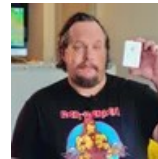


iOS 17: All the Features Apple Is Adding to Your iPhone

The iPhone software adds new features to the Phone app, FaceTime calls and iMessage chats.

Patrick Holland

Managing Editor CNET - June 22, 2023 2:30 a.m. PT



iOS 17 will introduce new ways of showing and sharing contact info.
Kevin Heinz/CNET

Apple's debut of iOS 17 is going to change how you call, text and glance at information on your iPhone. iOS 17 will bring updates to FaceTime, Messages and the phone app to make your iPhone feel more intuitive and personal, the company revealed Monday during its Worldwide Developers Conference.

Last year's software update, iOS 16 introduced the ability to edit or "unsend" messages you send via iMessage, Apple Pay Later, a major overhaul to the lock screen, revamped notifications and Live Activities. These additions didn't all come out at once and were actually scattered over the course of smaller iOS software updates throughout the year.

We can expect the same for iOS 17, which will likely be released just before the rumored iPhone 15 goes on sale.

Contact Posters



Contact Posters aim to make your contact cards more compelling.
Apple

Last year we got customizable lock screens in iOS 16. This year, iOS 17 has a similar change for your iPhone's contact cards, to make them look more eye-catching. Contact Posters are beautiful treatments for contact photos and emoji paired with slick-looking fonts that show up when you get calls and for other services on your phone where you communicate and share.

You can customize your Contact Poster similar to how you personalize your lock screen. Pick a photo, font and color and that's it.

AirDrop gets easier to use

iOS 17 brings an overhaul to AirDrop. You just need to bring your iPhone close to someone else's to share a Contact Poster, photos, videos or kick off a shared activity using Share Play. Of course, being Apple, there's a word for sharing your Contact Poster with someone new: NameDrop. What's nice, is that you can choose what contact info is shared. NameDrop works between iPhones or with an Apple Watch, too. It reminds me of "bumping" a contact in the early days of the iPhone.

Standby turns your iPhone into an Amazon Echo Show



iOS 17 adds an attractive screen that shows photos, widgets and info when your iPhone is charging.

Apple

One of the biggest additions in iOS 17 is for when your iPhone isn't in your hand. When your iPhone is on its side while MagSafe charging, you get a new full screen experience with glanceable information. The feature is called Standby and mimics what many smart home devices can do, such as the Amazon Echo Show.

The new screen shows the time, photos, widgets and Live Activities; nearly all of which can be personalized. It's a bit of a cross between the iPhone 14 Pro's always-on display and nightstand mode on the Apple Watch.

When you swipe to the side on the Standby screen, you can look at your favorite photos or moments. iOS 17 will also automatically shuffle images to find the one that takes the best advantage of the screen.

Standby can also show glanceable widgets. For example, you can see the weather, your Apple Home smart controls or your favorite third-party widget. With support for live activities, you can also see the score of sporting events or the status of a food delivery.

One of the more curious features is that Standby can remember your preferred view "setup" for each place you charge via MagSafe.

The new Journal app

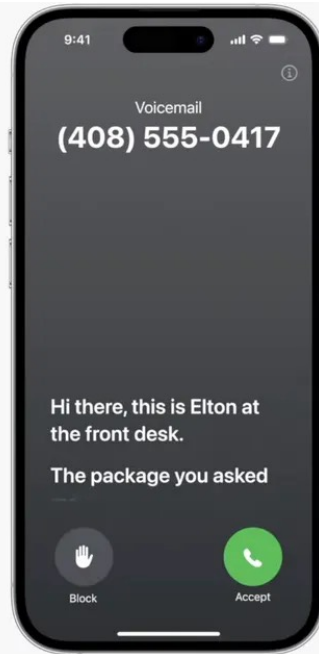


Journal

iOS 17 brings a new Apple app called Journal that creates personalized suggestions to inspire writing. These suggestions are curated from information on your iPhone, like photos, location, music and workouts.

Journal gives you the option to select a moment, like "morning visit, Ocean Beach," and start writing. You can also schedule notifications to remind you to write and get new prompts. You can flag important moments so that you can reflect on them later.

Live Voicemail



Live Voicemail lets you preview a transcription in real time as a voicemail is being recorded.

