

October ProgramOct 19, 2021 06:30 PM

Our program will include a discussion about the Messages App and continue our series on iPhone Photo Tips

Please see your membership email for the links to this month's Zoom meeting or email us



We have virtual meetings via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month-

Emails will be sent out prior to each meeting. Follow the directions/invitation each month on our email — that is, just click on the link to join our meeting.

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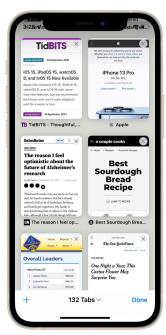
Tom Bank II

Hot New Features in Safari in iOS 15 and iPadOS 15

105 15 has brought some of the most significant revisions to Safari since the iPhone's introduction. The address bar is on the bottom! Where's Private Browsing? What are Tab Groups? Why does the color of the top of the screen keep changing?

Let's walk through the major new changes, see if we can help you make sense of them, and show how to turn some of them off. I cover these and many other new iOS 15 and iPadOS 15 features in *Take Control of iOS 15 and iPadOS 15*.



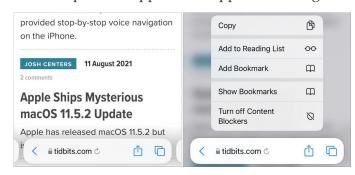


Safari Upside Down

When iOS 15 came out, people were suddenly baffled by the fact that Safari seemed to be upside down.

Earlier betas of iOS 15 boasted an even more radical design that concealed many common functions. The first betas hid the refresh, share, and tab buttons entirely. The screenshots below come from a later beta, where Apple was still trying to cram

more controls into the tab itself. I shudder to think of the response if Apple had shipped that design.



How Safari looked in one of the later iOS 15 betas

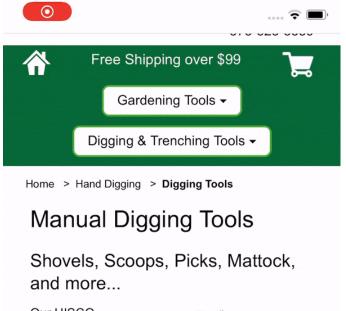
Thankfully, after a litany of complaints from beta testers, Apple dialed things back to a more familiar interface. Just upside down.

Apple made this switch for good reasons. Prior to the iPhone 6, iPhones were much shorter, and most people's thumbs could easily reach the top of the screen. During that time, Apple even made this a selling point against then-enormous Android phones with its <u>"thumb" TV ad</u>. (Ah, for the days when "common sense" suggested screens could match the size of most people's hands.)

Over the years, iPhones have become ever taller. Even people with large hands have to really stretch to reach the top of the screen, where Safari's address bar was. To address that concern (Reachability doesn't seem to be a huge hit), Apple converted it to a "tab bar" and moved it to the bottom of the screen, where everyone can easily reach it. Tap it to enter a URL or search term, just as you would have in the old address bar.

The bottom-mounted tab bar features another nice touch: you can now swipe left or right to switch between tabs quickly. Along with tapping the tab button in the lower-right corner, you can also swipe up on the tab bar to reveal all tabs, although that gesture is a little tricky on a Face ID-enabled iPhone

since you have to start just above where you'd normally swipe up to return to the Home screen.

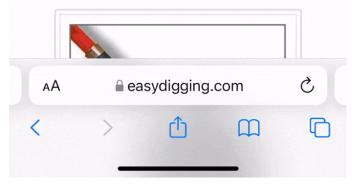


Our HISCO professional-grade shovels and scoops with reinforced fiberglass handles are made in the USA. We also provide



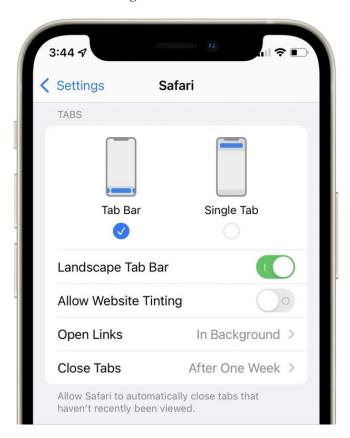
picks and mattocks with extra-long handles to minimize bending and back strain.

Click here or scroll down to see excerpts from the 1961 Popular Mechanics article "The Right Shovel for the Job". It has easy-to-understand details on shovel types, lift angles, handle lengths, and blade designs. (located at the bottom of this page)



Although the new position makes sense and feels actively easier to use, it does require that you rewire your muscle memory. If that proves too difficult or you prefer the old approach, you can

switch back. Go to Settings > Safari, scroll down to Tabs and select Single Tab.



However, I encourage you to try the new way for a few days, since it's easier to use and less RSI-provoking once you get used to it.

Safari's Rainbow

There's another tab-related setting in Settings > Safari that you might want to disable to revert to previous behavior. As you may have noticed in the screenshot at the top of this article, Safari on the iPhone colorizes the status bar area at the top of the screen in an attempt to match the "color" of the site. I quote "color" because it often picks up an accent or logo color—it doesn't necessarily take its cue from the main site background color.

