THE USEFUL TECH / FREE GUIDE

208

Everything New in macOS 27 Golden Gate

Every new feature and change, sorted into 18 categories you can skim in minutes, with the 12 that matter most explained in plain English.

macOS 27 Golden Gate | 208 features | 18 categories | Updated Sept 2026

START HERE

What is inside

macOS 27 Golden Gate came out on September 14, 2026. Most coverage shows the same ten features. This guide lists all 208 I could verify from Apple's release notes, Apple's enterprise notes, and hands-on testing reports, grouped so you can find what you care about fast.

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How to use it. Read the 12 headline features first. Then jump to the apps you use every day. Every feature has a one-line explanation, and most include where to find it. Paths like `Finder > Settings > General` mean open Finder, open its Settings, then the General tab.

Requirements. macOS 27 runs on every Apple silicon Mac and the MacBook Neo. Intel Macs cannot install it. Siri AI launched in English.

HEADLINE FEATURES

The 12 features worth trying first

#1

Siri AI

Siri finally answers questions, remembers conversations, and finds things in your own mail, messages, and photos.

```
Command-Space, then type a question. Or open the Siri app.
```

#2

Visual Intelligence

Select any part of your screen and ask about it, search for it, or turn it into an event or contact.

```
Shift-Command-Space, then drag.
```

#3

Safari Notify Me

Safari checks a page on your schedule and alerts you when the price drops or an item returns.

```
Safari > More Options > Notify Me
```

#4

Describe an Extension

Build your own Safari extension by typing what it should do.

```
Safari > More Options > Describe an Extension
```

#5

Describe a Shortcut

Shortcuts builds a working automation from one sentence.

```
Shortcuts > New Shortcut > describe field
```

#6

Spatial Reframing

Change the camera angle of a photo you already took.

```
Photos > Edit > Tools > Reframe
```

HEADLINE FEATURES

The 12 features worth trying first, continued

#7

Extend

Add more picture around a photo, like turning a landscape into a portrait.

```
Photos > Edit > Tools > Extend
```

#8

Suggested file names

Finder reads a file and suggests a name based on its contents.

```
Finder > Settings > General > Suggest file names
```

#9

Touch in Sidecar

Use your iPad as a touchscreen for your Mac.

```
Control Center > Screen Mirroring > your iPad
```

#10

Liquid Glass slider

Make the interface as clear or as solid as you like.

```
System Settings > Appearance > Liquid Glass
```

#11

Menu bar overflow

Icons that do not fit hide behind an arrow instead of disappearing under the notch.

```
Automatic. Click the arrows in the menu bar.
```

#12

Automatic tab topics

Safari sorts your open tabs into topics so you can find them.

```
Safari > Settings > Tabs > Organize Tabs
```

Siri AI

23 features

001	**Siri AI**	A new, conversational Siri powered by Apple Intelligence that answers questions instead of sending you to web results.
002	**Search or Ask in Spotlight**	Press Command-Space and type a question. Spotlight hands it to Siri when it is a question, not a search.
003	**Dedicated Siri app**	A chat-style app with your conversation history in a sidebar. Open it from Applications or Spotlight.
004	**Conversations sync through iCloud**	Start a chat on your Mac and pick it up on your iPhone or iPad.
005	**Pin conversations**	Right-click a chat in the Siri app to keep it at the top.
006	**Rename conversations**	Right-click a chat to give it a name you will recognise later.
007	**Search your Siri history**	Search across past conversations or inside the current one.
008	**Grid or list view**	Switch how past conversations are laid out in the Siri app.
009	**Conversation retention**	Keep Siri chats for 30 days, 1 year, or forever. System Settings > Siri.
010	**Choose what the Siri app opens to**	A new conversation or your last one.
011	**Attach files and photos**	Click + in the Siri app to add an image or document to a conversation.
012	**Voice mode in the Siri app**	Talk to Siri in a conversation instead of typing.
013	**Personal context**	Siri can find things across Messages, Mail, Notes, Photos, Maps, and your files.
014	**App Access controls**	Choose which apps Siri can read from. System Settings > Siri > App Access.
015	**Onscreen awareness**	Siri understands what is in the window you are looking at.
016	**Actions inside apps**	Ask Siri to create reminders, notes, events, and more, including in third-party apps that support App Intents.
017	**Answers with sources**	Siri answers from the web directly and shows where the information came from.
018	**Ask Siri in context menus**	Right-click selected text, an image, or a file and choose Ask Siri.

