History of the iPhone

The **history of the iPhone** development by <u>Apple Inc.</u> spans from the early 2000s to about 2010. The first <u>iPhone</u> was released in 2007. By the end of 2009, iPhone models had been released in all major markets.

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Steve Jobs presents the iPhone 4.



First $\underline{\text{iPhone}}$ on display under glass at 2007 Macworld

Initial steps through 2007

The project within <u>Apple Inc.</u> for developing the iPhone began with a request in 2004 from <u>CEO Steve Jobs</u> to the company's hardware engineer <u>Tony Fadell</u>, software engineer <u>Scott Forstall</u> and design engineer Sir Jonathan $Ive^{[1]}$ to work on the highly confidential "Project Purple."

While pitting two teams of engineers led by Fadell and Forstall, Jobs decided to investigate the use of touchscreen devices and tablet computers (which later came to fruition with the <u>iPad</u>). [4][5][6][7] Jobs ended up pushing for a touch-screen device that many have noted has similarities to Apple's previous touch-screen portable device, the <u>Newton MessagePad</u>. [8][9][10][11] Like the MessagePad, the <u>iPhone</u> is nearly all screen. Its form factor is credited to Apple's Chief Design Officer, Jonathan Ive. [6][12]

Jobs expressed his belief that tablet PCs and <u>traditional PDAs</u> were not good choices as high-demand markets for Apple to enter, despite receiving many requests for Apple to create another PDA. In 2002, after the <u>iPod</u> launched, Jobs realized that the overlap of mobile phones and music players would force Apple to get into the mobile phone business. After seeing millions of Americans carrying separate BlackBerrys, phones, and Apple's iPod MP3 players; he felt eventually consumers would prefer just one device. [13]

Jobs also saw that as cell phones and mobiles devices would keep amassing more features, they will be challenging the iPod's dominance as a music player. To protect the iPod new product line, which by the start of 2007 was responsible for 48% of all of Apple's revenue, [14] Jobs decided he would need to venture into the wireless world. [13] So at that time, instead of focusing on a follow-up to their Newton PDA, Jobs had Apple focus on the iPod. Jobs also had Apple develop the iTunes software, which can be used to synchronize content with iPod devices. iTunes had been released in January 2001. [15][16][17][18]

The iPhone beta was created in 2004 to test the device and its functions. The beta version enabled Apple to develop the phone's capabilities before launching a final product. While it may technically have been the first iPhone that was created, it was never released to the public, so it has not been considered the first iPhone. [19]

In an effort to bypass the carriers, Jobs approached Motorola. On September 7, 2005, Apple and Motorola collaborated to develop the Motorola ROKR E1, the first mobile phone to use iTunes. Jobs was unhappy with the ROKR, among other deficiencies, the ROKR E1's firmware limited storage to only 100 iTunes songs to avoid competing with Apple's iPod nano. [20][21] iTunes Music Store purchases could also not be downloaded wirelessly directly into the ROKR E1 and had to be done through a PC sync. [13] Apple therefore decided to develop its own phone, which would incorporate the iPod's musical functions into a smartphone. [22]

Feeling that having to compromise with a non-Apple designer (Motorola) prevented Apple from designing the phone they wanted to make, [23] Apple discontinued support for the ROKR in September 2006, and, after creating a deal with AT&T (at the time still being Cingular), released a version of iTunes that included references to an as-yet unknown mobile phone that could display pictures and video. [24] This turned out to be the first iPhone (iPhone 2G).

On June 29, 2007, the first iPhone was released. The <u>iPod Touch</u>, which came with an iPhone-style touchscreen to the iPod range, was also released later in 2007. The iPad followed in 2010.

Public announcement

On January 9, 2007, Steve Jobs announced the first iPhone at the $\underline{\text{Macworld}}$ convention, receiving substantial media attention. [26] Jobs announced that the first iPhone would be released later that year. On June 29, 2007, the first iPhone was released. [25]

On June 11, 2007, Apple announced at the <u>Apple's Worldwide Developers Conference</u> that the iPhone would support <u>third party applications</u> using the <u>Safari</u> engine. Third parties would be able to create <u>Web 2.0</u> applications, which users could access via the <u>Internet</u>. Such applications appeared even before the release of the iPhone; the first of these, called OneTrip, was a program meant to keep track of users' shopping lists.

