

# What's in macOS Sierra to Make It a No-Brainer Upgrade

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## What's in macOS Sierra to Make It a No-Brainer Upgrade

Apple's newly renamed desktop operating system will boast a number of features that will make it a worthwhile upgrade when it arrives later this year.

This fall Apple will release the latest version of its hugely popular desktop operating system that has been known as OS X since it was first released in March 2001. Apple regularly updated OS X to run on its increasingly powerful

desktop, laptop and notebook computers. The latest version of the operating system, now named macOS Sierra to bring the branding into line with Apple's other OS platforms, was announced at the company's Worldwide Developers Conference keynote on June 13. While the operating system's design hasn't changed all that much, Apple has bundled several new features in the platform, including support for the Siri virtual assistant, a multitude of enhancements to Messages and a revamped Apple Music that will make it much easier to access content. Sierra even includes support for Apple Pay and a handy tab feature for productivity enhancements. All in all, the free operating system is a nice upgrade over OS X El Capitan and stands as a fine alternative to its chief PC competitor, Windows 10. This slide show provides more details about macOS Sierra's features and why it will be an easy decision to download it when Apple releases it later this year.



## Siri's the Big Addition

The biggest addition to macOS Sierra is Siri. The long-awaited feature will allow users to interact with Apple's virtual personal assistant to search files, find content within those files and create appointments, among other features. Siri has also become more intelligent, allowing users to ask specific questions, like "show my photos from yesterday." Siri will then respond by displaying only those photos.



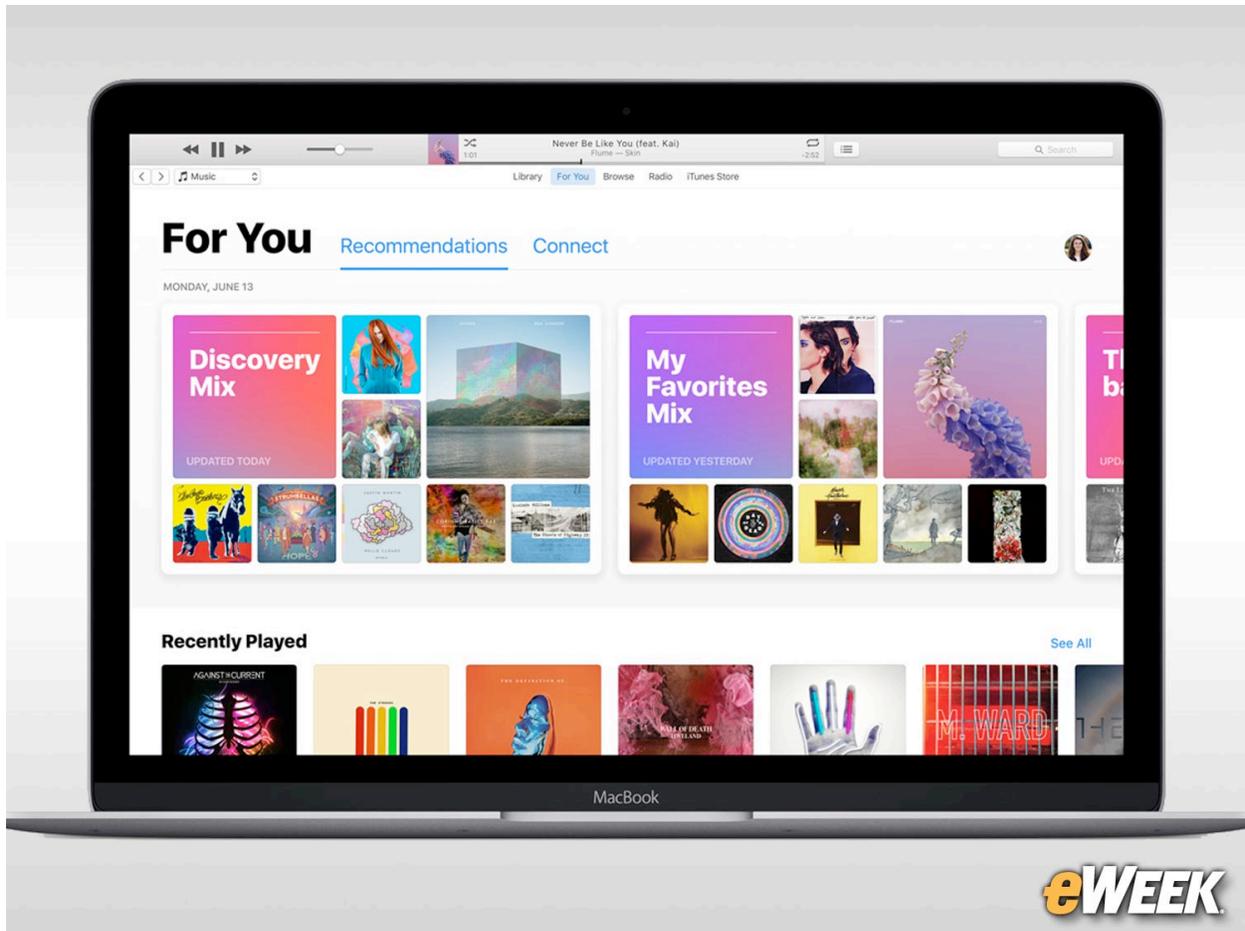
## There Are Major Enhancements to Messages