Siri AI

continued

019	**Spoken or silent responses**	Pick whether Siri reads answers aloud. System Settings > Siri.
020	**Custom Siri voice**	Adjust accent, speaking pace, and expressiveness. Pace and expressiveness need an M3 or later Mac with 12GB of memory.
021	**Movable Siri window**	Drag the Siri window anywhere on screen while you talk to it.
022	**ChatGPT still available**	Switch the Ask field to ChatGPT if you prefer it for a request.
023	**Simpler Siri settings**	The settings pane is now just called Siri instead of Apple Intelligence & Siri.

Visual Intelligence

9 features

024	**Visual Intelligence on the Mac**	Available on the Mac for the first time.
025	**Keyboard shortcut**	Press Shift-Command-Space and drag over any part of the screen.
026	**Ask about a selection**	Type a question about whatever you selected and keep the conversation going.
027	**Visual search**	Find similar products or images online from a selection.
028	**Add events from the screen**	Select a date on a webpage or screenshot and add it to Calendar.
029	**Save contacts from the screen**	Select a phone number or address and save it as a contact.
030	**Identify places and objects**	Select a landmark, plant, animal, or product and ask what it is.
031	**Automatic Visual Lookup**	Let Siri look at your screen automatically when you ask about it. System Settings > Siri.
032	**Right-click an image**	In supported apps, right-click an image and choose Ask Siri.

Apple Intelligence and Writing

9 features

033	**Writing with Siri**	Select text and ask Siri to rewrite, proofread, shorten, change the tone, or give feedback.
034	**Systemwide proofreading**	Automatic spelling and grammar suggestions across macOS.
035	**Writing that matches the recipient**	Apple says Siri can adapt drafts to how you usually write to a specific contact.
036	**Better dictation**	Automatic punctuation, capitalisation, and formatting while you dictate.
037	**Higher-accuracy dictation**	The most accurate dictation needs an M3 or later Mac with 12GB of memory.
038	**Suggested file and folder names**	Names based on what is inside, in Finder, Pages, Numbers, and TextEdit.
039	**New Apple Foundation Models**	AFM 3 Core and AFM 3 Core Advanced run on your Mac. Heavier tasks use AFM 3 Cloud and Cloud Pro.
040	**Private Cloud Compute**	Heavier requests run on Apple servers that do not store your data.
041	**Usage limits**	Apple says some Siri AI and Apple Intelligence features have usage limits.

Design and Liquid Glass

22 features

042	**Liquid Glass slider**	Set the interface anywhere from ultra-clear to fully tinted. System Settings > Appearance.
043	**Liquid Glass step in setup**	The welcome screen after updating lets you pick your transparency level.
044	**Dogcow Easter egg**	Scroll past the end of the Liquid Glass preview in Appearance to find Clarus the Dogcow.
045	**Better readability**	Stronger contrast and more diffused backgrounds behind text.
046	**Edge-to-edge sidebars**	Sidebars fill the full height of the window again instead of floating.
047	**Uniform toolbars**	Toolbars have backgrounds again and look the same across apps.