Launch

After some trial and error, the first iPhone was officially launched and made accessible to the public in 2007, and was advertised noticeably at the Macworld of that same year. In this first release, the iPhone was accessible in the US, UK, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Finland, France, Spain, Italy and South Africa. On June 29, 2007, Apple released version 7.3 of iTunes to coincide with the release of iPhone. [29] This release contained support for iPhone service activation and syncing.

The first generation iPhone was manufactured in the <u>Shenzhen</u> factory of the Taiwanese company <u>Hon Hai</u> (also known as Foxconn).[30]

The first-generation iPhone is commonly retroactively referred to as the "iPhone 2G" due to only supporting 2G mobile data. This name was, however, never used by Apple.

Connection to AT&T

When Apple announced the <u>iPhone</u> on January 9, 2007, [31] it was sold only with <u>AT&T</u> (formerly <u>Cingular</u>) contracts in the United States. [23] After 18 months of negotiations, <u>Steve Jobs</u> reached an agreement with the wireless division of AT&T[32] to be the iPhone's exclusive carrier. Consumers were unable to use any other carrier without <u>unlocking</u> their device.

Apple retained control of the design, manufacturing and marketing of the iPhone. Since some customers were jailbreaking their iPhones to leave their network, AT&T began charging them a \$175 early-termination fee for leaving before the end of their contract. [34]

Court cases

Questions arose about the legality of Apple's arrangement after the iPhone was released. [35] Two class-action lawsuits were filed against the company in October 2007: one in Federal court and the other in state court. [36] According to the suits, Apple's exclusive agreement with AT&T violated antitrust law. [37]

The state-court suit, filed by the law office of Damian R. Fernandez on behalf of California resident Timothy P. Smith, [37] sought an injunction barring Apple from selling iPhones with a software lock and \$200 million in damages. [38] In *Smith v. Apple Inc.*, the plaintiffs said that Apple failed to disclose to purchasers its five-year agreement with AT&T when they bought iPhones with a two-year contract and cited the Sherman Act's prohibition of monopolies. [39]



An iPhone 6 Plus alongside two models of the iPhone 6s (back)

The second case was filed in the <u>United States District Court for the Northern District of California</u>. The plaintiff, Paul Holman, filed a complaint against Apple and AT&T Mobility that he could not switch carriers or change <u>SIM cards</u> without losing iPhone improvements to which he was entitled. Holman also cited a Sherman Act violation by the defendants. On July 8, 2010, the case was affirmed for class certification. On December 9 the court ordered a <u>stay</u> on the case, awaiting the Supreme Court's decision in <u>AT&T v. Concepcion</u> (disputed whether the state's basic standards of fairness were met by a clause in AT&T's contract limiting complaint resolution to arbitration). On April 27, 2011, the Supreme Court ruled that AT&T met the state's fairness standards.

In 2017, Apple was sued after they admitted to slowing down older phone models. The plaintiffs, Stefan Bogdanovich and Dakota Speas, filed the lawsuit when their iPhone 6s was slower after an update. The plaintiffs were entitled to compensation due to the interferences and the economic damages they suffered.

Advertising

The first advertisement for iPhone, titled "Hello", aired during the <u>79th Academy Awards</u> on February 25, 2007, on <u>American Broadcasting Company</u> (ABC). On June 4, 2007, Apple released four advertisements announcing that iPhone would be released on June 26, 2007.

Domain name

On July 1, 2007, it was reported that Apple paid at least US\$1 million to Michael Kovatch for the <u>iphone.com</u> (http://iphone.com) domain name, previously owned by Kovatch since 1995. The <u>URL</u> now redirects to Apple's iPhone page (https://www.apple.com/iphone/?cid=oas-us-domains-iphone.com).