As a result, loading the TidBITS site turns the status bar a deep purple and keeps it that way even if you scroll down (below left). If you don't like the effect, you can disable Allow Website Tinting and return the status bar to a translucent overlay (below right).

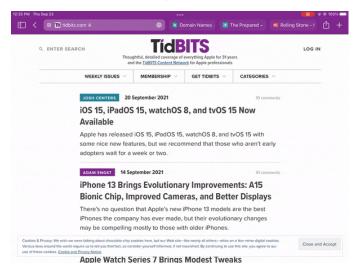




(We've since changed our meta theme-color to white to remove the purple bar in Safari when viewing the TidBITS website.)

Safari in iPadOS 15 didn't see as radical a redesign as Safari in iOS 15, but it doubles down on this color change approach. Where Safari in iOS changes just the relatively small status bar area, Safari in iPadOS turns its entire tab bar the dominant color of whatever website you visit. The idea is to make it easier to figure out which site you're viewing as you switch between tabs.

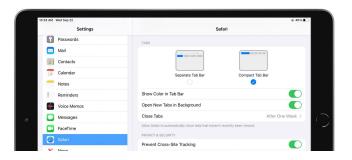
You may not find it helpful because there's no predicting what color any given site will be. It can also be a rather glaring effect. Worse, it's logically confusing, since not all of the controls in the tab bar are associated with the current site, so it makes no sense to connect them by color.



As with the iOS version of Safari, you can revert to a calm gray tab bar if you prefer. Go to Settings > Safari and turn off Show Color in Tab Bar.

Compact Tab Bar in iPadOS 15

If you want a look at Apple's original concept for Safari's tab bar in iPadOS 15, go to Settings > Safari, and under Tabs, select Compact Tab Bar.



It combines tabs with the address bar to save screen real estate. I find it cluttered and bewildering, so I'm glad it's not the default.



You might wonder where the back and forward arrows have gone—they only appear when there's a page to which you can tap them to navigate. Even more confusingly, there's no obvious way to view all open tabs. You have to open the sidebar and tap the tab icon to the right of the number of tabs—tapping the text isn't sufficient.



Voice Search

Apple has a mixed record with dictation and voice recognition, but Safari's new voice search feature is incredible. Tap in the address bar, tap the microphone icon, speak a search query, and Safari will search using your default search engine. There's no need to tap Go or anything else—the search activates as soon as you stop speaking.

In some but not all cases, a voice search may take you directly to a particular site. If that's desirable, you can ensure that it navigates directly to a site by saying its URL, as in "tidbits dot com" or even "talk dot tidbits dot com." We anticipate using this feature heavily.



Safari 15 on the Mac doesn't include the voice search button, which is a crying shame.

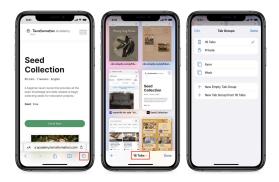
Tab Groups and Private Browsing

Another high-profile new feature in Safari is Tab Groups, which lets you create and switch among collections of tabs. The idea behind Tab Groups is to help solve the problem so many of us have: having hundreds of unrelated tabs open at once.

You can make as many groups of tabs as you like. You could have one tab group for your work, another for an upcoming trip, and a third for research for something you're looking to buy.

To work with tab groups, first open the tab switcher by tapping the tab icon or (if your tab bar is on the bottom) swiping up on the tab bar. Tap X Tabs, where X is how many tabs you have open, to reveal the Tab Groups menu. Then:

- To create a new tab group, tap New Empty Tab Group, give it a name, and tap Save. You can also tap New Tab Group from X Tabs to create a tab group from the tabs you currently have open.
- To switch to a different tab group, tap it in the Tab Groups menu.
- To delete a tab group, swipe left on it to reveal a delete icon.



If you regularly use Private Browsing to prevent Safari from remembering anything about your browsing session, note that you now access it like any other tab group—it's called Private in the Tab Groups menu.

The Tag Group interface is similar on the iPad, though the tab icon has changed to better represent the tab switcher interface there. You can also access Tab Groups from the sidebar.

Personally, I find Tab Groups a bit confusing, at least on the iPhone, since I often switch between projects and don't remember to switch to the appropriate tab group first. Then I lose track of even more tabs than I used to because they're tucked away in some other tab group. Tab groups do sync among your Apple devices, so it's possible that they would work better for me if I browsed with Safari on the Mac (see "Safari 15," 21 September 2021), which adds Tab Groups to Safari in macOS 11 Big Sur and 10.15 Catalina).

Tab Grid

Another nice new change in iOS 15 is that Safari now formats its tab switcher as a grid instead of a card stack, just like on the iPad. The grid makes it much easier to see which tabs are open, plus you can press and hold a tab to move it around. You can swipe tabs to the left to close them or tap the somewhat obscured X button, which Apple oddly put in the upper-right corner like Windows. It would have made more sense to mimic the offset upper-left corner approach used when deleting apps in the App Library.





Left: Safari's tab stack in iOS 14. Right: Safari's tab grid in iOS 15.

