

Apple System Updates

Apple updated its operating systems for all its devices. Here's a summary.

Every fall, Apple releases updates for its iPhone, iPad, Mac, Apple Watch, and Apple TV operating systems. The fall 2025 updates include a “liquid glass” option that gives menus and apps a glossy, translucent appearance. Additionally, there’s a new Phone app for the iPad and Mac that allows users to make and receive iPhone calls and listen to voice messages. Furthermore, the ability to use iPad apps in resizable windows is introduced, similar to a Mac computer.

Here are a few of the notable updates for the iPhone, iPad, and Mac computer:

iPhone (iOS 26)

- Enhanced communication. Phone and Messages get smarter with Call Screening, Hold Assist, and message filtering (I haven’t tried these yet).
- Smarter apps. Apple Music adds lyrics translation and AutoMix DJ features; Maps introduces Visited Places; Wallet supports installment payments and real-time travel updates.

Mac Computers (MacOS 26)

- Expanded continuity with iPhone. A new Phone app on Mac brings features like Recents, Voicemail, Call Screening, and Hold Assist (this is really nice).
- Smarter productivity tools. Apple Intelligence can extract action items from notes or emails and auto-organize reminders, helping users stay focused and manage tasks more effectively (I generally like Apple’s AI approach, but if you’re creeped out, you can turn it off).

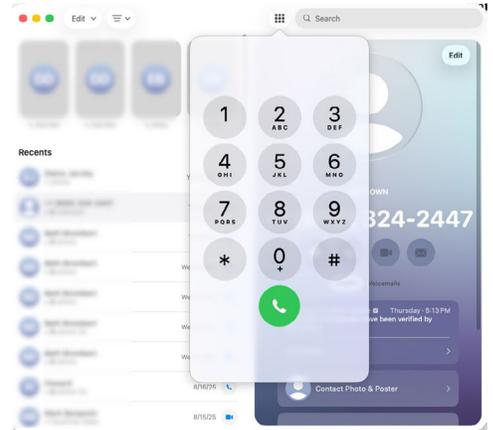
iPad (iPadOS 26)

- Improved multitasking. A windowing system lets users resize, tile, and manage multiple iPad app windows easily (definitely cool).
- Improved Files and Preview apps. These updates make it easier to view iCloud documents (I really like this feature).

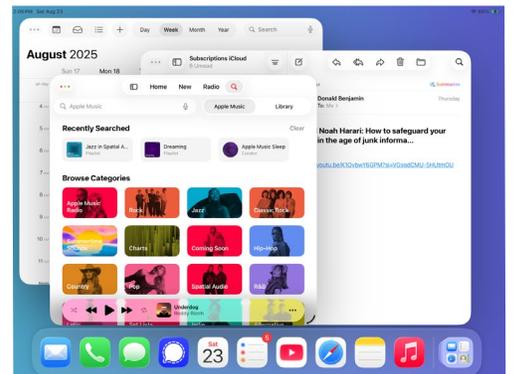
Should you install these updates?

Yes! In addition to the shiny objects I just listed, Apple adds security features to their operating systems. And, if you don’t like the new “liquid glass” look or Apple Intelligence, you can turn these features off.

If you need help, just ask our tech team at: <https://engage.cmaprinceton.org/tech-help>.



MacOS 26 lets you answer and make iPhone calls and listen to voice messages from your Mac. The “liquid glass” feature makes the phone pad translucent.



I've opened the Music, Mail, and Calendar apps in separate windows on my iPad after upgrading to iPadOS 26