Design and Liquid Glass

continued

048	**Matching window corners**	Every window, including third-party apps, uses the same corner radius.
049	**More distinct active window**	The window you are working in stands out more from the rest.
050	**Redesigned app icons**	More layers of Liquid Glass for extra depth in light, dark, tinted, and clear modes.
051	**New traffic light buttons**	Glassy close, minimise, and zoom buttons with a bounce when you drag them.
052	**HDR interface elements**	Parts of the interface use HDR for more depth on supported displays.
053	**Fewer icons in menus**	Most of the icons Tahoe added beside menu commands are gone.
054	**Bold active sidebar item**	The selected item in a sidebar now uses bold text.
055	**Blue sidebar icons in Finder**	Finder sidebar icons are blue again.
056	**New battery icon**	A simpler battery icon in the menu bar, closer to the iPhone's.
057	**Refreshed menu bar icons**	Sharper outlines and better contrast.
058	**Bouncier animations**	Buttons pop when clicked and windows bounce slightly when dragged.
059	**Smoother Mission Control and Spaces**	Animations ease to a stop instead of ending abruptly.
060	**Golden Gate wallpapers**	New dynamic wallpapers that shift between light and dark.
061	**Golden Gate screen savers**	Sunset, Day, Evening, and Night views of the bridge.
062	**Wallpaper previews**	Dynamic wallpapers preview live in System Settings.
063	**New app icons**	Preview, Image Playground, and Maps get new icons.

Menu Bar, Dock and Control Center

5 features

064	**Menu bar overflow**	When icons do not fit, they collapse behind an arrow you can click to reveal them.
065	**Ethernet status**	The Wi-Fi menu shows a different icon when you are on a wired connection.
066	**Hide Control Center suggestions**	Turn off suggestions in the controls gallery. System Settings > Menu Bar.
067	**Background app indicator**	The Dock shows when a closed app is still working in the background.
068	**Dock indicators fade**	Open-app dots fade in and out instead of popping.

Spotlight and Search

6 features

069	**Rebuilt search index**	The index behind Spotlight, Photos, and Mail was rebuilt to be faster and more reliable.
070	**Faster indexing**	Especially for shortcuts and app actions.
071	**Better suggestions and top hits**	Spotlight surfaces what you meant more often.
072	**Describe a photo to find it**	Search your library in your own words.
073	**Larger icons in Apps view**	The apps list is more compact, with bigger, sharper icons.
074	**One place for search and Siri**	The same window searches files, the web, and asks Siri.

Finder and Files

6 features

075	**Suggest file names**	Click a file's name, pause, and pick a suggested name. Finder > Settings > General.
076	**Suggest folder names**	Works on folders too, based on what they hold.
077	**Suggestions when saving**	Apple says suggestions also appear when you save a new file.
078	**New Finder search animation**	Search opens with a smoother animation.

Finder and Files

continued

079	**Faster AirDrop**	Transfers finish faster on Mac and iPhone.
080	**Faster network file browsing**	Browsing SMB shares, NAS drives, and Windows servers is quicker, especially in large folders.

Safari

14 features

081	**Automatic tab topics**	Safari groups related tabs into topics as you browse. Safari > Settings > Tabs > Organize Tabs.
082	**Recommended topics**	Let Safari suggest topics and you decide which to keep.
083	**Save topics as Tab Groups**	Right-click a topic to move it into a Tab Group.
084	**Notify Me**	Safari watches a page for price drops, restocks, or anything you describe. More Options menu > Notify Me.
085	**Notify Me schedules**	Check hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly, on the days and times you pick.
086	**Alerts on every device**	Notify Me alerts reach your iPhone and iPad through iCloud.
087	**Describe an Extension**	Create a Safari extension by describing it. More Options menu > Describe an Extension.
088	**Existing extensions first**	Safari shows matching App Store extensions before building a new one.
089	**Edit your extensions**	Custom extensions live in Safari > Settings > Extensions, where you can change or delete them.
090	**Pull to refresh**	Swipe down past the top of a page with your trackpad to reload it.
091	**Smoother scrolling**	Scrolling, animations, and graphics feel smoother.
092	**Faster JavaScript**	Better web app performance.
093	**Faster Start Page**	The Start Page loads faster and resizes better.
094	**Lower power use**	Apple says Safari uses less battery.