Want to close all open tabs so you can start fresh with Tab Groups? Press and hold the Done text label to reveal the secret option. Why Apple hid it there is baffling, and there's zero indication that "Done" would have any secondary function.

Shared with You

Have you ever dug through a Messages thread trying to find an article someone sent you? Shared with You, a new feature in some of Apple's built-in apps, corrals these links so you can access them all in one place.

On both iOS 15 and iPadOS 15, you can get to Shared with You from Safari's start page, which you see whenever you create a new tab or tap in the tab bar. (You may have to scroll down to see it, under the Favorites and Frequently Visited collections.) Tap Show All next to Shared with You to see all the links. On the iPad, you can also find Shared with You in the sidebar. (At least in theory—it doesn't appear on Adam's iPad Pro running iPadOS 15, even after I explicitly sent him a link that does appear in Shared with You on his iPhone 11 Pro running iOS 15.)



Other Features

Those are the most significant new features, but Apple also added some smaller features that are less likely to impact your everyday usage:

- Customizable start page: I describe how to edit the start page in detail in <u>Take Control of iOS 15 and iPadOS 15</u>, but in short: create a new tab, scroll down to the bottom of the start page, and tap the Edit button.
- Pull to refresh: Loren Brichter introduced the <u>pull-to-refresh gesture</u> in Tweetie over a decade ago, and it has become a standard iOS convention since, used even in some Apple apps. Apple has finally integrated it into Safari. When you're at the top of a Web page, pull down on the page to reload it. This gesture is why Apple initially hid the refresh button in earlier betas.
- HTTPS upgrade: If you visit a website that supports encrypted HTTPS but is also loading insecure content over unencrypted HTTP, Safari will now ensure that you connect to it over HTTPS so your entire connection is secure. This feature emulates the Electronic Frontier Foundation's HTTPS Everywhere browser extension and really should be the default for every Web browser, as it is for Brave and Firefox.
- Web extensions: Safari in iOS and iPadOS finally supports full Web extensions just like on the Mac. Extensions may or may not be a big deal for you, but they add essential features for some people, so I'll explore that topic in-depth in another article.

In the end, the new version of Safari in iOS 15 and iPadOS 15 offers numerous changes, many welcome, some less so. It's clear that Apple wanted to make even more sweeping interface adjustments but moved too far in the direction of condensing and hiding controls. Luckily, options let you reverse most of the major interface changes if you don't find them helpful.

The Mystery of Why Web Hyperlinks Are Blue

Why is blue the default color for hyperlinks in Web browsers? In a Mozilla blog post, Elise Blanchard explores the mystery, tracing the first underlined hyperlink to Windows 1.0 and the first use of the blue underlined hyperlink to version 0.13 of the NCSA Mosaic browser, launched in April 1993. Mosaic was the first popular graphical Web browser, and the color just stuck.

As for the exact reason why browser developers chose blue, it's still a mystery, but Blanchard offers some theories. Some say it's a standard to maximize contrast, but it's not a particularly high contrast color choice, and Mosaic predates the W3C Web standards organization by nearly a year. Instead, Blanchard leans toward the booming popularity of color monitors in the early 1990s and the fact that Mosaic was so ubiquitous.



However, it could be as simple as a key programmer liking the color blue—some decisions really are arbitrary. Even if Blanchard fails to unearth a definitive answer, her trip through history is fun to read.

Read original article



By Josh Centers

iPhone 13 Upgrade Advice Based on the Age of Your Current iPhone

No one doubts that Apple's latest iPhone models are the most capable iPhones ever made. But how much better are they than your current iPhone? That's the question that our friend Jason Snell at Six Colors set out to answer for the iPhone 13 lineup. He has <u>published a guide</u> that outlines what new features you can expect to find in an iPhone 13 or an iPhone 13

Pro, based on whether you own an iPhone 7, iPhone 8, iPhone X, iPhone XR, iPhone XR, iPhone 11, iPhone 11 Pro, or second-generation iPhone SE. Obviously, the older the iPhone, the more significant the differences, but the article is a huge help in identifying exactly what aspects of your iPhone experience will be most improved.



Several Bricks Removed from Apple's Garden Wall

Courts and regulators have been slowly chipping away at the bricks protecting Apple's walled garden. We recently covered a new South Korean law that lets developers in the App Store and Google's Play Store offer alternative payment methods (see "New South Korean Law Mandates Alternative App Store Payment Options," 31 August 2021).

But that law applies only to apps sold in South Korea, and we would be surprised to see Apple voluntarily expand that program to other countries. However, two recent settlements have global implications.

Settlement in US Developer Class-Action Suit

Apple announced <u>changes to the App Store</u> as part of settling the *Cameron et al v. Apple Inc.* lawsuit, but the impact seems limited. From what we could glean from Apple's announcement, much of the settlement involves Apple continuing to do what it's already doing, such as agreeing to maintain the App Store Small Business Program for at least three years, even though there was no previous indication it would ever end (see "<u>Apple Drops App Store Commission to 15% for Small Developers</u>," 18 November 2020).