United States release

On June 28, 2007, during an address to Apple employees, Steve Jobs announced that all full-time Apple employees and those part-time employees who had been with the company for at least one year would receive a free iPhone. Employees received their phones in July after the initial demand for iPhones subsided. [46]

Initially priced at \$499 (equivalent to \$623 in 2020) and \$599 (equivalent to \$748 in 2020) for the 4GB models and 8GB models respectively, the iPhone went on sale on June 29, 2007. Apple closed its stores at 2:00pm local time to prepare for the 6:00pm iPhone launch, while hundreds of customers lined up at stores nationwide. [47]



People waiting to buy the iPhone upon release in New York City, June 29, 2007

In the US and some other countries, iPhones could be acquired only with a credit card, preventing completely anonymous purchases of

iPhones.^{[48][49][50]} At the time, there was no way to opt out of the bundled AT&T data plan. At first, iPhones could not be added to an AT&T Business account, and any existing business account discounts could not be applied to an iPhone AT&T account. AT&T changed these restrictions in late January 2008.^[51]

The <u>Associated Press</u> also reported in 2007 that some users were unable to activate their phones because, according to AT&T, "[a] high volume of activation requests [was] taxing the company's computer servers." On October 29, 2007, the <u>Usenet newsgroup misc.phone.mobile.iphone</u> was created.

Early estimates by technology analysts estimated sales of between 250,000 and 700,000 iPhones in the first weekend alone, with strong sales continuing after the initial weekend. As part of their quarterly earnings announcement, AT&T reported that 146,000 iPhones were activated in the first weekend. Though this figure does not include units that were purchased for resale on \underline{eBay} or otherwise not activated until after the opening weekend, it is still less than most initial estimates. It is also estimated that 95% of the units sold are the 8GB model.

Outsized bills

Stories of unexpected billing issues began to circulate in <u>blogs</u> and the technical press a little more than a month after iPhone's heavily advertised and anticipated release. The <u>300-page iPhone bill</u> in a box received by <u>iJustine</u> on Saturday, August 11, $2007^{[59][60]}$ became the subject of a <u>viral video</u>, posted by the following Monday, which quickly became an <u>Internet meme</u>. This <u>video clip</u> brought the voluminous bills to the

attention of the <u>mass media</u>. Ten days later, after the video had been viewed more than 3 million times on the Internet, [63] and had received international news coverage, AT&T sent iPhone users a <u>text message</u> outlining changes in its billing practices. [64]

Price drop outcry

On September 5, 2007, the 4GB model was discontinued, and the 8GB model price was cut by a third, from US\$599 to US\$399. [65] Those who had purchased an iPhone in the 14-day period before the September 5, 2007 announcement were eligible for a US\$200 "price protection" rebate from Apple or AT&T. However, it was widely reported that some who bought between the June 29, 2007 launch and the August 22, 2007 price protection kick-in date complained that this was a larger-than-normal price drop for such a relatively short period and accused Apple of unfair pricing. [66][67]

In response to customer complaints, on September 6, 2007, Apple CEO Steve Jobs wrote in an open letter to iPhone customers that everyone who purchased an iPhone at the higher price "and who is not receiving a rebate or other consideration", would receive a US\$100 credit to be redeemed towards the purchase of any product sold in Apple's retail or online stores. [68]

iPhone 3G pricing model changes

With the July 11, 2008 release of the iPhone 3G, Apple and <u>AT&T</u> changed the US pricing model from the previous generation. Following the <u>de facto</u> model for mobile phone service in the United States, AT&T would <u>subsidize</u> a sizable portion of the upfront cost for the iPhone 3G, followed by charging moderately higher monthly fees over a minimum two-year contract. [69]

iPhone 4 CDMA release

On January 11, 2011, $\underline{\text{Verizon}}$ announced during a media event that it had reached an agreement with Apple and would begin selling a $\underline{\text{CDMA}}$ $\underline{\text{iPhone 4}}$. The Verizon iPhone went on sale on February 10, $2011.\frac{[70][71][72]}{}$

During Apple's official unveiling of <u>iPhone 4S</u> on October 4, 2011, it was announced that <u>Sprint</u> would begin carrying the reconfigured CDMA iPhone 4 and iPhone 4S in the US on October 14. <u>[73][74]</u> <u>Cricket Wireless</u> announced on May 31, 2012 that it would become the first prepaid carrier in the US to offer iPhone 4 and iPhone 4S, beginning June 22, 2012. <u>[75]</u> A week later, <u>Virgin Mobile USA</u> became the second American prepaid carrier to offer iPhone 4 and 4S, announcing plans to release the phones on June 29, 2012. <u>[76]</u> <u>T-Mobile USA</u>'s inability to provide iPhone to customers raised its subscription <u>churn rate</u>, decreased the percentage of lucrative <u>postpaid</u> customers, and contributed to parent <u>Deutsche Telekom</u>'s decision to sell it to <u>AT&T</u> in March 2011, <u>[77]</u> although AT&T canceled the deal in December 2011 because of antitrust concerns. <u>[78]</u> T-Mobile began offering iPhone on April 12, 2013.

