

# printout

Keystone MacCentral Macintosh Users Group ❖ <http://www.keystonemac.com>

**April**



**Meetings are banned.**

**Bethany Village Retirement Center is closed to us.**

**We'll be back someday.**

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Keystone MacCentral is a not-for-profit group of Macintosh enthusiasts who generally meet the third Tuesday of every month to exchange information, participate in question-and-answer sessions, view product demonstrations, and obtain resource materials that will help them get the most out of their computer systems. Meetings are free and open to the public. The *Keystone MacCentral printout* is the official newsletter of Keystone MacCentral and an independent publication not affiliated or otherwise associated with or sponsored or sanctioned by any for-profit organization, including Apple Inc. Copyright © 2020, Keystone MacCentral, 310 Somerset Drive, Shiresmanstown, PA 17011.

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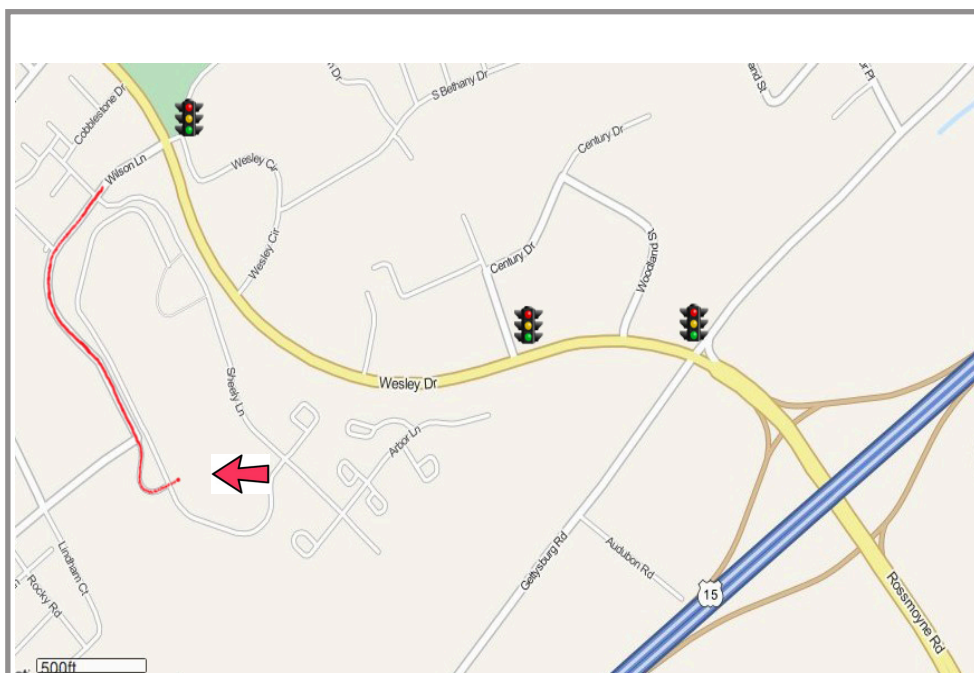
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# Three Worthwhile Buy-Back Programs for iPhones

**Apple** releases new iPhones every year. While that's great for giving us access to Apple's latest technology, it can also make us feel compelled to upgrade, even when our phones are still in good condition. The most sensible financial decision is always to keep your iPhone as long as possible, but if you want the latest and greatest, a buy-back program could help you save money on a new model.

Note that we've focused on iPhone buy-backs here, but all the companies covered below also take other Apple products: iPads, MacBooks, and so on.

## How Do Cell Phone Buy-Back Programs Work?

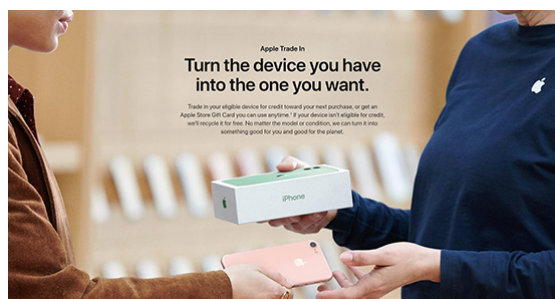
You generally provide some information about your phone in a Web form, after which you receive a quote for it based on the model, its age, and its condition. After you send your phone in and the company verifies that it works and is in the condition you reported, you'll either get the specified amount in cash or as a credit to put toward a new device.

Buy-back programs save you from the hassles of dealing with an auction site or a private seller. You never quite know what you're getting into with an eBay or Craigslist listing, whereas buy-back programs usually explain their process in clear, concrete terms. Having that information helps you know what to expect. For example, some buy-back businesses may insist that you package the phone in a specific way or stipulate that your quote is valid only for a limited window of time.

## Buy-Back Programs Worth Checking Out

When you have an iPhone to sell, you may find yourself overwhelmed with choices. In an effort to help you choose, I looked for programs that focus primarily on Apple users. Three stood out due to the transparency offered to phone owners seeking quotes, their familiarity with Apple products, and the amount of helpful, easily accessible information provided to potential or current customers.

### Apple Trade In Program



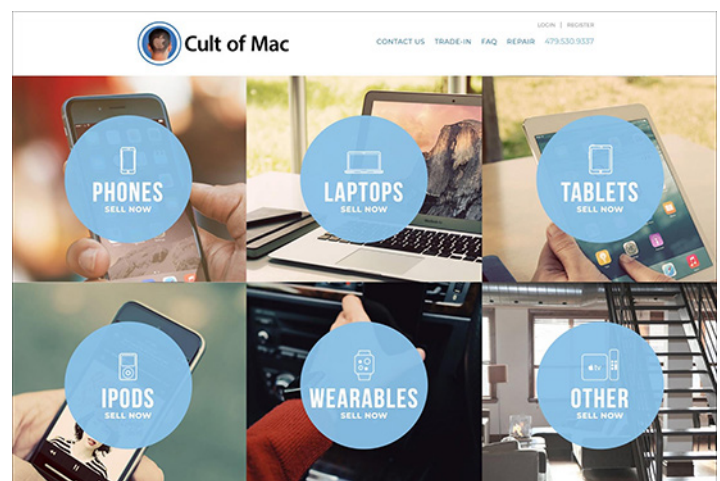
Perhaps the most obvious approach for trading in an old iPhone for a new one is the [Apple Trade In program](#), which appears to be run through a third-party called [Phobio](#). Those who opt for this approach can either make the trade-in at a nearby Apple Store or send the iPhone in the mail using a free trade-in kit.