Photos

17 features

095	**Spatial Reframing**	Change the camera angle of a photo after taking it. Edit > Tools > Reframe.
096	**Reframe sliders**	The Mac adds sliders for vertical, horizontal, straighten, and zoom.
097	**Extend**	Expand a photo beyond its original edges. Pick an aspect ratio or drag the frame.
098	**Better Clean Up**	Removes bigger objects and fills the gap with realistic detail.
099	**Clean Up quality modes**	Choose Auto, Fast, or High Quality.
100	**Cloud-powered edits**	Reframe and Extend use Private Cloud Compute, so you need an internet connection.
101	**Star ratings**	Rate photos with stars to find the best ones later.
102	**Keywords and better metadata search**	Tag and search your library by more details.
103	**Captured by Me**	A collection of photos and videos you took yourself, under Utilities.
104	**Save a video frame**	Pause a video and save that frame as a photo.
105	**Better slideshows**	Play any album or selection as a slideshow with custom music, transitions, and duration.
106	**Full-resolution Shared Albums**	Shared Albums no longer shrink your photos.
107	**Share with Android and Windows**	People without Apple devices can view and add photos through iCloud.com.
108	**Access requests**	People with the link can ask to join, and you approve them.
109	**Temporary albums**	Shared Albums can delete unsaved photos after 30 days.
110	**Shared Albums use storage**	Shared Albums now count against the creator's iCloud storage.
111	**Faster iCloud Photos uploads**	Uploads start sooner, with an option to prioritise syncing.

Shortcuts

10 features

112	**Describe a Shortcut**	Type what you want to automate and Shortcuts builds it.
113	**Starter suggestions**	The new shortcut screen offers ideas you can click to try.
114	**Describe changes**	Tell Shortcuts what to change and it edits the shortcut for you.
115	**Redesigned editor**	The classic editor is still there when you want to fine-tune.
116	**Else-if blocks**	Shortcuts can handle more than two outcomes in one decision.
117	**Screenshot trigger**	Run an automation every time you take a screenshot.
118	**Notification trigger**	Run an automation when a notification arrives.
119	**Window actions**	Shortcuts can resize and position windows.
120	**Store data**	Shortcuts can save information between runs.
121	**Smarter Get What's On Screen**	Better at reading the content of the current window.

Messages and Mail

11 features

122	**One-tap suggestions in Messages**	Turn something in a conversation into a reminder, note, or event with one click.
123	**Photo suggestions in Messages**	Relevant photos appear based on people and places in the chat.
124	**Drawing in Messages**	A new Drawing app in iMessage replaces the old handwriting feature.
125	**Consolidated tapback notifications**	Group chats no longer bury you in reaction alerts.
126	**Auto-retry failed messages**	Messages resend automatically when you reconnect.
127	**Better Messages sync**	Conversations stay in step across your devices.
128	**Relevance-ranked Mail search**	The most useful results come first, not just the newest.
129	**Search by meaning in Mail**	A search for dentist also finds dental clinic.
130	**Event suggestions in Mail**	Mail offers to add dates and flights in an email to Calendar.

Messages and Mail

continued

131	**Faster Mail**	Messages load faster and unread counts are more reliable.
132	**Pull to refresh in Mail**	Swipe down in your inbox to check for new mail.

