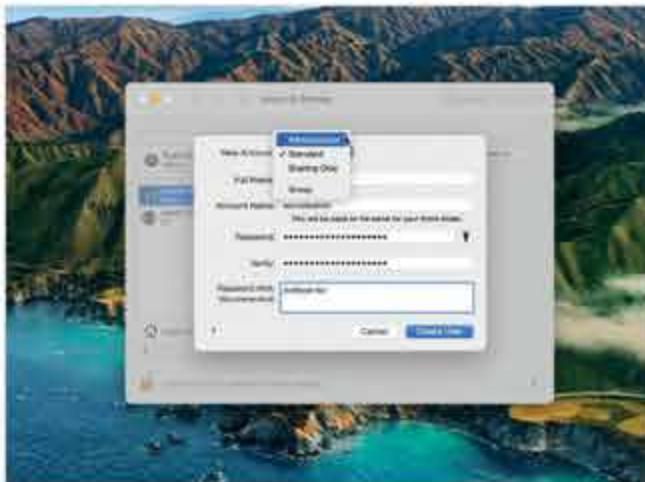
If you have specific needs for multiple users on a Mac it makes sense to create them as required, but we would advise to always limit the numbers to only the bare essentials. This will minimise the potential for future problems. We would recommend a main admin user, a hidden admin user and a guest account as the minimum.



Remember that simply hiding an account does not make it completely immune to outside attacks. This setup is designed to block curious users.

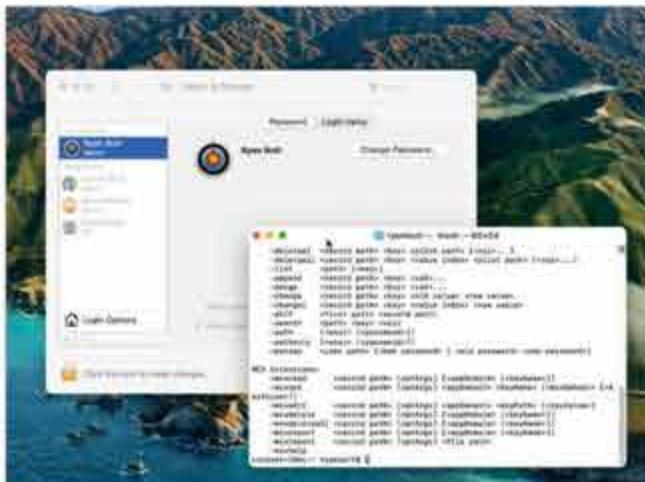
Step-by-step

How to hide a second admin account



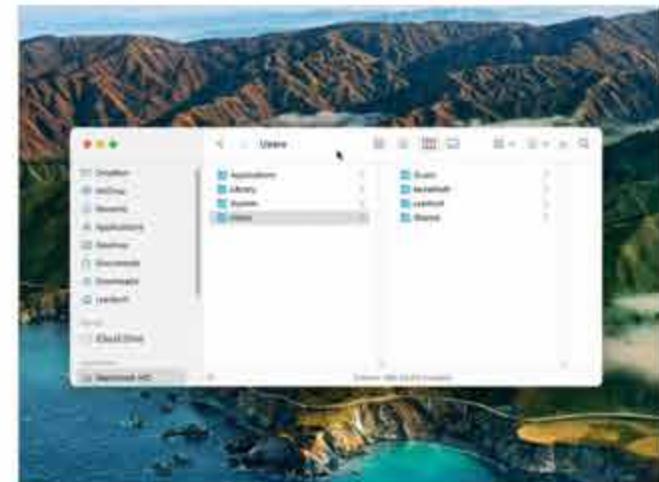
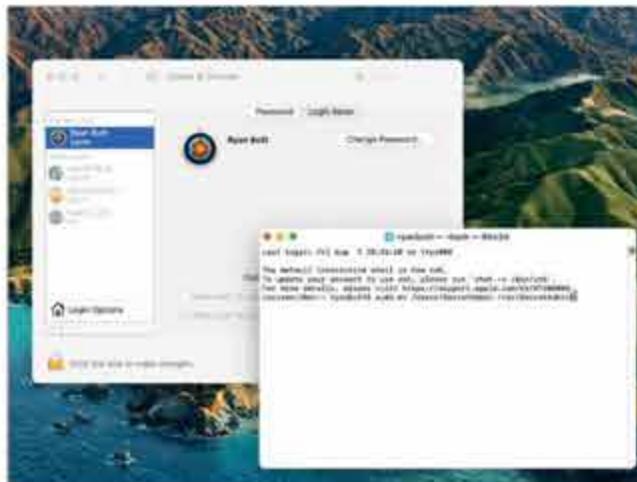
1 Create a new account

While logged in as an admin, go to System Preferences>Users & Groups and click '+' to create a new account. Make sure that the 'Administrator' option is selected for the user.



2 Lock it up

Make sure that the account has a unique name and then click the padlock icon to prevent any further changes being made. You now have at least two visible admin accounts.

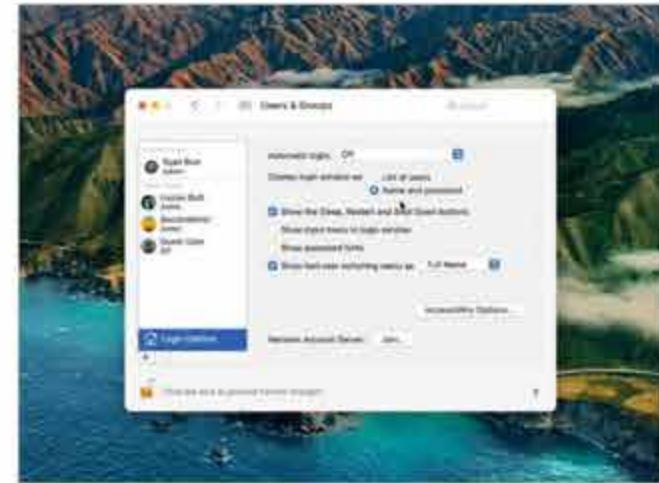
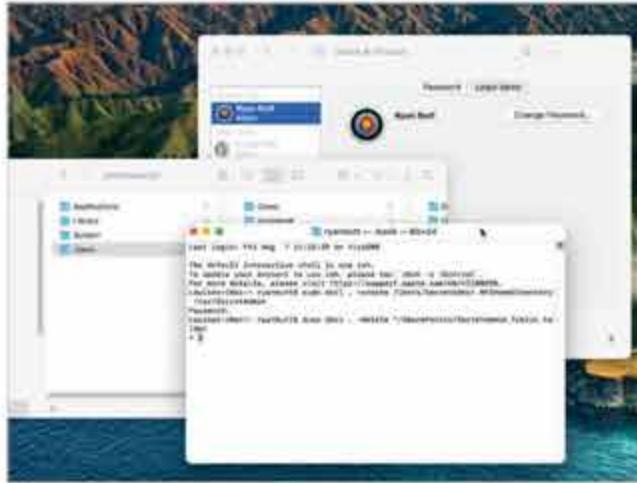
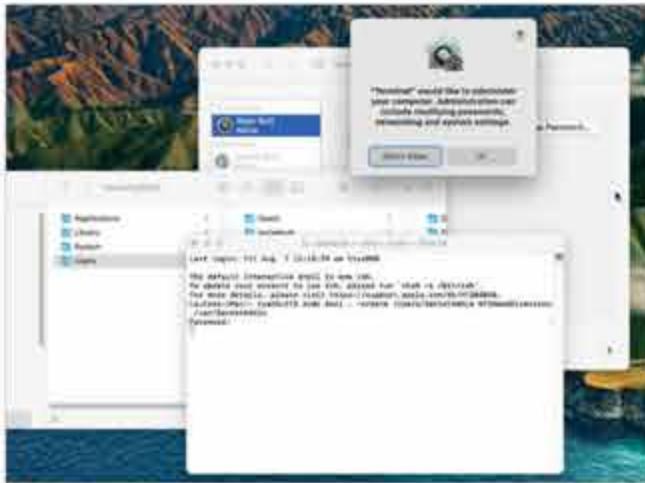


4 Enter password

Terminal will then ask for your password (for your main account, not the new account), type carefully because you can't see it! The window will then fill with text.

5 Hide the folder

You now need to hide the new admin folder when users are viewed in Finder. Type: **sudo mv /Users/USERNAME /var/USERNAME** to direct to a hidden folder.



7 Modify Home folder

In Terminal, you can adjust the Home folder by typing: **sudo dscl . -create /Users/USERNAME NFSHomeDirectory /var/USERNAME** into the window.

8 Delete public folder

In Terminal, you can also delete the public folder by typing: **sudo dscl . -delete '/SharePoints/USERNAME Public Folder'** into the window.

9 Change login format

Back in Users & Groups, click 'Login Options' and ensure 'Name and password' is selected in the 'Display login window as' field. This hides usernames.



System Preferences

Get Apple TV screen savers on Mac

How to put the gorgeous aerial shots from your Apple TV onto your Mac

Developer
Apple Inc

Difficulty



Time needed

15

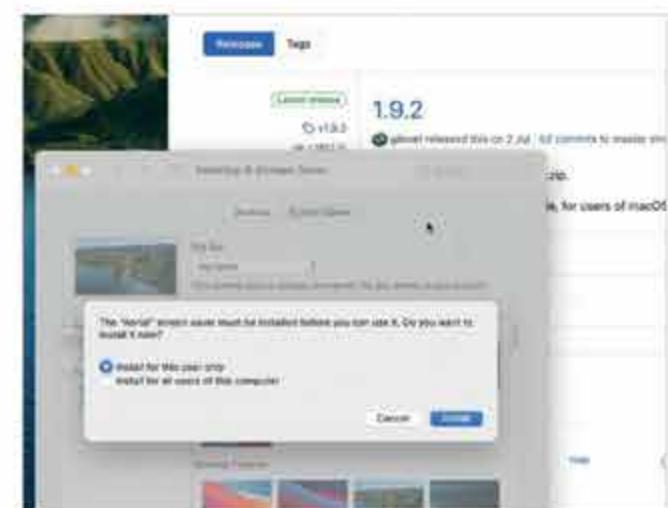
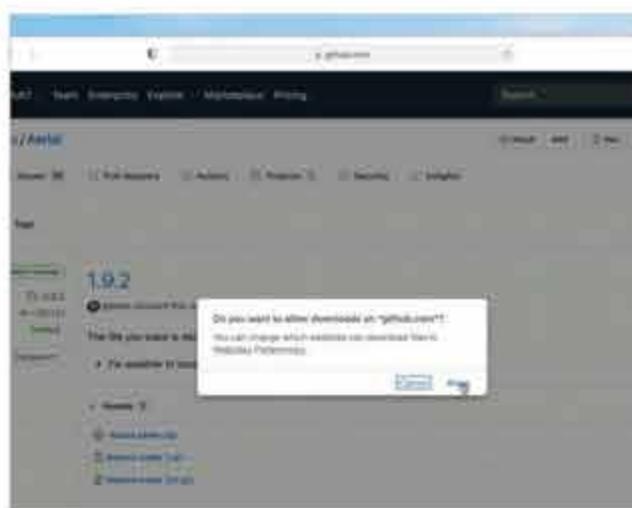
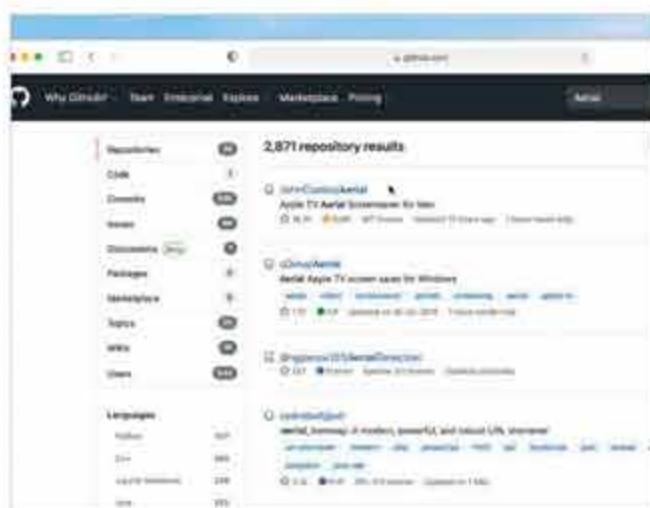
An underrated aspect of Apple TV is the wonderful screen saver. If your telly has been idle for a while, then you're treated to some stunning aerial views of certain parts of the world and other assorted scenic images that are apparently living and bustling with activity. By comparison, most of your Mac's native screen savers are a little underwhelming – which we suppose isn't a massive deal as, in theory, you're away from your computer. But if you want something nicer to be displayed then you can acquire the Apple TV screen savers from the internet and then apply them to your Mac's screen saver. The effect can be breathtaking and we'll help you get set up here.



We show you how to get stunning Apple TV screen savers up and running on your Mac...

Step-by-step

Download Apple TV screen savers to Mac



1 Go to website

Head to github.com and then type 'Aerial' into the site search field to find JohnCoates/Aerial. Click on that and then scroll down to the Installation section.

2 Download file

Click on the 'Download the latest release of Aerial.saver.zip' and select the 'Aerial.saver.zip' file. You may need to click on 'Allow' before your Mac will download the file.



4 Set your screen saver

You will now be in System Preferences>Desktop & Screen Saver>Screen Saver. Scroll down to the bottom of the left sidebar and then click on the new 'Aerial' option.

5 Set the preferences

Click on 'Screen Saver Options' and the range of saver cycles it will go through will appear in the left sidebar. Untick any that you don't want to see and then click 'Close'.

6 Finishing up

Your selections will now play at random when your Mac's screen saver kicks in. Click on 'Hot Corners' and then assign a corner to 'Start Screen Saver' to test it out.



If you go to Screen Saver Options>Time then you can have the screen saver image change in accordance to your Mac's Light/Dark mode settings.

Screen Saver options

Personalise your new-and-improved screen saver

Alter timings
Your screen saver is set to turn on after 20 minutes of inactivity, but you can change this using this menu. You can set it as low as a single minute or as high as one hour.

Show with clock
If the loss of the clock in the corner of your screen when in Screen Saver mode is an irritation, simply tick this box and the time will be displayed within the screen saver.

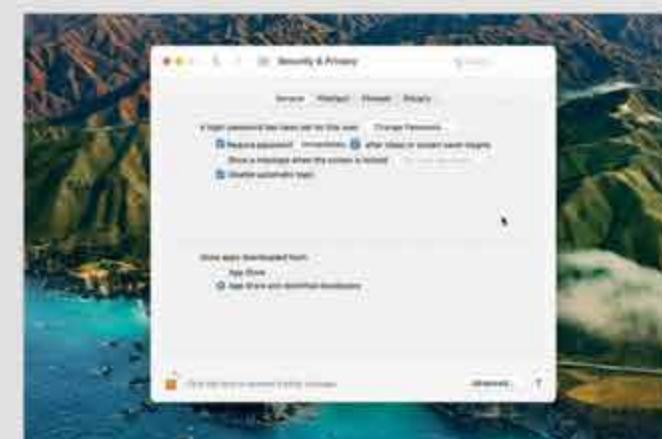
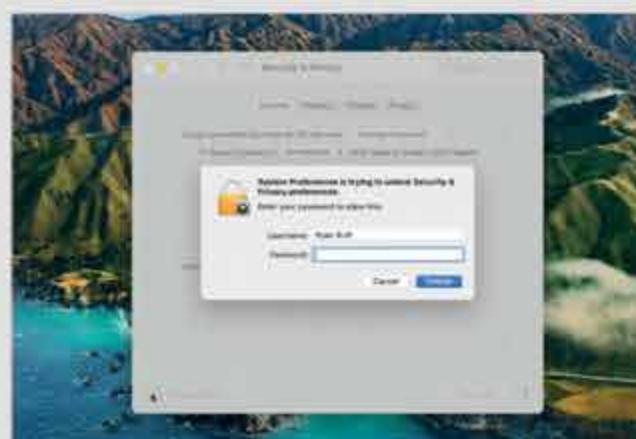
View preview
To see what the screen saver will look like on your Mac before you set it, hover over the large image and the 'Preview' option will appear. Click on this to view the screen saver in all its splendour.

Hot Corners
You can trigger your screen saver instantly by setting up a Hot Corner. Click here and then set one of the four menus to 'Start Screen Saver'. Now drag your cursor to trigger.

Knowledge base
Screen Saver options
With 'Aerial' selected as a screen saver, when you click on the 'Screen Saver Options' button, the settings available will be quite extensive. For example, if you are using it on a MacBook then the 'When on battery' menu lets you disable the screen saver or disable it only if the battery charge dips below 20 per cent.

Bypass the security features

Your Mac will automatically set up to only accept downloads from the App Store. However, as this is a Safari download, your Mac will block it from being added. Luckily, it only takes a couple of steps to enable downloads from other sources. However, once you have downloaded Aerial it might be worth changing the setting back to be on the safe side – especially if you read our tips for tightening up your App Store security, starting on page 42.



- 1 Unlock security settings**
Go to System Preferences>Security & Privacy and then click on the padlock icon in the lower-left corner and enter your administrator password to make changes.

- 2 Change app settings**
Click on the 'General' tab and then select the 'App Store and identified developers' option. You will still need to allow the download itself when you click on it.



Calibrate your Mac's display

Determine and apply colour profiles using macOS's Display Calibrator Assistant utility

Developer
Apple Inc

Difficulty

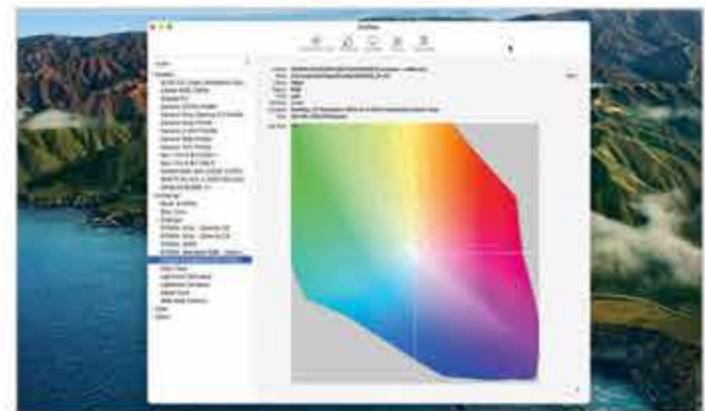


Time needed

20

One thing that defines Mac computing is digital creativity. As the platform of choice for designers, publishers and photographers, Macs are founded on a proud integrity for visual apps. Critical to this is accurately interpreting colour data and translating that into an output for your display. The idea is that whatever you view on one Mac should look the same on another, while also avoiding surprises when it comes to printing.

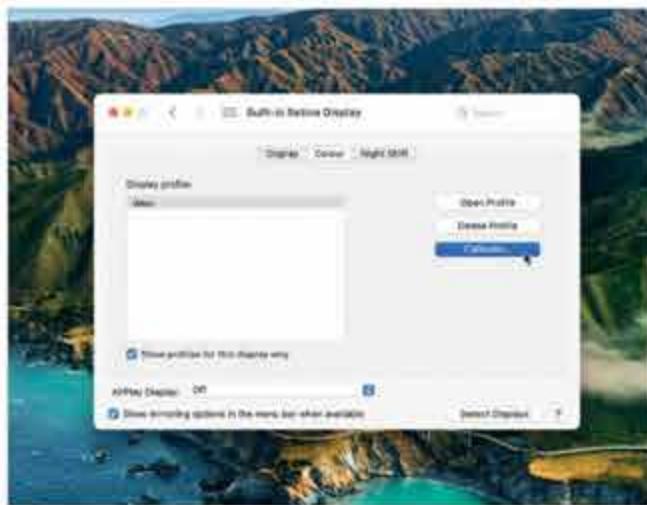
Thankfully, macOS lets users select standardised colour profiles or generate new ones specific to the machine. You will find a Display Calibrator Assistant built into your Mac's Display preferences, so in this guide we'll walk you through the options.



You can explore all of the colour profiles associated with your Mac by clicking 'Profiles' in the ColorSync Utility

Step-by-step

Achieve perfect calibration



1 Display calibrate

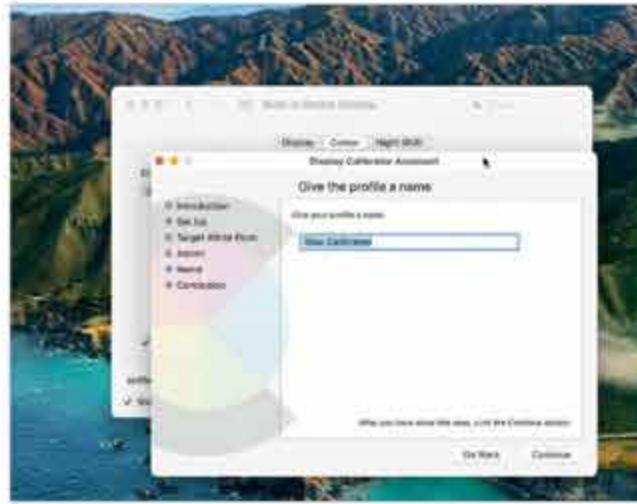
Go to System Preferences>Displays and then click on the 'Colour' tab at the top of the window. Now, hold down the option/alt key and then click on the 'Calibrate' button.

2 Unlock Expert Mode

The Display Calibrator Assistant will now launch with a new 'Expert Mode' option present. Clear this to follow the default calibration process and click 'Continue'.

3 Target white point

Standard mode only enables you to select a target white point, which adjusts the overall colour tint. Move the slider as required after deselecting 'Use native white point'.



4 Administrator options

This screen basically prompts you to choose if other users have permission to use your new calibrated display profile, whether created with default or Expert mode.

5 Name new profile

You will now need to give your new calibrated display profile a name. This will identify it within the system profile list shown in the Colour tab with the Display preferences.

6 Your new profile

A conclusion prompt should now show if your new calibrated profile has been successfully created. New profiles are automatically made current. Click 'Done'.

If you highlight a profile in System Preferences>Displays>Colour and click 'Open Profile', a formal overview will be opened in ColorSync Utility.

Understand the ColorSync Utility

A snapshot of this handy tool found in Applications>Utilities



Profile First Aid

This tab provides options for running a Verify test on your stored colour profiles. The window reports on the test findings and, like Disk Utility, offers you a handy 'Repair' option.

Devices & Filters

Devices shows all of the registered ColorSync devices spanning scanners, cameras and more, and the Filters tab allows you to modify colour filters in a profile.

Profiles

This tab provides a more detailed list of available colour profiles, such as System, Computer, User and Other. Profile info shows a Lab Plot view you can toggle from Lab to XYZ, rotatable in 3D.

Calculator

This can be used to determine the colour value of a pixel on your screen and compare across RGB, HSV, HLS, Lab, Luv, XYZ, Yxy, Gray and CMYK based on the profile.

Using the Expert Mode

In macOS El Capitan and higher, the default Display preferences have been simplified, including the regular Calibration Assistant. However, you can still access an Expert Mode by holding the alt/option key when clicking on 'Calibrate' within System Preferences>Displays>Colour. This crucially adds two additional stages for manually adjusting Native Gamma (Luminance) and then Target Gamma (contrast) levels. Here's how it works...



1 Native Gamma

These steps are used to determine your display's native luminance response curves. Drag the blue dots either side of the Apple logo up or down to make it appear neutral.



2 Target Gamma

This single stage enables you to adjust a slider control when Use Native Gamma is toggled off. The Mac Standard Gamma is 22 but watch what happens when you deviate.