Apple says that you can get from \$100 to \$600 in credit, depending on the iPhone model and its condition. Oddly, the main page of the Apple Trade-In Program site suggests that an iPhone 8 Plus might be worth up to \$250, but running through its estimate for that model in good condition returns a credit of only \$215. That's still by far the highest of the companies covered here. Apple also says that some phones are not eligible for credit. In those cases, the company recycles them for free.

Note that if you sell an iPhone back to Apple, you'll receive your payment in the form of a gift card or instant store credit. That's obviously fine if you're planning to buy a new iPhone or another Apple product, and probably accounts for why Apple can offer more than the other companies, but it could be limiting if you want to buy a phone elsewhere or just want cash.

Unlike some other sites, Apple shows you [how to clear the data off your device](#) before going through with the trade-in process, which is something you always want to do.

### Cult of Mac's Buy-Back Program



Many Apple users know Cult of Mac as a tech news site, but fewer think of it as a site that will buy back Apple gear. In 2015, however, the site launched the [Cult of Mac Buy-Back Program](#), which [claims to give people more money](#) for their Apple products than other, less-specific sites like Gazelle. You don't have to worry about Cult of Mac



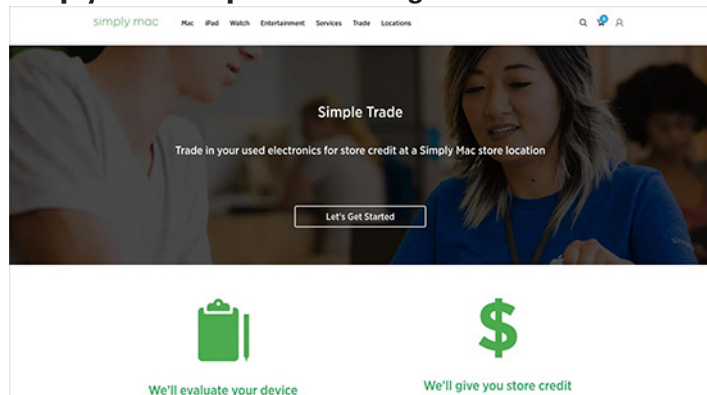
publisher Leander Kahney inspecting old iPhones himself; the program is white-labeled through [MyPhones Unlimited](#), an Arkansas-based recycler.

Cult of Mac even accepts non-functioning iPhones, such as those with broken buttons or water damage. Its program pays for phones by check, and most people receive the payments within a week of mailing in their phones. If you use this program, you won't need to pay for shipping — when you accept the quote, you'll receive a box and a prepaid mailing label for sending in your phone.

Quotes remain valid for 2 weeks, so you'll need to make sure you have the mailed-in phone postmarked by then. Otherwise, you'll get a possibly different quote associated with the day you mailed the phone.

Cult of Mac's program also shows how a phone's condition changes the amount you'll receive. For example, our example 64 GB iPhone 8 Plus in good condition could net you \$120, but one that doesn't work at all generates only a \$10 check.

### Simply Mac Simple Trade Program



Simply Mac is an independent Apple retailer with locations throughout the United States. Its Simple Trade program is another option for those who prefer to trade in an iPhone in person but don't have an Apple Store near them. When taking this approach, you receive your buy-back quote after a Simply Mac representative evaluates the device in person. **Unfortunately, trade-ins are accepted only in Simply Mac stores.**

However, getting an approximate quote online is a quick process that takes just a minute or two. The price provided for a 64 GB iPhone 8 Plus was \$108, for example. However, as with Apple, Simply Mac provides you with store credit rather than cash or a check.

### What Happens to Trade-In Phones?



*Apple's recycling robot, "Daisy"*

Where does an iPhone end up once people participate in buy-back programs for cell phones? Generally speaking, the fate of an old iPhone depends on its condition. Those that are relatively new and working well get resold, whereas older or less functional models are sent to specialized plants to be recycled for their components and materials. Here's a look at where your iPhone goes if you use one of the buy-back or trade-in programs detailed above.

Starting in 2016, Apple used in-house recycling robots to reclaim materials from iPhones that came through the brand's trade-in program if they are not fit for refurbishment. That same year, [9to5Mac reported](#) that Apple started selling refurbished iPhones through its Web site, but it's not clear how many others might end up elsewhere. Before that, Apple either gave the iPhones to third-party retailers or kept them so that the parts could repair or replace other iPhones sent in for repair.

In 2018, Apple refurbished nearly 8 million of its devices and helped keep more than 48,000 metric tons of electronic waste from reaching landfills. The most recent of Apple's recycling robots is anthropomorphically named [Daisy](#), and it can disassemble 200 iPhones per hour, which theoretically translates to over 1.7 million per year (see "[Apple Introduces New iPhone Disassembly Robot and Recycling Program](#)," 23 April 2018).

However, not all iPhones are fed to Daisy. Apple clarified that Daisy works only with select used iPhones from the company's trade-in program, as well as those sourced from Best Buy's recycling initiative in the United States and KPN stores in the Netherlands.

If Apple itself doesn't take phones intended for recycling plants, a partner in the [company's global network will](#). The company provides links that [people in participating countries](#) can use to get more details about recycling but doesn't usually give the names of the entities that do the work.

If it seems that Apple isn't being entirely forthcoming, the other two companies are even less specific about what happens to old phones. Both Cult of Mac and Simply Mac sell refurbished phones when possible, but neither company says where. Nor do the companies discuss the locations of their recycling plants.

However, Travis May, the CEO and owner of [The Whiz Cells](#), an electronics recycler based in Mountain Home, Tennessee, gives a clearer picture of how the industry operates. Speaking about the prospects of refurbishing an iPhone someone no longer wants, he explained, "It depends on the model and what's wrong with it. Newer models have a higher chance of being refurbished, as the lifecycle is still long."

What about iPhones that aren't new models? "Older iPhones are generally sold or used for parts. Newer models with a cracked screen, for example, would have their screen repaired and resold," May said.

Although The Whiz Cells only recycles phones for usable parts, May clarified that other companies obtain raw materials from unwanted devices: "Plastic can be melted down, metal can be extracted. A lot of phones now have metal casing," May said.

Recycling phone batteries can be particularly challenging, though improvements are making it easier. "A lot of recycling companies struggle with the batteries and struggle to recycle those, but technology is really coming around," May said.

Elsewhere, [Tech SI](#) is a UK company that handles the global distribution of refurbished electronic devices, most of them from Apple and Samsung. It uses a grade-based system to decide where the electronics it receives end up. The highest grade is "like new," then the three grades below that are A, B, and C.