The only two changes that seem notable, if not earth-shaking, are developers being allowed to notify their users about alternatives to in-app purchases in email (but not in apps themselves), and Apple expanding the number of price points from fewer than 100 to more than 500. So you might see apps priced at \$1.49 instead of \$0.99.

We don't know how best to interpret this settlement because we have no skin in the game. For a roundup of responses from well-known Apple developers, we recommend reading Michael Tsai's blog post. In short, they aren't impressed, which casts a shadow on Apple characterizing the

settlement as with "US developers" rather than "the lawyers for a set of developers who don't seem to represent the opinions of the larger Apple development community."

Even if Apple's concessions are minimal, they, along with the South Korean law, show both how much pressure Apple is under and that Apple will respond to developer concerns when necessary.

Settlement with Japan Fair Trade Commission

Apple's settlement with the Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC) goes further. In a small but significant change, Apple says it will allow developers of "reader" apps to include in-app links to their websites so users can create and manage their accounts. For instance, the Netflix app could have a link to the Netflix website. What a concept! The change will go into effect in early 2022 after Apple updates App Store guidelines and its review process to accommodate the change.



This change affects one of Apple's most-loathed policies, the so-called "anti-steering" rule that prevents developers from providing links to external payment systems in an attempt to force them to use Apple's in-app purchase system. Allowing reader apps to let users link out to account management systems seems like a small and obvious option, but Apple has thus far been

steadfast in rejecting apps that present such external links.

What exactly is a "reader" app? In theory, that category includes content-consumption apps like Kindle, Spotify, and Netflix. However, as I pointed out in "Developers v. Apple: Outlining Complaints about the App Store" (13 August 2020), Apple's definition of a "reader app" is arbitrary. Here's how Apple defines them in its App Store guidelines:

Apps may allow a user to access previously purchased content or content subscriptions (specifically: magazines, newspapers, books, audio, music, and video). Reader apps may offer account creation for free tiers, and account management functionality for existing customers.

But Apple also apparently once counted Dropbox as a reader app since the only option when you opened the app was a login. It now offers various sign-up options. In any case, we expect Apple's definition to change or at least become more concrete. The question is if Apple will have to get the JFTC to sign off on the new definition or if it's allowed to make such decisions arbitrarily. JFTC's statement doesn't clarify that, but Apple agreed to a review once per year for three years.

On Daring Fireball, John Gruber shared a couple of anonymous anecdotal accounts of developers who don't trust Apple's new linking policy and suspect there are strings attached, such as being required to also offer subscriptions as in-app purchases or fearing Apple will invent new reasons to reject their apps for links. It shows how much trust Apple has squandered with developers.

There is also the question of how this intersects with Apple's program for "premium subscription video entertainment providers," which allows users of the Amazon Prime Video app to make content purchases within the app without using Apple's inapp purchase system (see "You Can Now Make Purchases in the Amazon Prime Video iOS and Apple TV Apps," 3 April 2020). A handful of other video services are included, but not the likes of Disney+, Hulu, and Netflix.

The new linking rule <u>won't apply to games or inapp purchases</u>, thus doing nothing to resolve Apple's legal battle with Epic Games, which has exposed to the public a <u>treasure trove of internal emails</u> that reveal Apple's thinking on many of these matters.

More Bricks at Risk

We suspect Apple will be forced to make additional concessions in the future. <u>India has opened an antitrust case against Apple</u>, targeting the company for forcing developers to use its in-app purchase system. Apple is also fighting <u>a similar battle in the European Union</u>.

Meanwhile, the bipartisan Open App Markets Act proposed in the United States Senate would go even further, allowing third-party app stores and sideloading, letting developers use alternative payment methods, and allowing developers to communicate openly with customers. We have no idea of its prospects for passage, but it's unusual when Tennessee Republican Marsha Blackburn and Minnesota Democrat Amy Klobuchar agree on something.

Apple sees where things are going and is taking independent actions aimed at staving off regulation, such as its just-announced News Partner Program, which halves the subscription commission rate to 15% for publishers who offer their content in the Apple News Format. And last year, Apple offered a big concession with its App Store Small Business Program, which dropped the sales commission to 15% for most developers (see "Apple Drops App Store Commission to 15% for Small Developers," 18 November 2020). But such moves might be too little, too late.

At this point, Apple might be best served by making a dramatic overhaul to its most controversial App Store policies and behaviors, such as allowing alternative payment methods within apps, dropping App Store ads (are they really worth it?), eliminating special deals with big developers, and overhauling the review process to better catch counterfeit apps and not unfairly punish legitimate developers. Apple could also

allow streaming game services and emulators into the App Store. <u>iDOS</u> was one of the neatest iPad apps in years, but after initially approving it, Apple changed its mind and pulled it. Then Apple might have a stronger position from which to resist clunky and likely misinformed regulation that may have unintended consequences. And perhaps then developers would lay down their pitchforks and torches.