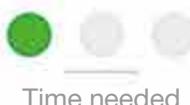


Protect your store purchases

How to add extra security to safeguard your Mac from accidental purchases and malware

Developer
Apple Inc

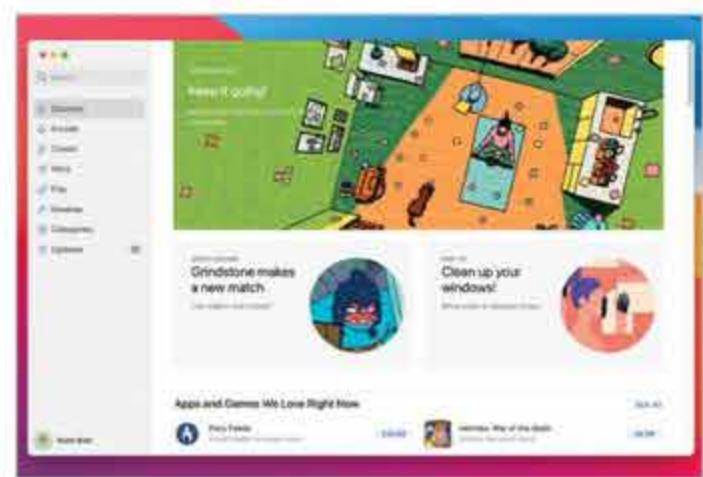
Difficulty



Time needed

15

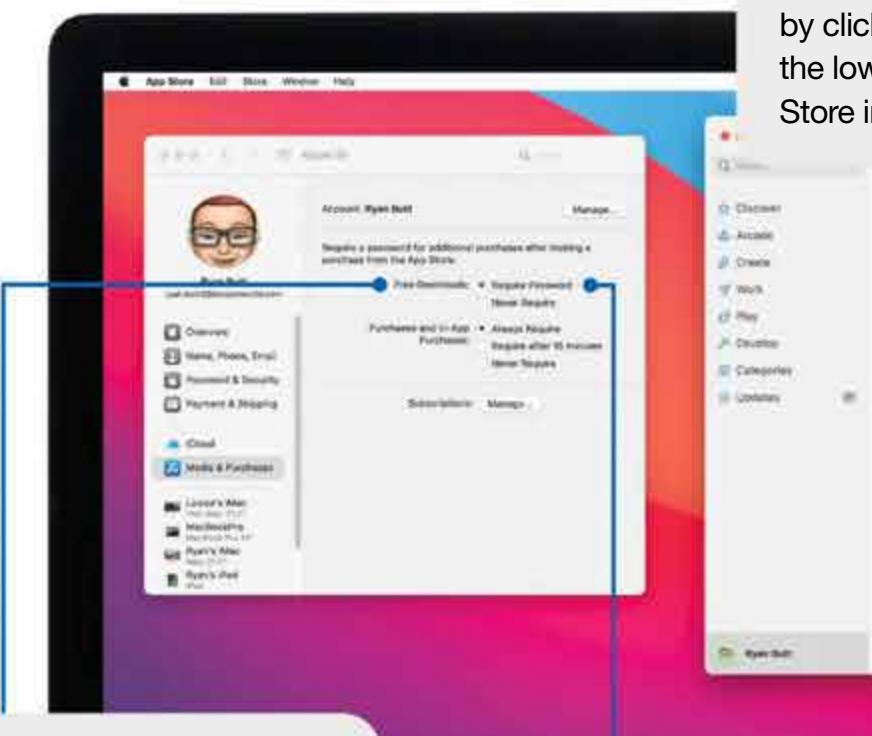
The App Store is a great feature of the Mac that makes it really easy to find software for work or personal use. Some apps require payment and because money is involved, there are some pretty good security systems in place to protect you. You must log in to the App Store with your Apple ID and, once signed in, there is an option for the store to remember your password, so if you need to make another purchase soon after then you don't need to re-enter it. This is convenient, but it is also a less secure option than requiring a password every time. In this tutorial we'll guide you through the various ways in which you can tighten up your Mac's App Store security in order to limit what is downloaded, and by whom. And it's a good way to get reacquainted with where the options are.



We show you how to tighten up your App Store security so that you can purchase and download apps with confidence

App Store options

Set up your security and hide apps



Free downloads

If an app is free, why do you need a password? There is an option to save your password but choosing 'Require Password' offers more security and control.

Check purchases

You can view all of the apps that have been purchased from the App Store under your account by clicking on your avatar in the lower-left corner of the App Store interface.



Hide purchases

Hover your cursor over a purchased app and then click on the '...' icon. From the resulting menu you will see the option to 'Hide Purchase', which makes it invisible.

Password for app purchases

There are two options here and it is possible for the App Store to remember your password for 15 minutes, which is handy for multiple purchases. 'Always Require' is the most secure option.

Knowledge base

Check your account info

When you click on your Memoji in the lower-left corner of the App Store, you will see several options at the top of the screen, including 'Account Information'. Click on this if you want to edit payment details (such as updating or removing a credit or debit card) and manage all other aspects of your account.



In System Preferences>Apple ID>Media & Purchases, click 'Manage' next to Subscriptions and click 'Edit' next to any you no longer want and then cancel.

Step-by-step

Increase your App Store security



1 Open the preferences

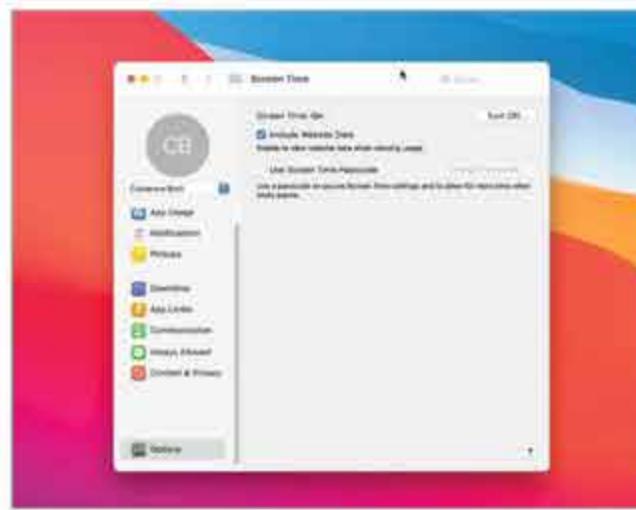
The settings you want reside in System Preferences, not within the App Store. Go to System Preferences>Apple ID and then click on the 'Media & Purchases' option.

2 Require passwords

You will see a couple of options. Select 'Always Require' next to Purchases and In-App Purchases, and select 'Require Password' next to Free Downloads.

3 Set up Family Sharing

You can set restrictions on what family members can access and download. Go to System Preferences>Family Sharing and click '+' to add new members.



4 Enable Ask to Buy

While in the Family Sharing preferences, click on 'Ask to Buy' and make sure the option is enabled for anyone who requires authorisation to make App Store purchases.

5 Turn on Screen Time

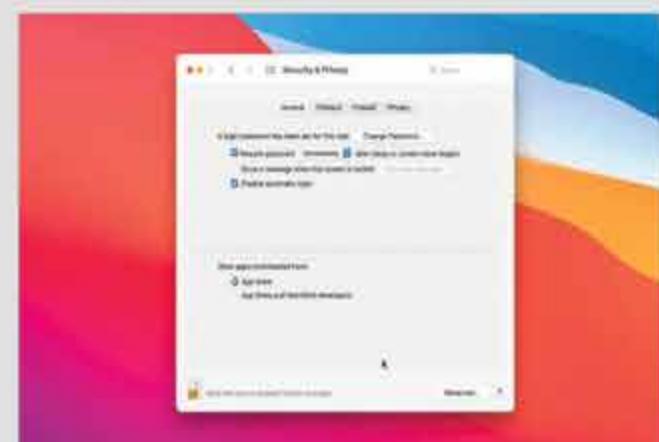
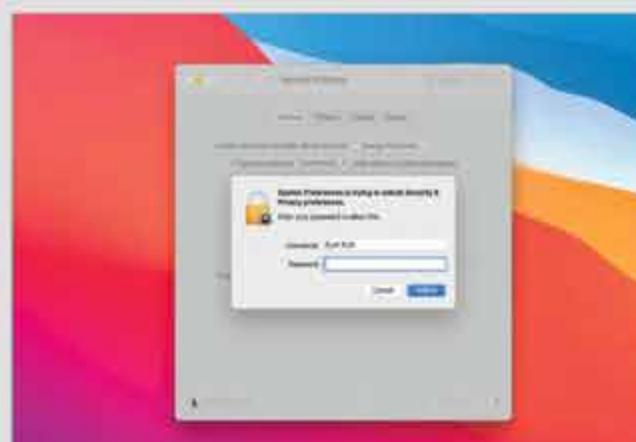
With Family Sharing set up, go to System Preferences>Screen Time, then select a family member, click 'Options' and then turn on the Screen Time option.

6 Limit access

Now click on 'Content & Privacy', turn it on and then click on the 'Stores' tab and untick any of the categories that you don't want the family member to access.

Limit your downloads

If you really want to feel secure, there are more ways to protect your Mac. For example, it is possible to limit the downloading and installation of apps to only those from the App Store. Apple has strict rules about the apps that developers can add to the store and these are designed to protect users from scams, malware, spyware and dodgy programming. Apps from the App Store are far safer and Apple handles all of the payments too.



1 Security & Privacy

Go to System Preferences>Security & Privacy, click on the 'General' tab and then click on the padlock icon and enter your administrator password to make changes.

2 Restrict downloads

You should now see the 'Allow apps downloaded from' option. If you select the 'App Store' option then you will no longer be able to download apps from the internet.

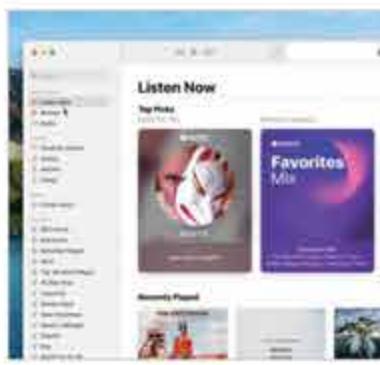


Best features of Big Sur

The stuff we are looking forward to the most in the big macOS update

The wait is almost over and very soon our Macs will be notifying us to the presence of a big update, namely macOS Big Sur, the 11th incarnation of the Mac operating system that brings with it some amazing new features. The first thing you'll notice is a delicate new design that looks incredible and has been unified more with iOS in terms of look and feel. For example, the apps that are shared by macOS Big Sur and iOS 14 will have the same icons for familiarity, and cool iOS features such as Control Centre now arrive on Mac for the first time.

Ahead of the official launch this Autumn, we showcase ten of the best Big Sur features that we are looking forward to the most, and help you get better acquainted with them before the mass roll-out. Right, let's see what Big Sur has in store...



1 A slicker interface

Open up a new Finder window and you'll notice that all of the icons in the sidebar have been redesigned, as have the folders and toolbar icons. Go to System Preferences>General and choose an Accent Colour. Your sidebar icons will appear in the same colour you choose.

2 New mode in Music

In macOS Big Sur, a new 'Listen Now' section has been added to the sidebar. Click on this to see the top picks that have been personalised for you, all of the stuff you have played recently, mixes, new releases and numerous suggestions based on your taste in music.

The new-look Safari

Rebuilt to be an even better web surfer

Privacy report
When you visit a new site, you'll be able to click on this Privacy Report button to see how the site is treating your privacy. Clicking 'i' will provide a tracking report.

Your Start Page
When you open a new Safari browsing window or tab, the Start Page will be the first thing you see. This groups together your essential web content, allowing you to jump anywhere in a single click. You can also personalise what is displayed by going to the customisation tools.

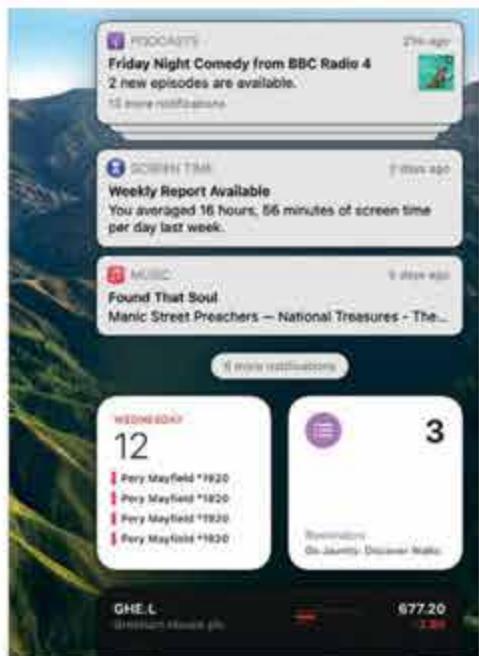
Knowledge base
Safari extensions
In Big Sur, Safari extensions will play a much bigger role than before. Apple is adding support for the web extensions API, so developers can easily bring across extensions that they have created for other browsers. A new category will also be added to the App Store to make browsing extensions easy, and you have full control over which sites they are used on.

Customisation tools
On your Start Page, click on this icon to reveal a menu of Start Page customisation options. You can determine exactly what appears on this page and also add a cool background image or wallpaper.

A smarter Siri means that a greater expanse of websites will be used to gather together the information that you need at any given time.

3 Better notifications

The Notification Centre in macOS Big Sur is better organised. Gone is the 'Today' view, replaced with a combination of recent notifications and widgets, neatly stacked for your convenience. You can click on a notification to respond to it immediately.



4 More info-packed widgets

In macOS Big Sur, the widgets in your Notification Centre come in three different sizes. Click 'Edit Widgets' and then click on the 'S', 'M' or 'L' icons to change the size to suit your needs. You can then drag them in and out of your Notification Centre as desired.

5 Control Centre comes to macOS

Big Sur brings an iOS-style Control Centre to your Mac's menu bar. Click on it to access frequently used settings for connections, display, sound, etc. This also cleans up your menu bar as you can limit these settings to appear in the Control Centre only.



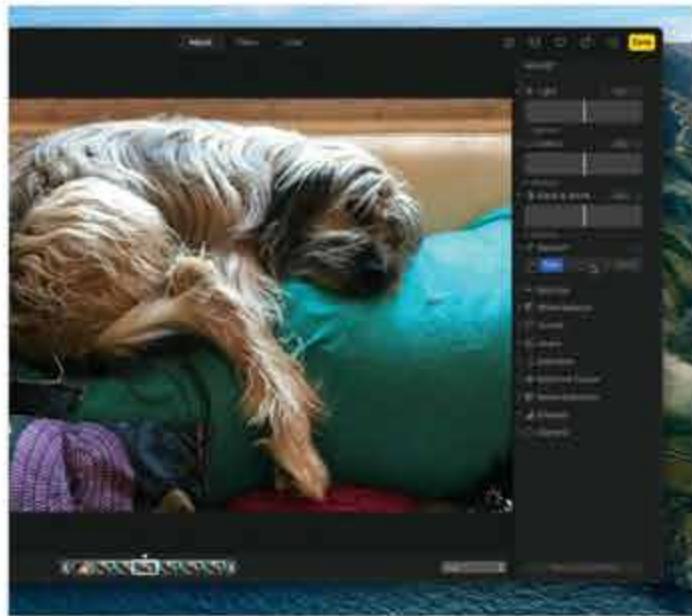
6 New Store

The App Store has been given an overhaul in Big Sur. It is now much easier to navigate and if you click on your profile picture and select 'Game Center Profile', you can view all of your iOS and Mac game achievements, hook up with friends and much more.



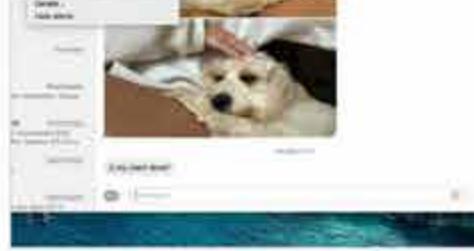
7 More Photos features

With a more advanced Retouch tool, more effects and filters, plus expanded video-editing capabilities, the macOS Big Sur Photos app is more advanced than ever. The interface has also been tweaked to make the photos the star.



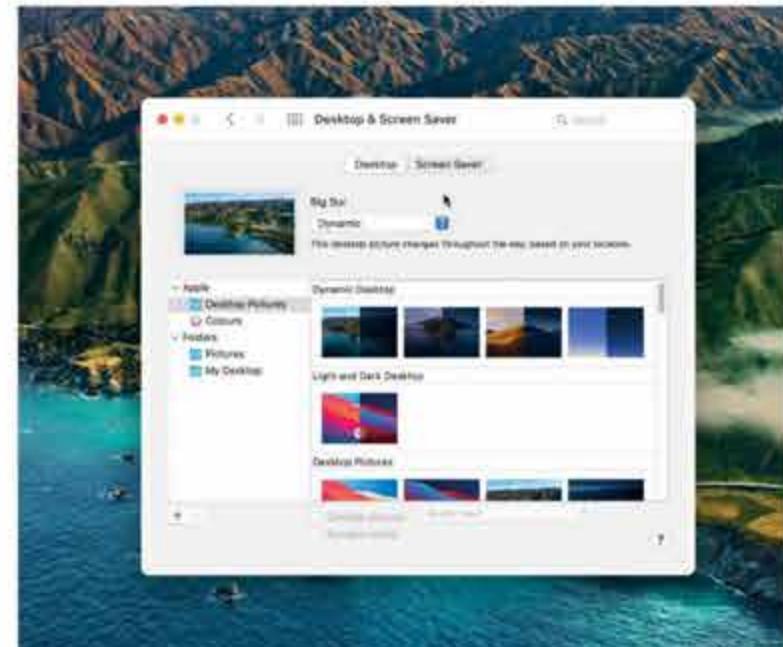
9 Enhanced Messages

The macOS Messages app has better aligned with its iOS counterpart, right down to the icon now being universal. With Big Sur, you can pin messages, enjoy in-line replies in group chats and express yourself with a greater array of effects and emojis.



8 Improved Maps app

So much has been packed into the new macOS Maps app. There are directions for cyclists (complete with elevation info), a new 'Favourites' section in the sidebar, tools to create 'Guides' of the places you intend to visit and the option to track the progress of received ETAs.



10 New wallpapers

As we tend to be super geeky and religiously stick with Apple's own macOS wallpapers, the arrival of new ones to signal a big update is very exciting. Big Sur doesn't disappoint with its picturesque coastlines and swirling masses of colour.

Speed up your Mac



Is your Mac
feeling tired
and sluggish?
Then try these
cost-effective
tips for a
happier,
faster and
more efficient
computer!

Every Mac gets slower over time. What was once a rapier-like supercomputer can start to feel sluggish and take longer to perform tasks it used to rattle off in the blink of an eye, and the spinning beach ball starts to become an all too regular feature on your screen. What causes this? Old hardware struggling to run the latest version of macOS is a distinct possibility, but it could just be that you have far too many apps, documents and Safari tabs open. Over the following pages we'll guide you through all of the quick-fix solutions for remedying your lethargic computer which should, fingers crossed, prove successful.

However, if all else fails then it might be time to accept that your hardware is just getting old and will undoubtedly get slower, no matter what you do. If this is the case then don't necessarily go out and buy a new Mac just yet because there are a couple of hardware upgrades that you can consider, such as adding more RAM modules. These are relatively cheap and easy to install in most Macs and are sure to provide a welcome speed boost. You could also consider buying a Solid State Drive (SSD) and making it your Mac's system drive – which again is a cheaper alternative than buying a new Mac. Before you go down those routes, though, try these Mac-boosting tips.

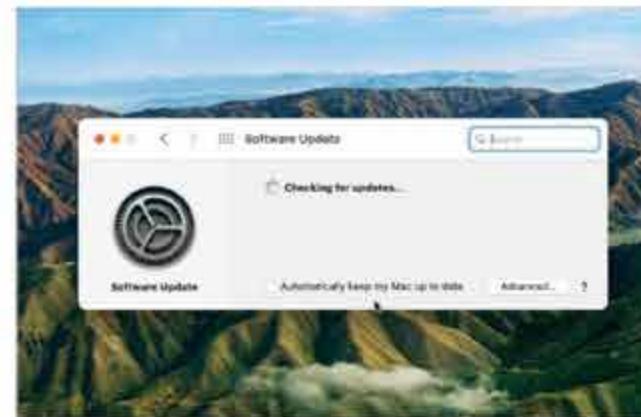
The quick fixes

Before delving straight into the more advanced techniques for speeding up your Mac, there are a few quick tricks you can try to see if they yield instant results...



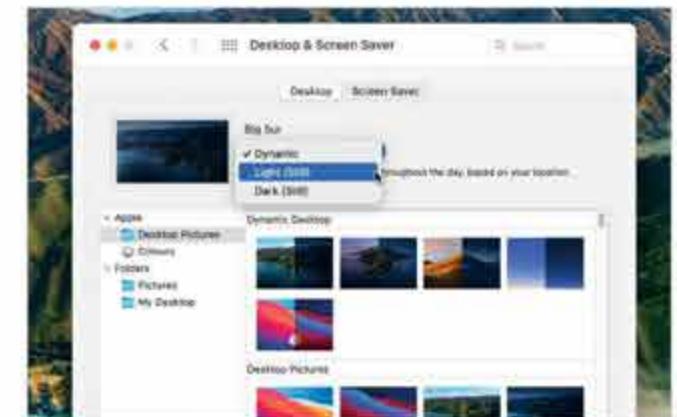
1 Quit apps

Are you one of those people who keeps loads of apps running, with hundreds of open documents reduced to your Dock? If so, close/quit all of the stuff that you don't need and it will undoubtedly speed things up.



3 Update macOS

If your Mac is being sluggish then there may already be a software update available that addresses the issue. Click on the Apple menu bar icon and choose About This Mac>Overview>Software Update.



1 Dynamic Desktop off

4 Effects, like Dynamic Desktop in macOS Mojave, look good but suck processing power. Go to System Preferences>Desktop & Screen Saver>Desktop and then change Dynamic Desktop to a still image.

5 Disable notifications

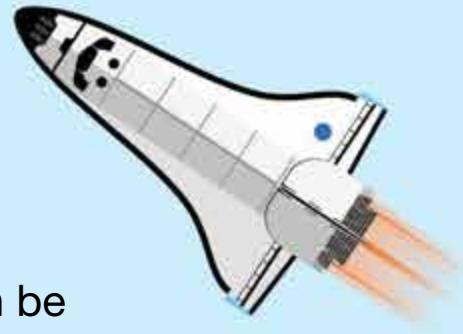
3 It probably won't make a huge difference to the performance of your Mac, but notifications do chip away at your Mac's virtual memory. Go to System Preferences>Notifications to turn them off.



6 Edit preferences

Open your Mac's System Preferences and then look at the bottom row where the third-party panes are displayed. If you don't require these, right-click them and choose 'Remove From Preference Pane'.

Speed Up Your Mac



How to view your Mac's storage data

If you want to start optimising the space on your Mac's hard drive then this can be done straight from the Apple menu, like so...



1 Click Apple menu

- Click on the Apple logo menu item and choose ‘About This Mac’, then click on the ‘Storage’ tab at the top of the main overview window.

2 Start optimising

Your Mac will display how much free space is on the disk and how the occupied space is being used. If space is tight, click on the ‘Manage’ button.

3 Recommendations

Your Mac will suggest ways in which you can save space on your device quickly and easily. Click on the buttons to perform the corresponding action.

Optimise your storage

As well as your Mac's recommendations for saving space, you can also click on a section in the sidebar for a more thorough clear-out...

Pick a category

Category
Categories relating to everything that is likely to require disk space will be listed in the Storage sidebar. Click on one to view a list of content to scrutinise.

Be vigilant

Even apps like Messages can have files that eat into your storage space. Clicking here will list all image and movie attachments. Highlight them, right-click and select 'Delete' to batch-remove the lot.

Delete items

You can remove items quickly by right-clicking on the highlighted app and then choosing the ‘Delete’ option that appears. You will then need to confirm your action.

Review content

When you click on a category, all of the related content will be listed. Click ‘Last Accessed’ to see the items you have used the least listed at the top.

Identify problem apps

Find out which apps are causing the biggest power drain

Sometimes, certain apps may have issues that cause them to use up more than their fair share of your Mac's system resources – perhaps there is an update available to address the problem? You can see exactly which apps are overloading your CPU by using your Mac's built-in Activity Monitor app. Here's how...



2 View processes

Open Activity Monitor and click on the 'CPU' tab. Then go to View>Windowed Processes to view all open apps by the amount of CPU they are using.

	Memory Pressure	Physical Memory	App Memory
CalendarAgent	32.3 MB	8.00 GB	App Memory
Music Creation	30.5 MB		Wired Memory
Launchd	29.4 MB		Compressed
NotificationCenter	29.2 MB		
Control Centre	28.1 MB		
Keychain	27.8 MB		
Aperture	27.8 MB		
AMFDeviceAgent	27.8 MB		
ImageIO	26.4 MB		
Safari Networking	25.7 MB		
CreditSearcer	24.4 MB		
Log-Options Daemon	24.3 MB		

4 View memory usage

Select the 'Memory' tab and then monitor the Memory Pressure chart at the bottom. If an app displays as red then it is using up a lot of memory.



1 Launch Activity Monitor

The quickest way to launch this app is to hit cmd+spacebar and then enter the name. It usually resides in the Utilities folder in Applications.

Process Name	% CPU	CPU Time	Timeset	Idle Wake-Ups	Kind
Mail	0.0	0:03.11	0	0	idle
Dock	0.0	1:44.90	0	0	idle
AddressBookAgent	0.0	4:58.18	0	2	idle
spindump	0.0	1:33.47	3	0	idle
Activity Monitor	0.0	0:19.19	0	1	idle
kernel_task	0.0	0:19.00	0	0	idle
sysmond	0.0	0:07.67	0	1	idle
MailCoreSyncAgent	0.0	0:06.02	0	1	idle
MailCorePushAgent	0.0	0:13.82	32	0	idle
Mail	0.0	0:00.00	0	0	idle
spindump	0.0	0:00.00	0	0	idle
Activity Monitor	0.0	0:00.00	0	0	idle
WindowServer	0.0	0:00.00	0	0	idle
kernel_task	0.0	0:00.00	0	0	idle
sysmond	0.0	0:00.00	0	0	idle

3 Close app

If an app is causing too much drain on the CPU, click on it to highlight it and then click on the 'X' icon in the top-left corner to instantly close the app.

