THE USEFUL TECH

WWDC 2026 · THE COMPLETE GUIDE

Everything new in *iOS 27*

Every feature Apple announced, sorted into 21 clean categories.
Skim it, search it, keep it.

iOS 27 | iPadOS 27 | macOS Golden Gate | watchOS 27 | visionOS 27

200+

features, organized

A free guide from **The Useful Tech**
The #1 Apple blog on Medium

The whole update, on one page

Apple spent the keynote talking about Siri AI, which you cannot use yet. Underneath all of that is a genuinely huge update that ships this fall, full of small fixes you will actually feel every day.

This is the complete list, pulled from everything Apple announced and grouped by area so you can find what matters to you in seconds. The big headline features are first, then everything else by category.

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Want the hands-on version?

I'll break down the features worth using once I've lived with the beta. Get it first by email.

newsletter.theusefultech.com

Based on Apple's WWDC 2026 announcements. Features, names and availability may change before release, and some features require newer hardware or specific regions and languages.

The headline features

The twelve changes everyone will be talking about.

01

Siri AI

A rebuilt, conversational assistant with its own app that syncs across your devices.

02

Personal context

Siri can pull an address from an old text or find a note just by asking.

03

Visual Intelligence

A new Siri mode in Camera. Point at a bill to split it or a dish for nutrition.

04

Write with Siri

Draft and edit text anywhere you type, in your own tone in Mail and Messages.

05

Image Playground

Free, private image generation in any style, including photorealistic.

06

Spatial Reframing

Move the camera after the shot is taken and let AI fill in the rest.

07

Faster everything

Apps launch up to 30% faster, photos 70%, AirDrop 80%, files up to 5x.

08

Smarter search

A rebuilt index makes Spotlight, Photos and Mail finally find what you need.

09

Adjustable Liquid Glass

A new slider sets the look from ultra clear to fully tinted.

10

Safari that works for you

Auto-group tabs into topics and let Notify Me watch a page for changes.

11

Call Context

Your confirmation code appears the moment you call a business.

12

New child safety tools

Ask to Browse, Time Allowances and expanded Communication Safety.

Every feature, by category

311 individual updates across every Apple platform.

01 Apple Intelligence & Siri

19 UPDATES

- Siri AI, a conversational assistant with a dedicated app
- Personal context understanding across your apps
- On-screen awareness of what you are doing
- App actions across Messages, Music, Reminders and more
- Broad world knowledge with live information from the web
- Visual Intelligence with a new Siri mode in Camera
- Visual Intelligence on iPad, Mac and Apple Vision Pro
- Write with Siri anywhere you type
- Siri matches your tone in Mail and Messages
- Customize Siri's voice, expressivity and pace
- System-wide automatic proofreading
- More accurate on-device dictation
- Image Playground with photorealistic styles
- Edit individual objects in generated images
- Call Context surfaces info when you call a business
- Describe a Shortcut in plain language
- Add Calendar events with natural language
- One-tap Suggestions in Messages and Mail
- Foundation Models framework for developers

> Siri AI launches in beta later this year, in English first, and is not available in the EU on iPhone at launch. Some features arrive in English and may not be available in every region.

02 Performance & System

34 UPDATES

- Up to 30% faster app launches
- New photos load up to 70% faster
- AirDrop transfers up to 80% faster
- Up to 5x faster file browsing and transfers
- Optimized CPU scheduler, supported back to iPhone 11
- Rebuilt search index for Spotlight, Photos and Mail
- More relevant Spotlight search suggestions
- Faster shortcuts and actions indexing in Spotlight
- Faster app launches across the system
- Smoother unlocking on iPhone
- Faster Lock Screen switching
- Smoother paging between Home Screen pages
- Lock Screen stays awake while scrolling notifications
- Live Activities in the Dynamic Island in landscape
- Smoother scrolling in App Library
- Smoother scrolling in Control Center and Control Gallery
- Independent alarm volume
- Holiday-aware alarms in China
- Faster and more reliable NFC reading
- Improved Bluetooth power management
- More power-efficient Personal Hotspot on N1 devices
- Faster Rapid Return to Service
- Web audio no longer interrupts system audio
- More efficient emergency alert monitoring
- Switch between two iPhones on the same number
- Improved battery insights
- Real-time widget updates when an app is open
- Extra-large widgets in iOS
- Smoother scrolling in the widget gallery
- Faster PDF saving
- Improved game controller settings
- Updated hourly and 10-day views in Weather
- Improved performance in Apple News

