

printout

Keystone MacCentral Macintosh Users Group ♦ www.keystonemac.com

Keystone MacCentral October 21st Meeting

Please see your membership email for the links
to this month's Zoom meeting or email us
at KeystoneMacCentral@mac.com.

During our program this month we plan to discuss

- ☞ Action Button Secrets Every iPhone User
Should Know
- ☞ INCREDIBOX. { <https://www.incredibox.com> }
Incredibox lets you create your own music
with the help of a merry crew of beatboxers.



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.

CONTENTS

Keystone MacCentral October Meeting	1
Why Using ChatGPT Is Not Bad for the Environment <i>By Adam Engst</i>	3
When Should You Upgrade to Apple's macOS 26 Releases? <i>By Adam Engst</i>	3 - 4

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 © 2026, Keystone MacCentral, 310 Somerset Drive, Shiresmanstown, PA 17011.

Nonprofit user groups may reproduce articles from the Printout only if the copyright notice is included, the articles have not been edited, are clearly attributed to the original author and to the Keystone MacCentral Printout, and a copy of the publication is mailed to the editor of this newsletter.

The opinions, statements, positions, and views stated herein are those of the author(s) or publisher and are not intended to be the opinions, statements, positions, or views of Apple, Inc.

Throughout this publication, trademarked names are used. Rather than include a trademark symbol in every occurrence of a trademarked name, we are using the trademarked names only for editorial purposes and to the benefit of the trademark owner with no intent of trademark infringement.

Board of Directors

President

Linda J Cober

Treasurer

Tim Sullivan

Program Director

Dennis McMahon

Membership Chair

Eric Adams

Newsletter Editor

Tim Sullivan

Web Master

Tom Bank II



Why Using ChatGPT Is Not Bad for the Environment

At his Substack newsletter The Weird Turn Pro, [Andy Masley presents a comprehensive argument](#) that concerns about ChatGPT's environmental impact are misplaced:

The question this post is trying to answer is "Should I boycott ChatGPT or limit how much I use it for the sake of the climate?" and the answer is a resounding and conclusive "No."

It's not bad for the environment if you or any number of people use [ChatGPT](#), [Gemini](#), [Claude](#), [Grok](#), or other [large language model](#) (LLM) chatbots. You can use ChatGPT as much as you like without worrying that you're doing any harm to the planet. Worrying about your personal use of ChatGPT is wasted time that you could spend on the serious problems of climate change instead.

I've received some questions and comments about the environmental impact of AI chatbots and imagebots, so I was pleased to find Masley's detailed analysis. If you're interested in the topic, the linked article is just the cheat sheet for a

longer [9,000-word article](#) on the topic, and he has also [responded to criticisms](#) of his posts.

His conclusion is that the amount of energy and water consumed by a ChatGPT prompt, while real when multiplied across 1 billion prompts per day, isn't worth worrying about compared to other activities. One ChatGPT prompt is roughly equivalent to running a vacuum cleaner for 10 seconds or a laptop for 3 minutes—or possibly [even ten times less](#). Masley calculates that, on a daily basis, the average American uses enough energy for 10,000 ChatGPT prompts and consumes enough water for 24,000–61,000 prompts. When it comes to addressing climate change, we would be better served to focus on systemic change, or at least other personal lifestyle decisions.

While there is no requirement for anyone to use a chatbot or AI answer engine, if you are exploring their capabilities, you can do so without worrying that they will add to your existing climate footprint. 🗑️

By Adam Engst

When Should You Upgrade to Apple's OS 26 Releases?

As promised, Apple has released the first versions of all its 2026 operating systems, including a few new Apple Intelligence features. Many of you are thinking about upgrading. But would it be better to wait? Let's consider a few broad categories of users.

- Early adopters: You know who you are, and you're probably well into your installation process by now. That's fine. Although the betas

have been mostly stable in my testing, I've noticed various cosmetic problems with the new Liquid Glass interface on my iPhone 16 Pro and M1 MacBook Air. (Functional problems, that is; I'm not a big fan of Liquid Glass even when it works correctly.) In particular, there have been occasional slow redraws when switching screens. Regardless, it's unlikely that anyone upgrading today will find themselves dead in the water.



- **Enthusiastic users:** Those eager to try the latest features but unwilling to tolerate major issues can update everything except macOS within a week or so. That short delay gives Apple time to fix any initial problems with overloaded download servers or show-stopping bugs. However, I suggest waiting longer before updating macOS to let early adopters report bugs that slipped past beta testing. If you rely on your Mac for work, the stakes are higher, and more caution is warranted.
- **Cautious users:** Those who see Apple devices as necessary tools should wait until at least the **macOS 26.1** releases scheduled for October. These updates will likely address the most prominent bugs that emerge between now and then. Even then, it's safest to delay updating macOS. If you feel any trepidation about installing Tahoe, wait until macOS 26.2 appears, likely in mid-December. The advantage of waiting for macOS 26.2 is that you can upgrade during the holiday break when you're likely to have more time to install carefully (after making at least two separate backups) and recover from any problems. For full details and help with upgrading from our friends at Take Control, read *Take Control of Tahoe* by Joe Kissell and *Take Control of iOS 26* and *iPadOS 26* by Glenn Fleishman.
- **Reluctant upgraders:** Even those with no interest in new features should upgrade eventually, at least by the last batch of releases before Apple's Worldwide Developer Conference in June. After that, the only bugs likely to be fixed are security vulnerabilities, so there's no benefit in waiting longer. Although you can delay macOS upgrades for up to two years due to Apple's ongoing security updates for the last two versions, the longer you wait, the higher the risk of encountering installation issues. You generally cannot delay iOS and iPadOS upgrades too long because Apple



releases security updates only for the latest versions of those operating systems, along with older versions for obsolete devices that can't upgrade.

I'll be writing about the most interesting new features across these operating systems, just as many other Apple-focused publications, websites, and bloggers will. For now, though, these links should pique your interest in what's new:

- **iOS 26**
 - Product page
 - Feature list PDF
 - Release notes
 - Security notes (26 vulnerabilities fixed)
- **iPadOS 26**
 - Product page
 - Feature list PDF
 - Release notes
 - Security notes (26 vulnerabilities fixed)
- **watchOS 26**
 - Product page
 - Release notes
 - Security notes (18 vulnerabilities fixed)
- **visionOS 26**
 - Product page
 - Security notes (17 vulnerabilities fixed)
- **tvOS 26**
 - Release notes
 - Security notes (16 vulnerabilities fixed)
- **HomePod Software 26**
 - Release notes

I especially recommend the PDF feature lists for macOS 26 Tahoe, iOS 26, and iPadOS 26 because they're easier to scan than Apple's otherwise lovely product pages. Additionally, they might be more comprehensive, and I often find that the small features not highlighted on the product pages make the most difference in my everyday use. 🍏