Disable your screen saver

If your Mac uses a memory-intensive screen saver, then it might be a good idea to disable it or choose something a little more basic. Go to System preferences>Desktop & Screen Saver>Screen Saver to make the changes.

In System Preferences>Dock, make sure that the 'Show indicators for open applications' option is ticked and then close unused apps from your Dock.

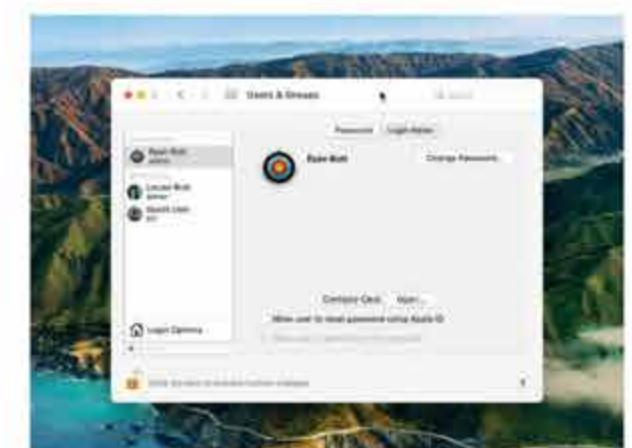
Disable login items

Speed up your Mac's startup time



1 System Preferences

Open your Mac's System Preferences and then click on the 'Users & Groups' icon. If you have multiple user accounts on your Mac, then select your personal account in the left column.



2 Login items

Click on the padlock icon and enter your username and password to make changes to these preferences, and then click on the 'Login Items' tab to see what automatically loads when you log in.



3 Remove items

If there are apps that open automatically that you don't absolutely need, click on them to highlight them and then click on the '-' (minus) icon underneath. The item will now be removed completely.

Speed Up Your Mac

Use stacks

If your desktop is a jumbled mass of folders, files and documents, then it can affect the performance of your machine. Thankfully, macOS has a feature that helps to reduce your desktop clutter – Stacks. To enable it, simply right-click on your desktop and then choose the ‘Use Stacks’ option. You can then just click on a stack to reveal its contents.



Reset your PRAM

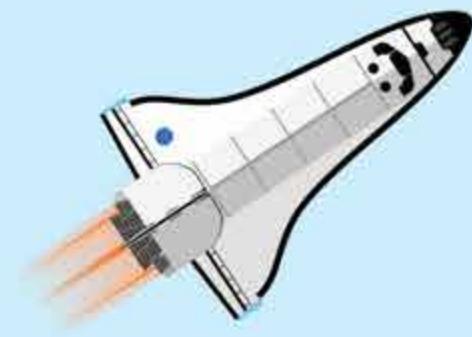
Resetting your parameter random access memory (PRAM) can be an effective means of improving the performance of your Mac, especially if it's a MacBook. To do this, shut down your Mac, reboot it and then press and hold cmd+alt+P+R until the computer restarts and you hear the startup chime for the second time. Now simply release the keys and let your Mac finish booting up.



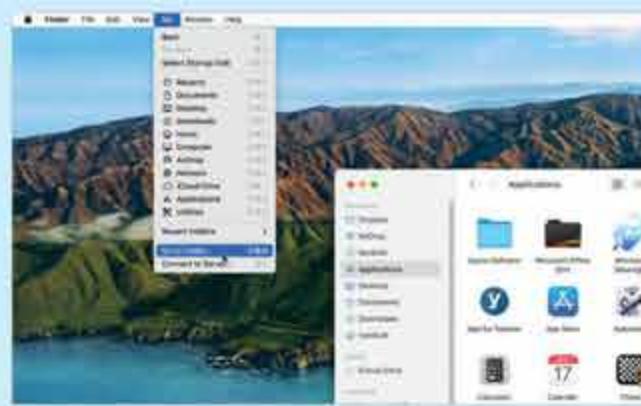
If you drag cache content to the Trash, remember to empty it!

Clear out your caches

Remove the clutter that builds up over time

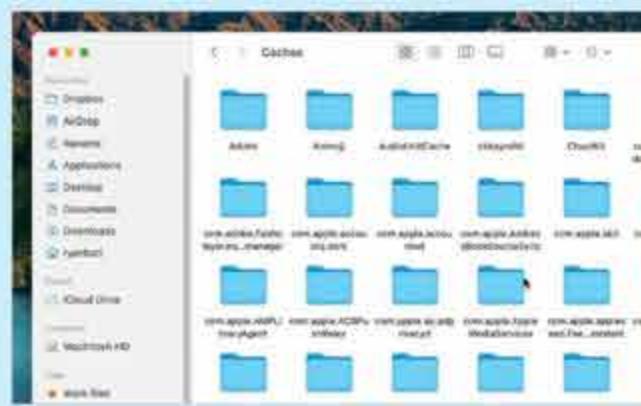


As we use our Macs, small files are stored in cache folders that speed up certain processes. For example, Safari keeps copies of website images so that the loading times are reduced the next time you visit that site. Over time, though, these caches get rammed and so it is good practice to clean them out and then allow them to rebuild themselves. After all, they may be keeping images of sites you are unlikely to visit again. In this walkthrough we show you how to clean out your caches and help speed up your Mac.



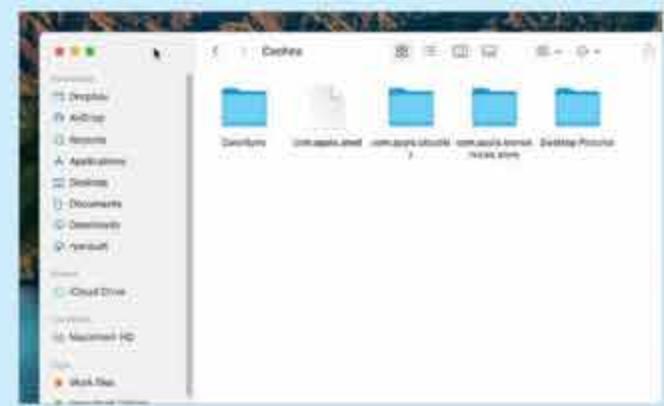
1 Open Finder

In Finder, press cmd+N to open a new Finder window and then click on the ‘Go’ menu and select the ‘Go to Folder’ option.



2 Locate caches

You will now need to manually type in the folder location. Type **~/Library/Caches** and then hit Enter to proceed.



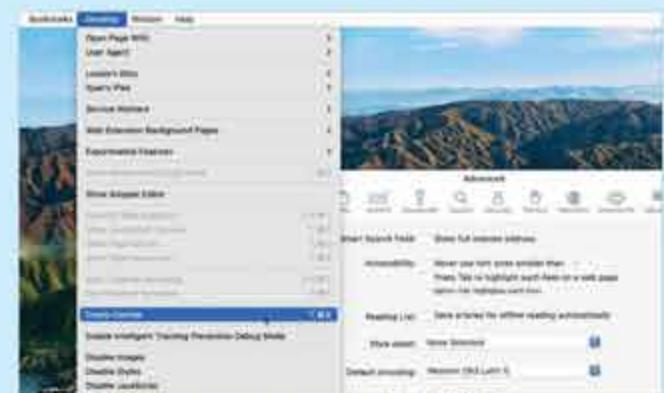
3 Empty folders

Now that you're in the main caches directory, you can go through and clear out the contents of each folder, but keep the actual main folders themselves.



4 More caches

Now repeat step one, but now type **/Library/Caches** (no ‘~’ this time) to find more caches to clear out. As before, delete all the inner content and restart your Mac.



5 Clear Safari cache

To clear out your Safari cache, go to Safari>Preferences and click on the ‘Advanced’ tab. Now enable the ‘Show Develop menu in menu bar’ option.

6 Use Develop menu

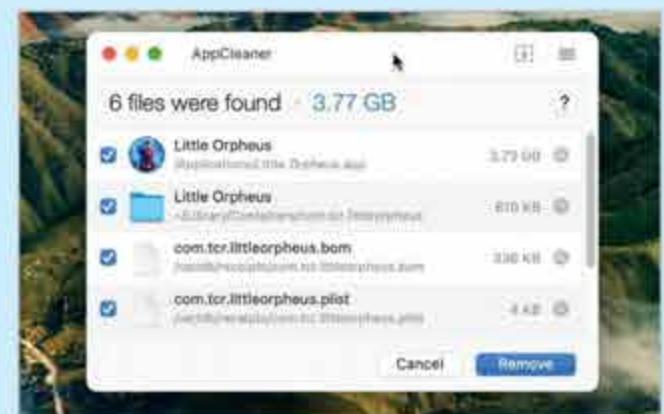
Now you need to click on the new ‘Develop’ menu and select the ‘Empty Caches’ option. Once that’s done, quit and then restart Safari.



If you are unsure about deleting cache content, then make backups. You should find you never need them as the caches rebuild themselves over time.

Uninstall software you don't use

How to remove all trace of unwanted apps



1 Grab AppCleaner

Go to freemacsoft.net and download the free **AppCleaner** app. Launch it and the interface will consist of a small window into which you drag unwanted applications.

2 Select an app

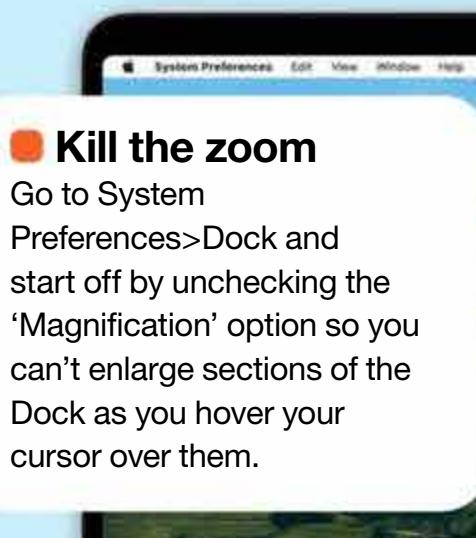
Navigate to your Applications folder and drag the icon of an app to uninstall into the AppCleaner window. It will scan for all files associated with that app on your Mac.

3 Remove app

When AppCleaner presents a list of files associated with the app, tick them all and click on 'Remove'. Enter your username and password and the app will delete the lot.

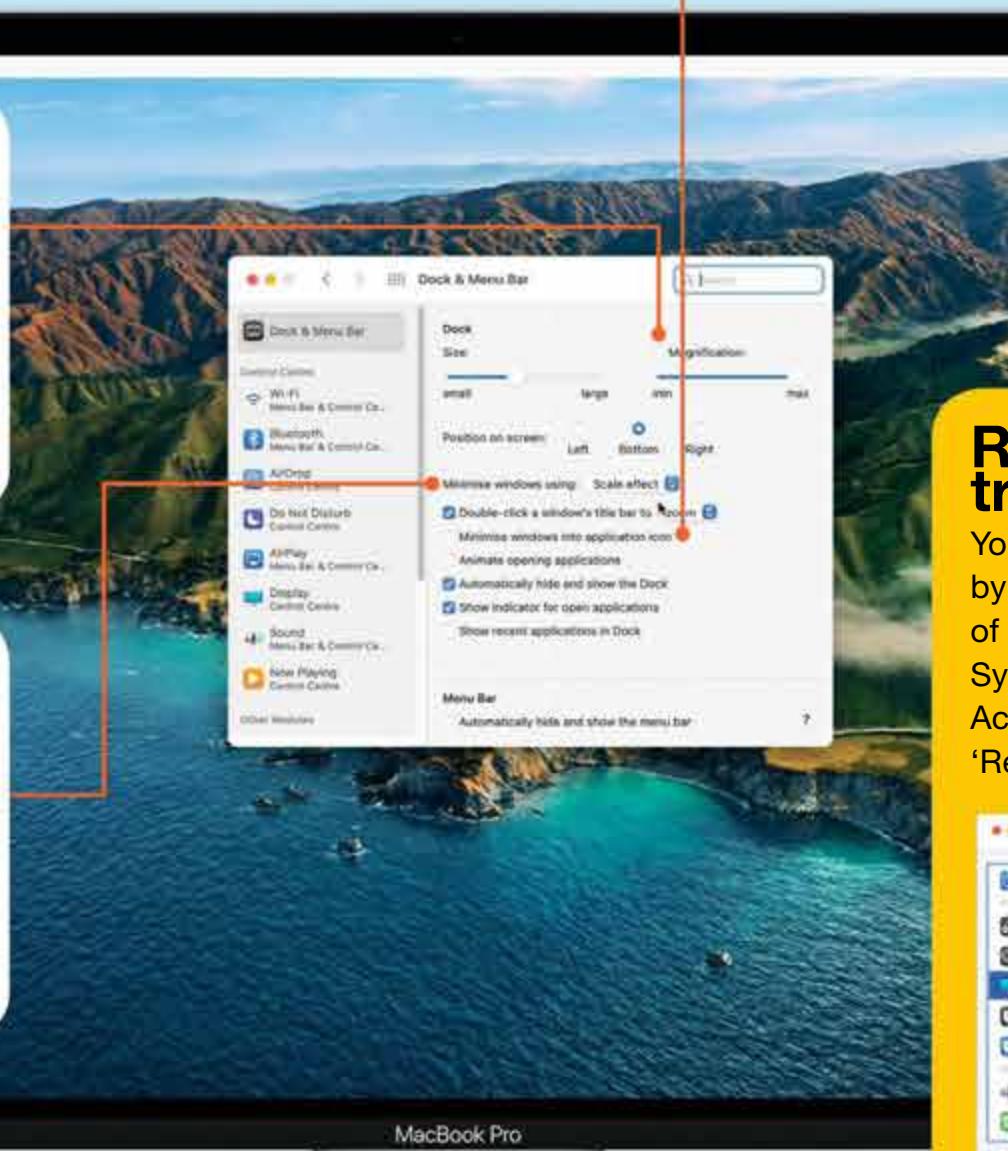
Tweak your Dock settings

Macs are great for fancy special effects, but disabling them can speed your machine up



Kill the zoom

Go to System Preferences>Dock and start off by unchecking the 'Magnification' option so you can't enlarge sections of the Dock as you hover your cursor over them.



Scale your windows

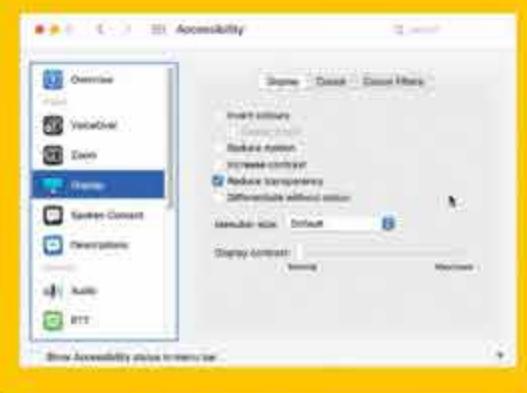
Set the 'Minimize windows using:' option to 'Scale effect'. Having it set to the 'Genie' effect plays a pointless downscaling animation when you minimise your windows.

Disable animations

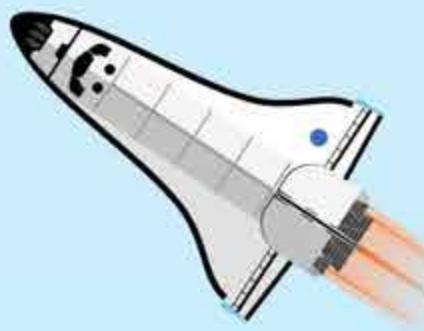
Also uncheck the 'Animate opening applications' option and, if you want to get really picky, the 'Automatically hide and show the Dock' option, too.

Reduce transparency

You can also speed up your Mac by reducing the transparency of the Dock. To do this, go to System Preferences>Accessibility>Display and tick the 'Reduce transparency' option.



Speed Up Your Mac

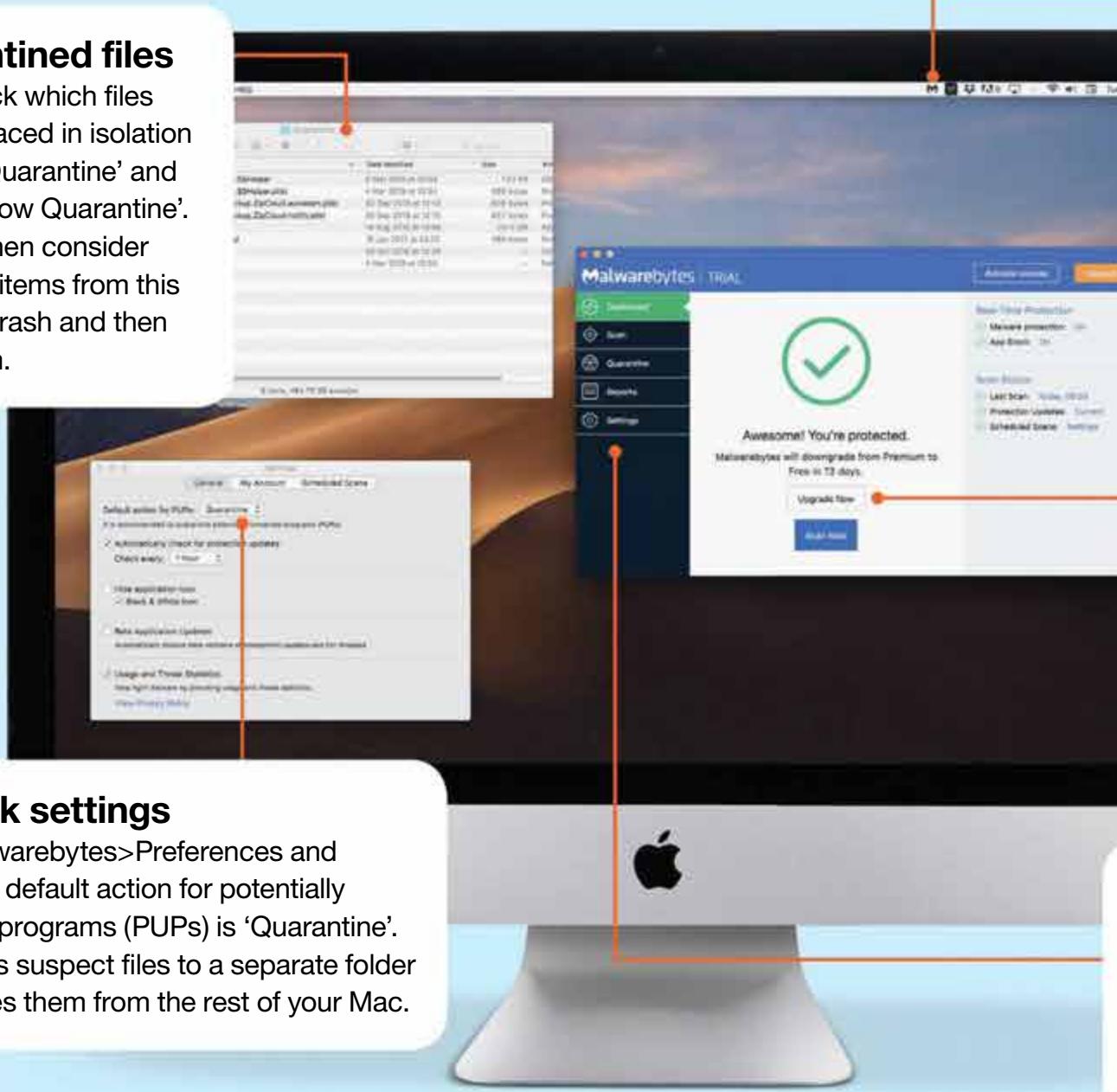


The Malwarebytes app

Stop unsavoury software from slowing down your Mac

Quarantined files

You can check which files have been placed in isolation by clicking 'Quarantine' and choosing 'Show Quarantine'. You should then consider dragging the items from this folder to the trash and then deleting them.



Easy access

Malwarebytes provides instant access to its services through a menu bar item. To turn this off go to Malwarebytes>Preferences>General and then tick the 'Hide application icon' option.

Perform a scan

Through the app you can scan your Mac HD for virus threats at any time by clicking here. You can also schedule scans to take place at a suitable time. Go to Malwarebytes>Preferences>Scheduled Scans to set this up.

Check settings

Go to Malwarebytes>Preferences and ensure the default action for potentially unwanted programs (PUPs) is 'Quarantine'. This moves suspect files to a separate folder and isolates them from the rest of your Mac.

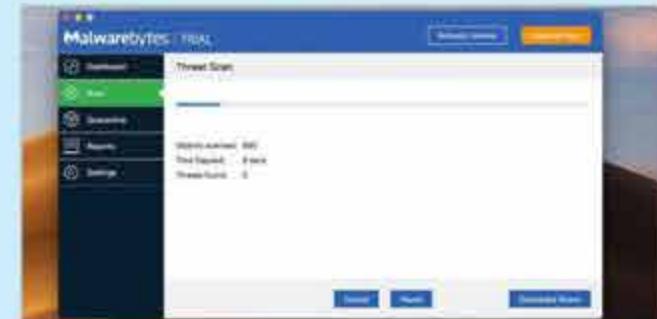
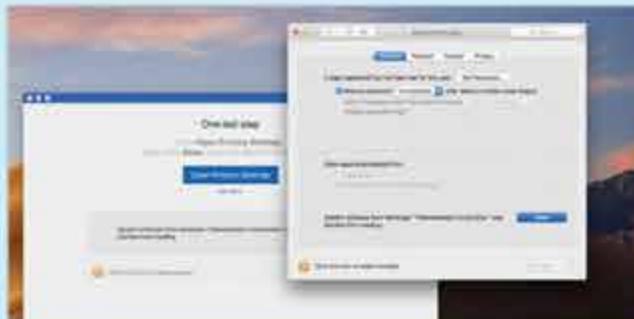
In-depth reports

Malwarebytes keeps reports on every scan it carries out. Click here and you can get the full lowdown on when the scans have been performed and any potential threats that have been discovered.

Perform a free malware check

Quickly check that your Mac is free from harmful malware

One thing we haven't yet touched on is malware and how it can be the root cause of a misfiring Mac if left undetected. Thankfully, there is lots of free malware-scanning software available, such as Malwarebytes. This app offers a free trial, so you can scan your Mac and see if there is any malware present before deciding whether to purchase the software to perform more frequent checks.



1 Download app

Go to malwarebytes.com and click on the 'Free Download' button to save the software to your Mac. Once it has downloaded, double-click the .pkg file and go through the installation process.

2 Allow software

When you first run the software you will need to authorise it. Head to System Preferences>Security & Privacy and then click on the 'Allow' button at the bottom of the window.

3 Start scanning

You're now all set. Go back to the app and click 'Done' and then select the 'Scan Now' option. The app will then carry out an intensive scan of your Mac HD and provide a detailed report.



In Disk Utility you can also partition your Mac hard drive so that it can run two separate operating systems, like new macOS betas, perhaps?

Limit Mac features

Restrict key features to help speed up your Mac

We have already mentioned that certain special effects can place an increased workload on your Mac's system – especially if it is already working to the limits of the latest macOS requirements and doesn't have loads of RAM – but there are other features you can disable, too, in order to speed things up...



1 Limit Spotlight

Many people find Spotlight a useful tool, but indexing disks, especially mechanical ones in older Macs, is slow. Go to System Preferences>Spotlight>Search Results and disable any categories that you don't need to search in.

2 Ignore disks

Still in the Spotlight settings, click on the 'Privacy' tab, then click on the '+' icon and select any disks that you don't want included in your Spotlight searches, such as connected backup disks and USB drives.

3 Disable FileVault

Anything that makes work for the CPU will slow your Mac down. Encrypting your disk is great for security but it will slow down your Mac – go to System Preferences>Security & Privacy>FileVault and try turning it off.

Use Disk Utility to spot errors

Run First Aid on all of your drives to fix any problems

Select a disk

A disk may be divided into several partitions. Select the boot volume and check it with First Aid to make sure it is okay. Also select external USB drives and check those.

Use Terminal to kill animations

As well as disabling the Dynamic Desktop you can also use your Terminal app to halt other unnecessary animations that your Mac performs...