European release

On November 9, 2007, the iPhone was officially launched in Europe. In the UK, sales went through the UK O2 unit of Telefónica, while in Germany, it is offered through Deutsche Telekom's T-Mobile division. As in the case of the previous launch in the US, customers lined up as much as a day in advance to obtain the much-anticipated phone. [79]

Apple occasionally produced a limited number of 4GB iPhones for German and UK markets, but they never reached end customers and were used as in-store demo units. Later most of the units were disposed of. [80]

The initial operating model of locking iPhone owners to one selected carrier has been controversial in Europe. In Germany, <u>Vodafone</u>, an operator competing with the operator that Apple had locked German iPhone sales to (Deutsche Telekom's T-Mobile division), <u>brought a legal case</u> claiming that the arrangement was against German law. On November 20, 2007, an interim court order resulted in sales of locked iPhones in Germany being temporarily stopped. The iPhone launch in France a few weeks later through the operator <u>Orange</u> faced the same legal issues. Other countries that <u>will pose</u> the same problems for the business model revolving around the sale of locked iPhones include Belgium, Italy, Finland, and Brazil.

On December 1, 2007, <u>Tušmobil</u>, <u>the Slovenian mobile operator</u>, started selling "unlocked" iPhones without an official contract with Apple. The offer caused confusion between Apple Europe, local media, and local Apple representatives. [81]

On May 6, 2008, $\underline{\text{Telecom Italia}}$ announced that it had signed a deal with Apple to sell iPhones in Italy by the end of 2008. It was estimated that it would probably be the second generation iPhone with $3G-\underline{\text{UMTS}}$ capability.

On May 27, 2008, <u>TeliaSonera</u> released a press release stating that it would start selling iPhones in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia during 2008. [83]

On June 4, 2008, Movistar announced that it had signed a deal with Apple to sell iPhones in Spain beginning on July 11, 2008.

On August 22, 2008, Estonian mobile operator EMT started selling iPhones. [85]

On August 22, 2008, Vodafone Greece released iPhones in the Greek market. [86]

On September 26, 2008, Omnitel released iPhones in Lithuania. [87]

On November 7, 2008, T-Mobile released iPhones in Croatia. [88]

On September 29, 2010, Elisa released the iPhone 4 in Finland. [89]

Southeast Asia release

<u>SingTel</u> (in Singapore) and <u>Globe Telecom</u> (in the Philippines) were the first two carriers to launch the iPhone in Southeast Asia. Both carriers launched the iPhone 3G in August 2008.

On March 20, 2009, <u>Telkomsel</u> became the first telecommunications company in Indonesia to offer the <u>iPhone</u> 3G with customizable plans for all <u>Telkomsel</u> customers. [90] In the same month, <u>Maxis</u> was only the first carrier officially launched the <u>iPhone</u> 3G in <u>Malaysia</u>.

In October 2011, <u>StarHub</u> launched the iPhone in <u>Singapore</u>. <u>Smart Communications</u> followed suit in <u>December 2011 by launching the iPhone 4S</u> in the Philippines. <u>Smart Communications was the last telecommunications company to carry Apple's iPhone in Southeast Asia</u>. [91]

Australian release

The iPhone 3G was released in Australia on July 11, 2008. [92]

New Zealand release

The very first iPhone 3G model released on July 11, 2008 was sold in <u>Auckland</u>, New Zealand to 22-year-old student Jonny Gladwell at 12:01 am <u>NZST</u>. The iPhone 3G was available only to customers on the <u>Vodafone network</u>. There was criticism from some New Zealand customers when Vodafone announced pricing for the iPhone 3G, as Vodafone was the only network to offer this generation of iPhone.