The best-quality phones typically go to insurance companies that send them to customers who make claims and need replacement devices. B- and C-grade devices usually get shipped to wholesalers.

In other words, no straightforward answer exists to the question of where your old iPhone might end up. However, even if it's entirely non-functional, sending it to Apple for recycling is a better option than tossing it in the trash, even if you don't get any money in return. And for a relatively new model that still works, you might get enough back from any of these companies to reduce the cost of your new iPhone by a real amount. 📱

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By Glenn Fleishman

## Three Reasons You Might Want a Home Security Camera

It's easy to feel that we live in a surveillance state, with every public space seemingly monitored by government cameras, companies placing video cameras in stores and offices, and every other car owner sporting a dashboard cam. Why add yourself to that mix by putting video cameras in your home? Reasons abound for wanting to purchase home security cameras to monitor the environment in and around where you live, a vacation house, or another place you may rent or make available to others.

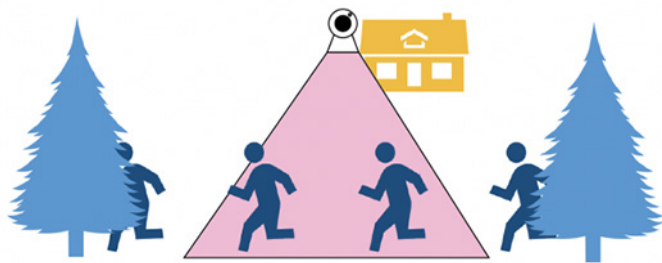
I recently finished writing *Take Control of Home Security Cameras* for Take Control Books, and in my research, I found that most people install video cameras for some overlapping reasons: maybe you've fallen victim to "porch pirates" and are fed up with packages being snatched from your porch. Or maybe you want to watch the hummingbirds feeding on your back deck. Perhaps you want to do a little bit of both, or just have a better sense of the coming and goings around your house.

### Deter and Report Crime

Burglaries have dropped significantly around the globe in recent years. In many countries, fewer than half as many break-ins with intent to steal occurred per 100,000 residents in 2016 — the most current year for such statistics — as in 2005. That includes the United States, whose rate dropped nearly in half even with a population growth of 11%, and places like the Netherlands, with 75% fewer burglaries among a stable population.

While property crime has plummeted, it's certainly not down to zero. And you may live — as I do — in a pocket in a city that for whatever geographic, socioeconomic, or topographical reasons has a measurably higher property crime rate than the rest of your area.

That can be because your house or street is tucked out of the way, views are obscured, or your area is perceived as or is wealthier than regions around you, even if you're not particularly wealthy yourself!



*Sometimes you want to know if people are lurking around your house or gather evidence if a crime is being committed.*

Whatever the reason, if one of your goals for installing a camera is to capture video (and audio), there are five things to consider:

**Deterrent:** The presence of a camera may scare off potential thieves or miscreants from engaging in crime in the first place.

**Alerts and alarms:** If someone appears outside or inside your home, you want to be alerted to their presence and be able to see what's going on so you can take action, like calling the police, or have an automatic action occur, like floodlights turning on and a siren going off. With some systems, events can even trigger a monitoring service that examines live video (with your advance permission) and calls police or dispatches a paid security guard service.

**Video for criminal charges:** If a crime is committed in or near your home, your cameras may have captured it, and it may be valuable in finding perpetrators or getting a conviction. (There are issues about admissibility I get into later in the article.)

**Video for civil lawsuits:** If someone vandalizes your property, steals from you, or otherwise causes damage, video can be an effective tool in a lawsuit to recover money or obtain other relief.

**Monitoring crime in the area:** You may be in an area with enough general lawlessness that you use a camera to help as part of neighborhood efforts, such as monitoring for car thefts or break-ins at other houses. You might also want to make your video readily available to other neighbors and the police.



*A vast array of camera models abound for outdoor use, optimized to use infrared light and often high-resolution video to snag otherwise invisible action.*

For each of these goals, the kinds of camera specs you need are reasonably straightforward:

**1080p, 2K, or 4K recording:** Modern cameras typically offer 720p or 1080p as an option, and some higher-end models can record in 2K or even 4K. Higher resolution means more detail and clarity. The difference between 720p and 4K could mean the difference between seeing a person with a beard and being able to identify them.

**Outdoor focused:** Cameras are made to withstand indoor or outdoor conditions, and you typically want an outdoor battery-powered model that connects wirelessly, that is highly water-resistant, and that you can place in a mount far out of reach (and maybe out of view) of a potential lurker. This prevents the camera from being knocked down or someone cutting its network connectivity, power, or both. (Water resistance is rated by Ingress Protection or IP level, and you want IP65 or IP66 to keep someone from disabling your camera by spraying water at it.)

**Night vision:** Most camera models feature infrared LEDs to illuminate indoor and outdoor scenes. However, because crimes often occur with low or no lighting, you might opt for a camera that requires a power source instead of a battery to allow for higher-intensity infrared LEDs and a more sensitive image capture sensor. (Infrared LEDs don't work on the inside of a window looking out — they reflect off the glass.)

**System integration:** Most cameras offer smartphone or other alerts when triggers set off recording, such as motion or a camera being unplugged. If you're concerned about a break-in or other actions, you likely want a camera tied into an alarm system that can trigger a siren, call a monitoring company, and turn on floodlights.

**Full capture:** This is a more niche need, but if you have constant problems with crime, you may want to retain a continuous video feed for an extended period. In this case, you may need to purchase an integrated multi-camera system that includes or supports a network video recorder that can record days or weeks of video to a local hard drive. However, some cloud-connected cameras offer continuous recording, too, and the price is falling. Google is rolling out a revised storage plan for its Nest cameras that covers all the cameras in a home for just \$12 per month for 10 days of continuous footage and 60 days of motion-triggered clips.

**Storage:** Because you may not discover a crime has occurred until well afterward, you almost certainly



want long-term storage of motion clips. Many cameras include some free clip storage, often the last day's worth, but offer paid subscriptions that include 7, 30, or 60 days of motion-triggered clip storage. Amazon's Blink cameras uniquely include 2 hours of clip storage (from 5 to 60 seconds each) that remain available as long as you want. You can also opt for a camera that stores clips on a memory card.

**Third-party access:** Some systems let you share video directly with law-enforcement officers or provide it to neighbors who can then choose what to do with it. If this is an ongoing concern, consider that factor when deciding which camera you purchase. Ring offers such features, but they're controversial (see "[Amazon Using Police Departments to Sell Ring Cameras](#)," 29 July 2019, and I devote a section of the book to it, too).