Dock animations

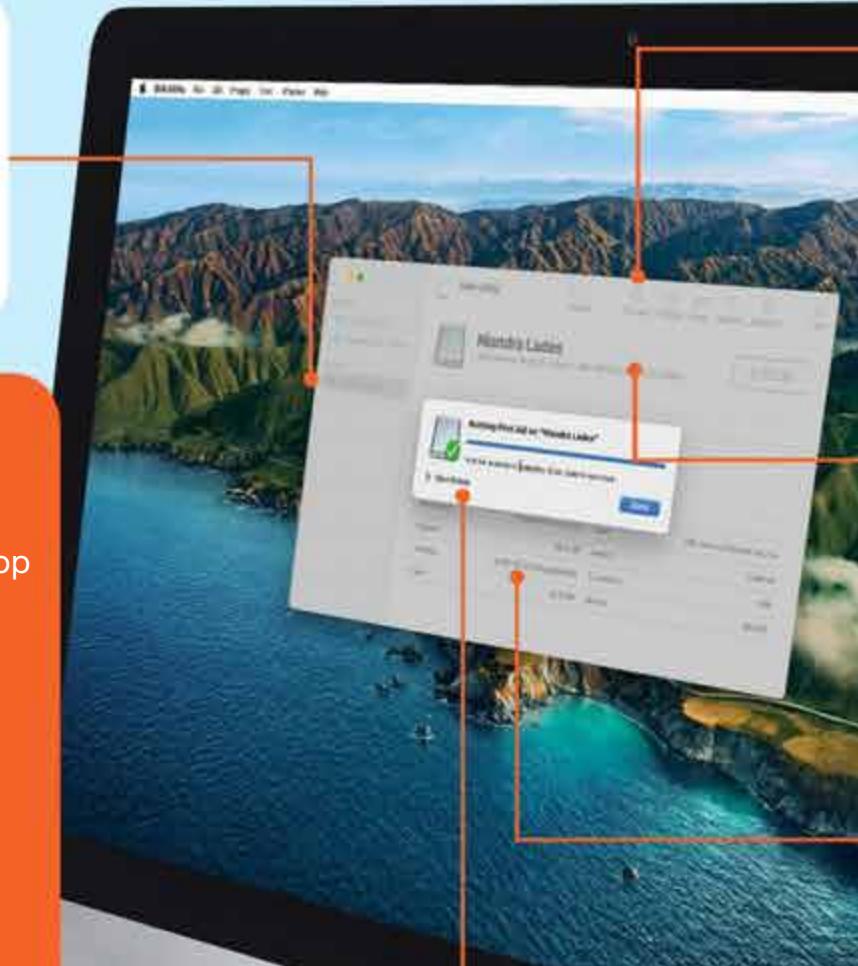
Enter: defaults write com.apple.dock launchanim -bool false

Quick-look animations

Enter: defaults write -g QLPanelAnimationDuration -float 0

Window animations

Enter: defaults write NSGlobalDomain NSAutomaticWindowAnimations Enabled -bool false



View the details

Several tests are performed on the disk. You can click 'Show Details' to view a detailed report of each one. If all of the errors are not fixed, then run First Aid again.

First Aid

Problems with the drive hardware are very rare and most disk problems are with the filing system. Errors can slow down the Mac, so click on 'First Aid' to fix them.

Use Disk Utility

You will find the Disk Utility app in your Mac's Utilities folder in Applications. Open it, click on 'First Aid' and then click 'Run' to check your Mac HD for errors.

Check the usage

Disk Utility is useful for checking how much space is used and the remaining free space. Make sure you don't let the free space fall below 5GB for optimum speed.



Turn your Wi-Fi login into a QR code

Allow others to easily connect to your Wi-Fi by wrapping up the details in the form of a matrix barcode

Developer
Apple Inc

Difficulty



Time needed

5

To get the most out of your iPhone, it's a good idea to delve into the Shortcuts app and familiarise yourself with what it can offer. Here you will find a wealth of power at your fingertips aimed at making light work of otherwise laborious tasks. You can also make life infinitely easier for others as we demonstrate with this particular trick.

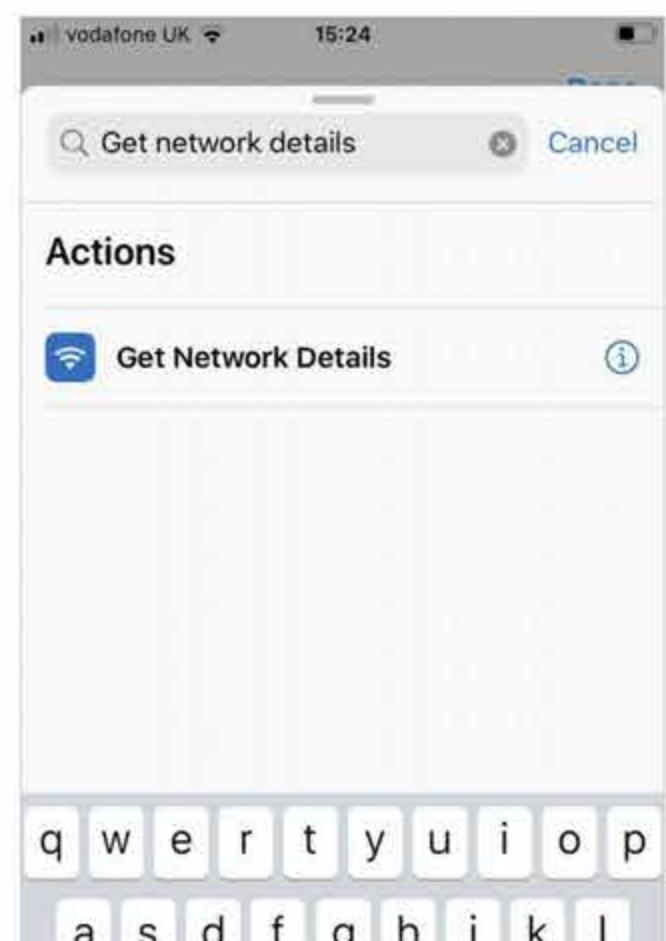
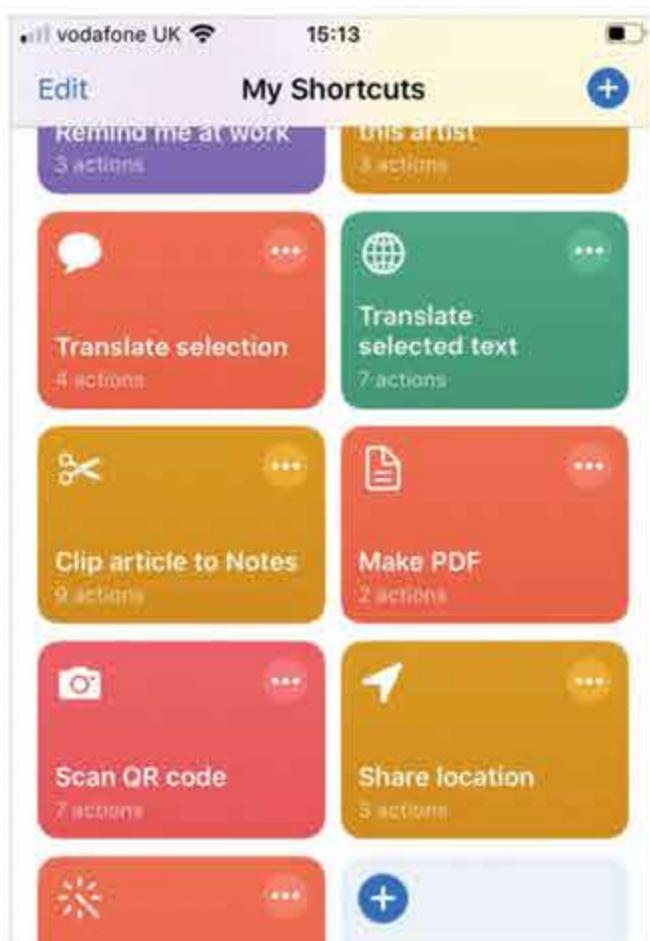
We will show you how to create a shortcut that will take your Wi-Fi network details, including your password, and use them to create a QR code. The idea is that you can share the code with others and let them speedily scan it for the purpose of gaining access to your Wi-Fi. It's particularly great if you have guests round since it allows for an easy login process. What's more, it hides the actual details of your password from them, too. Above everything else, though, it's just very cool, right?



Transforming your Wi-Fi password into a scannable QR code is just one of the many benefits of using Shortcuts

Step-by-step

Generate a QR code for Wi-Fi



1 Open Shortcuts

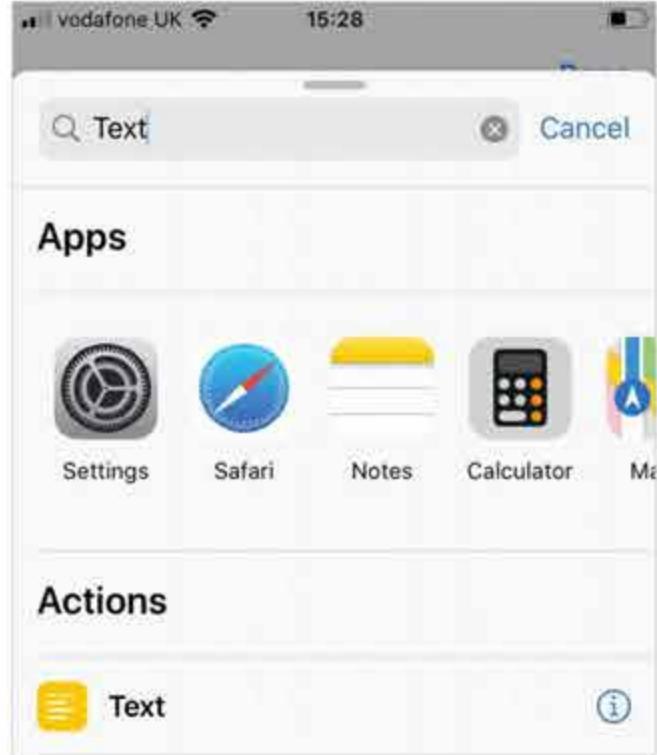
Open the Shortcuts app on your iPhone (or download it first if you haven't already). Now select 'Create Shortcut' in the My Shortcuts tab or else select '+' in the top-right corner.

2 Name the shortcut

Tap the script settings icon ('...') in the top-right corner and give your shortcut a name so that it will be easily identifiable when you use it later. Tap 'Done' when you have finished.

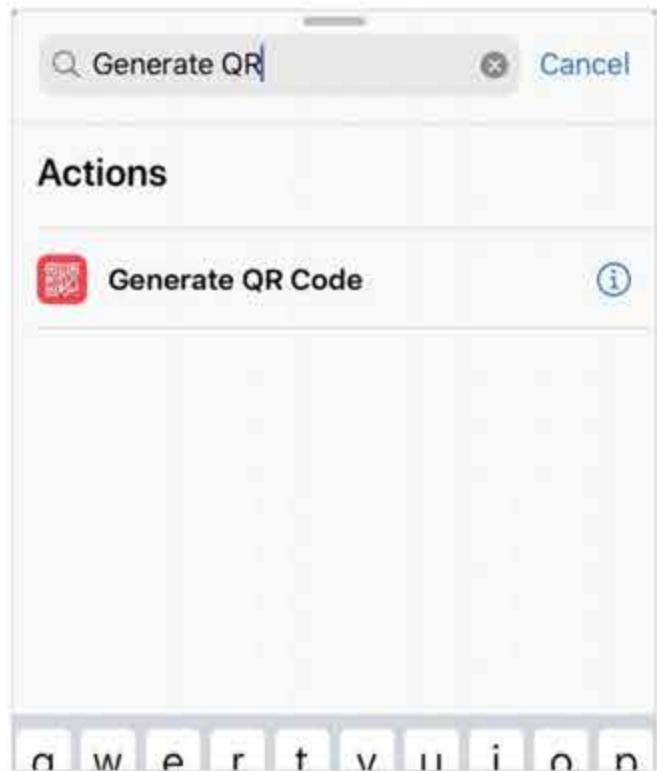
3 Start setting up

Now it's time for the technical bit. In the search box, type 'Get Network Details'. A scripting entry will appear. Just tap it and it'll form the first part of your shortcut.



4 Build the tool

Ensure the script is set to 'Get Wi-Fi network's Network Name'. Now enter 'Text' in the Search box and tap the entry called 'Text' when it's displayed on your screen.



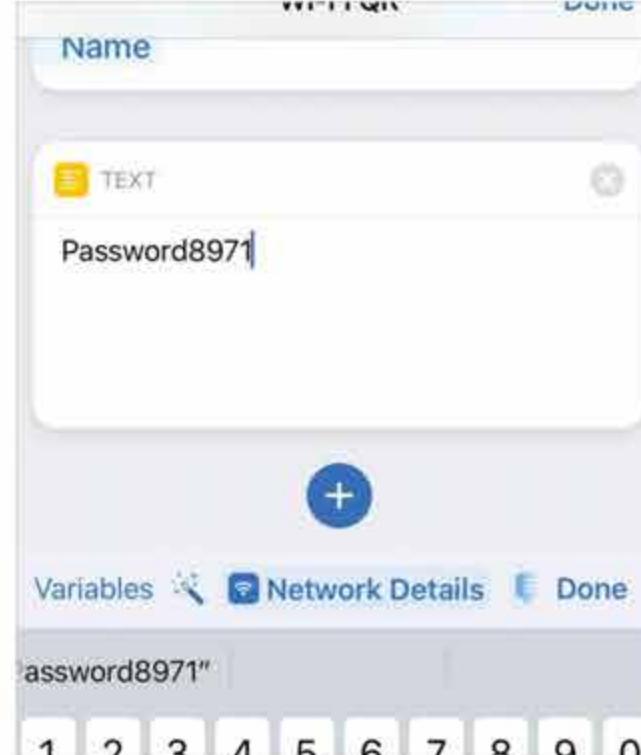
7 Generate QR Code

Tap the '+' again to add another script. In the Search box, enter 'Generate QR' and the relevant option will appear. As before, you'll simply need to tap this to add it to the shortcut.

Knowledge base

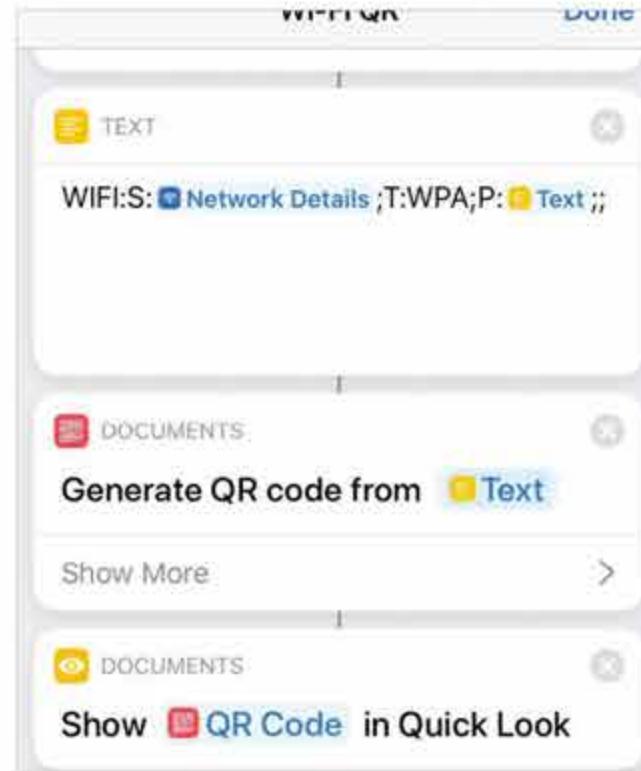
Changing your password

If you alter your Wi-Fi password, you must edit the shortcut, but be aware, your password will always be viewable within that shortcut. For greater privacy, consider using an 'Ask For Input' action in place of



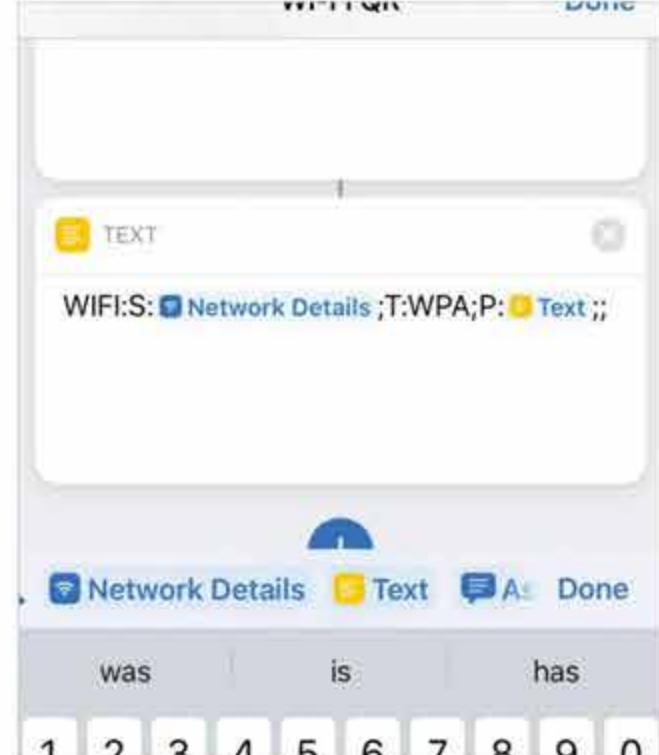
5 Enter your password

In the Text box that's now part of your shortcut's flow, enter your Wi-Fi password. Now tap '+' under the last script, and add another Text box (follow the previous step).



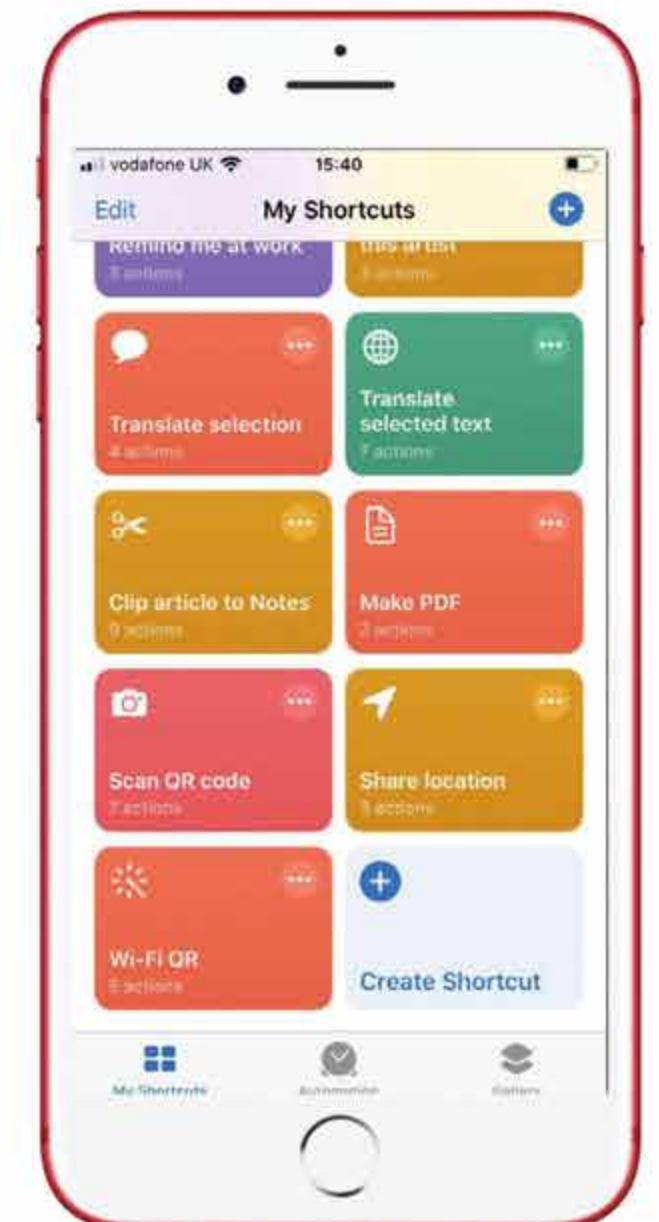
8 Ensure it shows

Next, we need a way of presenting the QR code to you. This is as simple as searching for 'Quick Look' and tapping the entry. To finish up, tap 'Done' in the top-right corner.



6 Create some code

In this box, type **WIFI:S:** and tap 'Network Details' from the options below. Then type **;T:WPA;P:** and tap the 'Text' icon from the options below. Finally, type **;;**.



9 Play the shortcut

Tap the 'My Shortcuts' button and your new shortcut should be ready and waiting. When you tap this, the shortcut will run through the steps and show you the QR code.

this Text box (simply search for it). Then replace 'Text' in step six of our tutorial with 'Ask For Input'. When the shortcut runs, it'll instead prompt for a password and base the QR code on your answer.



Use extensions with Safari

Extensions are not only for Safari on the Mac – they are available for iOS, too. Use them!

Developer
Apple Inc

Difficulty

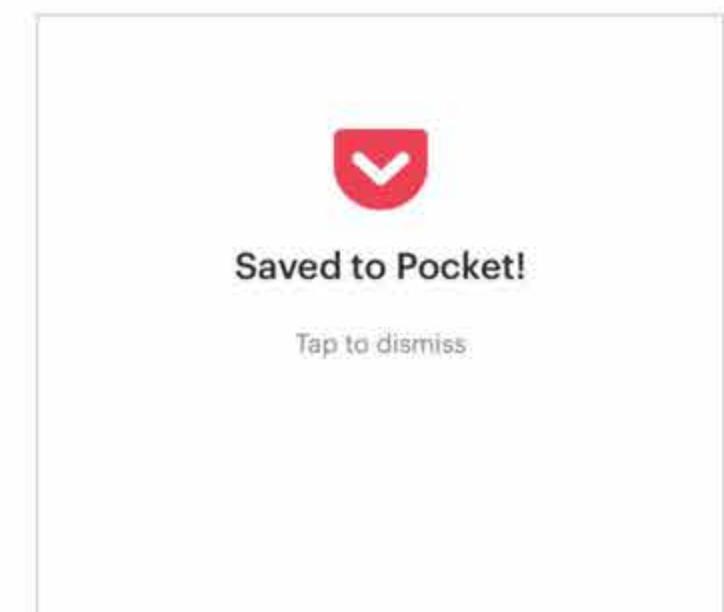


Time needed



Extensions have been available for desktop web browsers for a decade or more, but they have been poorly supported by mobile browsers like Safari on the iPhone and iPad. In fact, it wasn't until fairly recently that they were supported at all. However, extensions are becoming more common for mobile Safari these days and they can be found by searching the App Store, if you know what to look for.

Some extensions are excellent and they add great features to the browser, such as the ever-popular ad-blocking add-ons. Here we look at two different types of Safari extension and see how to find, install and use them. A few useful extensions can boost the power and capabilities of Apple's mobile browser.



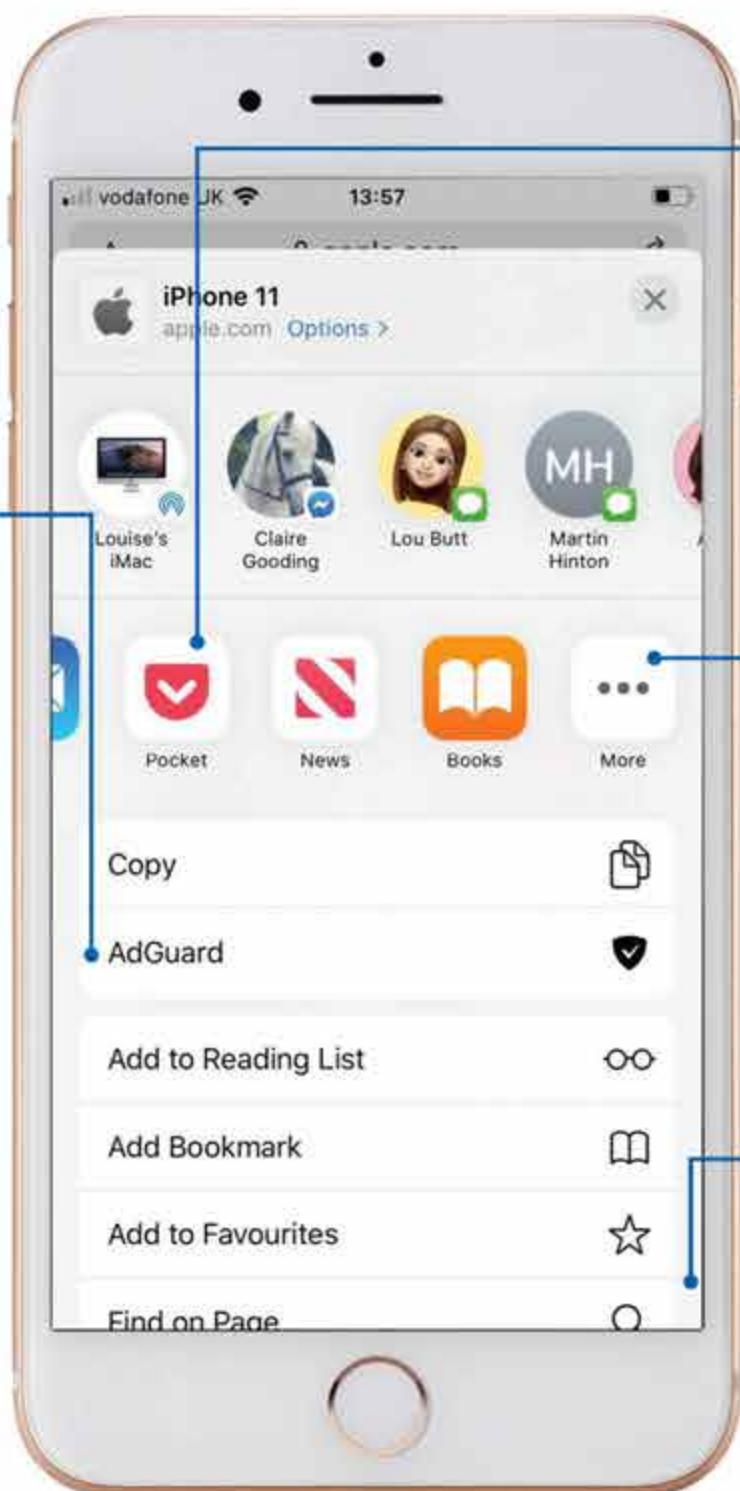
You can add new features to your Safari experience by downloading third-party extensions from the App Store

Use Safari extensions

Where to find and activate
Safari extensions

Action extensions

Extensions can perform actions on a web page's content in Safari and some appear here, like AdGuard. Tap the icon to access an extension's features and functions – in this case, to configure blocking options.