The first-generation iPhone was available for sale in New Zealand only through <u>parallel import</u> stores soon after it went on sale in the US. The original models available for sale in New Zealand were unlocked for use on the Vodafone network and could be used with any plan, including pre-paid plans. [95]

Subsequent launches of iPhone models in New Zealand have typically been a few weeks after the worldwide release.

On November 8, 2011, <u>Telecom</u> announced that they would offer the iPhone 4S on their network, along with earlier models (the iPhone 3GS and the iPhone 4). [96]

Canadian release

After months of high anticipation, the first iPhone to be released in Canada was the iPhone 3G. <u>Rogers Wireless</u> began offering 8 GB and 16 GB models on July 11, 2008. Facing a public backlash, <u>Rogers dropped</u> the price of its service plan from <u>CA\$100</u> to CA\$30 per month.

The iPhone 3GS, with the new <u>iPhone OS 3</u> operating system, was released in Canada by Rogers Wireless on June 19, 2009. Users who signed up for a 3-year agreement with <u>a data option</u> could choose between a 16 GB device for CA\$199 and a 32 GB device for CA\$299. [99]

Bell and Telus Mobility announced that they would release iPhone on November 4 and 5, 2009, respectively. [100]

Non-exclusive deals

On May 6, 2008, <u>Vodafone</u> announced that they had signed a deal with Apple to sell iPhone in Australia, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Greece, Italy, India, Portugal, New Zealand, South Africa, and Turkey. [101]

Subsequent announcements confirmed that Apple was moving away from exclusive one-carrier deals. Soon after Vodafone's announcement, TIM announced that it would also be selling iPhone in Italy, on May 12, 2008, Optus^[102] confirmed that it would sell iPhone in Australia and SingTel confirmed that it would be selling iPhone in India through its Indian Joint Venture, Airtel.

On June 4, 2008, <u>SoftBank Mobile</u> released a press release stating that it would start selling iPhone in Japan during 2008. [103]

Russia's second largest mobile operator, <u>Beeline</u>, announced on August 28, 2008 that they signed a contract with Apple to sell iPhone on the Russian market by late 2008. The deal was rumoured to be non-exclusive, according to unofficial statements made by <u>MTS</u> and <u>MegaFon</u>. MTS and MegaFon belong to the "Russian Big Three", and were expected to release the iPhone 3G at the same time as <u>Beeline</u>. As predicted, MegaFon issued a press release regarding the iPhone 3G release on September 2, 2008. [104]

On November 14, 2008, <u>Vodafone Egypt</u> and <u>Mobinil</u> started selling the iPhone 3G in Egypt. iPhone 3G is priced at EG£3,800 and EG£4,600 for the 8 GB and 16 GB models respectively. Customers must also sign up for one of $\boxed{3}$ service plans to use the phone.

On September 28, 2009, Orange announced that they were going to become the second operator of the iPhone in the UK, indicating that an exclusive deal that O2 had established with Apple in 2007 had ended. Orange later announced that the iPhone would be released on November 10, with pricing plans starting from £29.36 on contract and £440 for the 3GS 16GB on pay as you go. [105][106] On the following day, Vodafone UK announced that they would be selling the iPhone by early 2010, becoming the third UK network and Vodafone's 11th country to offer the iPhone. [107]

Verizon Wireless

There had been ongoing speculation in the United States that Apple might offer a <u>CDMA</u>-compatible iPhone for <u>Verizon Wireless</u>. This speculation increased on October 6, 2010, when <u>The Wall Street Journal</u> reported that Apple would begin producing a CDMA-compatible iPhone, with such a model going on sale in early 2011. [109]

On January 8, 2011, the Wall Street Journal confirmed that Verizon Wireless would, on January 11, 2011, officially announce the launch of a CDMA-based iPhone for use on their network. [110] The date in which the Verizon iPhone would go on sale was unknown, though the two most recent iPhone releases were made available within weeks of their launch announcement. Verizon confirmed the announcement on January 11, with an on-sale date of February 10.[111]

On January 11, 2011, Verizon announced that they would start carrying a <u>CDMA</u> version of Apple's iPhone 4 during February 2011. Existing <u>Verizon Wireless</u> customers could pre-order iPhone on February 3. Pricing for the iPhone 4 was \$199 for 16GB and \$299 for 32GB. The Verizon iPhone 5 released on Friday, <u>September 19</u>, in the United States; it was the first GSM unlocked iPhone, which worked on AT&T and other GSM networks.