Apple spent considerable time talking about its updates to messaging during the WWDC keynote. On the Mac, users will find a wealth of new Messages features, including support for larger emojis, rich links so users can preview what they're clicking on, and the ability to play videos and other content from within the Messages container. It's a notable upgrade for a popular app.



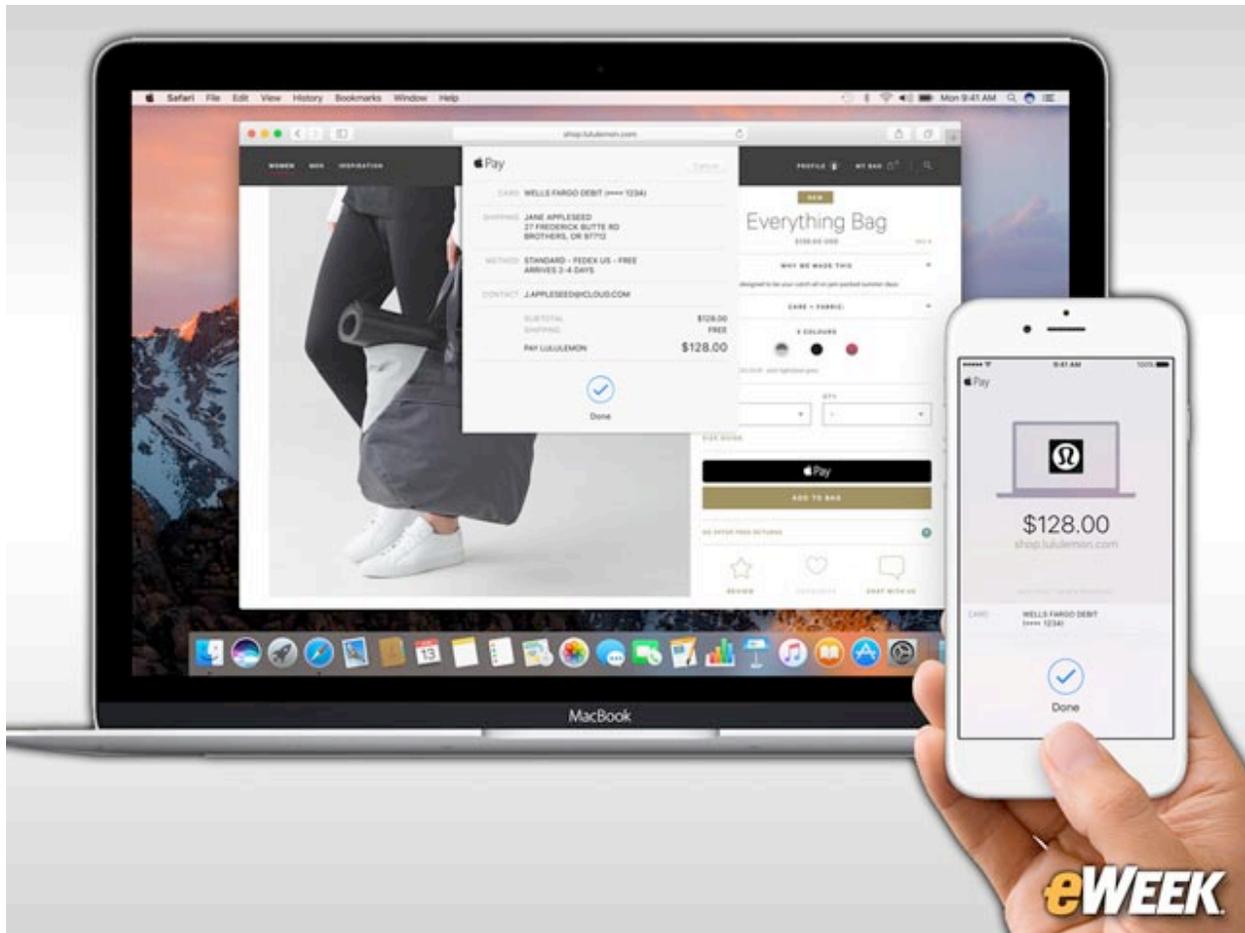
## Photos App Helps You Share Memories

The Photos app has come alive in macOS, boasting several new features that photographers might find appealing. In addition to a slight design overhaul, Photos has a new tool called Memories, a feature that automatically creates "stunning slideshows and shareable collections" of images. Plus, improved searching identifies objects and scenes and does a better job of keeping track of where pictures were taken. There's even a "People Album," so users can create albums based on who is featured in pictures.



## The New Apple Music Experience

Apple Music was in serious need of an overhaul, and that's just what it got in the new macOS. Apple Music now makes it much easier to find a user's library of content, and its For You recommendations engine has been "revamped" so users can find more music they'll actually like. There's also a new Browse button that helps users discover new content.



## Apple Pay Comes to Safari

Apple Pay is coming to Safari. When users are browsing e-commerce sites that support Apple Pay, they'll be given the option to pay for products through the iPhone maker's service. If they choose that option, they'll be asked to make an Apple Pay payment with an iPhone or Apple Watch paired to the Mac. It's part of a broader effort by Apple to expand Apple Pay's presence and ensure seamless connectivity across its Mac and iOS ecosystems.



## **There's a New Way to Unlock the Mac**

If a person is wearing an Apple Watch that has been paired with a Mac, it's now much easier to unlock the Mac. Rather than requiring users to input their passcode, Sierra will automatically recognize the Apple Watch and immediately give users access to the computer. The feature could pave the way for Mac support for Touch ID, if Apple eventually brings its biometric sensor to its computers.



## Universal Clipboard Sounds Outstanding

Universal Clipboard might be a small feature in macOS, but it's arguably one of the most interesting. With Universal Clipboard, users will be able to copy anything from text to images and video on an iPhone and paste it to a Mac. The service also works if users copy from a Mac and paste to an iPhone or iPad. Universal Clipboard ties iOS and macOS together, creating a seamless copy-and-paste experience that Apple device owners should find very useful.