Sharing extensions

Items in the top row share something, like a URL and some extensions appear here, like Pocket and DuckDuckGo. Tap Safari's share/actions button and then tap the extension icon to use it. Swipe for more.

Add more items

Extensions are disabled by default and must be enabled before they can be used. Swipe left over the top and bottom rows to reach the 'More' button and tap it to add a new extension.

Knowledge base

Extensions are apps

Extensions install and are removed like apps. It is often necessary to run an extension app before it can be used in Safari as some require you to create an account or sign in. You might also need to enable content-blocking extensions in Safari's settings. All of these add-ons must be added to the share/actions menu before they can be used.

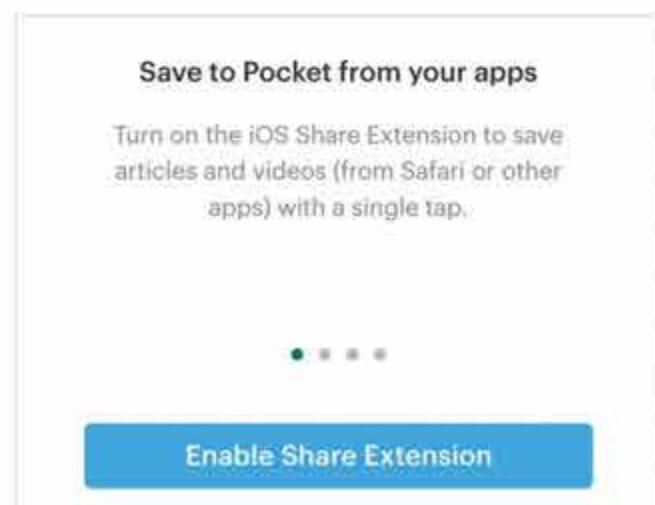
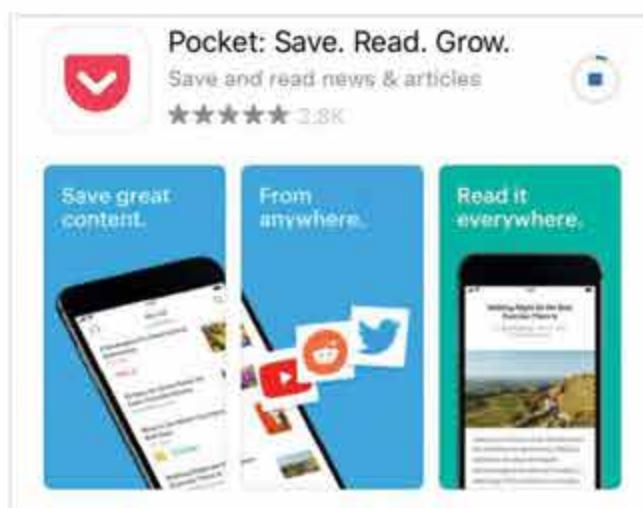
More actions

Add actions to this list by scrolling down and tapping on the 'Edit Actions' option. You will be able to add items to your favourites so that they are easily accessible here at the top of the tray.

To remove an extension, find the app on the Home or subsequent screens, long-press it and then tap the 'Delete App' option.

Step-by-step

Find, install and use Safari extensions



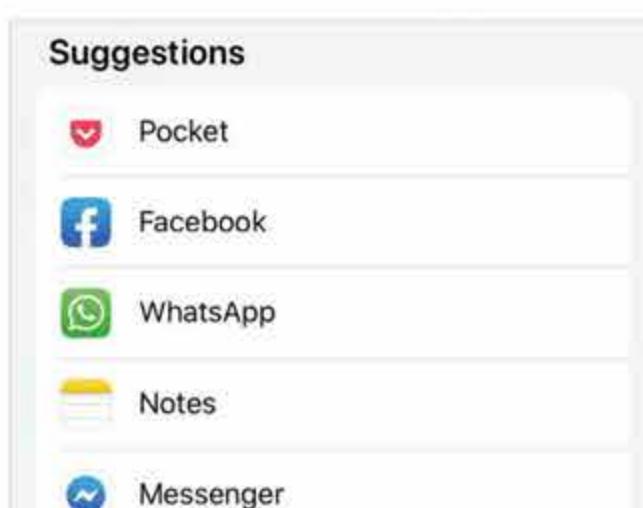
1 Search for extensions

A good place to start looking for extensions is to open the App Store on the iPhone and search 'Safari extension'. In the results, some are free and some are paid.



2 Apps with extensions

Not all extensions can be found with a search and some apps include Safari extensions, especially those that provide internet services. Search for 'Pocket'.



4 Choose an action

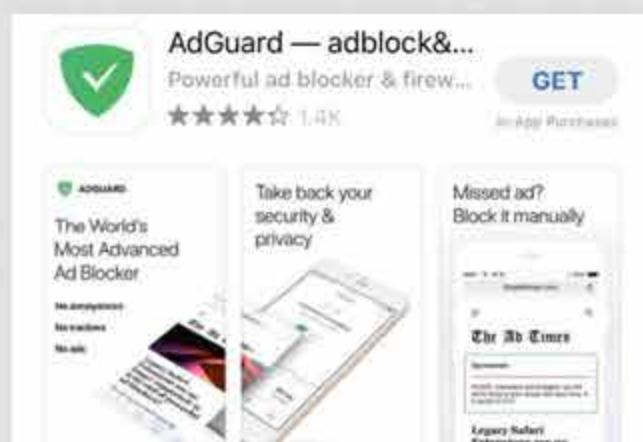
Open Safari and on any website tap the actions/share button at the bottom. Two rows of items appear and the extension could be on either. Swipe left and then tap 'More'.

Add content blockers

Another type of Safari extension is the content blocker. This acts like a filter that allows certain types of content through on web pages, but blocks other types of content. The most common type of content blocker is the advertising blocker. There are many different ones, free and paid, although they all have the same purpose, which is to eliminate advertising on web pages. Other content blockers could block unwanted web tracking technologies, adult content and so on.

5 Enable the extension

The Pocket extension adds an item to the Activities list (the top row of icons) and before it can be used, it must be enabled. Turn on the switch next to Pocket on the list.



1 Find content blockers

Open the App Store and search for 'content blocker'. There are a dozen or more apps; AdGuard is one of the most popular. Download it, install it and then open it.

2 Enable content blockers

This type of extension does nothing until it is enabled. Open Settings>Safari>Content Blockers. Turn on the switch. Return to AdGuard and customise the blocking options.

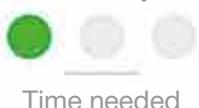


Add a masked user to Face ID

How to unlock your iPhone without having to remove your protective face mask

Developer
Apple Inc

Difficulty

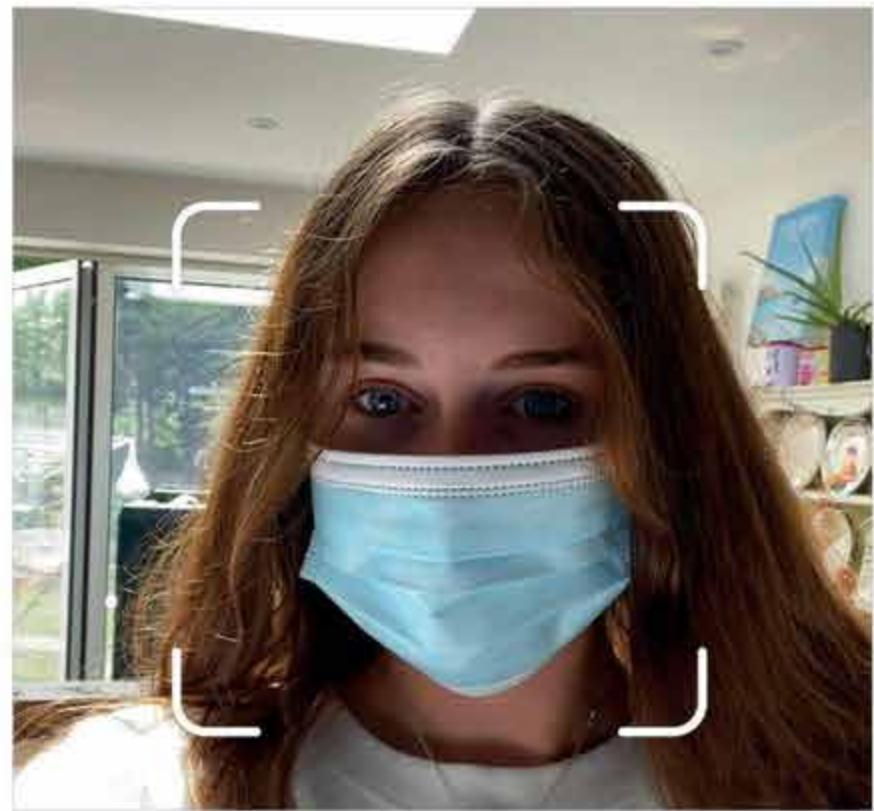


Time needed

5

Sadly, wearing a face mask is commonplace these days as we look to protect ourselves and others in the current COVID-19 world. Unfortunately, iOS has yet to fully catch up and offer a simple option to add a second Face ID of you wearing a protective mask, but there is a way to cheat the system and register one anyway.

The trick involves performing the initial scan with the mask folded in half and pressed to your cheek (so that one side of your mouth and the tip of your nose are not obscured). Then, for the second scan you will switch the folded mask to the opposite side. It may take a few attempts to get right but once you have successfully completed the Face ID setup you should then be able to unlock your iPhone while wearing a protective mask.



By utilising this neat trick you should be able to unlock your iPhone without having to remove your protective mask

Step-by-step

Set up an alternative appearance



1 Open Settings app

The option to add a second Face ID was added to iOS 12, so make sure you are running at least that version. Open Settings and scroll down to 'Face ID & Passcode'.

2 Enter passcode

When prompted, use the on-screen numerical keypad to enter your passcode. Doing so allows iOS to verify that you have permission to access the Face ID settings.

3 Set up a new Face ID

Scroll down and tap 'Set Up an Alternative Appearance'. It is designed to input a different likeness of yourself but it can be used to set up someone else.

Think carefully before turning ‘Require Attention’ off: it can make Face ID less secure since your iPhone will unlock without you staring directly at it.

Manage your Face ID options

Determine what Face ID can do and how it should operate

Check app access

You can allow third-party apps to access Face ID for verification purposes (banking apps are a typical favourite). Be sure to keep an eye on these by tapping ‘Other Apps’ to manage access.

Knowledge base

Accessibility options

If you have physical limitations, you can tap ‘Accessibility Options’ during the Face ID setup process. Face ID will then capture a specific pose rather than have you move your head around the screen, making unlocking more convenient. It does mean you have to position the iPhone in a very specific way each time you access it, however.



Turn off Face ID

Use Face ID for unlocking your iPhone, accessing iTunes/App Store, using Apple Pay or autofilling your passwords. Or turn it off with the relevant sliders.

Reset Face ID

If a Face ID is not working properly or you want to erase any previous efforts (perhaps you only intended a second person to use Face ID temporarily), you can reset and start over.

Require attention

Do you want Face ID to operate only when you’re looking at the iPhone? If so keep this on green. Slide it off and it’ll then unlock with your eyes closed or when you’re wearing sunglasses.



How to Set Up Face ID

First, position your face in the camera frame. Then move your head in a circle to show all the angles of your face.



First Face ID scan complete.



Face Obstructed

Try removing anything that may be covering your face.

4 Get ready

Now here is the trick, when preparing your second Face ID, fold your mask in half and place both loops over one ear while holding the mask to the side of your nose.

5 Move your head

You may get a message that your face is obscured but this will disappear after a few attempts. When the first scan of your face is complete, move the mask to the other side.

6 Finish off

Once the second scan has been completed, the second Face ID will be set up and you should now be able to unlock your iPhone while wearing a mask.



How to master the iOS Messages app

You may be new to iPhones, or have just forgotten, but there are many ways to express yourself in Messages

Developer
Apple Inc
Difficulty
Time needed

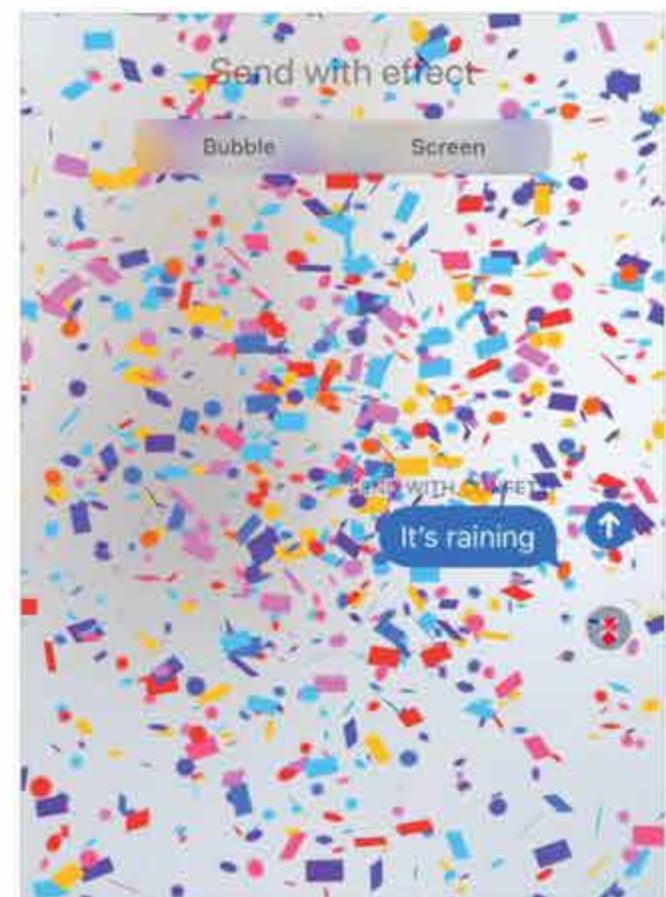
5

The iOS Messages app performs its basic function well – an easy-to-use texting app. But delve a little deeper and you'll discover a means to express yourself in ways that typed words simply cannot convey. You can send audio messages, add effects to your texts, and create and use your own Memoji to communicate your feelings. These options will be expanded further with the release of iOS 14, with all-new items and features to add to your Memojis, and better ways to manage your chat groups. So whether you have just bought an iPhone and are unfamiliar with the many hidden features of the Messages app, or you have simply forgotten that they are there, it is time for a refresher course. It is also worth pointing out that such effects can only be used between iOS users – not iOS to Android, for example.



You can create and edit a Memoji in your own likeness within the Messages app and use it throughout iOS

Step-by-step Express yourself better in Messages



1 Send a voice message

Press and hold on the sound wave icon to the right of the text field to record a voice message. When finished, swipe up to send or tap on the 'X' icon to delete.

2 Add message effects

After writing a text message, press and hold on the blue 'send' arrow and you can tap on one of many different effects to apply to the message, such as 'Loud' or 'Invisible Ink'.

3 Add screen effects

Tap on the 'Screen' tab at the top of the display and then you can swipe left through numerous screen effects, including confetti, balloons, lasers and fireworks.

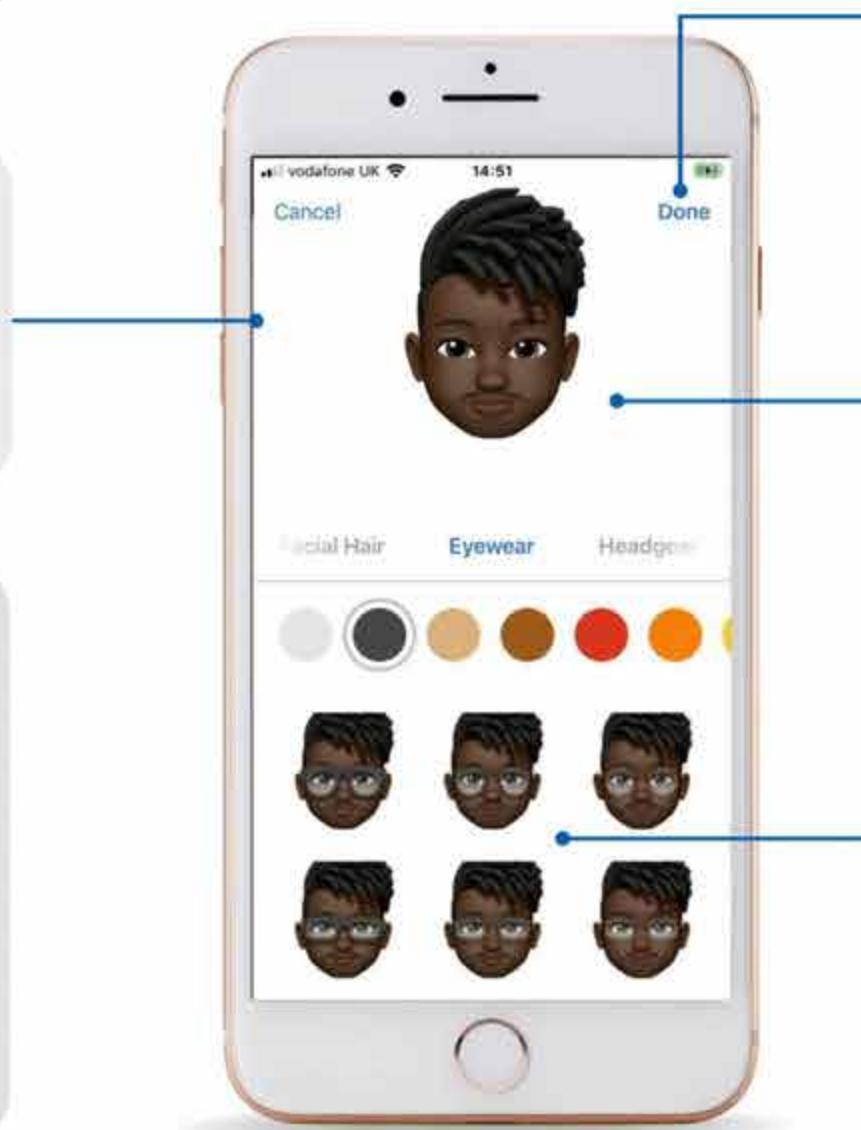
Third-party apps, such as what3words, can be incorporated into Messages and be accessed by tapping the App Store icon and swiping to the left.

How to update your Memoji

You can create and edit your own personal Memoji in the Messages app, here's how...

Tap to edit

When in the Memoji tray, tap on the '...' icon in the top-left and then, from the resulting menu, tap on the 'Edit' option to start making changes.



Save changes

After editing your Memoji, tap 'Done' and then your Memoji stickers will be updated in the Memoji tray within the Messages app.

Select Memoji

In Messages, tap on the App Store icon to the left of the text field and then select the Memoji icon above the keyboard.

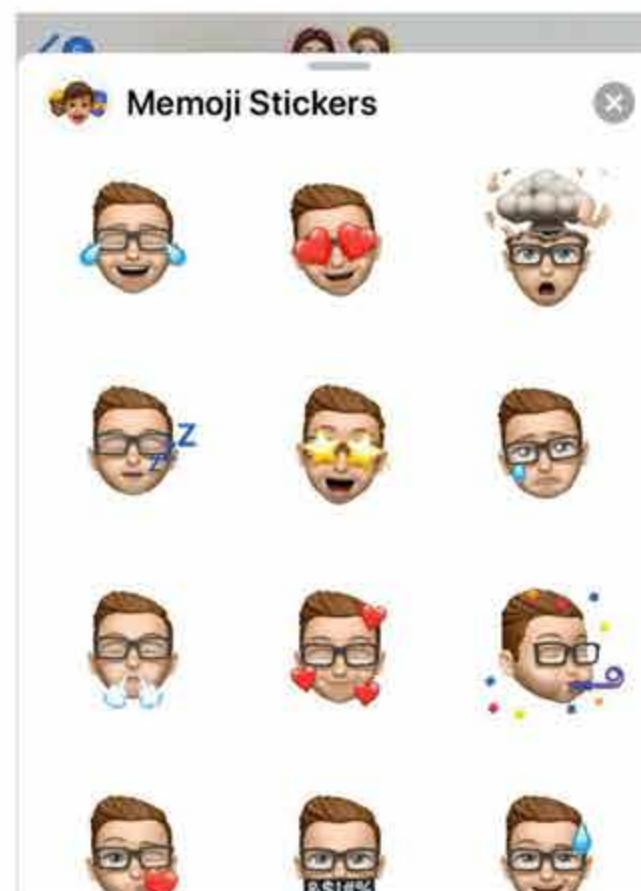
Make the changes

You will be able to change hair colour, add a hat or glasses and generally tweak any aspect of your Memoji to bring it up to date. In iOS 14 you can even add topical face masks.



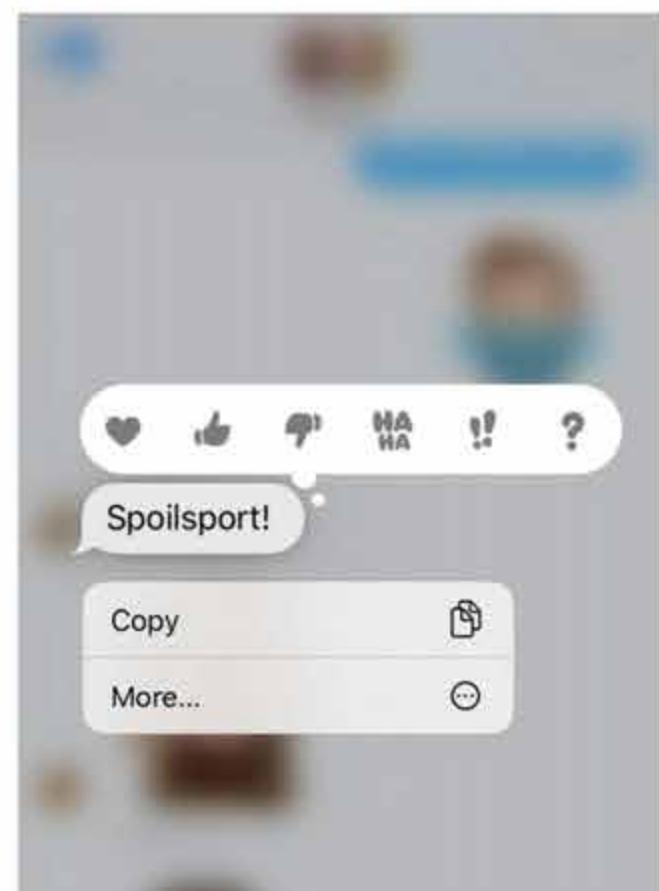
4 Add custom effects

Tap on the App Store icon and then select the 'Digital Touch' icon. Swipe up to make it fullscreen, then pick a colour and write or draw it onto your screen. Tap the arrow to send.



5 Add Memoji stickers

You can create a Memoji (avatar) in your image in the Messages app. Once done, tap the App Store icon and then the 'Stickers' icon to send your Memoji in various poses.