Apple

Another new talent iOS 17 has involves your voicemail. When someone calls you and leaves a message, you'll see a live transcription in real time as they speak. The new service is called Live Voicemail and it kind of feels like the days of answering machines, when my dad would screen a call. For Live Voicemail, you'll see the voicemail right on your screen so you can decide whether to step out and take the call. The feature is powered by your iPhone's neural engine in order to preserve your

privacy. Live Voicemail seems identical to Call Screen on Google Pixel phones which isn't a bad thing.

FaceTime messages

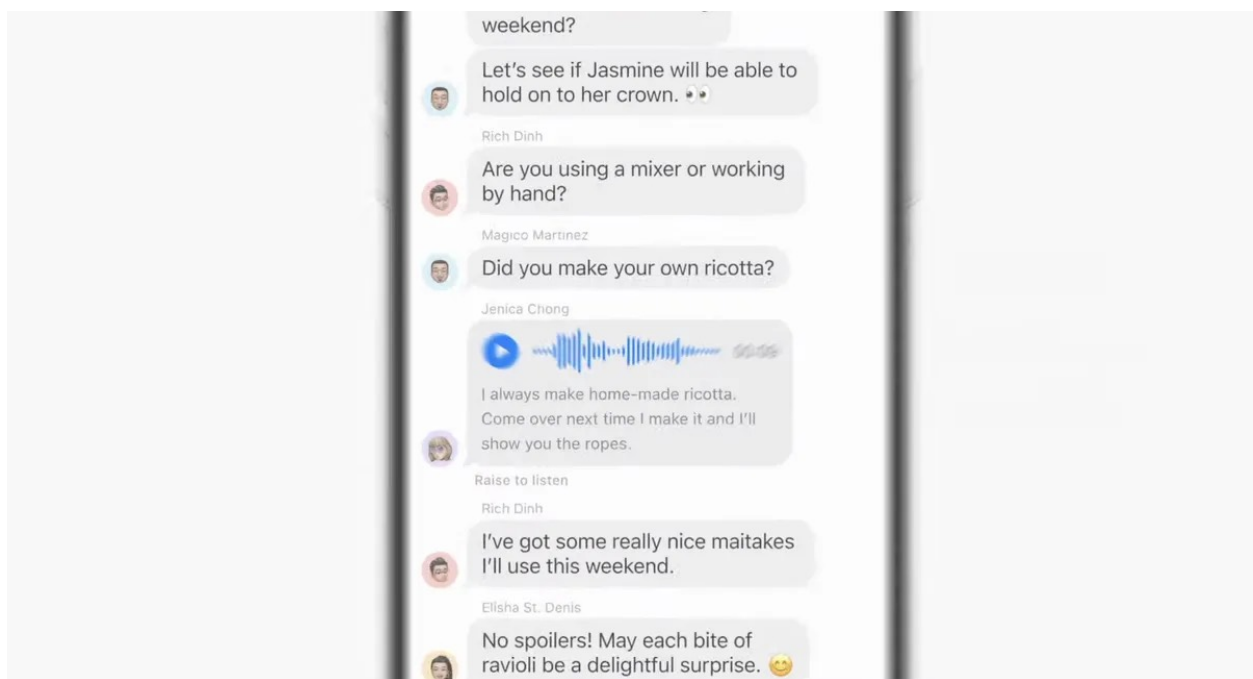
iOS 17 will let you record a video message in FaceTime. It's a heavily requested feature that will ensure you can document and share important moments, even if someone misses your call.

Messages Check In

Apple is expanding and simplifying its location sharing via Messages. The new feature, called Check In, is for letting a loved one know you made it to your destination safely. Whether you're walking home after dark or going for an early morning run, you can start a Check In with a family member or friend and as soon as you arrive home, it will automatically let your friend know. But if something unexpected happens, it can recognize that you're not near your destination and check in with you. If you don't respond, Check In can automatically share your current location, the route you took, your

iPhone's battery level and cell service status; all of which is end-to-end encrypted.

Messages get a handful of fixes and additions



The Messages app will get transcriptions for audio messages in iOS 17.
Apple

The tried-and-true Messages app gets a handful of updates, including a visual overhaul of your iMessage apps which will no longer live above your keyboard and instead be accessible via a plus sign on the bottom left.