### Use Video to Prove a Crime

You might want to record video to use as evidence of a crime. But can that video be used to charge someone or be introduced in a trial? (Let me note: I am not a lawyer and this does not constitute legal advice.)

For people without permission to be on your property or inside your home, the answer generally appears to be yes. However, police have to follow an investigative process in obtaining the video from you, documenting a camera's position, and making sure they can prove the date and time and location of the recording.

Merely emailing a video to the police won't work as evidence in court! In fact, if the police rely on video without following the rules, that could lead to any other evidence they collect based on that video being thrown out — the so-called fruit of the poisoned tree.

Defense attorneys may be able to block a video on many grounds or destroy its credibility if all the niceties aren't followed. For instance, if a camera's clock is set incorrectly and the timestamp on the video is inaccurate, that casts doubt on the veracity of its recordings.

However, an increasing number of cases rely on video recorded by someone of a crime against them or their property, including businesses, or subpoenaed by police.

If you have video evidence of a crime involving someone you invited into your home, like a babysitter or plumber, and your cameras are hidden, not every state or judge will admit the evidence, as guests may have an expectation of privacy, regardless of their behavior. (It's a little like the "you invited the vampire in" rule of mythology.)

Defendants, by the way, are often allowed more leeway to introduce into evidence video that might exonerate them, as the balance of power in a criminal proceeding favors defendants providing evidence that casts doubt.

### Keep Track of Comings and Goings

While camera vendors emphasize security in their marketing pitches, personally controlled cameras on your property can meet many more needs than deterring or recording burglaries. This includes many distinct activities, all of which have privacy, security, and safety considerations:

Know when packages are delivered, so you or a neighbor can retrieve them before someone else steals them. Some camera software even recognizes a package delivery versus other kinds of people arriving at your front door.

Get a remote face check that you can use to admit a contractor or delivery person.

Confirm that a child has left the house or arrived home. Smartphones help with this, too, but not all children have one (shocking, I know).

Monitor an infant in its room.

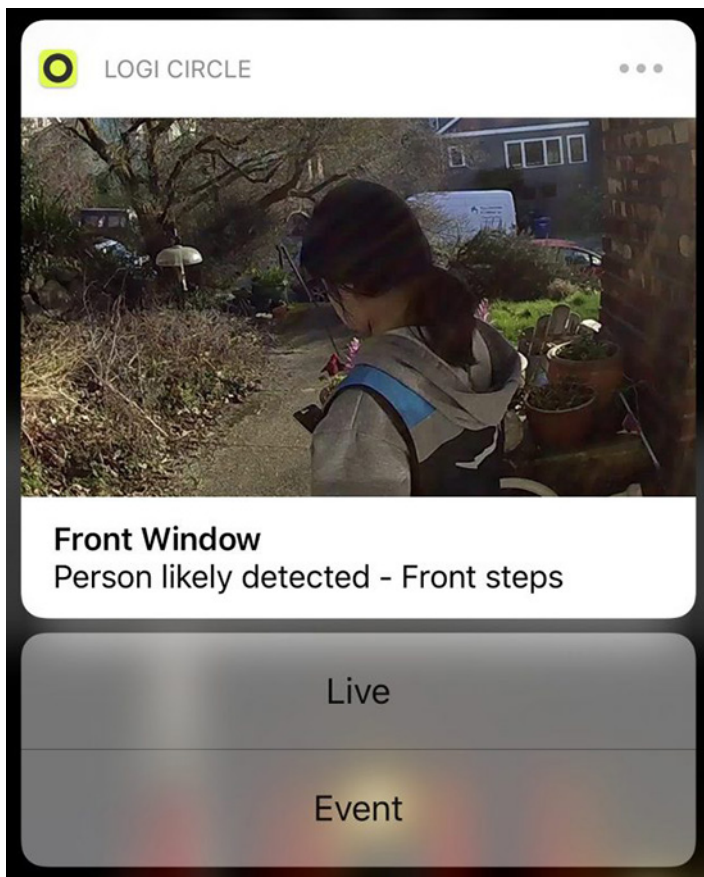
Monitor or communicate with a babysitter or nanny.

Capture footage of birds and wildlife. This may be for appreciation, like a hummingbird cam, or out of concern. In some areas, homeowners have to monitor for animals they view as pests — munchers of vegetables or potential spreaders of disease — like rabbits, deer, rodents, and other small animals. You might also need to beware of predators like mountain lions, cougars, and bears — oh my! — or alligators, coyotes, and wolves, depending on where you live.

Capture people letting their dogs poop on your lawn and not picking it up. Seriously, I imagine that's a top-ten, if not top-five purpose.

There's no single camera model that's perfect for all these purposes. But there are four general considerations that overlap:

Need to greet someone at the door: To this end, you almost always want a doorbell cam with a button visitors can press. The camera may provide facial recognition, which can even be used to unlock the door for known parties if also paired with a smart lock. These doorbell cameras or front-door cameras always post an alert on your smart audio communication, and show (often with a fish-eye lens) the entire area around the door.



*A home security camera can alert you when a package has been dropped at your porch, and even allow you to let in known people.*

**Need to monitor what's happening inside your house:** This kind of monitoring can be creepy, but in the appropriate situation, it can be helpful or even provide necessary oversight. If you have employees (like a nanny) or contractors in your house routinely, you may want a camera both to tune in live or to review video if something does something wrong and tries to hide it. (They may want it, too, to prove they didn't do anything wrong.) The presence of a camera might

deter improper actions, too. A wide array of indoor models meet this need. Some cameras can even detect the distinctive tones of a smoke or carbon monoxide detector and alert you that it has gone off.

#### **Need to monitor goings-on in front of your house:**

For contractor work, the coming and going of people to a porch, and even checking up on kids playing in the front lawn, you want either an outdoor battery-powered camera — possibly with a solar panel to avoid having to recharge the battery — mounted in a position that is hard to get at; or an indoor camera mounted directly onto a window.

#### **Need to communicate with people inside your**

**house:** Most indoor cameras include two-way audio, like an intercom. Check the specs on cameras to make sure the feature is present and read reviews to learn how well it works. Reviewers often focus attention on this feature.

#### **What We Don't See**

A home security camera won't magically solve problems, especially when petty crime is involved. What these cameras typically offer is insight: a better sense of what's happening when you're not looking and information about whether things happened as you expected — a contractor built a fence, a kid came home from school late, or someone stole your mail just minutes after mail carrier delivered it.

These little bits of knowledge can help you better shape your day, worry less about your surroundings, and, yes, have evidence when things go awry.