6 React to a message

If you press and hold on a received message, a small menu of options and six different 'reactions' will appear. Tap on one of the reaction icons to apply it to the message.



Discogs

How to value your vinyl collection

Got some time on your hands? Then see how much your treasured music is worth with the Discogs app

Developer
Zink Media Inc

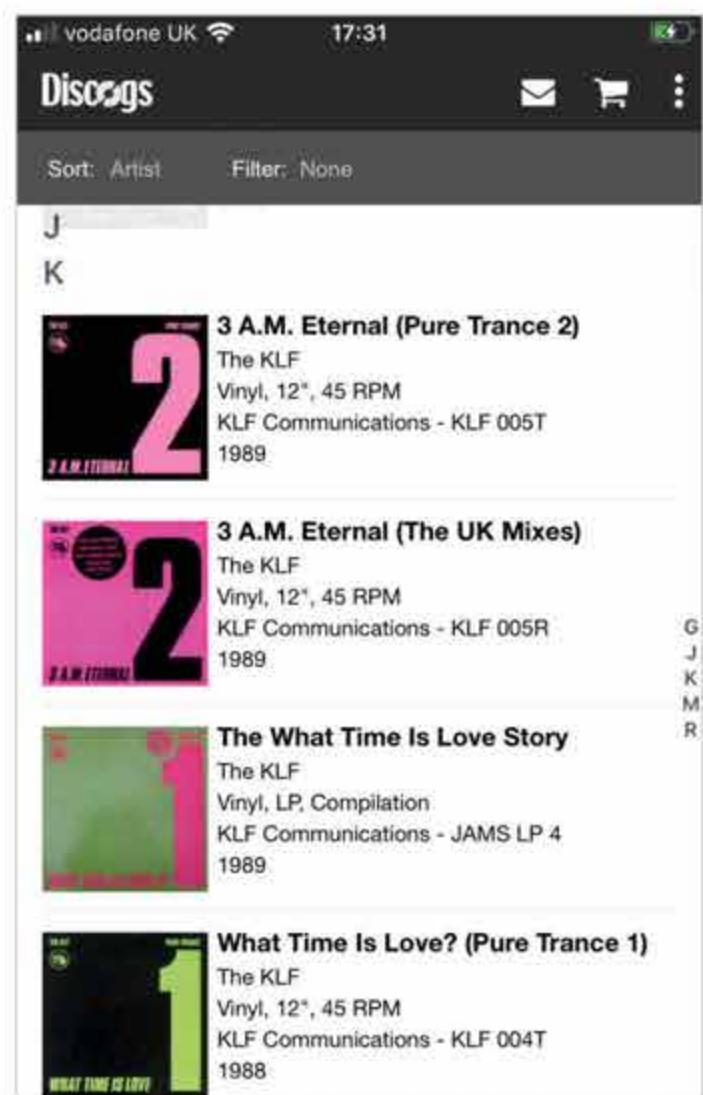
Difficulty

Time needed

10

Whatever medium of music you cherish, the free Discogs app is on hand to help you discover more about your collection. We used some downtime during the COVID-19 lockdown to go through some old vinyl and, curious to find out how much it was worth, turned to Discogs as a trusted source to get answers. After installing the app and registering an account, you can instantly get to work scanning the barcodes on your vinyl sleeves to get instant access to the information that matters, like how much your records are worth. You can then build up your own personal Discogs collection by adding more items, all the while getting a running total by tapping on the 'My Discogs' section.

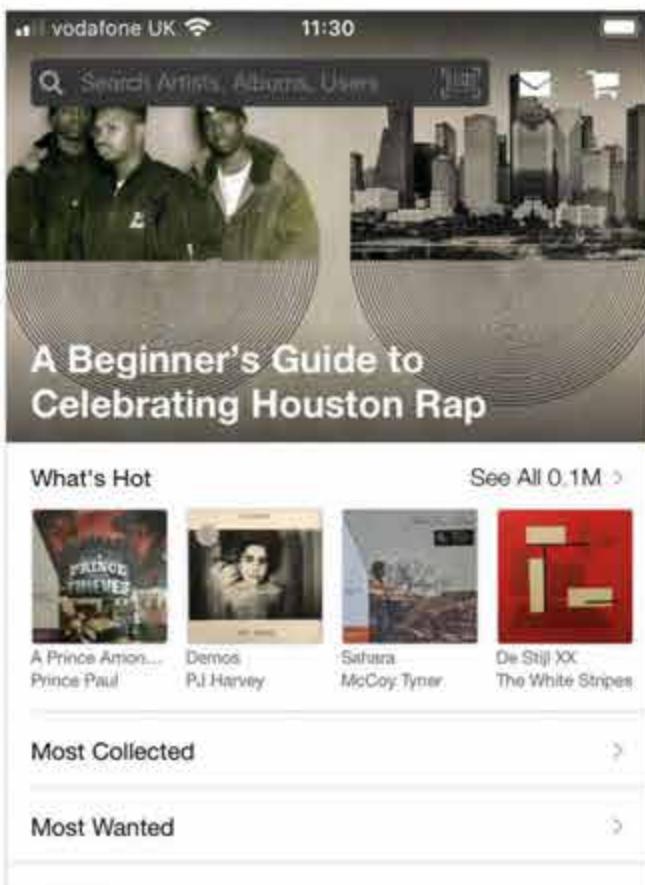
We'll guide you through the process of using the app to add and value your vinyl here, but you can also use the service to buy or sell items, too. It's generally more expensive than eBay, but at least you're guaranteed to get the item(s) that you want.



The Discogs app lets you catalogue your precious hoard, and you can also use it to buy or sell vinyl, too

Step-by-step

Value your vinyl with Discogs



1 Start a search

Tap on the 'Search' category at the bottom of the Discogs interface and then tap on the barcode scanner icon in the search field to access your iPhone camera.

2 Focus on barcode

Now frame the barcode on your vinyl sleeve and after a few seconds, the app should come up with the search results. If there are multiple entries, tap on the most applicable.

3 Check the details

From the primary search result, scroll down and you should see the Sales History, which cumulates in the current approximate value of your vinyl disc.



Remember, Discogs is also a good place to go to pick up any vinyl that you are coveting. Just search for what you want and then tap 'For Sale'.

Price up your vinyl

How the Discogs app makes it easy to buy, sell and value your music collection

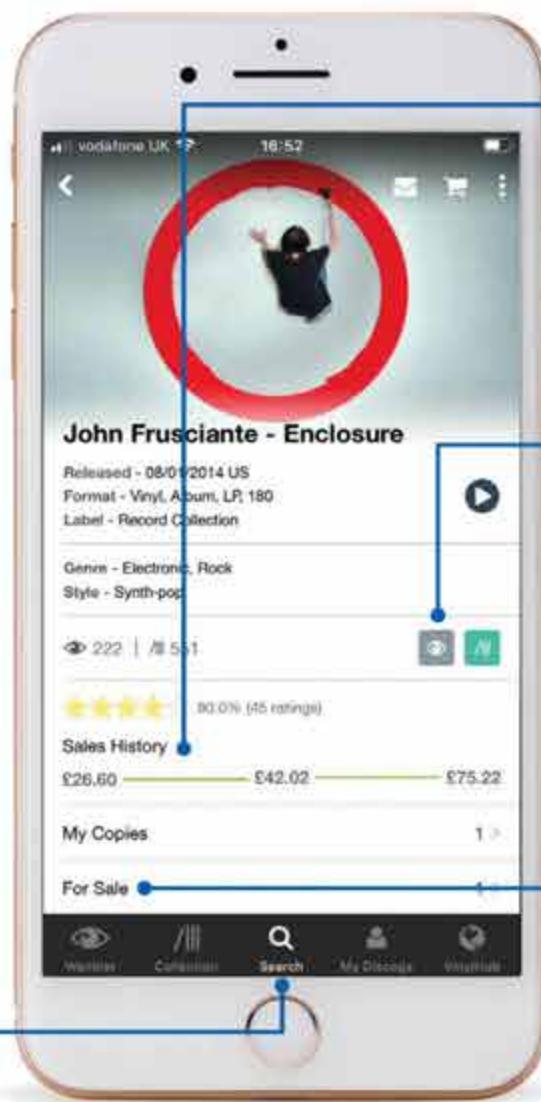
Knowledge base

Manual data entry

If your vinyl sleeves have barcodes on them then Discogs can make short work of scanning and adding them to your collection. But what about those rare promos and white labels that don't have barcodes? No problem, just enter the artist and/or the name of the track and Discogs' extensive database will throw up possible matches to choose from. Pick one and add it to your collection as usual.

Extensive search

By tapping 'Search' you can then tap the barcode scanner icon in the search field or enter artists or album keywords manually.



Sales History

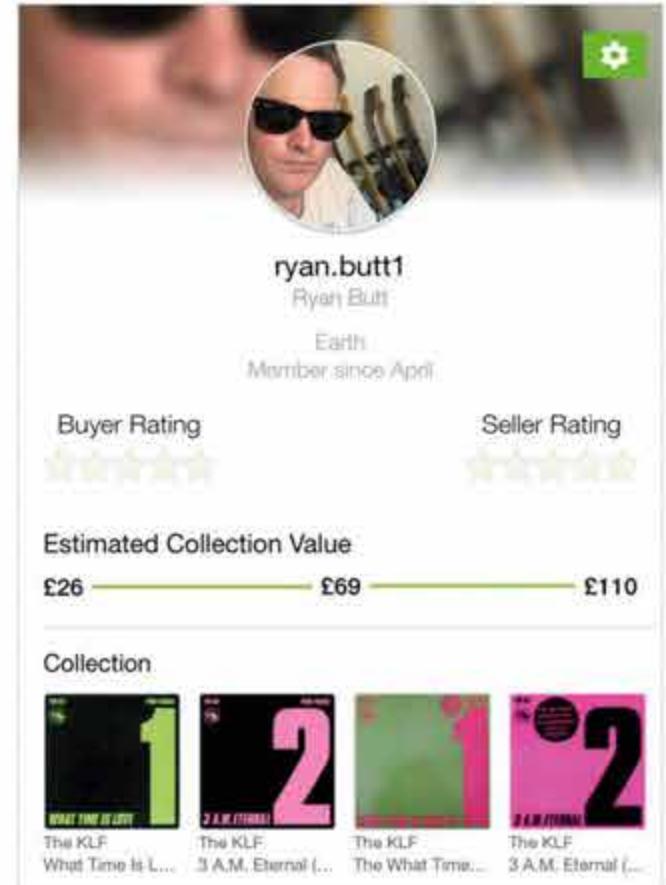
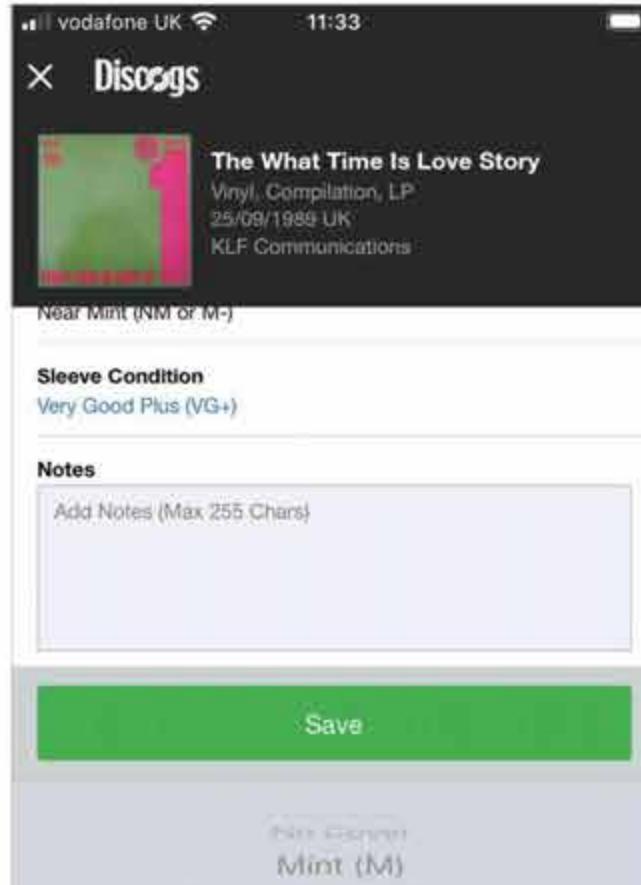
If you are valuing your music collection (all formats are covered), then this is the figure to pay attention to – it tells you how much each item is worth.

Watch or add

The 'eye' icon will add the searched-for music to your watchlist (you will be alerted when matching items go up for sale), and the 'stack' icon will add it to your collection.

For Sale

If you are searching for items to buy then tap here to get the full rundown of sellers from all over the world. Remember, you can register yourself as a seller too if you want to offload.



4 Add to collection

Just above the Sales History you will see two symbols. The 'eye' icon will add the item to your watchlist and the second, the 'stack', will add it to your collection. Tap on the latter.

5 Add details

You can now rate the condition of the media (the vinyl itself) and the sleeve. Choose from the options available and then tap on the 'Save' button to update the data.

6 Value your collection

As you add new vinyl to your collection, you can tap on the 'My Discogs' section to get a running total of how much your vinyl collection is worth – which is nice to know.



Open your iPad using your voice

Is Face ID giving you trouble when you're wearing a mask?
Then open an iPad or iPhone with a voice command

Developer
Apple Inc

Difficulty



Time needed

5

Face ID has removed the frustration of having to enter a passcode or use your fingerprint to unlock your iPhone or iPad. Sadly, the need to wear a face mask to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 has made the process more cumbersome since Face ID doesn't recognise you when your visage is covered.

Rather than pull the mask below your chin – a major no no because it's a sure-fire way to potentially spread the virus onto your hands – you can use the power of your voice instead. By turning to the Accessibility features, you can create a workaround command that automatically inputs your passcode in the right order when required.

This does, however, mean your device will be constantly listening out for control commands. It only works with devices running at least iPadOS 13 and iOS 13, too.



When setting up a voice command, make sure to use something unique and not "unlock iPad"

Step-by-step

Set up the voice command

1 Launch Settings

To start, open the Settings app and navigate to Accessibility. Then, under Physical and Motor, select 'Voice Control', which you will find is turned off by default.

2 Set up Voice Control

If Voice Control is turned off, you will need to set it up. Simply tap 'Set Up Voice Control' and follow the two prompts. Wait a few minutes to ensure the file is downloaded.

3 Create a command

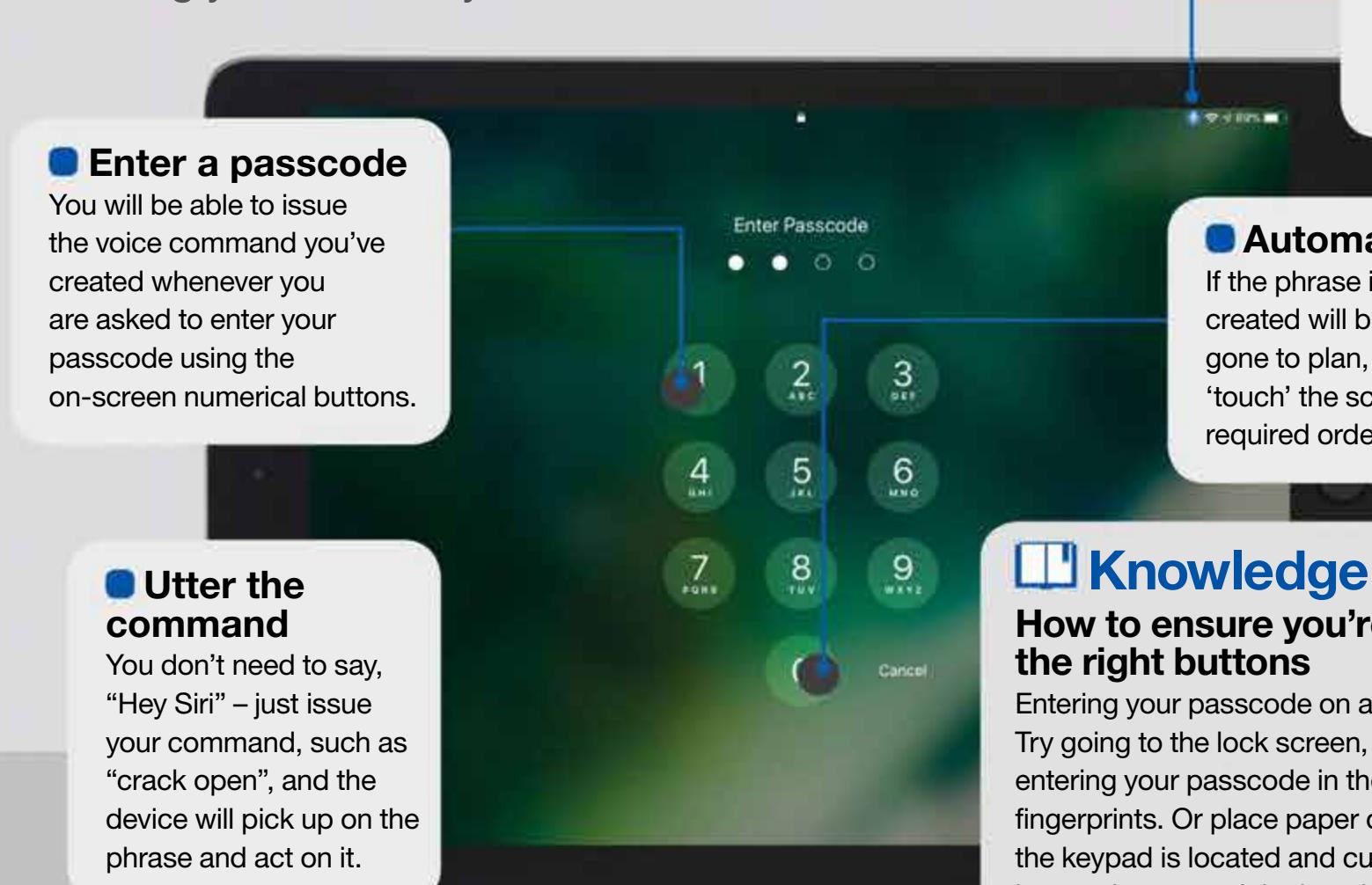
There isn't a premade action to unlock the device so we'll have to create our own. Begin doing this by tapping 'Customise Commands' and selecting 'Create New Command'.



Remember, if you edit a custom gesture, you will always have the option to delete it if you feel that it's not working well enough for you.

Unlock your device using your voice

Once you have set up the voice command, you can get on with unlocking your device by voice alone



Enter a passcode

You will be able to issue the voice command you've created whenever you are asked to enter your passcode using the on-screen numerical buttons.

Utter the command

You don't need to say, "Hey Siri" – just issue your command, such as "crack open", and the device will pick up on the phrase and act on it.

Ensure voice control is on

Voice Control must be turned on for this feature to work. When it's active you'll see this blue microphone icon at the top of the display.

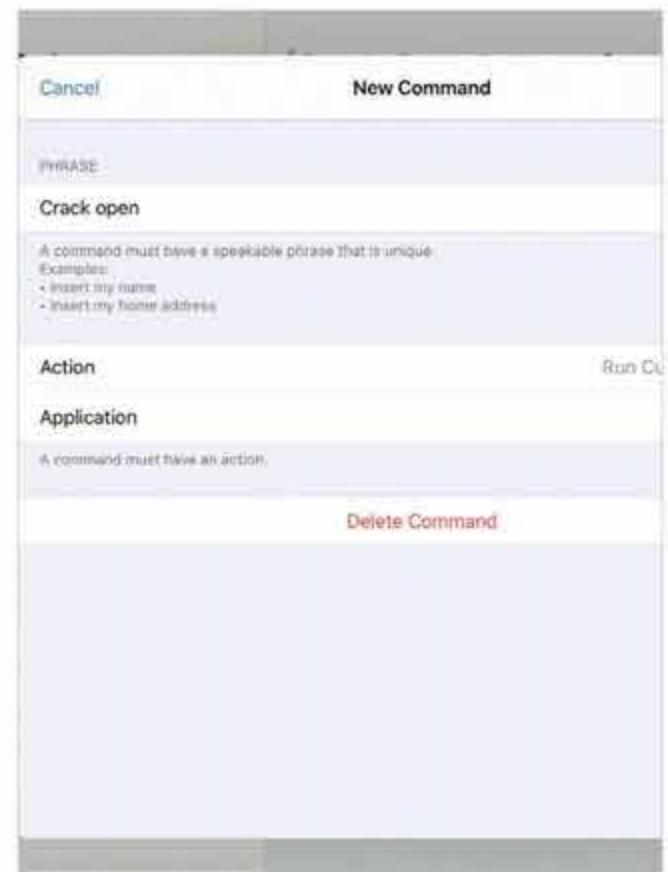
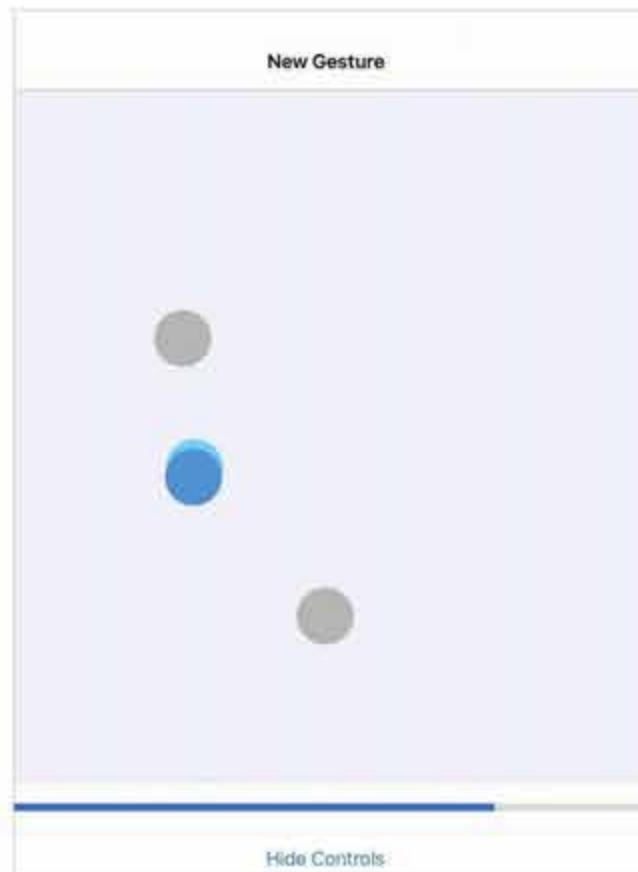
Automatic entering

If the phrase is recognised, the gesture you created will be enacted. Assuming all has gone to plan, the gesture will automatically 'touch' the screen on the numbers in the required order and unlock the device.

Knowledge base

How to ensure you're pressing the right buttons

Entering your passcode on a blank display can be difficult. Try going to the lock screen, wiping the display clean and entering your passcode in the hope that you will leave fingerprints. Or place paper over the screen, mark where the keypad is located and cut out a square so you'll at least be tapping around the location of the numbers.



4 Input a phrase

Now tap the input box under Phrase and type a command. We've gone with "crack open" but the choice is entirely yours. Now, don't tap 'Save' just yet. Instead select 'Action'.

5 Start the action

Tap 'Run Custom Gesture' and you'll come to the fiddly bit. You need to enter your passcode using a blank display. Try to recall where the numbers are usually located.

6 Save and exit

Tap 'Save' and select 'New Command' to go back. Review the command and save again. It's now ready to use when you're asked to enter your passcode.



Manage your emails on Apple Watch

Determine which mailboxes you wish to view and make emailing from your wrist a slicker experience

Developer
Apple Inc

Difficulty



Time needed



Given the small size of the Apple Watch's screen, it's quite amazing that we can read and reply to emails from our various accounts. But are you making the most of the Mail app? Apple has infused it with a host of advanced features that enable you to determine which mailboxes you will see, the kind of content that can be allowed and how the emails should be previewed. You can also flag, delete and mark emails as read or unread, putting quite a bit of power on your wrist as you keep on top of what is likely to be an influx of messages each day.