Calendar, Reminders, Notes and Freeform

17 features

133	**Describe an event**	Type lunch with Angie at noon and Calendar fills in the fields.
134	**Edit several events at once**	Calendar can change multiple events in one go.
135	**Smoother Calendar scrolling**	Scrolling through weeks and months is smoother.
136	**Pull to refresh in Calendar**	Swipe down to refresh.
137	**Natural language in Reminders**	Describe a reminder and it fills in the details.
138	**Draw in Notes**	Sketch with your trackpad or mouse, with pens, pencil, marker, and watercolour.
139	**Signatures in Notes**	Add a saved signature to a note.
140	**Copy as Markdown**	Select text in a note and choose Edit > Copy as Markdown.
141	**Paste Markdown**	Markdown pasted into Notes keeps its formatting.
142	**Section links**	Link to a heading inside a note, handy for an index at the top.
143	**Divider lines**	Insert a divider to break up long notes.
144	**Freeform folders**	Organise boards into folders in the sidebar.
145	**Share Freeform folders**	Invite people to collaborate on a whole folder.
146	**Freeform dark mode**	The canvas itself switches to dark.
147	**Draw in Freeform**	Sketch on a board with your trackpad.
148	**Request to join boards**	Ask for access to a shared board or folder.
149	**Freeform in Shortcuts**	Automate adding content to boards.

Other Apps

21 features

150	**Weather redesign**	A daily Highlights summary plus Conditions, Precipitation, and Wind views.
151	**10-day rain and wind forecasts**	See rain chance, amount, and wind across the day.
152	**Video podcasts**	Watch video episodes in Podcasts, or turn video off to listen.
153	**Picture in Picture for podcasts**	Float a video podcast over your other windows.
154	**Search inside a show**	Find a specific episode or moment within a podcast.
155	**Apple Music artist pages**	Redesigned pages with motion artwork.
156	**Better AutoMix**	Smoother, DJ-style transitions between songs.
157	**Enhanced Flyover in Maps**	Sharper, more detailed 3D views for hundreds of cities.
158	**Image Playground redesign**	Describe what you want instead of stacking prompt bubbles.
159	**Photorealistic images**	Image Playground can now make realistic images, not just cartoons.
160	**Edit part of an image**	Select an area and change, move, or remove only that part.
161	**Image Playground aspect ratios**	Square, portrait, or landscape.
162	**Better Genmoji**	A describe-first interface and more consistent 3D results.
163	**Preview redesign**	A cleaner interface, more file formats, better PDF editing, and faster PDF saving.
164	**Call Context**	During a call, a code sent to your email or messages appears without leaving the call.
165	**Home app updates**	Update accessories, including Apple TV, from one place in Home settings.
166	**Better Home cameras**	Higher resolution feeds, multiple feeds at once, and smarter activity alerts.
167	**Search camera footage**	Find recorded moments by describing them.
168	**Find My tab bar**	Find My uses a tab bar like the iPhone app.

Other Apps

continued

169	**Clock alarm volume**	Set alarm volume separately from system volume.
170	**What's New screens**	Built-in apps explain their new features the first time you open them.

iPhone, iPad and AirPods

6 features

171	**Resize iPhone Mirroring**	Stretch the window to see more of supported apps, like a two-pane Mail view.
172	**Control Center in iPhone Mirroring**	Toggle iPhone settings without picking up your phone.
173	**Protected video in iPhone Mirroring**	Netflix, Apple TV, and other DRM video now play.
174	**Touch in Sidecar**	Tap controls, scroll with one finger, use gestures, and mark up on your iPad. Needs iPadOS 27.
175	**Adaptive Audio slider**	Set the balance between transparency and noise cancellation on supported AirPods.
176	**Custom AirPods EQ**	A new EQ that carries across your Apple devices.

Displays and Performance

9 features

177	**5K at 120Hz**	New high-resolution, high-refresh modes for compatible external displays.
178	**More display modes**	More resolutions and refresh rates for external monitors.
179	**Better ultrawide support**	Improved support for ultrawide displays.
180	**Windows stay put**	macOS remembers window positions and Spaces when you reconnect a display.
181	**5K Mac mirroring**	Mirror your Mac to a display at up to 5K.
182	**Faster app launches**	An optimised scheduler makes apps open quicker.