*Looking to learn more about Apple's new HomeKit Secure Video storage? It's a developer-level option that lets camera makers tie their devices in with Apple's HomeKit home automation system. To avoid concerns about sensitive video falling into the wrong hands, HomeKit Secure Video encrypts all recordings end-to-end from your devices and stores them encrypted on iCloud servers — just like iCloud Keychain — so that nobody but you can view them. 🗑️*

By Josh Centers

## Aerial Brings Apple TV Screen Savers to the Mac

**One** of the best features of the Apple TV is its Aerial screen saver. That's not hyperbole — Apple always makes a big deal out of the new scenes it adds to tvOS, often promoting them as a marquee feature of major tvOS updates. If you have liked these screen savers on your TV, you can get them on your Mac, thanks to the free and open-source app [Aerial](#).

I'm not sure how the development team gets away with it (Aerial is currently maintained by [Guillaume Louel](#)), but Aerial has been available for five years without interference from Apple. Which is a good thing!

#### **Install Aerial**

Full installation instructions are available on Aerial's GitHub page, but they break down like this:



Download the latest Aerial.saver.zip.

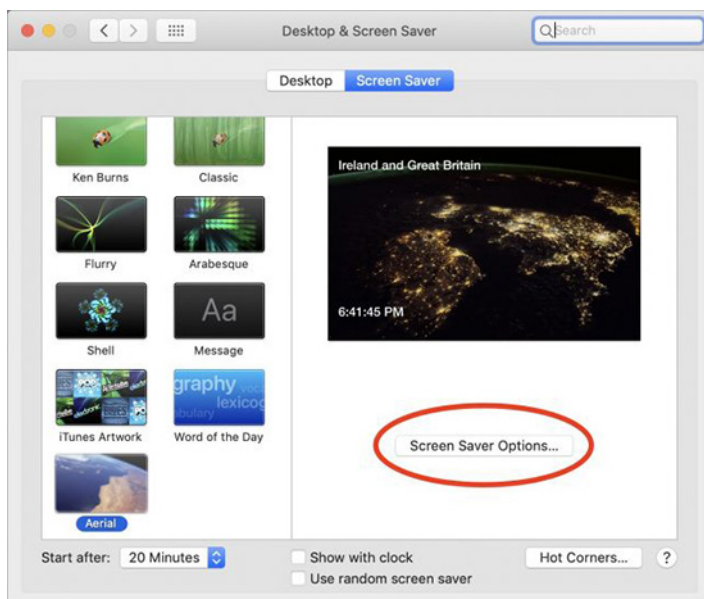
Unzip Aerial.saver.zip if your browser hasn't already done so.

If it's open, quit the System Preferences app.

Double click Aerial.saver.

Choose whether to install Aerial for yourself or for all users. The latter option requires your administrator password on install and every update and isn't generally worthwhile.

After installation you'll end up at System Preferences > Desktop & Screen Saver > Screen Saver. If necessary, select Aerial in the left-hand scrolling list. To configure its options, click the Screen Saver Options button.

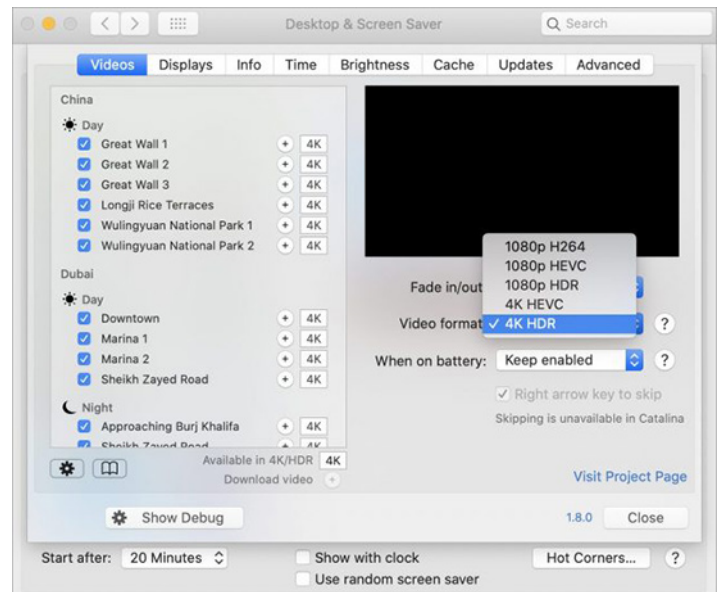


Aerial has a vast number of options. I'll walk you through a few of the most important ones.

### Configure Video Quality and Bandwidth Usage

Apple's Aerial screen saver videos are beautiful but big, and by default, Aerial caches a new one from Apple every time the screen saver loads. If you have a bandwidth cap, you're probably best using it on something else.

You can adjust Aerial's Videos settings to make things look better, reduce bandwidth usage, and optimize CPU performance, but be warned that the number and specificity of the settings can get overwhelming fast.



The main setting you want to look at here is in the Video Format pop-up menu. The default on my Macs was 1080p HEVC, which didn't look as sharp as 4K resolution but also didn't use as much bandwidth. This menu may have quite a few choices, so let's break down what they all mean:

4K or 1080p: 4K resolution will look sharper, while 1080p will use less bandwidth.

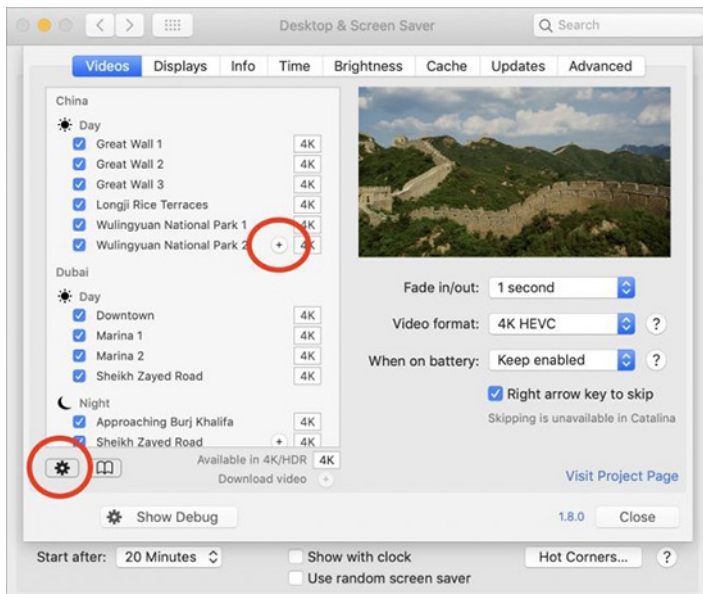
H264 or HEVC: These are encoding methods for video. H.264 is an older standard. HEVC is newer and allows for smaller video files with the same quality. If your Mac supports HEVC, go with that.