- Smoother animations in News and Stocks articles

03 Design & Liquid Glass

12 UPDATES

- Customize Liquid Glass from ultra clear to fully tinted
- Updated Liquid Glass with more uniform refraction
- Improved contrast and readability
- Sharper app icons with new layers of Liquid Glass
- Uniform toolbars across apps
- Edge-to-edge sidebars
- Colorful sidebar icons
- Consistent corner radii across windows
- More distinct active windows
- Updated menu bar icons
- Updated app icons
- Swipe down to refresh in macOS

04 Photos & Camera

27 UPDATES

- Spatial Reframing to reposition a shot after capture
- Extend tool to add realistic background
- Enhanced Clean Up for larger objects
- Image Playground for Messages backgrounds and wallpapers
- Save any slideshow as a video
- Save a video frame as a photo
- Customize slideshows
- Captured by Me collection
- Identity Documents collection
- Album organization improvements
- Star ratings
- Selection view
- Bold keywords for photos and videos
- Search using additional metadata
- More pleasing search results for people and pets
- More accurate photo orientation
- Faster loading of new captures
- Faster rendering of the Collections tab
- Faster Text Recognition in photos and documents
- Choose a specific pet in Photo Shuffle
- Option to include photos of yourself in Photo Shuffle
- Easier full-screen view from the Photos widget
- All options displayed in Camera settings
- Easier-to-reach Camera experience
- Camera uses less power in Low Power Mode
- Faster Camera launch in Low Power Mode
- Smoother camera switching when zooming in video

05 Messages & FaceTime

15 UPDATES

- One-tap Suggestions for reminders, notes and photos
- Search photos by people, places and keywords
- Search conversations by phone number or nickname
- Drawing app in Messages
- Send indicator for large attachments
- Continuous sending of photos, videos and texts
- Failed messages automatically retry sending
- Find offloaded media in Messages
- Thumbnails for offloaded media
- Consolidated notifications for multiple Tapbacks
- Improved Messages syncing across devices
- Easier to add recent camera captures
- Dual camera in FaceTime
- Improved FaceTime quality on poor connections

- FaceTime Live Captions for Traditional Chinese

06 Mail

7 UPDATES

- More relevant suggestions based on context
- Improved Top Results
- New ranking system for more relevant search
- Faster message loading
- More reliable search indexing
- Improved list formatting
- Improved unread badge accuracy

07 Safari

10 UPDATES

- Automatic tab grouping into topics
- Notify Me monitors a page for changes
- Describe an extension in natural language
- Passwords fixes weak or compromised logins with a tap
- Faster start page content loading
- Faster web application performance
- Faster JavaScript handling
- Enhanced power efficiency
- Smoother scrolling and animations
- Smoother start page resizing

08 Maps

7 UPDATES

- Enhanced Flyover with sharp, detailed imagery
- Natural language search for routing
- More accurate Visited Places
- Visited Places available in more markets
- Guides available in more places
- Offline Maps update improvements
- Parked Car widget in the Smart Stack

09 Music, Podcasts & Audio

12 UPDATES

- AirPods Custom EQ
- GymKit on iPhone and AirPods Pro 3
- New AutoMix transitions
- Refreshed album pages in Apple Music
- Refreshed artist pages in Apple Music
- Improved reliability of Apple Music streaming
- Faster Apple Music playback start
- Faster Now Playing view loading
- Search within shows in Podcasts
- Updated video podcasts experience on Mac
- Redesigned Podcasts app for tvOS
- Faster AirPlay connections to Apple TV and HomePod