World timeline

The international release of iPhone was staggered over several months. Today, the iPhone is available in most countries. [114]

Date	Country	Carrier(s) (released date)
June 2007	United States (1)	AT&T (2007), Verizon (February 2011), Sprint (October 2011), C Spire Wireless (Late 2011), Cricket (June 2012), Virgin Mobile (June 2012), T-Mobile (April 2013), Boost Mobile (November 2013), U.S. Cellular (November 2013)
November 2007	United Kingdom† Germany France‡ (4)	O ₂ , 3, T-Mobile, Orange, Vodafone, EE, Tesco Mobile§, Virgin Mobile (November 2013)
March 2008	Austria† Ireland (6)	T-Mobile, O2, Orange
July 2008	Australia† Austria† Belgium‡ Canada† Denmark Finland Hong Kong†‡ Italy†‡ Japan Mexico Netherlands New Zealand Norway†‡ Portugal† Spain Sweden Switzerland† (23)	3, movistar, Optus, Orange (Mobistar, One, Optimus), Rogers Communications (Fido Solutions, [115] Rogers Wireless), SoftBank, Swisscom, América Móvil (Telcel), TIM, TeliaSonera (NetCom), Telstra, T-Mobile, Vodafone
August 2008	Argentina† Chile† Colombia† Czech Republic†‡ Ecuador† El Salvador† Estonia Greece†‡ Guatemala† Honduras Hungary India† Liechtenstein† Macau Paraguay Peru† Philippines Poland† Romania Singapore Slovakia† Uruguay† (45)	3, América Móvil (Claro, Comcel, Porta), Era, movistar, O ₂ , Orange, SingTel, Bharti Airtel, Aircel, Globe, Smart – December 2011, SingTel, Swisscom, TeliaSonera (EMT), T-Mobile, Vodafone, Telenor
September 2008	Brazil†‡ Latvia Lithuania South Africa Turkey† (50)	TIM, América Móvil (Claro), TeliaSonera (LMT, Omnitel), Turkcell, Vivo, Vodafone (Vodacom), MTN Group, Oi
October 2008	Luxembourg† Russia‡ (52)	Beeline, MegaFon, MTS
November 2008	Croatia Egypt† (54)	T-Mobile, Vodafone, Mobinil
Later 2008	Botswana Cameroon Central African Republic Dominican Republic† Guinea Ivory Coast Jamaica Jordan Kenya Madagascar Mali Malta Mauritius Republic of Moldova Nicaragua† Niger Panama Réunion Taiwan† Qatar Senegal United States Virgin Islands Venezuela (79)	América Móvil (Claro, MiPhone), Chunghwa Telecom, movistar, Orange, Vodafone
January 2009	Thailand (80)	True Move
February 2009	Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates (82)	Mobily, Etisalat, du
March	B ulgaria	GLOBUL, T-Mobile, Telkomsel, Maxis

2009	Republic of North Macedonia Indonesia† Malaysia (86)	
October 2009	People's Republic of China†[116] (87)	China Unicom
November 2009	South Korea [117] (88)	<u>KT</u>
December 2009	Guam ^[118] Qatar Uganda Israel (92) Singapore	GTA Teleguam, Vodafone, Orange, Pelephone, Cellcom, StarHub, M1
March 2010	Vietnam ^[119] Armenia (94) ^[120]	Viettel Mobile, MobiFone, VinaPhone, Orange
September 2010	Tunisia ^[121] (95)	<u>Orange</u>
June 2011	Slovenia ^[122] Trinidad & Tobago ^[123] (97)	Simobil (now A1), Telekom Slovenije, bmobile
December 2013	Sri Lanka ^[124]	Dialog Axiata
May 2014	Kosovo ^[125] (98)	<u>IPKO</u>
October 2014	Serbia Serbia	MTS, Telenor Serbia, Vip Mobile

- † iPhone offered by multiple carriers under contract from Apple (country not carrier-exclusive)
- ‡ iPhone offered without contract and without carrier lock
- § MVNO with O₂

Activation and SIM lock bypassing

See also

- Timeline of Apple Inc. products
- Telephones portal

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