HDR: If you're running macOS 10.15 Catalina or later, your Mac can display video in HDR quality, which shows more colors but can look "weird." I like it.

The best thing approach is to click the question mark button next to the menu, which tells you if your Mac supports H.264 and HEVC hardware decoding and provides information on all the various available formats. Then choose appropriately from the pop-up menu.

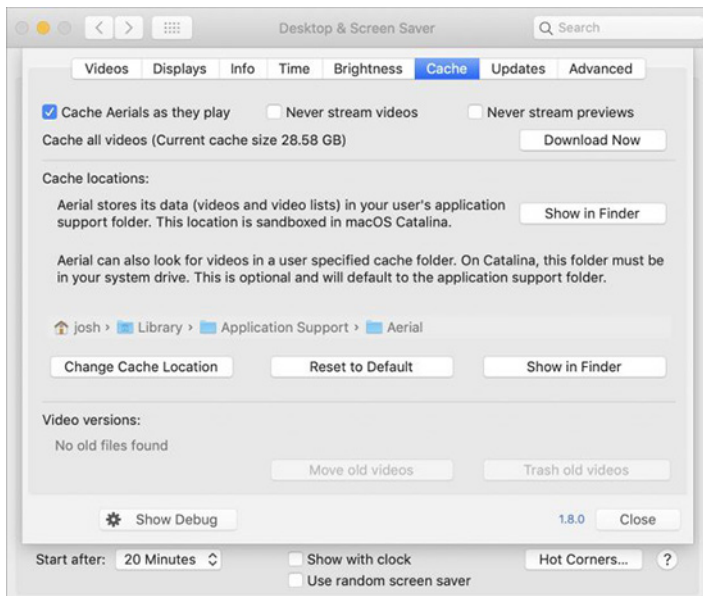
If you use a laptop, pay attention to the When On Battery pop-up menu. The default is Keep Enabled, but you can save battery by switching to Always Disable, which displays the Aerial screen savers when the MacBook is connected to a charger but switches to a dimmed, black screen when on battery. There's also a setting that causes Aerial to disable itself when your battery life dips below 20%, which might be the most balanced choice. If you're leaving your unplugged laptop alone with the screen open for more than a few minutes, you're wasting precious battery life.

One way to save bandwidth is to cache just the videos you want. Select one on the left to see a preview. If you like it, click the plus button to download it. The checkboxes at the left let you enable and disable videos in the rotation — handy if there are some you don't enjoy.

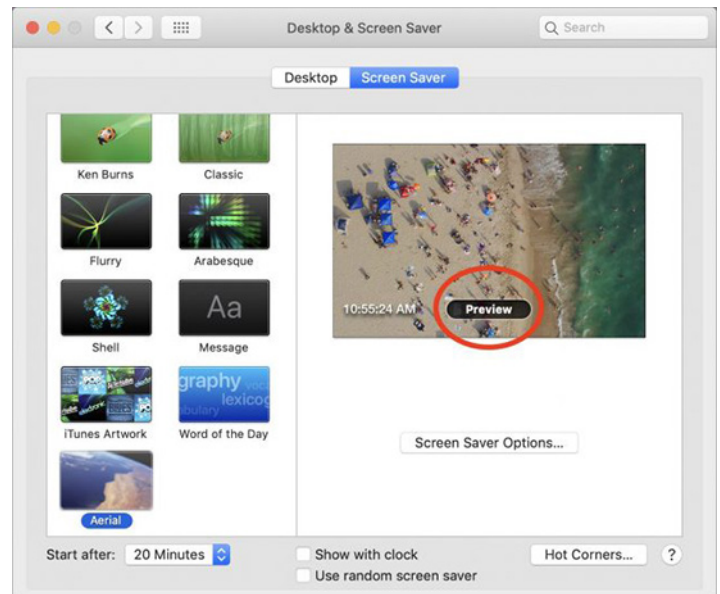


Here's a tip: click the gear icon and choose Check Only Cached to play only the videos you've downloaded. If you want to remove a video from your local storage, Control-click it and choose Move To Trash.

By default, the Aerial screen saver randomly plays videos and caches each one. Over time, that can add up — I'm talking about gigabytes here. To manage Aerial's local storage, go to the Cache screen, which lets you turn off automatic caching, download all the videos, and show the videos in the Finder so you can easily delete them.

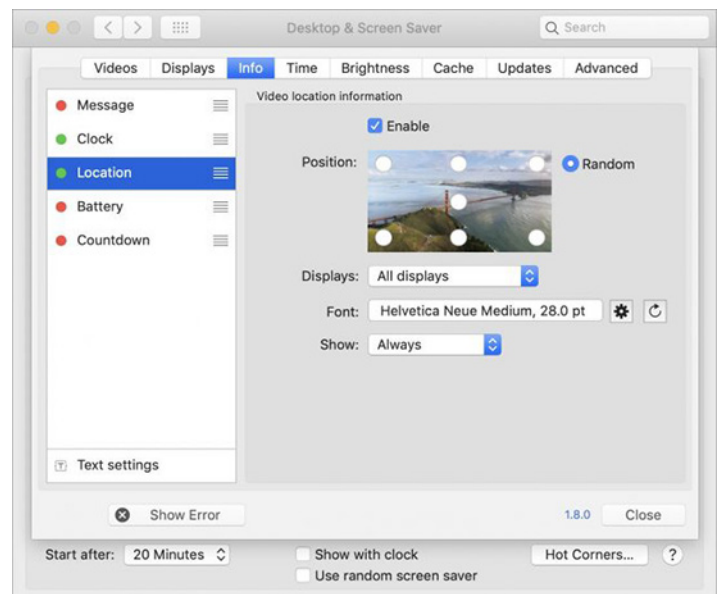


To preview the Aerial screen saver, return to System Preferences > Desktop & Screen Saver > Screen Saver, hover your mouse pointer over the preview thumbnail, and click the Preview button that appears.



## Change Onscreen Info

The Aerial screen saver can show additional information on the screen while it's playing Apple's videos. By default, it shows the current time and the location of the video. You can configure what appears in the Info screen.