Apple Updates

Security Update 2021-006 (Catalina) Sep 24, 2021 — 1.45 GB

System Requirements macOS 10.15

macOS Catalina Security Update 2021-006 (19H1419) is recommended for all users and improves the security of macOS.

watchOS 8 Sep 20, 2021

watchOS 8 brings you new ways to stay healthy, active, and connected. A redesigned Photos app helps you stay connected to your most precious memories, and the new Mindfulness app and new Tai Chi and Pilates workout types will help you lead a healthy and fit life. And updates to Wallet and Home make it simple and convenient to access your house, car, and even the places you love to visit.

Watch Faces

- Portraits face uses segmentation data from portrait photos taken on iPhone to create an immersive, multi-layered face (Apple Watch Series 4 and later)
- World Time face lets you track the time in 24 different time zones at once (Apple Watch Series 4 and later)

Home

- Status and controls for accessories in your home now appear at the top of the Home app
- Quick views to see if accessories are on, have a low battery, require a software update, and more
- Accessories and scenes dynamically appear based on the time of day and frequency of use
- Dedicated camera room for viewing all available HomeKit camera feeds in one place, with support for multiple aspect ratios
- Favorites area gives you access to the scenes and accessories that you use most

Wallet

- Home keys let you tap to unlock a supported home or apartment door lock
- Hotel keys allow you to tap to unlock your room at participating hotels
- Office keys allows you to tap to unlock your office doors for participating corporate offices
- Car keys with Ultra Wideband on Apple Watch Series 6 let you unlock, lock, and start your supported vehicle as you approach
- Remote keyless entry functions on your car keys allow you to lock, unlock, honk your horn, preheat your car, or open your trunk

Workout

- New custom algorithms in the Workout app for Tai Chi and Pilates provide accurate tracking of calorie metrics
- Automatic Outdoor Cycling workout detection sends a reminder to start the Workout app, giving you retroactive credit for exercise already started
- Automatic pause and resume for Outdoor Cycling workouts
- Improved accuracy of calorie metrics for Outdoor Cycling workouts while riding an ebike
- Users 13 and under can now track hiking workouts with more accurate metrics
- Voice feedback announces workout milestones using the built-in speaker or connected Bluetooth device

Fitness+

- Guided Meditations can help you practice meditation, featuring audio sessions on Apple Watch and video sessions on iPhone, iPad, and Apple TV that guide you through specific themes
- Pilates workouts are now available, with new workouts every week that are designed to improve strength and flexibility
- Support for Picture-in-Picture viewing on iPhone, iPad, and Apple TV, so you can watch your workout while you also view other content in compatible apps
- Expanded workout filters for Yoga, Strength, Core, and HIIT workouts, including whether equipment is required

Mindfulness

- Mindfulness app includes an enhanced Breathe experience along with a new Reflect session
- Breathe sessions have tips that help add a physical connection to deep-breathing practices and a new animation to guide your session

 Reflect sessions give you a simple idea to focus your thoughts, along with a visualization that shows the passing of a minute

Sleep

- Respiratory rate is measured by Apple Watch during sleep
- Ability to review respiratory rate during sleep in the Health app, and be notified if a trend has been detected

Messages

- Ability to compose or reply to messages by using Scribble, dictation, and emoji all from the same screen
- Ability to adjust dictated text by using the Digital Crown to scroll to where you want to edit
- Support for #images in Messages allows you to search for a GIF or select one you've used recently

Photos

- Redesigned Photos app allows you to view and manage your photo library from your wrist
- Highlights from Memories and featured photos, in addition to your favorites, sync to Apple Watch with new content generated daily
- Photos from synced Memories will be displayed in a mosaic-style grid, highlighting some of your best shots with a larger photo
- Ability to share photos through Messages and Mail

Find My

- Find Items app allows you to locate items with an attached AirTag and compatible third-party products with the Find My network
- Find Devices app helps you locate your misplaced Apple devices, as well as devices owned by someone in your Family Sharing group

 Find My separation alerts notify you if you leave your Apple device, AirTag, or compatible third-party item behind

Weather

- Next-hour precipitation notifications alert you when rain or snow is about to start or stop
- Severe weather notifications alert you about certain events including tornados, winter storms, flash floods, and more
- Precipitation chart that visually depicts the intensity of the rain

Other features and improvements:

- Focus lets you automatically filter notifications based on your current activity, such as fitness, sleep, gaming, reading, driving, work, or personal time
- Apple Watch automatically aligns with any Focus that you set in iOS, iPadOS or macOS, so you can manage notifications and stay focused
- Contacts app gives you the ability to access, share, and edit your contacts
- Tips app provides collections of helpful hints and suggestions for how to best use your Apple Watch and its built-in apps
- Redesigned Music app allows you to find and listen to music and radio all in one place
- Ability to share songs, albums, and playlists in the Music app through Messages and Mail
- Support for multiple timers, including Siri support for adding labels to timers
- Cycle Tracking can now use heart rate data from Apple Watch to improve predictions
- New Memoji stickers to send a shaka, a handwave, a lightbulb moment, and more
- Over 40 outfit choices and up to three different colors to customize your Memoji stickers's clothing and headwear