10 Notes, Freeform & Shortcuts

16 UPDATES

- Copy and paste as Markdown in Notes
- Section links in Notes
- Divider lines in Notes
- Drawing in Notes on macOS
- Describe a shortcut in plain language
- Redesigned Shortcuts editor

- Else if support in Shortcuts
- Group conversation support in Shortcuts
- Store data in Shortcuts
- Screenshot and notification automations in Shortcuts
- Expanded Get What's On Screen in Shortcuts
- Drawing in Freeform on macOS
- Collaborative folders in Freeform
- Dark Mode adaptive canvas in Freeform
- Faster, smoother Freeform boards
- More reliable right-to-left editing in Freeform

11 Calendar, Reminders & Journal

12 UPDATES

- Add and edit events with natural language
- Modify multiple Calendar events at once
- Streamlined event details
- Stylized notes from third-party Calendar accounts
- Alternate calendars for India keep your time zone while traveling
- Smoother Calendar scrolling
- Grocery List in Reminders language expansion
- Expanded autocategorization in Reminders
- More intuitive journaling streaks
- Time stamps for Journal entries
- Increased attachment limits in Journal
- iCloud sync status for Journal entries

12 Health & Fitness

14 UPDATES

- Perimenopause and menopause notifications in Cycle Tracking
- Perimenopause and menopause symptom logging
- Perimenopause and menopause education resources
- Fitness+ workouts for perimenopause and menopause
- Workout Buddy insights for pace, distance and duration
- Workout Buddy without your iPhone nearby
- Workout Buddy in Spanish
- More accurate distance for indoor runs and walks
- More accurate route maps after workouts
- Faster workout start
- Synced step count across Health and Fitness
- Sort by completed Fitness+ workouts
- Faster data updates in the Health app
- Support for time zone changes in Sleep

13 Home & Accessories

9 UPDATES

- AI descriptions of HomeKit Secure Video clips
- Search camera clips by what happened
- Combined related activity notifications
- 4K recording on supported cameras
- View multiple camera streams simultaneously
- More reliable HomeKit camera storage
- Faster HomeKit accessory pairing
- Faster smart home accessory updates
- Improved connectivity for Thread accessories

14 iCloud, Sharing & Find My

20 UPDATES

- Shared Albums open to Android and Windows
- Full-resolution photos and videos in Shared Albums
- Additional participant permissions in Shared Albums
- React with any emoji in Shared Albums
- Filter photos and videos in Shared Albums
- Easier to invite others to Shared Albums
- Recent activity in Shared Albums
- Easier to save photos from Shared Albums
- Content-based recipient suggestions for sharing
- Media sharing from third-party apps
- Richer iCloud collaboration link previews
- Access requests for items shared via iCloud
- Faster access to shared content on iCloud.com
- More accessible share links for collaboration
- Find My UI enhancements
- More flexible sharing in Find My
- Live Activity for Precision Finding with Friends
- Faster AirDrop transfers and recipient discovery
- Option to prioritize syncing to iCloud Photos
- Faster to start uploading to iCloud Photos

15 Continuity, iPad & Mac

24 UPDATES

- Control Center access in iPhone Mirroring
- App resizing in iPhone Mirroring
- DRM video support in iPhone Mirroring
- Mac mirroring in 5K resolution
- Expanded touch support in Sidecar
- Optional persistent menu bar on iPad
- App names in the iPad status bar
- iPhone app resizing in iPadOS
- Undo and redo Home Screen edits in iPadOS
- Extra-large widgets in Today view on iPad
- Faster window switching and closing in iPadOS
- Faster menu bar access in iPadOS
- Faster browsing and transfers in Files
- Faster network file browsing
- Scribble for Hindi and Marathi with Apple Pencil
- Ethernet status in the menu bar on Mac
- HDR for the macOS system
- More high-res, high-refresh modes for external displays
- More consistent window positioning across displays
- Smoother Mission Control and Spaces animations
- Faster user account creation on macOS
- More document formats in Preview
- Improved RDMA over Thunderbolt
- Autosize and reset columns