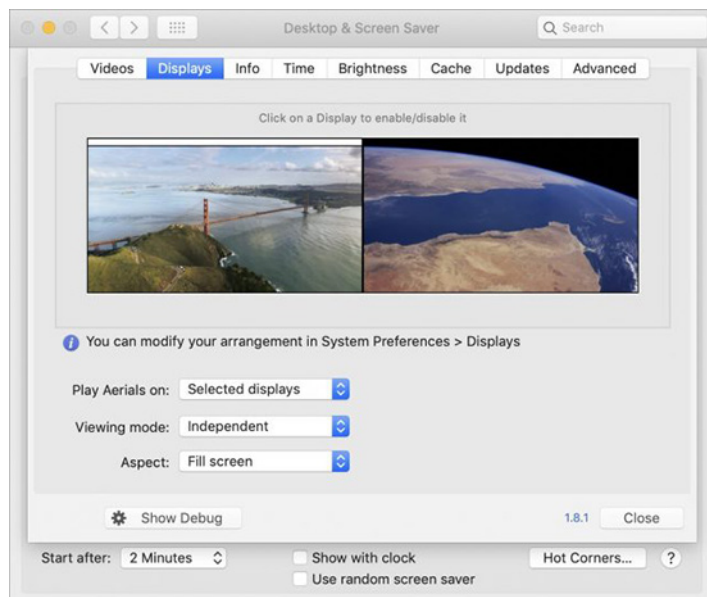
Aerial provides five onscreen widgets for you to configure: a custom message, the current time (Clock), the video location, battery level, and a countdown. The countdown option is unusual but possibly helpful: you could set it to count down to a specific time or date, like a meeting or a birthday.

Each widget offers its own options, but two are consistent: the Enable checkbox, which enables or disables that widget, and the position setting, which is a thumbnail image with radio buttons that let you pin the widget to different parts of the screen. The location widget also has a random option to put it in a random corner of the screen.

## Other Settings

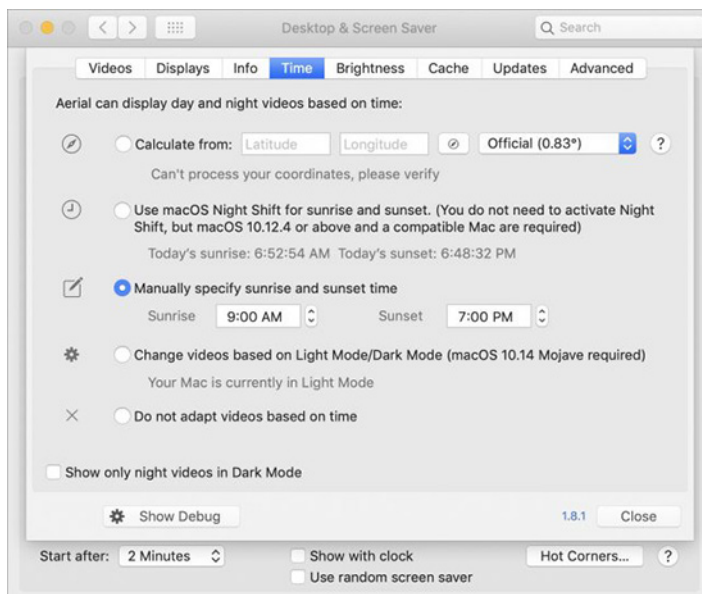
There are two additional settings in Aerial's Options screens that may be worthwhile.

First, if you have two monitors, you can use the options in the Displays screen to play the videos on either or both screens. More interestingly, Aerial can play one video spanned across both screens (though it can get fuzzy), cloned (duplicated) on both screens, or mirrored (reflected) across both screens. Or you can play two videos, one on each screen.



Second, in the Time screen, you can tweak numerous options to change the videos displayed based on the time

of day. You can be as specific as setting your precise latitude and longitude, but that's overkill for most people. I recommend sticking with the default option to use Night Shift to set the time of day. Or, if you use Dark mode (but see [“The Dark Side of Dark Mode,”](#) 31 May 2019), there's an option to change the videos based on whether you're in Light mode or Dark mode, and a separate checkbox to show only night scenes when Dark Mode is enabled.



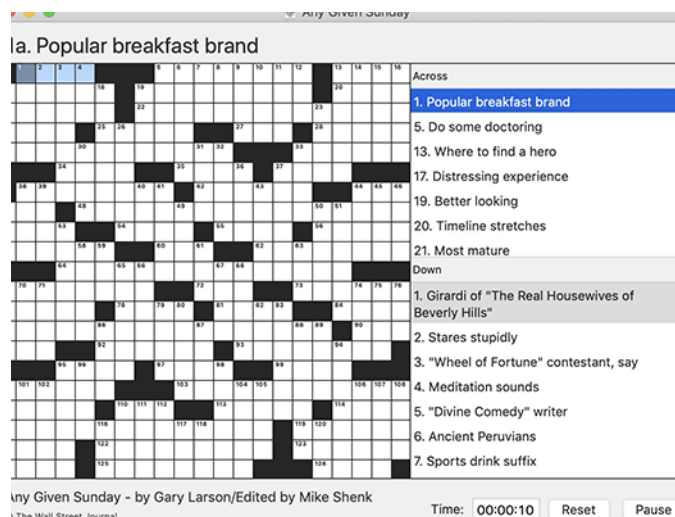
Feel free to poke around the other Options screens, but don't get bogged down too much in Aerial's settings. At the end of the day, it's just a screen saver, if an awfully pretty one. 🍷

By Connie Laubenthal

# Black Ink Lets You Do Crossword Puzzles on Your Mac

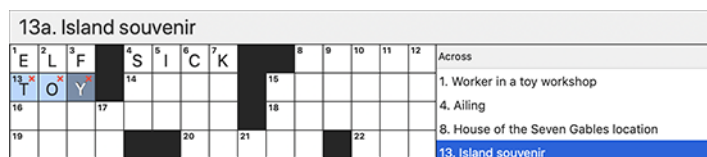
**Black Ink** is a Mac-based crossword puzzle app from Red Sweater Software. It gives you access to any crossword puzzle using the **Across Lite format**, which typically has a .puz extension. The default sources it offers include the Wall Street Journal crossword, Chronicle of Higher Education, New York Times Premium Crossword, and American Values Club.

The last two choices require a subscription: \$6.95 per month for the New York Times and \$20 per year for American Values Club. Red Sweater [offers clear instructions](#) on how to obtain additional puzzles (File > Open Web Puzzle > Get More Puzzles) and tells you whether or not there is a paywall. There is also an option to open Across Lite puzzle files that you downloaded from the Web or received through email.