- Real-time measurement of your headphone audio level in Control Center when listening to media
- Ability to add transit cards in Wallet for Family Setup users in Hong Kong, Japan, and select cities in China mainland and US
- Google account support for Calendar and Mail for Family Setup users
- AssistiveTouch allows users with upper limb differences to answer calls, control an onscreen pointer, launch a menu of actions, and more, using hand gestures like a pinch or a clench
- Additional larger text size option available in Settings
- Support for the ECG app on Apple Watch Series 4 or later in Lithuania
- Support for irregular heart rhythm notifications in Lithuania

iPadOS 15 October 01, 2021

Multitasking

- The multitasking menu at the top of apps lets you enter Split View, Slide Over, or go full screen
- A multiwindow shelf appears within apps giving you quick access to all the open windows
- App Switcher now includes Slide Over apps and allows you to create Split View spaces by dragging one app over another
- A new option to open a window centered on screen without leaving your current view in Mail, Messages, Notes, Files and supported third-party apps
- Keyboard shortcuts enable you to create a Split View or Slide Over using an external keyboard

Widgets

- Widgets can be placed among apps on your Home Screen
- Extra large widget size designed just for iPad
- New widgets include Find My, Contacts, App Store, Game Center, and Mail
- Suggested layouts include widgets for the apps you use most arranged on your Home Screen
- Intelligent widget suggestions automatically appear in your Smart Stack at the right time based on your activity

App Library

- App Library automatically organizes the apps on your iPad into an easy-to-navigate view
- App Library is available from an icon in the dock
- Home Screen pages can be reordered or hidden to fit your needs

Quick Note & Notes

- Quick Note lets you take a note from anywhere in iPadOS by swiping your finger or Apple Pencil
- Links from an app or web page can be added to your Quick Note to create context
- Tags let you easily categorize and organize your notes
- The Tag Browser in the sidebar lets you tap any tag or combination of tags to quickly view tagged notes
- Activity view gives a summary of updates since the last time you viewed the note, along with a day-to-day list of activity from each collaborator
- Mentions let you notify a person in a shared note

FaceTime

 Spatial audio makes people's voices sound like they're coming from the direction in which

- they're positioned on the screen on Group FaceTime calls (iPad with A12 Bionic and later)
- Voice Isolation blocks background noises so your voice is crystal clear (iPad with A12 Bionic and later)
- Wide Spectrum brings all background noises into your call (iPad with A12 Bionic and later)
- Portrait mode blurs your background and puts the focus on you (iPad with A12 Bionic and later)
- Grid view displays up to six people at a time in Group FaceTime calls in the same-size tiles and highlights the current speaker
- FaceTime links allow you to invite your friends into a FaceTime call, even friends on Android or Windows devices can join from their browser

Messages and Memoji

- Shared with You shows content sent to you by friends in Messages conversations in a new section in Photos, Safari, Apple News, Apple Music, Apple Podcasts, or the Apple TV app
- Pinned content elevates the shared content you choose and makes it more prominent in Shared with You, Messages search, and the Details view of the conversation
- Multiple photos sent in Messages are displayed as a glanceable collage or a swipeable stack
- Over 40 Memoji outfit choices and up to three different colors to customize your Memoji stickers's clothing and headwear

Focus

- Focus lets you automatically filter notifications based on what you're currently doing, such as fitness, sleep, gaming, reading, driving, work, or personal time
- Focus uses on-device intelligence during set up to suggest apps and people you want to allow notifications from in a Focus

- Home Screen pages can be customized to match your apps and widgets to a specific Focus
- Contextual suggestions intelligently suggest a Focus based on your context, using signals like location or time of day
- Status appears to your contacts in Messages conversations that your notifications are silenced with Focus

Notifications

- A new look displays contact photos for people and larger icons for apps
- Notification summary delivers a helpful collection of your notifications daily, based on a schedule you set
- Notifications can be muted from any app or messaging thread for the next hour, or for the day

Maps

- Detailed city maps display elevation, trees, landmarks, crosswalks and turn lanes, 3D views to navigate complex interchanges, and more in San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, New York, and London, with more cities coming in the future (iPad with A12 Bionic and later)
- New driving features include a new map for drivers that highlights details like traffic and incidents, and a route planner that lets you view your upcoming journey by choosing a future departure or arrival time
- Updated transit experience provides one-tap access to departures near you
- Interactive 3D globe shows enhanced details for mountain ranges, deserts, forests, oceans, and more (iPad with A12 Bionic and later)
- Redesigned place cards make it easy to learn about and interact with places, and a new home for Guides editorially curates the best recommendations for places you'll love

Safari

- Tab Groups help you save and organize your tabs and easily access them across devices
- Start page can be customized with a background image and new sections like Privacy Report, Siri Suggestions, and Shared With You
- Web extensions on iPadOS help you personalize your browsing and can be downloaded through the App Store
- Voice search lets you search the web using your voice

Translate

- The Translate app for iPad is designed for conversations and can work completely offline so your conversations stay private
- System-wide translation lets you select text and handwriting throughout iPadOS and translate it with a tap
- Auto Translate detects when you start speaking and when you stop in a conversation, automatically translating your speech without tapping the microphone button
- Face to face view allows each person to view the conversation from their own side