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with a menu bar at the top containing options like 'View', 'Zoom', '150%', 'Insert', 'Table', 'Chart', 'Text', 'Shape', 'Media', 'Comment', 'Share', and 'Tips'. The page content is titled 'HISTORY OF SKATEBOARDS' in a large, bold, serif font. Below the title is a sub-headline: 'IT STARTED WITH KIDS ON CRATES AND ROLLER SKATE WHEELS. THE THING BORED CALIFORNIA SURFERS DID WHEN THE WAVES BY THE EARLY 1960S, SKATEBOARDING WAS ALREADY BIG.' To the left of the main text is a vertical image of a wooden skateboard with a white deck and four colorful wheels (red, green, blue, red). To the right is a photograph of a basketball player in a white jersey performing a trick. Below the main text are three columns of smaller text:

Skateboarding really took off in the 1970s with the introduction of polyurethane wheels, which massively improved traction and performance. Before 1972, wheels were made from steel or a mix of plastic, paper, and ground walnut shells.

Polyurethane wheels redefined what skaters could do on their boards. During the California drought of 1976-77, people drained their swimming pools to save water. Skaters seized the opportunity to ride the curved walls, and that was the beginning of the modern skate park.

In 1978, 14-year-old Alan "Ollie" Gelfand perfected a move in Florida that changed skateboarding forever. The trick, known as an "ollie," is where a skater leaps into the air with the board without using their hands. Skating legend Stacy Peralta called it "the de facto standard move of all moves."

The 'eWEEK' logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the browser window.

## Be More Productive With Tabs

Apple is bringing full tab support to all of the apps that come bundled with macOS, including the company's iWork suite. In addition, Apple has opened tab support to third-party developers, so they, too, can create a tabbed browsing experience in their software. The feature was previously available in Safari and Finder, but is now making its way across the operating system.



## A Little Storage Love From iCloud

Apple has promised that users will no longer have an issue with onboard storage in Sierra. Users will be able to easily offload documents to the cloud, where they'll be kept until they're again required. Once in the cloud, the files will not take up space on an already-crowded storage drive. In addition, Apple says that Sierra will come with a storage-optimization feature that automatically stores rarely used files in the cloud. That feature will even suggest the removal of duplicate or obsolete files to save precious storage space.