Apple opens iOS 10 for public preview

The Cupertino-based tech giant announced Thursday that the general public is now able to test iOS 10 before its official debut later this year.

By Natalie Gagliordi for Between the Lines | July 7, 2016 -- 15:04 GMT (08:04 PDT) | Topic: Mobility

Apple is opening up a public preview program for the latest edition of its mobile operating system. The Cupertino-based tech giant announced Thursday that the general public is now able to test iOS 10 before its official debut later this year.

The software will be available from Apple's public preview site, where the company asks users to "take part in shaping Apple software by test-driving pre-release versions and letting us know what you think".

First look: iOS 10 Public Beta
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Apple unveiled iOS 10 during its Worldwide Developer Conference (WWDC) in June. It comes with several design and productivity changes, although nothing as drastic as the visual overhaul in iOS 7.

Among the most notable changes are a revamped lock screen and home screen, an advanced notifications center, the first Home app for HomeKit, and an 'emojified' Messages app.

The iOS 10 public preview program marks the third time Apple has allowed its customers to download and run a major pre-release version before its formal release date. The first public preview program was for iOS 8.3, followed by iOS 9 a year ago. Apple released the second iteration of its iOS 10 developer beta yesterday.