Live Text

- Live Text makes text interactive in all your photos so you can copy and paste, look up, and translate in Photos, Screenshot, Quick Look, Safari, and live previews with Camera (iPad with A12 Bionic and later)
- Data detectors for Live Text recognize phone numbers, emails, dates, street addresses, and more in photos so you can take action on them

Spotlight

 Rich results brings together all the information you're looking for on contacts, actors, musicians, movies, and TV shows

- Photos can be searched from your photo library by locations, people, scenes, text in the photos or other things in the photos, like a dog or a car
- Web image search allows you to search for images of people, animals, monuments, and more

Photos

- New look for Memories with a new interactive interface, animated cards with smart, adaptive titles, new animation and transition styles, and multiple image collages
- Apple Music can be added to your Memories for Apple Music subscribers, and personalized song suggestions combine expert recommendations with your music tastes and what's in your photos and videos
- Memory mixes let you set the mood by selecting from different songs and a Memory look to match
- New memory types include additional international holidays, child-focused memories, trends over time, and improved pet memories
- Info pane now displays rich information about the photo like which camera and lens, shutter speed, file size, and more
- Visual Look Up recognizes art, landmarks around the works, plants and flowers, books, and dog and cat breeds in your photos so you can learn more about them

Siri

- On-device processing means audio of your requests does not leave your device by default, and means Siri is able to process many requests offline (iPad with A12 Bionic and later)
- Share items with Siri to send on screen items like photos, web pages and Maps locations to any of your contacts
- Onscreen context can be used by Siri to refer to contacts on screen to send them a message or place a call

 On-device personalization allows Siri speech recognition and understanding to improve privately (iPad with A12 Bionic and later)

Privacy

- Mail Privacy Protection protects your privacy by preventing email senders from learning about your Mail activity, your IP address or whether you've opened their email
- Safari Intelligent Tracking Prevention now also prevents trackers from profiling you using your IP address

iCloud+

- iCloud+ is a cloud subscription service that gives you premium features and additional iCloud storage
- iCloud Private Relay (beta) sends your requests through two separate internet relays and encrypts the internet traffic leaving your device so you can browse Safari in a more secure and private way
- Hide My Email lets you create unique, random email addresses that forward to your personal inbox so you can send and receive email without having to share your real email address
- HomeKit Secure Video supports connecting more security cameras without using your iCloud storage quota
- Custom email domain personalizes your iCloud Mail address and allows you to invite family members to use the same domain

Accessibility

- Image exploration with VoiceOver allows you to get even more details about people and objects, and learn about text and table data in photos
- VoiceOver image descriptions in Markup let you add your own image descriptions that can be read by VoiceOver

- Per-app settings allow you to customize display and text size settings only for the apps you want
- Background sounds play balanced, bright, or dark noise, ocean, rain, and stream sounds continuously in the background to mask unwanted environmental or external noise
- Sound actions for Switch Control enable you to control your iPad with simple mouth sounds
- Audiograms can be imported in Settings so you can customize Headphone Accommodations based on your hearing test results
- New Voice Control languages include Mandarin Chinese (China mainland), Cantonese (Hong Kong), French (France), and German (Germany)
- Memoji options including a cochlear implant, oxygen tubes, or a soft helmet

This release also includes other features and improvements:

- Spatial audio with dynamic head tracking in Apple Music brings an even more immersive experience to Dolby Atmos music with AirPods Pro and AirPods Max
- Keyboard shortcut enhancements include more keyboard shortcuts, a redesigned compact look, and better organization by categories
- Apple ID Account Recovery Contacts lets you to choose one or more people you trust to help you reset your password and regain access to your account
- Temporary iCloud storage grants you as much iCloud storage as you need to create a temporary backup of your data, free of charge, for up to three weeks when you buy a new device
- Find My separation alerts notify you if you leave a supported device or item behind and Find My will give you directions to your item

- Game highlights of up to the last 15 seconds of gameplay can be saved using game controllers like the Xbox Series X | S Wireless Controller or Sony PS5 DualSenseTM Wireless Controller
- App Store in-app events help you discover timely events within apps and games such as a game competition, a new movie premiere, or a livestreamed experience

iOS 15 October 01, 2021

FaceTime

- Spatial audio makes people's voices sound like they're coming from the direction in which they're positioned on the screen on Group FaceTime calls (iPhone XS, iPhone XS Max, iPhone XR and later)
- Voice Isolation blocks background noises so your voice is crystal clear (iPhone XS, iPhone XS Max, iPhone XR and later)
- Wide Spectrum brings all background noises into your call (iPhone XS, iPhone XS Max, iPhone XR and later)
- Portrait mode blurs your background and puts the focus on you (iPhone XS, iPhone XS Max, iPhone XR and later)
- Grid view displays up to six people at a time in Group FaceTime calls in the same-size tiles and highlights the current speaker
- FaceTime links allow you to invite your friends into a FaceTime call, even friends on Android or Windows devices can join from their browser