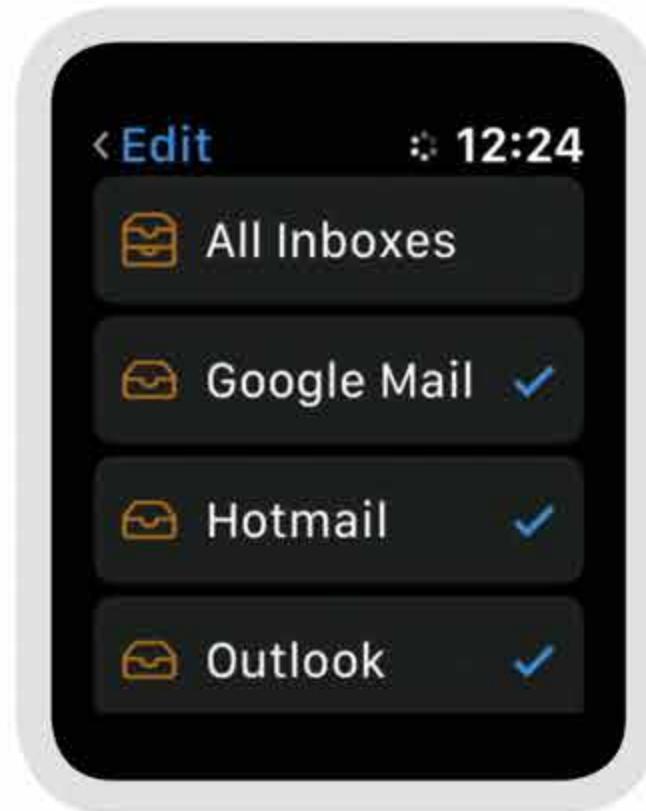
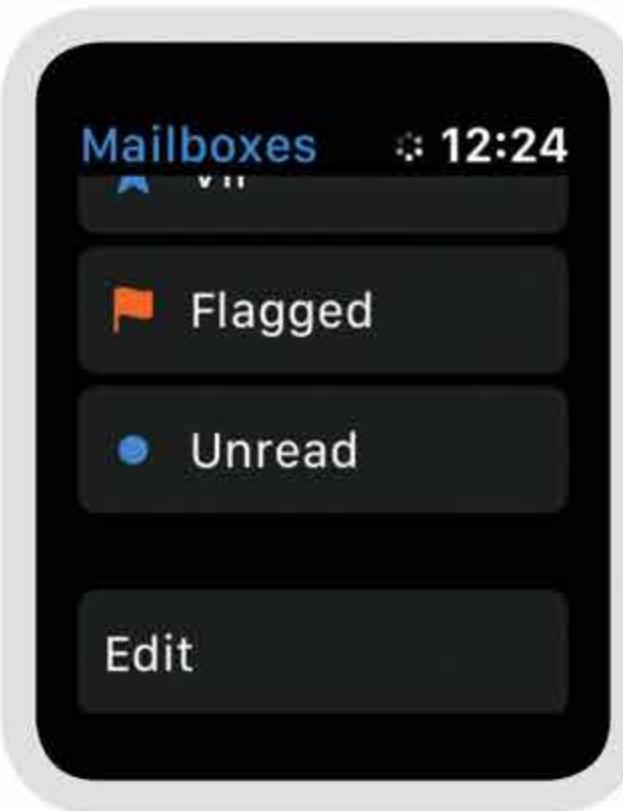
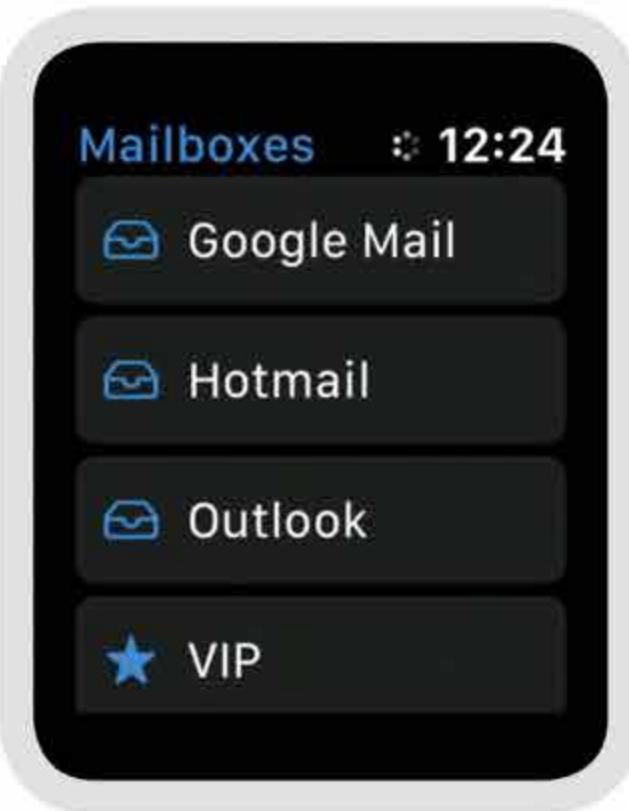
Here we look at how you can best manage your emails – in most cases without having to launch the Watch app on your iPhone. Of course, if you do so then you'll have even more options at your disposal. These include being able to change the signature that appears when composing an email and getting Mail to ask for confirmation before deleting an email.



Follow our simple steps to better manage your emails from your Apple Watch

Step-by-step

Select your required mailboxes



1 Open Mail app

You can manage the mailboxes you wish to view on your Watch from the wearable itself. Start by launching the Mail app and looking at your currently available accounts.

2 Edit your accounts

If you would like to change the accounts that will appear on the device, scroll down to the very bottom of the screen where you'll see an 'Edit' option – tap this.

3 Assess the mailboxes

Look down the list. Inboxes that have a tick alongside their name will be viewable on your wearable device. You'll see it's possible to have inboxes from multiple accounts.

Alter your Mail settings

Make light work of browsing your emails by playing around with the many options at your fingertips

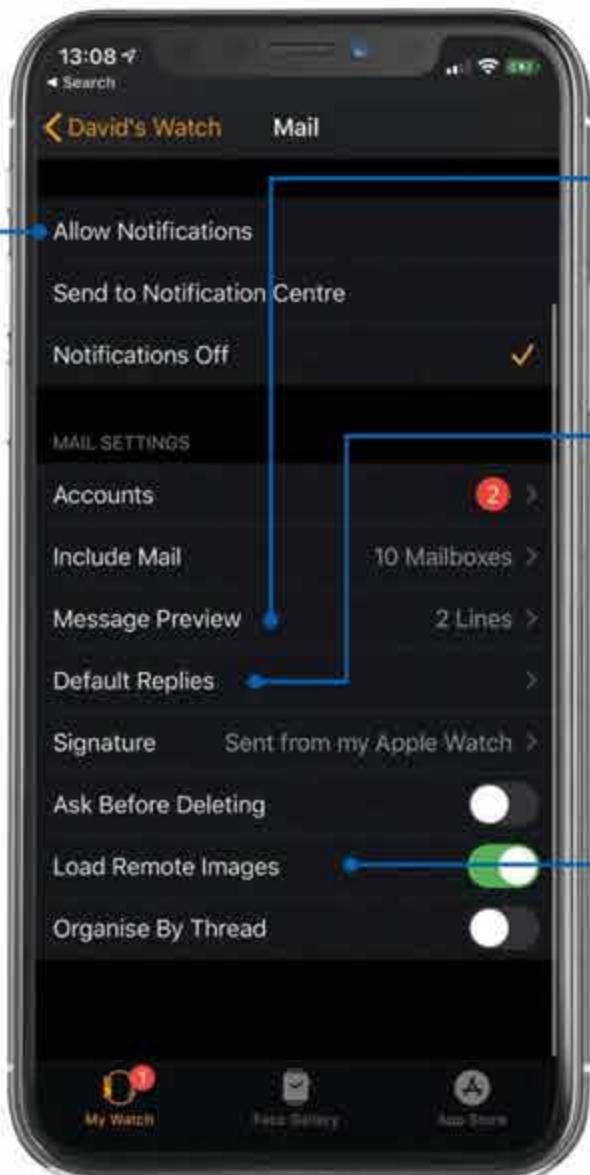
Allow notifications

If you want to be notified when an email is received, ensure you allow notifications in the My Watch tab of the iPhone Watch app. Don't want pop-up notifications? Then send them to the Notification Centre instead.

Knowledge base

Keep on top of your inbox

When viewing an email, you typically have four options: reply, flag/unflag, read/unread, and trash or archive. You can make use of these by hard-pressing on an open email and making your choice. It's also possible to swipe left in a mailbox to delete and flag or right to unread/read. A hard-press on the screen when in a mailbox will allow you to compose a new message.



Change the preview

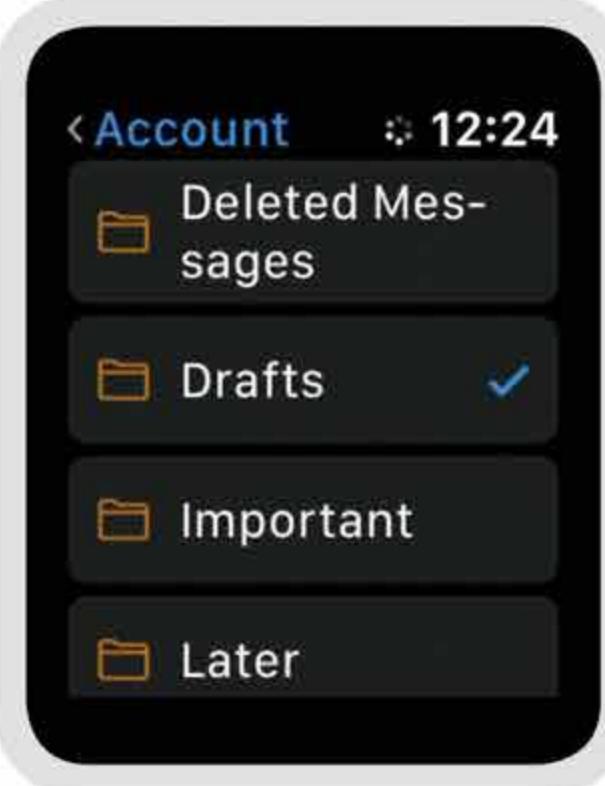
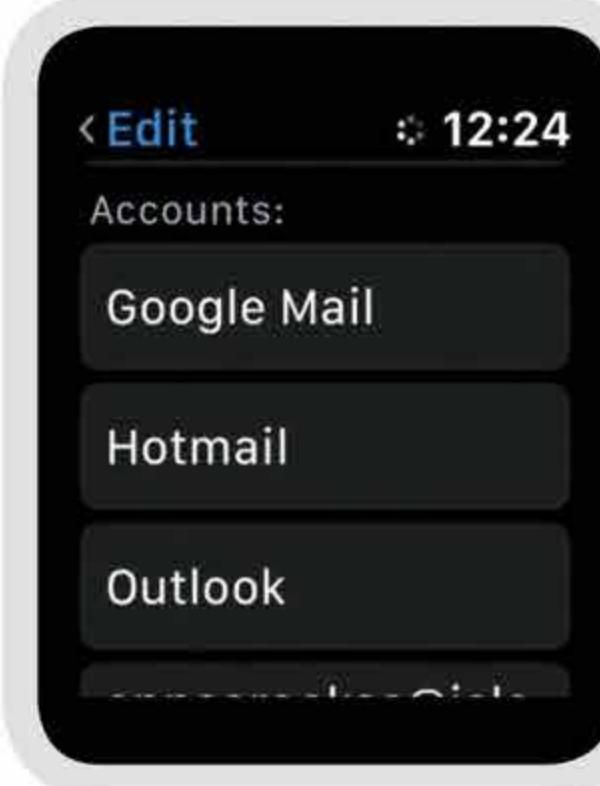
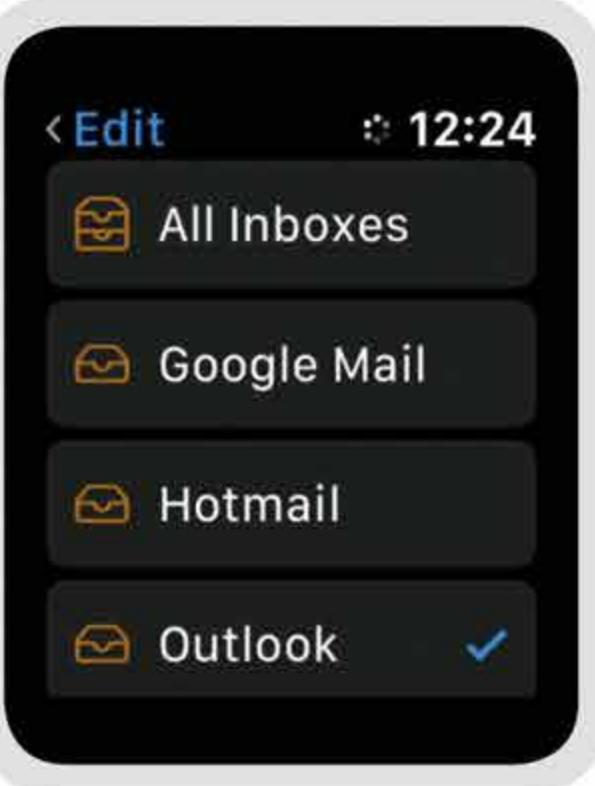
When you scroll through your emails, you can see a preview of up to two lines. You won't need to scroll as much if you alter this to one line or decide to remove previews entirely.

Default replies

Save time by making use of default replies. Here you can edit the existing set and replace premade responses with your own.

Load Remote Images

Remote images are web links which connect with images that are stored online. Loading them so they're viewable in an email can eat away at your data and battery so you may want to turn off this function.



4 Remove an inbox

If you don't want to view a particular inbox, you only need to remove the tick next to its name. Don't worry, the inboxes will still list so you can add them again later.

5 Manage an account

Keep scrolling and you will come to a list of your accounts. Here you are able to manage them and decide if you want to add more mailboxes. Select an account.

6 Add a mailbox

When you're viewing the mailboxes that make up an account, such as sent messages, drafts and deleted emails, place a tick next to any that you wish to display on your Watch.

Genius Bar

Our Apple devices and the software on them are some of the finest products on the planet, but even they have their moments. We're here to give you expert advice and get you back up and running in no time

Contact us today

Facebook
iCreateMagazine

Twitter
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Instagram
icreate_mag

Email
icreate@futurenet.com

Glossary

The place to come for key terms made easy

Accessibility

This refers to a group of settings on Mac and iOS that allow you to customise your device to suit your needs. There are settings that relate to physical and motor impairments, as well as hearing or sight problems. Go to Settings or System Preferences to find them.

Markup Tools

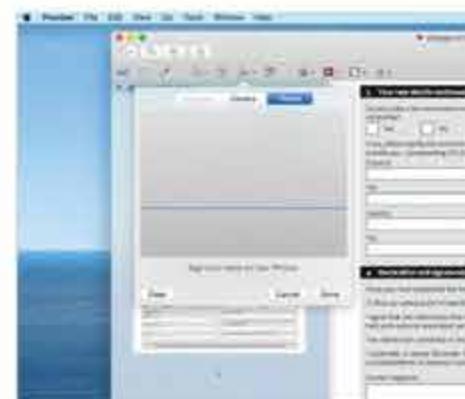
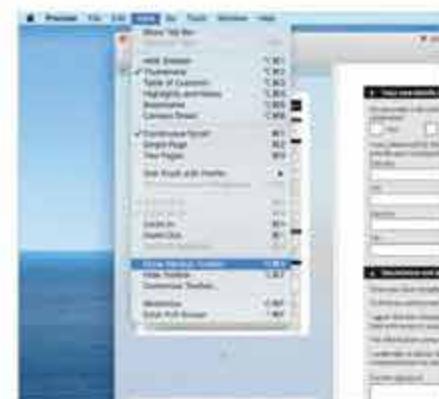
Both macOS and iOS feature a built-in toolset that enables you to quickly mark up certain files, such as PDFs and photos. Through these tools you can add useful annotations, signatures, shapes and more.

PiP

This is a shortened version of the term, 'Picture in Picture', which refers to being able to watch videos in a smaller, standalone window on your Mac while doing other things. This feature will also be introduced to your iPhone and iPad with the iOS 14 update, which you can grab around about now!



Is it possible to sign digital documents on my Mac by using my iPhone? ~~Oh have I been told about?~~ Denzil Wilson



1 Open a doc

Make sure that your Mac and iPhone are signed into the same Apple ID and on the same Wi-Fi network, then open a doc in Preview and then click on View>Show Markup Toolbar.

2 Select iPhone

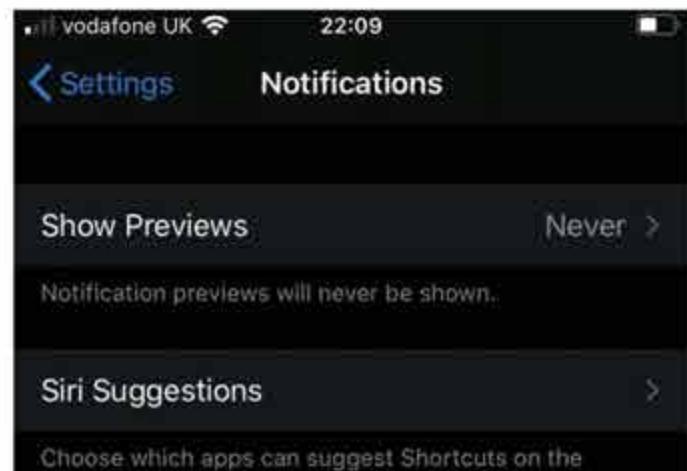
Now click on the signature icon in the toolbar and a drop-down window will appear, showing options to use your Trackpad, Camera or iPhone, click on the 'iPhone' option and your device will come to life.

3 Sign off

Now, using your finger or a stylus, you will be able to write your signature on your iPhone screen and, as you do, it will appear within the Preview app on your Mac, as if by magic!

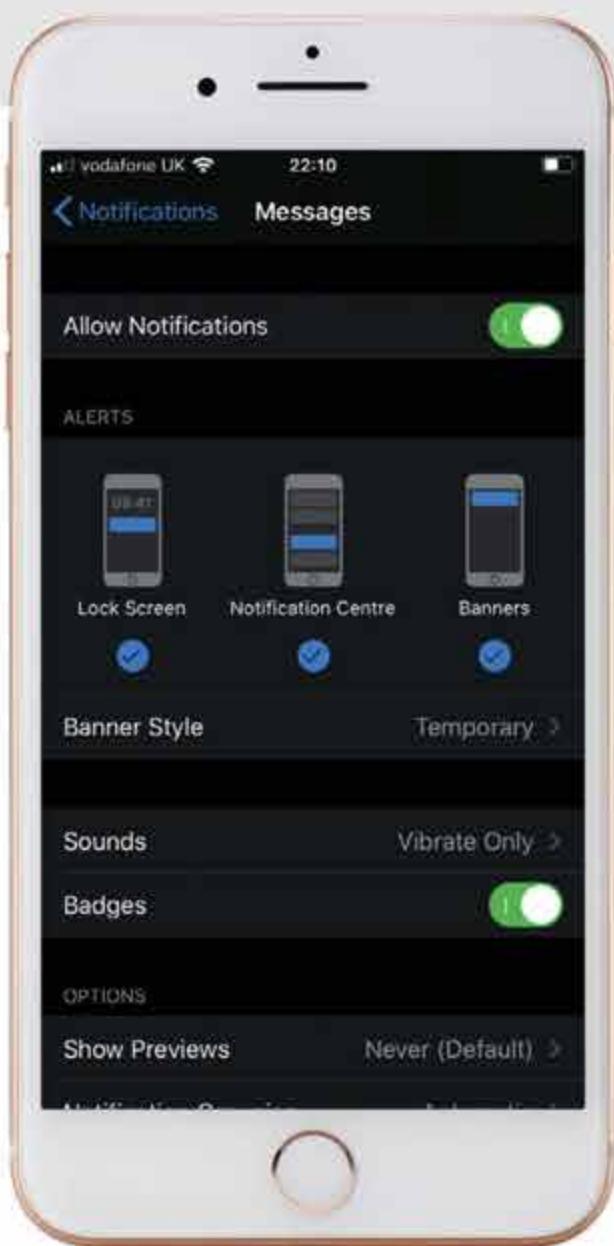
 Whenever I receive a message on my iPhone, anyone sat next to me at work can read the first few lines. Is there a way to stop the message text showing? Jo Mason

It can be annoying if you have a neighbouring nosey parker who glances at your text notifications, but thankfully you'll find options within your iOS Settings app to disable the message previews to keep things private.



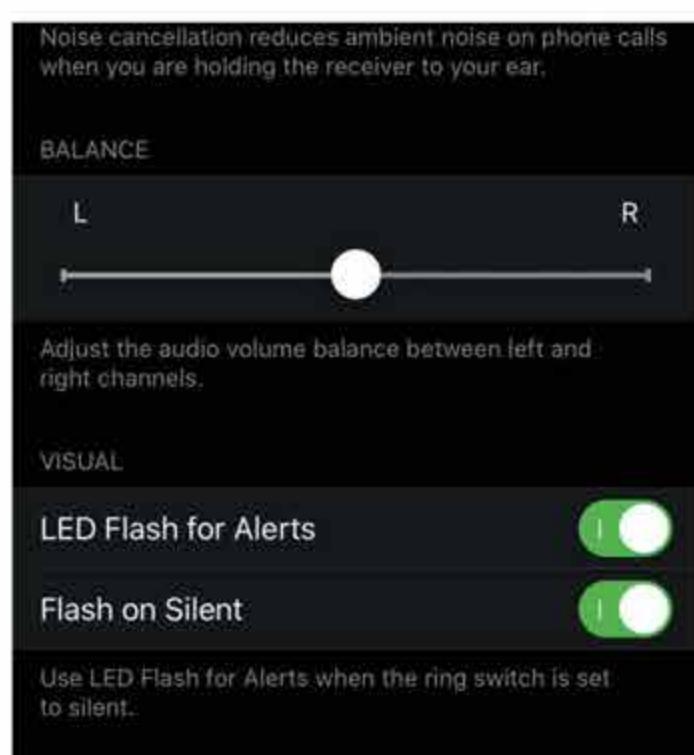
1 Open Settings

On your iPhone, go to Settings>Notifications and tap on the 'Show Previews' option at the top of the screen. Change this option to 'Never' and then tap on 'Back'.



2 Message settings

Now scroll down and tap on 'Messages' within the Notifications settings and, under the Options section, tap on 'Previews' and then change this option to 'Never' too.



3 Make temporary

Still within the Messages Notifications settings, tap on 'Banner Style' and change this to 'Temporary' so your alerts don't stay on your screen permanently.

4 Get flash notifications

If you are concerned about missing a message alert, go to Settings>Accessibility>Audio/Visual and turn on the 'LED Flash for Alerts' option. Your iPhone flash will now signal alerts.

 **Apple Expert**
The one-stop column for Genius advice

Somebody told me that it is possible to take screenshots of entire web pages, rather than what is just displayed on your iPhone screen, is this right?

Yes, this feature was added with iOS 13, so make sure that your iPhone is running that or newer. Navigate to the web page that you want to capture and then take a screenshot (on iPhone X and later, press the volume up and side button, on iPhone 8 and earlier, press the Home and sleep/wake buttons together). Now tap on the thumbnail that appears and you'll land on the editing screen. All being well, you should now see the 'Full Page' option at the top, tap on this.



Apple Expert

The one-stop column for Genius advice

How can I change my Apple gaming avatar that appears when I launch games on my iPhone? Can I make it the same as my Memoji?

Sure, go to Settings> Game Center and then tap the small 'Edit' button on the profile picture at the top of the page. You will now see suggestions and Animoji categories. Scroll down to Animoji and you should see any premade Memojis there. Tap on it and press 'Done'.



How do I make my Live Photos bounce – I can't find the option anywhere? Julia Aleixo



1 Select photo

Open your Photos app and then go to Albums> Media Types and then tap on the 'Live Photos' option to display the photos that you have taken. Tap on an image to open it fullscreen.

2 Swipe up

Now swipe up and you will see the 'Effects' section that contains the Loop, Bounce and Long Exposure options. Simply tap on an effect to instantly apply it to your Live Photo.

3 Save image

When you have applied an effect, tap on the Share icon, swipe up and then tap on the 'Add to Album' option to save the modified Live Photo to an album of your choice or another app.



My iPad stops at iOS 10.3.3 and my iPlayer app will cease to work soon. Does that mean I can no longer watch iPlayer? Antonela Vizcarra

Use Safari

You will still be able to watch iPlayer, you will just have to switch to Safari instead of the iPlayer app. Go to bbc.co.uk/iplayer in Safari and you'll notice that the interface is similar.

Live channels

Tap on 'Menu' to see the selection of BBC channels. You can watch them live or opt to start from the beginning, which you can't do in the iPlayer app, no matter how new it is.