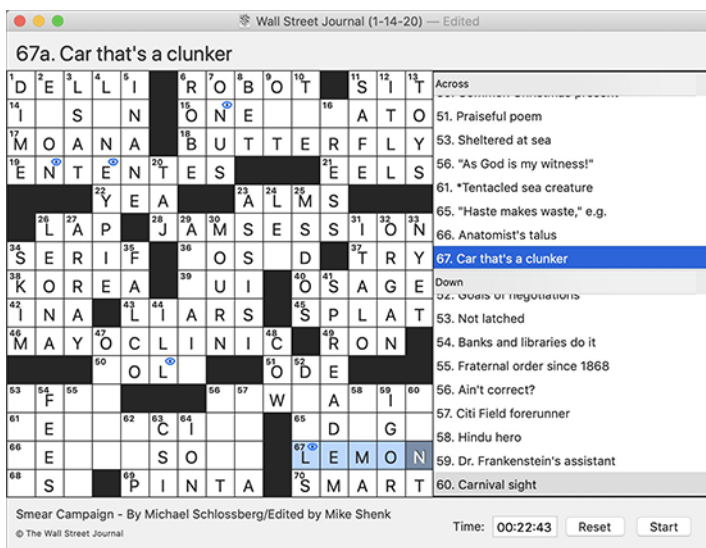
Black Ink offers many useful features for the crossword aficionado. The first of these is the capability to check a puzzle clue answer at the letter, word, or puzzle level (look in Solution > Check). I tend to run through the across clues, check the puzzle to identify wrong answers, and then either delete or change my answers. Wrong answers are indicated by a red "x" in the letter box.



In Black Ink, the puzzle remembers which words you have checked. So, even though you may have eliminated a wrong answer, when you enter another letter into a box that was checked previously, it will recheck that letter. If correct, it will put a green checkmark in the box. This might be disconcerting at first because boxes that originally had no letters in them when checked do not display either a red X or a green checkmark, whether or not the letter in that box is correct. In other words, you can end up with an incorrect down answer with one letter with a green checkmark because that letter is correct, but the remainder of the word hasn't been checked. Once you realize this is how Black Ink works, it isn't a problem.

The second notably helpful feature is Reveal (Solution > Reveal). I love using this option when I get stuck, particularly when the clue has to do with a person who is popular in an area I'm not familiar with, such as a particular movie or music genre. It saves me from having to resort to one of the many crossword puzzle answer Web sites.

Some may call this cheating, but I solve crossword puzzles for entertainment, not for competition. Sometimes you just can't work through enough other clues to find the answer to the clue you are stuck on. A nice part of Black Ink's Reveal feature is that it tags the letters that it filled in with a blue eye symbol in the box. That lets you know how much of the puzzle, if any, you needed help with. To me, this is an incentive to use the option only as a last resort.



*Revealed letters are marked by a blue eye.*  
*The puzzle timer is at the bottom of the window.*

For those more serious than I about their crossword puzzle solving, Black Ink can time how long you take to solve the puzzle. The timer appears at the bottom of the window, and it's easy to pause or reset it as needed.

Something to note is that when you open a puzzle source, you get the puzzle for that day. But later on, if you open a puzzle from the same source, you get the previous day's puzzle. This feature lets you open an earlier puzzle if you missed a day. Both the New York Times and Wall Street Journal crosswords are set up so Monday's puzzle is very easy, but the puzzles get progressively harder through the week until Saturday. So, if you only occasionally do puzzles and want easy ones, it might be best to aim for Mondays. You can select the puzzle source (the Red Sweater Web site offers a nice guide to other options) to optimize the difficulty level, or just work your way through the week from easy to more difficult.

Overall, Black Ink is easy to use and a good fit for any puzzler from beginner to advanced, thanks in large part to its Reveal feature. If you already have a New York Times subscription, it's a nice way to do the crossword puzzle digitally on your Mac.

Black Ink is free to use with all features for 14 days, after which it costs \$29.95 to unlock all features. The price feels reasonable if you will be using it regularly, given its advanced features. As a regular crossword puzzler, I'm a fan. 🙄



# Apple Updates

## Security Update 2020-002 (High Sierra)

**Mar 24, 2020 – 2.12 GB**

System Requirements

- macOS 10.13

Security Update 2020-002 is recommended for all users and improves the security of macOS.

## Security Update 2020-002 (Mojave)

**Mar 24, 2020 – 1.63 GB**

System Requirements

- macOS 10.14

Security Update 2020-002 is recommended for all users and improves the security of macOS.

## macOS Catalina 10.15.4 Update

**Mar 24, 2020 – 3.0 GB**

System Requirements

- macOS Catalina 10.15.3

macOS Catalina 10.15.4 introduces iCloud Drive folder sharing, Screen Time communications limits, Apple Music time-synced lyrics view, and more. The update also improves the stability, reliability, and security of your Mac.

### Finder

- iCloud Drive folder sharing from Finder
- Controls to limit access only to people you explicitly invite, or to grant access to anyone with the folder link
- Permissions to choose who can make changes and upload files and who can only view and download files

### Screen Time

- Communication limits for controlling who your children can communicate with and be contacted by throughout the day and during downtime
- Playback control of music videos for your children

### Music

- Time-synced lyrics view for Apple Music, including the ability to jump to your favorite part of a song by clicking a line in lyrics view

### Safari

- Option to import Chrome passwords into your iCloud Keychain for easy AutoFill of your passwords in Safari and across all your devices
- Controls for duplicating a tab and for closing all tabs to the right of the current tab

- HDR playback support on compatible computers for Netflix content

### App Store with Apple Arcade

- Universal Purchase support enables the use of a singular purchase of a participating app across iPhone, iPod touch, iPad, Mac, and Apple TV
- Recently played Arcade games appear in the Arcade tab so you can continue playing on iPhone, iPod touch, iPad, Mac, and Apple TV

### Pro Display XDR

- Customized reference modes that you can tailor to specific workflow needs by selecting from several color gamut, white point, luminance, and transfer function options

### Accessibility

- Head pointer preference for moving a cursor on the screen based on the precise movements of your head

This update also includes bug fixes and other improvements.

- High Dynamic Range output to HDR10-compatible third-party displays and TVs connected with DisplayPort or HDMI
- OAuth authentication support with Outlook.com accounts for improved security
- CalDav migration support when upgrading to iCloud reminders on a secondary device
- Resolves an issue where text copied between apps may appear invisible when Dark Mode is active
- Fixes an issue in Safari where a CAPTCHA tile may display incorrectly
- Resolves an issue where Reminders may send notifications for completed reminders
- Fixes an issue with screen brightness for the LG UltraFine 5K display after waking from sleep 🔄