Messages and Memoji

- Shared with You shows content sent to you by friends in Messages conversations in a new section in Photos, Safari, Apple News, Apple Music, Apple Podcasts, or the Apple TV app
- Pinned content elevates the shared content you choose and makes it more prominent in Shared

- with You, Messages search, and the Details view of the conversation
- Multiple photos sent in Messages are displayed as a glanceable collage or a swipeable stack
- Over 40 Memoji outfit choices and up to three different colors to customize your Memoji stickers's clothing and headwear

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- with more cities coming in the future (iPhone XS, iPhone XS Max, iPhone XR and later)
- New driving features include a new map that highlights details like traffic and incidents, and a route planner that lets you view your upcoming journey by choosing a future departure or arrival time
- Immersive walking directions show step-bystep directions in augmented reality (iPhone XS, iPhone XS Max, iPhone XR and later)
- Updated transit experience provides one-tap access to departures near you, makes it easy to see and interact with your route using one hand, and notifies you when approaching your stop
- Interactive 3D globe shows enhanced details for mountain ranges, deserts, forests, oceans, and more (iPhone XS, iPhone XS Max, iPhone XR and later)
- Redesigned place cards make it easy to learn about and interact with places, and a new home for Guides editorially curates the best recommendations for places you'll love

Safari

- Bottom tab bar is easier to reach and helps you move between tabs by swiping left or right
- Tab Groups help you save and organize your tabs and easily access them across devices
- Tab overview grid view displays your open tabs
- Start page can be customized with a background image and new sections like Privacy Report, Siri Suggestions, and Shared With You
- Web extensions on iOS help you personalize your browsing and can be downloaded through the App Store
- Voice search lets you search the web using your voice

Wallet

- Home keys let you tap to unlock a supported home or apartment door lock (iPhone XS, iPhone XS Max, iPhone XR and later)
- Hotel keys allow you to tap to unlock your room at participating hotels
- Office keys allow you to tap to unlock your office doors for participating corporate offices
- Car keys with Ultra Wideband help you unlock, lock, and start your supported car without having to take your iPhone out of your bag or pocket (iPhone 11 and iPhone 12 models)
- Remote keyless entry functions on your car keys allow you to lock, unlock, honk your horn, preheat your car, or open your trunk on your supported vehicle

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- Data detectors for Live Text recognize phone numbers, emails, dates, street addresses, and more in photos so you can take action on them
- Live Text is available from the keyboard letting you insert text directly from the camera viewfinder into any text field

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Health

- Sharing lets you choose health data, alerts, and trends to share with people important to you or those who are caring for you, including your healthcare provider
- Trends lets you see how a given health metric is progressing over time and can notify you when a new trend has been detected
- Walking Steadiness is a new metric that can assess your risk of falling and notify you if your walking steadiness is low (iPhone 8 and later)
- Verifiable health records enable you to download and store verifiable versions of COVID-19 vaccines and lab results
- Lab results can now be pinned for quick access and include highlights that show how your labs have changed over time

Weather

- A new design shows the most important weather information for that location and includes new maps modules
- Weather maps can be viewed in full-screen and show precipitation, temperature and air quality in supported countries
- Next-hour precipitation notifications alert you when rain or snow is about to start or stop in Ireland, U.K., and US
- New animated backgrounds more accurately represent the sun position, clouds, and precipitation (iPhone XS, iPhone XS Max, iPhone XR and later)

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- Memoji options including a cochlear implant, oxygen tubes, or a soft helmet

This release also includes other features and improvements:

- Tags in Notes and Reminders help you quickly categorize your items to make them easy to find, and you can use custom Smart Folders and Smart Lists to automatically collect your notes and reminders based on rules you can define
- Mentions in Notes enable you to notify others of important updates in shared notes, and an all-new Activity view displays all the recent changes in a note in a single list
- Spatial audio with dynamic head tracking in Apple Music brings an even more immersive experience to Dolby Atmos music with AirPods Pro and AirPods Max
- System-wide translation lets you select text throughout the system and translate it with a tap, even in photos
- New widgets include Find My, Contacts, App Store, Sleep, Game Center, and Mail
- Cross-app drag and drop function lets you pick up images, documents, and files from one app to another
- Keyboard magnification loupe magnifies the text when moving the cursor
- Apple ID Account Recovery Contacts lets you to choose one or more people you trust to help you reset your password and regain access to your account
- Temporary iCloud storage grants you as much iCloud storage as you need to create a temporary backup of your data, free of charge, for up to three weeks when you buy a new device

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This release includes even more features and improvements. For more information, please visit this website: https://www.apple.com/ios/ios-15/features/

Security Update 2021-005 (Catalina) Sep 14, 2021 — 1.45 GB

System Requirements macOS 10.15

macOS Catalina Security Update 2021-005 (19H1417) is recommended for all users and improves the security of macOS.

Security Update 2021-005 (Mojave) Aug 5, 2021 — 1.79 GB

System Requirements macOS 10.14

macOS Mojave Security Update 2021-005 (18G9323) is recommended for all users and improves the security of macOS.