Displays and Performance

continued

183	**Faster account creation**	Setting up a new user account no longer hangs.
184	**Better Thunderbolt**	Improved RDMA over Thunderbolt.
185	**Better Bluetooth power use**	More efficient Bluetooth power management.

Accessibility

5 features

186	**Subtitles and Captioning pane**	Now its own section under Accessibility > Hearing.
187	**Captions across apps**	Turn on Apply across apps to see captions wherever supported audio plays.
188	**Automatic video captions**	Captions for supported videos, including your own.
189	**Caption translation**	Translate captions into another language.
190	**VoiceOver improvements**	Refinements for people who navigate by voice.

Family and Child Safety

7 features

191	**Ask to Browse**	Kids must request permission before visiting a new website in Safari.
192	**Wider Communication Safety**	Protections cover more apps and more kinds of content.
193	**Time Allowances**	Flexible time limits across app categories, with age-based guidance.
194	**App Schedules**	Choose which apps kids can use at different times of day and week.
195	**Contact approvals**	Parents approve who children can talk to.
196	**Pick apps individually**	Approve single apps or a curated set, and add more later.
197	**Redesigned parental controls**	Everything lives in System Settings > Family.

Compatibility and Under the Hood

11 features

198	**Apple silicon only**	Intel Macs stay on macOS Tahoe.
199	**MacBook Neo supported**	Runs the full update, including Siri AI.
200	**Last release with Rosetta**	Intel-only apps still run in macOS 27 but stop working in macOS 28.
201	**Intel app checker**	System Settings lists the Intel apps you used in the past year.
202	**Rosetta not reinstalled**	If you had Rosetta, it is not restored automatically after the upgrade.
203	**DVD playback phase-out**	Apple removed DVD playback from the developer SDK and plans to drop it later.
204	**Game Porting Toolkit 4**	Big performance gains for Windows games ported to the Mac.
205	**App Attest for Mac apps**	Developers can verify their apps are genuine.
206	**Stronger privacy database**	Apps can no longer read the local privacy (TCC) database directly.
207	**Siri AI languages**	English at launch. French, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish arrive in October.
208	**Siri AI in the EU**	Available on the Mac in the EU, unlike iPhone and iPad at launch.

BEFORE YOU GO LOOKING

Announced, but not in macOS 27.0

Apple showed these at WWDC. They are not in the September release, so do not spend time hunting for them yet.

Automatic password changes

The Passwords app was supposed to log in to sites and replace weak passwords for you. Apple pulled it before release. It is expected in a later update.

Personalised Smart Reply

Replies in Mail and Messages written in your own style were shown at WWDC but did not ship in macOS 27.0.

More Siri AI languages

French, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish are due in October.

SynthID labels

Invisible labels that mark AI-generated or AI-edited images arrive in a later update this year.

COMPATIBILITY

Macs that can run macOS 27

- MacBook Neo (2026)
- MacBook Air with Apple silicon (2020 and later)
- MacBook Pro with Apple silicon (2020 and later)
- iMac with Apple silicon (2021 and later)
- Mac mini with Apple silicon (2020 and later)
- Mac Studio (2022 and later)
- Mac Pro with Apple silicon (2023)

Every supported Mac gets Apple Intelligence. The most powerful on-device model, expressive Siri voices, and the most accurate dictation need an M3 or later Mac with at least 12GB of memory.

ONE MORE THING

A new macOS is the best time to set up your Mac properly

You now know what Apple added. The next step is everything Apple still leaves to you: the apps, settings, and defaults that make a Mac feel fast and yours.

FROM THE USEFUL TECH

The Mac Setup Guide

Every app, setting, and default I run on my own Mac, in one place. It is the setup I built over ten years of writing about Apple, so you can skip the trial and error and get a clean, fast Mac on macOS 27 in an afternoon.

Get the Mac Setup Guide

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