Searching through your Messages becomes a lot

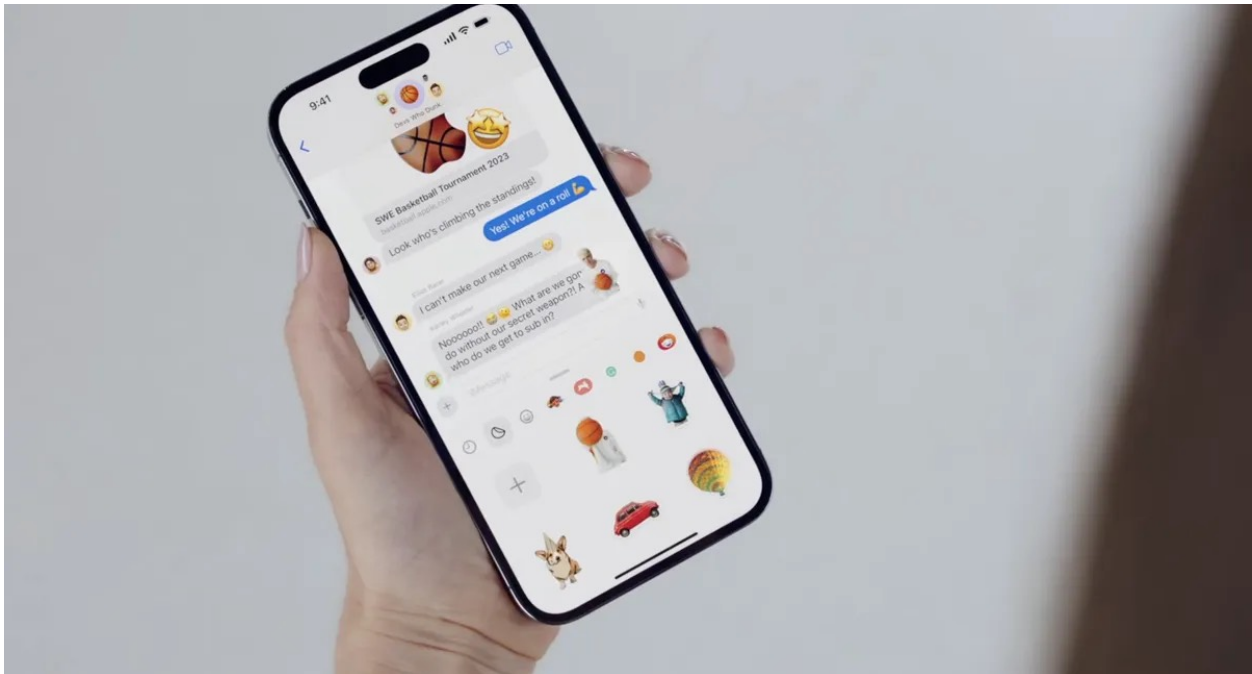
easier on iOS 17 with the addition of filters. When you start a search in the Messages app, you will be able to add terms to narrow the results.

Another welcome addition is transcription for audio messages. If you're someone who has friends or family members who send you audio messages, you'll be able to read a transcription of the recording right in the Messages app.

There's also a new "catch up arrow" in Messages. It sits in the top right of your conversation and lets you jump to the first message you haven't read. This could be a killer feature for managing group chats. Apple also made inline replies faster. In iOS 17, you'll be able to just swipe to reply on any message bubble.

Apple fixes 'ducking' autocorrect

Autocorrect will become more intelligent and can fix more grammatical mistakes. Reverting words back to what you typed is easier. And apparently, autocorrect will learn and let you use curse words. Duck, yeah!



Messages adds a bunch of Sticker features.

Apple

iMessage stickers get a new drawer to bring all the stickers you've used into one place. And now emoji are stickers. You can peel and stick an emoji sticker to a message bubble, rotate and resize it. Last year in iOS 16, Apple introduced the ability to lift a subject from the background of a photo as part of Visual Lookup. With iOS 17, you can turn a photo's subject into a sticker in Messages.

The Stickers drawer also has a Live Stickers tab that lets you create a Sticker animation (aka a GIF) from a Live Photo. Stickers can be accessed system wide in things like Tapback, Markup and third-party apps; basically anywhere you can access emoji.

But wait, there are more iOS 17 features

As is typical with WWDC, there are a lot more additions and improvements to iOS 17 than Apple showed during the keynote. Some notable highlights include:

- Triggering Siri by just saying, "Siri" instead of "Hey, Siri"
- Download offline maps in the Maps app
- New profiles for Safari and your passwords
- Auto retrieval of one-time verification codes from the Mail app
- Interactive widgets (which was featured in-depth during the iPadOS portion)

iOS 17 will be out in full this fall and work on the iPhone XS, XR and newer, including the 2020 iPhone SE.

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