16 Apple Watch

16 UPDATES

- New tap gesture to select Smart Stack widgets
- New Smart Stack suggestions
- Dynamic app grid
- Consolidated Find My app
- Redesigned settings in the Apple Watch app
- Guest key
- New card balance in Wallet
- Transit cards and IDs in the Smart Stack
- Faster media playback
- Faster app extension launch
- More accurate step tracking
- More efficient water detection

- Improved distance accuracy on treadmills
- Better battery efficiency
- Improved Wi-Fi connectivity
- Apple Watch For Your Kids setup

17 Apple Vision Pro

11 UPDATES

- Turn panoramas into spatial scenes
- Use panoramas as Environments
- Spatial scene support for panoramas
- New windows with curvature
- Look and tap to view and respond to notifications
- Improved Control Center
- Extra-small widget option
- Widget for Mac Virtual Display
- Multiple tabs in Safari
- Faster boot and Wi-Fi connection
- Preview 3D models from Mac Virtual Display

18 Apple TV & CarPlay

10 UPDATES

- Smart downloads on Apple TV
- More responsive Control Center on tvOS
- AppleCare coverage details in tvOS Settings
- Larger text sizes on tvOS
- Smoother animations and app launches on tvOS
- Audio scrubbing in CarPlay Now Playing
- Audio MiniPlayer in CarPlay
- Improved navigation heading and GPS accuracy in CarPlay
- Improved wireless CarPlay reliability
- Proactive car key setup

19 Wallet & Apple Account

5 UPDATES

- Easier card selection and payments with Apple Pay
- Wallet Order Tracking in Australia and Canada
- Easier access to recovery codes for Apple Accounts
- Quick Start with a recovery contact
- Password help from the Lock Screen

20 Accessibility

13 UPDATES

- VoiceOver describes your surroundings and on-screen content
- Magnifier zooms in so you can ask about what's in frame
- Accessibility Reader cleans up text for easier reading
- More flexible Voice Control
- Faster Voice Control response
- Easier reading and editing of PDFs with VoiceOver
- Automatic captions for any video you watch
- Streamlined Assistive Access setup
- Faster entry and exit from Assistive and Guided Access

- Streamlined Touch Accommodations setup
- Pairing and handoff for MFi hearing devices
- Show Borders for macOS accessibility
- Improved PlayStation Access controller support

21 Languages & Keyboards

18 UPDATES

- New UI language for English (Canada) and English (Philippines)
- New keyboards for Afrikaans, Basque, Galician, Xhosa, Zulu and more
- New keyboards for Blackfoot, Comanche, Cree, Kiowa and Tsuut'ina
- New layouts for Slovenian and Estonian
- Pāṇini typing
- Scribble support for Hindi and Marathi
- Multilingual grammar checking
- Automatic punctuation on multilingual keyboards
- Punctuation suggestions while typing in Chinese
- Onscreen context for suggestions in Chinese and Japanese
- Improved Pinyin and Kana conversion
- QuickPath for the Vietnamese VNI keyboard
- Natural language time formats for Chinese and Hindi
- Faster multilingual handwriting processing
- Smart language and keyboard configuration suggestions
- Faster loading of emoji and sticker keyboards
- Call Recording transcriptions in more languages
- Live Voicemail transcription for English (Singapore) and Japanese

THAT'S IOS 27

The flash is in a *feature you'll wait for.* The flow ships this fall.

Bookmark this for when the update lands, and come find me for the parts that actually matter once I've tested them.

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