Create app

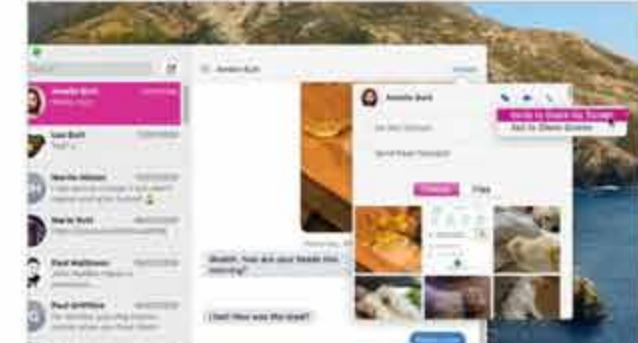
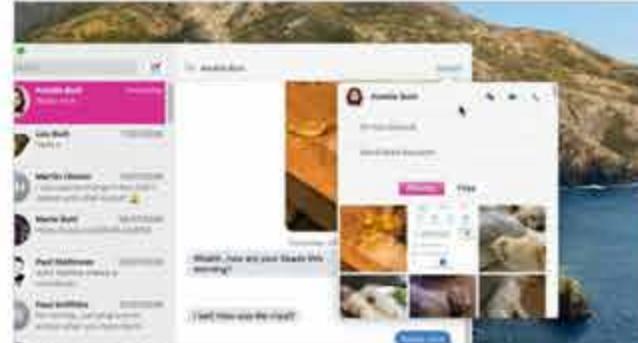
Tap the Share button and then 'Add to Home Screen' to create a handy little app icon that you can tap on to go straight to iPlayer, or even your favourite channel or section.

No Safari downloads

You cannot download shows to your device through the Safari web service like you can in the app. Otherwise the two services are very similar.

 **My parents are always having issues with their Mac. Is there a way for me to connect to it remotely so that I can try and help?** Felix Moss

There certainly is, and it doesn't involve spending extra money on fancy software because you can already do it using macOS. As long as both Macs are signed into an Apple ID then you can share screens via the Messages app. While in a conversation thread, click 'Details', followed by the screen sharing icon. You will now see two options: 'Invite to Share My Screen' and 'Ask to Share Screen', either you or your parents can initiate the screen-sharing process. We'll guide you through the process here.



1 Check the details

While in a Messages chat room with somebody – in your case, your parents – click on the blue 'Details' option in the top-right corner to see a menu of options.



4 Explore the options

When your screen is being shared, click on the screen sharing icon in the menu bar and you will see other options, such as one to let the other person control your screen.

2 Click screen icon

In the top corner of the menu there will be three blue options: screen share, FaceTime and call. Click on the screen share icon and you will see two further options.



5 End the session

When you want to end the session, click on the same menu again and choose the 'End Screen Sharing' option. You will be notified that the other person has disconnected.

3 Send an invitation

Choose the 'Invite to Share My Screen' option and then a request will be sent to the other person. When they accept and connect you will be notified.

Knowledge base

Request screen control

If someone is sharing their screen with you, click on the 'Control' option in the top-left corner of the viewing window to send a request to control their Mac. This is handy for troubleshooting problems remotely. To disconnect again, click on the binoculars icon and then go to Screen Sharing>Quit.



I like to watch YouTube videos while working on my Mac. Is there a way to make the video window smaller so that it doesn't take up so much space? Jaye Carnet

Yes, and it's known as 'Picture in Picture' mode. This mode lets you transfer the YouTube video to a separate standalone viewing window on your Mac desktop (the YouTube page will still be visible in

Safari, but you can reduce it to your Dock at this point) that you can move around and position where you want. Picture in Picture, or 'PiP' gives you the freedom to have your movie encroach as much or as

little as you want on your desktop, which is handy if you are multitasking with other apps on your Mac. You can click on the 'X' icon in the top-left corner of the viewing window to close it.



1 Start watching

In Safari, navigate to the video that you want to watch and start playing it. Now pay attention to the small speaker icon situated to the right of the URL/search bar.



4 Manually position

If you hold down the cmd key while clicking and holding on the PiP window, then you will be able to freely drag it into any position on your Mac desktop.

2 Click the icon

Right/ctrl+click on the speaker icon and a mini-menu will be displayed. Select the 'Enter Picture in Picture' option and the video will be transferred to a separate window.



5 Hide the window

Click, hold and drag the window off to the side of the screen and it will reduce to a handy tab. Click on this to make the video appear again when you need it.

3 Adjust the size

Hover your cursor over a corner and click and drag to resize. You can also drag and drop the viewing window and it will snap to any corner of your Mac screen.



Knowledge base

Old-school method

If you are running an older version of macOS that doesn't display a mini-menu when right/ctrl+clicking on the speaker icon, then try right/ctrl+clicking on the YouTube video itself. Do so a second time and a new set of options will be displayed. From here, select the 'Enter Picture in Picture' option.

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Edifier S2000 MKIII Bookshelf Speakers

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Bluetooth 5.0 with Qualcomm aptX HD decoding • Hi-res audio • 45Hz-40KHz • Class-D amplification

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EDIFER'S LATEST SET OF bookshelf speakers meet the modern demands for a wireless environment while providing a quality of audio that makes them the perfect fit for home recording and mixing. Doffing their cap to classic bookshelf speakers of old, the S2000 MKIIIs feature retro wood panelling, sturdy feet and removable grilles. The only thing that betrays their old-school aesthetic is an OLED LCD screen near the base of the active speaker that displays the input source, volume and sound effect modes (more on these shortly). Delve inside the cabinets, though, and the contents are very much from the modern age.

Attack of the cones

These weighty speakers come with a nice long connection cord to tether them together, RCA and optical cables, a power cable for the active speaker and a remote control. The rear of the active speaker sports line-in (x2), optical and coaxial inputs so that you can connect them to multiple devices at once, and metal knobs for volume, treble and bass. Connecting them to your Mac or iOS device via the built-in Bluetooth 5.0 with Qualcomm aptX HD decoding is easy, just use the volume knob, which doubles as an input-select, to choose the Bluetooth option and they become instantly discoverable to your Apple device.

Certified for hi-res audio, the speakers sport planar diaphragm tweeters and 5.5-inch aluminium diaphragm drivers. Two professional digital processing DSP chips manage the electronic frequency division and dynamic management of the high-pitched and medium-bass channels. The flat planar diaphragms provide a fast response rate for high frequencies that other bookshelf speakers would struggle to cope with, and the aluminium cones on the woofers with DSP digital electronic crossover makes your audio chime with

"They may look retro but delve inside the cabinets and the contents are very much from the modern age"

high-strength, low-distortion heavy bass. Dial up the volume and these speakers sound brilliant and will totally own small home offices or, with an RMS power of 15W for the tweeters and 50W for the woofers, much larger spaces, too.

Another level

The S2000 MKIIIs come with four EQ presets (Monitor, Dynamic, Classical and Vocal) that can highlight the distinctive tones in whatever genre of music you are listening to. The supplied remote control feels distinctly lightweight in comparison to the hernia-inducing speakers, but it does boast a nice layout of controls, with each of the presets assigned to its own space so that you can switch between them instantly. This made it easy to fully appreciate how each EQ setting affected the same piece of music, and the differences were very noticeable.

The sound that the S2000 MKIIIs generate is certainly on par with similarly sized bookshelf speakers that cost significantly more, so for the money these come very highly recommended.

Verdict

These lovely-looking speakers are powerful enough to boss any room in your home and produce stunning audio that many would happily pay much more to enjoy.





Blast from the past: Edifier's S2000 MKIII speakers may look old, but their sound is very much of the now





OWC Thunderbolt 3 Pro Dock

£340/\$299

Key features

Two Thunderbolt 3 ports • 60W notebook charging

Learn more

owcdigital.com

Available from

amazon.co.uk

DESIGNED TO HANDLE the demands of pro creative workflows, the Thunderbolt 3 Pro Dock from OWC is a digital Swiss army knife that features 10Gb Ethernet, front-side CFast and SD 4.0 card readers, Thunderbolt device support and plenty of peripheral ports.

See more, access more

Weighing in at 0.8kg and with dimensions of 3.5x21.2x10.8cm, this dock is a chunky beast, but it serves as your all-in-one, on-location, post-production ‘mission control’ that is fast and efficient enough to handle heavy traffic on tight deadlines.

As we mentioned, the front-side is reserved for the card readers and a USB-A port for connecting and charging devices. On the rear are ports for eSATA (multi-bay

external drive access), two further USB-A slots, an Ethernet port for 10Gb wired networking, 60W and 15W Thunderbolt slots, plus a 4K video-out to connect to virtually any display, TV or projector. There is also an on/off toggle for the internal fan needed to keep everything cool and efficient.

Much more than just a means of expanding your MacBook’s connectivity options – although obviously it can be used for that – the Thunderbolt 3 is designed for more rigorous tasks. You can daisy-chain up to five additional Thunderbolt devices for studio-level storage, RAID arrays, eGPUs for graphics processing or all of them combined. A super-fast, reliable powerhouse for creative professionals.

Verdict

If your line of profession involves covering events and working with a team of videographers and photographers, then this dock can handle multiple card uploads ultra-efficiently.



When not taken on the road, the Thunderbolt 3 Pro Dock can comfortably manage all of your peripherals to keep your workspace uncluttered



The Thunderbolt 3 offers a DisplayPort for adding another 4K display, plus additional ports so you can access multiple drives within a multi-bay RAID



The rear-side of the dock is peppered with ports, including a secure power connection to help prevent unexpected disconnections...

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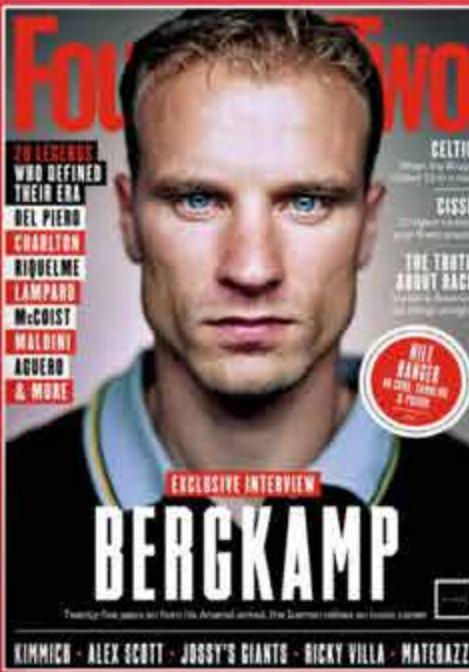
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BECOME AN IOS MESSAGES GENIUS

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FREE! WITH THIS ISSUE

The cover of iCreate magazine features a large central image of a person holding a smartphone with a video call on the screen. Below this is a Mac computer monitor displaying a desktop interface. The main headline reads 'MASTER iOS 14 NOW'. Other sections include 'CREATE A MASKED FACE ID', 'TURBO-CHARGE YOUR MAC', 'GET CREATIVE ON MAC', 'GET APPLE TV SCREEN SAVERS ON YOUR MAC', 'BECOME AN IOS MESSAGES GENIUS', 'VALUE YOUR VINYL', and 'FREE! WITH THIS ISSUE'.



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Accessories

macOS Finder Face Mask

£10.36/\$13.88

[redbubble.com](https://www.redbubble.com)

Seeing as how face masks have become a staple of everyday life as we try to claw back some semblance of normality post-lockdown, you might as well treat yourself to a nice one. In truth, pretty much any custom theme you can think of is covered by Redbubble, including games, movies, tech and popular culture. There are thousands of masks available from its website, including this Finder-themed face covering designed by LittlepixelUK.



Edifier TWS6 True Wireless Earbuds

£89.99/\$59.99

[edifier.com](https://www.edifier.com)

Featuring eight hours of playback (plus 32 extra hours from a fully charged case) and an IPX5 water resistance rating, Edifier's TWS6 earbuds sound great and are built for the great outdoors. The wireless buds feature an ergonomic 12mm design, Knowles drivers and built-in voice capture and noise cancellation. Touch controls are integrated into the casing and the Bluetooth 5.0, Qualcomm aptX tech offers ultra-low latency at a distance of up to 33ft.



GameSir F4 Falcon Mobile Gaming Controller

£32.99/\$35.99

amazon.co.uk

If you find your iOS screen a little too restrictive when aiming, jumping or shooting in your mobile games, then this odd device can help you out. It unfolds to snap onto your iPhone with physical buttons on the top. You can then map the in-game touchscreen controls to the buttons so that you don't have to interact with the screen at all, unless in-game movement is required. It works pretty well and it prevents the action on-screen from being obscured by your hands.



TimePorter for Apple Watch

£44.99/\$49.99

amazon.co.uk

Taking its inspiration from a sunglasses case, Twelve South's TimePorter is a compact travel case for your Apple Watch in which you can store your accessories, like straps and charge cables. You can also feed your charge cable (not included) through the top so it also doubles up as a bedside charge stand. It's well-made and hardy, but far too expensive.



Groov-e Sport Buds

£34.99/\$39.99

groov-e.co.uk

If you want wireless buds for your workouts that don't feel like they could pop out of your ears at any time, then Groov-e's budget Sport Buds come with hooks to secure them in place, an IPX4 sweat resistant rating and they provide up to four hours of playback (plus an additional 24 from a fully charged case). For the price, you kinda know that the sound quality isn't going to blow you away, but it might surprise you a little bit. Comfortable to wear and durable.





In-app installations

You will need to install Windows 10, but this is all done effortlessly in-app



A window into Windows

With Parallels you can do everything you would do on a full PC on your Mac



Heavy lifting

Using this app you can clone your Windows computer to run on Mac...

Price

£69.99/\$79.99

Requirements

macOS 10.13.6 or later • 64-bit processor • 16GB RAM

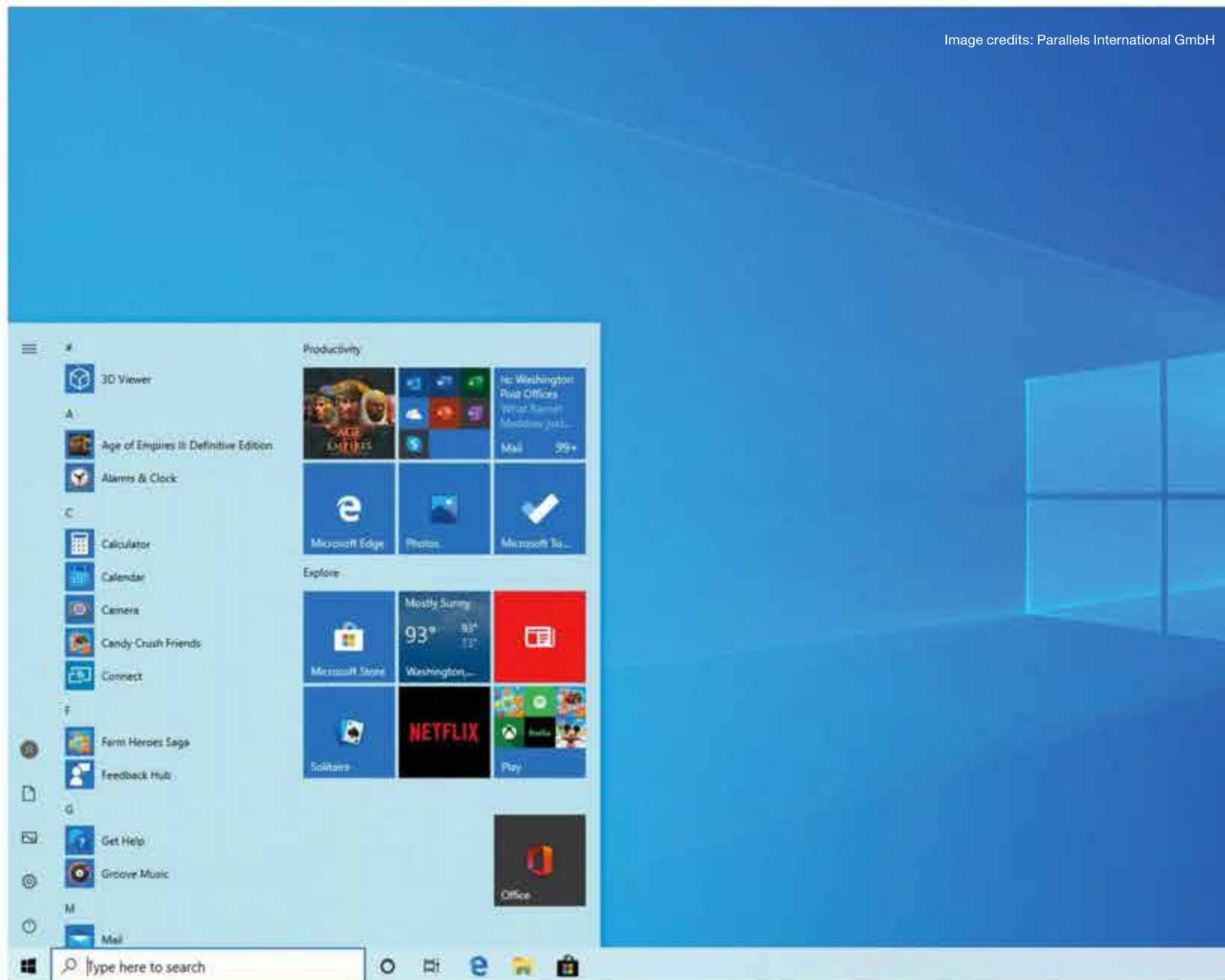
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“There is none of the lag you have perhaps come to expect from running a virtual PC on your Mac”



Parallels Desktop 16

An easy and effective way to run Windows on Mac



AMAZING AS IT MAY SEEM, BUT SOME MAC USERS ACTUALLY NEED TO RUN WINDOWS! Whether

you need to use PC applications when working remotely, you're in the process of migrating your PC files to Mac, or you just want to play PC games, Parallels Desktop 16 is one of the best 'virtual PC' apps we've tried.

Easy to set up and use, (although you will need to download Windows 10 in-app), Parallels Desktop 16 is ready when you need it (no restarting is required) and allows you to share files, copy and paste images and text, and drag and drop files between Mac and PC apps. What's impressive about it is that there appears

to be none of the lag you have perhaps come to expect from running a virtual PC. Even the most demanding and resource-hungry Windows apps run super-smooth without slowing down your Mac, which is a great achievement.

The app comes optimised ready for the macOS Big Sur update and delivers faster DirectX graphics and improved OpenGL 3 support for both Windows and Linux. If you're running it on a MacBook, then you can even customise your Touch Bar for Windows apps, and an automatic optimisation feature means that the disk space the app uses is reclaimed when you close it down. Need a PC? Then this is as good as it gets on Mac.

Verdict

If you require a virtual PC on your Mac then this is comes highly recommended as the fastest and most efficient around.



Creaks

Price
Arcade subscription

Requirements
iOS 13.0 or later • 3.6GB

Learn more
amanita-design.net

Available from
iOS App Store



FROM THE CREATORS OF *MACHINARIUM* comes an altogether more freakish puzzle adventure for iOS and Mac. Unnerved by exploding light bulbs and peeling wallpaper, our unnamed protagonist's curiosity gets the better of him and he descends into a dark world inhabited by avian folk and vicious furniture monsters.

The aim is to progress but the way forward is anything but clear, as you have to pull switches, trigger gates and lure the salivating creatures away from areas that you need to get to. The hand-painted visuals are stunningly gorgeous and the eerie sounds and eclectic score really gets your spidey senses tingling. Challenging and very compelling.

Verdict

A suspense-filled puzzle adventure that you'll not be able to put down in a hurry.



The game features a simple move/action button touchscreen control system



Use the terrain to your advantage to outmanoeuvre the furniture monsters

Image credits: Amanita Design s.r.o.

Podcast



Broken Record with Rick Rubin

By Pushkin Industries

Insightful listening as Rubin, legendary record producer and cofounder of Def Jam Recordings, talks shop with, amongst others, the Beastie Boys and RZA.

Music

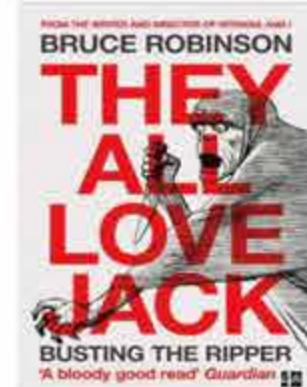


Even in Exile

James Dean Bradfield
£4.99/\$4.99

The Manic Street Preachers frontman has used some downtime to create this wonderfully formed concept album inspired by Chilean singer-songwriter and political activist, Victor Jara.

Books



They All Love Jack

Bruce Robinson
£1.99/\$1.99

The writer/director stakes a compelling case that Jack the Ripper was a high-ranking Freemason, whose identity was fiercely guarded by the fraternity.

Flynth – The Friendly Synth

Price
£4.99/\$4.99

Requirements
macOS 10.15 or later • 3.5MB

Learn more
fingerlab.net

Available from
Mac App Store



IF YOU'RE AFTER A SIMPLE SYNTH APPLICATION to bash out a tune, then Flynth is a decent proposition – but just be aware that most of its functionality is hidden behind an in-app purchase. Of course, this shouldn't dissuade you from trying the free version, which features six octaves, six-voice polyphony, three oscillators, two configurable LFOs, full MIDI support and 12 factory presets (expanded to 80 in the full version).

The interface is simple in design and you can use your Mac keyboard to play the synth lines and tweak the knobs to get your desired pitch and octave. But unless you pay out for the full version, then this is rendered as little more as a warm-up tool because you can't record and export your music.

Verdict

Fun to mess around with but you will need to upgrade to get the most out of it.



Image credits: Fingerlab SARL

iPhone 3G

Release date July 2008

- Processor: Samsung 32-bit RISC ARM 620MHz
- Storage: 8GB or 16GB
- Display: 3.5 inches (diagonal), 480x320 pixel resolution

Original price: £99/\$199 (8GB on contract) Price now: £30/\$40

The sequel to the most revolutionary device of the decade was always going to be difficult. But with 3G integration, GPS and a brand-new design, the iPhone 3G had plenty for Apple fans to get excited about.

The 3G launched alongside iPhone OS 2 (iOS 2), the second major software release for the iPhone and the first to feature the App Store. At launch, there were just 500 apps available to download, which has swelled considerably in the subsequent 12 years. The iPhone 3G was also the first iPhone model to come with a colour choice... if you were prepared to pay more for it. As well as the standard black option, an exclusive, more costly 16GB white option was also available.



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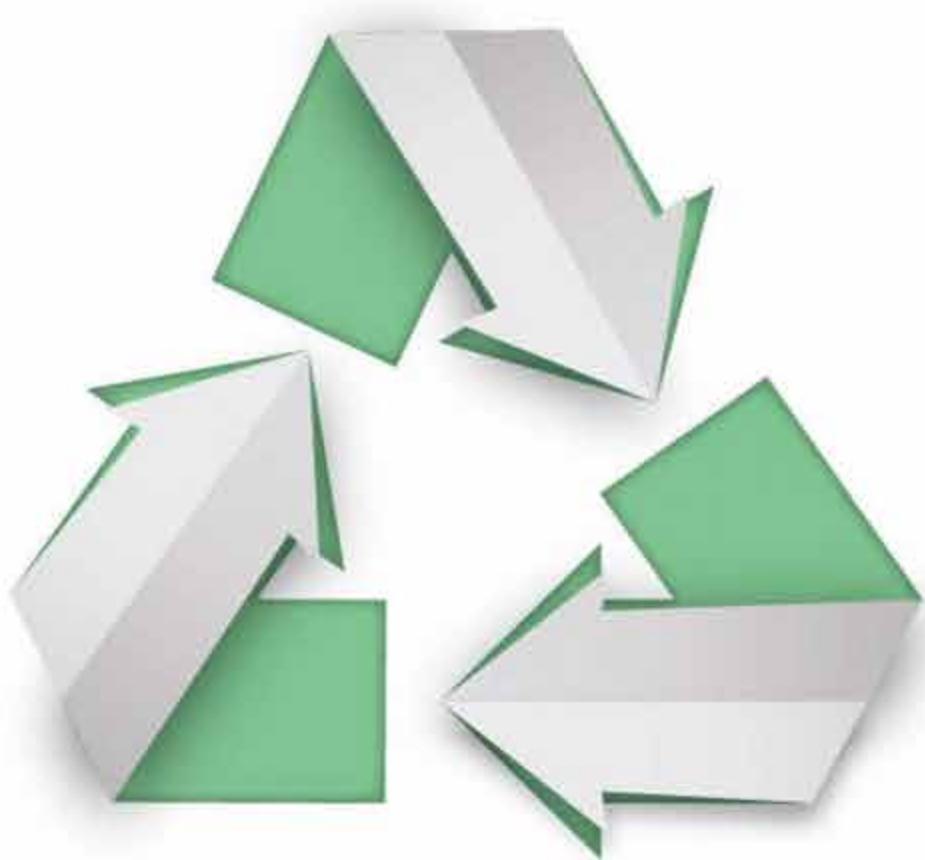


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