

Everything You May Have Missed At Apple's WWDC 2026

Apple's software event, the last for outgoing CEO Tim Cook, gave us an early look at new features for iOS and MacOS and an overhauled Siri.

[Meara Isenberg](#)

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Apple's Worldwide Developers Conference kicks off Monday, June 8, with a keynote presentation starting at 10 a.m. PT.

Jeffrey Hazelwood/CNET



Apple's midyear software show, WWDC 2026, is underway after the Monday, June 8 keynote at Apple Park kicked off the event. We're getting a closer look at what the tech giant has in store for the software updates going out to millions of iPhones, Macs and Apple Watches worldwide later this year. It was a big year for Siri, but the various WWDC announcements didn't give many hints for what's coming later this year for its device lineup, like the iPhone 18 and the rumored iPhone Fold.

As we expected, we're getting new versions of iOS, iPadOS, macOS and WatchOS coming later this year, with developer beta versions that developers can download now and public betas planned for next month. Apple historically releases betas of its future software to the public in July.

Apple had a lot of news about Siri -- in fact, mentioning it over 100 times in the course of the around 90-minute presentation. Presenters introduced a lot of its new capabilities now that it's integrated Google's Gemini AI models into Siri and brought other upgrades to Apple Intelligence.

There was indeed some brief honoring of outgoing CEO Tim Cook, who ran WWDC one last time before he turns over the reins to John Ternus in September. Ternus didn't appear for any sort of handover, leaving Cook on the stage for his last big event at Apple's helm.

Apple OS mentions? 24. Siri mentions? Over 100

By David Lumb

Siri + Apple Intelligence

WWDC 2026 finished an hour ago, and our CNET ground staff has run off to presentations and behind-closed-door meetings. But the reality of that event is settling in -- and it sure was a blitz of AI and

Siri features for around 90 minutes, with few mentions at all of Apple's software updates.

In a show that's typically rife with detailed descriptions of features coming to the software behind each product category, with clearly denoted sections for each. Not so today, as Siri, Apple Intelligence and other AI features were the clear focus. Given how their features were described to work across Apple's lineup, it's clear the company sees its empowered assistant as a glue between them. But it's also the end of an era in which Apple kept its operating systems in the spotlight at its midyear software show. Here's an illustrative list of mentions during the show.

- "iOS" mentions: 9
- "MacOS" mentions: 9
- "iPadOS" mentions: 4
- "WatchOS" mentions: 2
- "TVOS" mentions: 1
- "Siri" mentions: 102

LIVE
2 hours ago

A victory lap from Tim Cook ends the keynote

By Tyler Graham



The camera pans out from Tim Cook. It's the last time we'll see him give a keynote speech at WWDC.

Apple/Screenshot by CNET

After a healthy heaping of technical talk from Craig Federighi, the WWDC 2026 keynote was handed back off to CEO Tim Cook to close out the stream. Cook reiterated the biggest announcements of the event -- mentioning Siri AI, iPhone child accounts and new AI developer tools -- before giving us a wave.

That's the last time Cook will ever wave goodbye to us at WWDC, since he's stepping down in September. Notably, the event stream didn't feature any appearance from Apple Senior Vice President of Engineering John Ternus, who is slated to take over the CEO position later this year, but is currently in charge of the company's hardware efforts.

Siri was useless on the Apple Watch. That's changing with WatchOS 27

Apple's WWDC keynote revealed a smarter Siri that can finally handle the kind of AI-powered tasks Android users have had for years. And the Apple Watch stands to benefit more than any other device in the lineup.

Having spent time with Google's Gemini on a smartwatch, I've seen what capable AI on a tiny screen actually looks like. Where Siri would dump you into a list of links when I asked, "What ingredients do I need to make buttermilk?" Gemini finds the answer, summarizes it and reads it back to you.

On a watch, that means no scrolling, no squinting at an awkwardly resized website, or no looking down at all if you're able to hear the response. If Apple delivers on what it showed today, the Apple Watch just got a lot more useful for those quick, eyes-free moments it was meant for.

Some Apple Intelligence feature usage limits

According to Apple's Craig Federighi, some Apple Intelligence features, such as image generation, will have daily usage limits. You can get increased access with "most iCloud Plus subscription plans." A subscription also provides Apple Intelligence support for compatible home cameras.

Apple ends WWDC with a very long rap about apps

Apple closed out WWDC with rapper Erick the Architect rattling off an impressively long list of apps, including Goodreads, Depop, Photoshop, Dropbox, CashApp, HubSpot, Letterboxd, Delta, JetBlue, Kayak, Uber, LinkedIn and plenty more. I never in my life thought that I would hear a rapper name-drop Asana in a song.

Apple is diving into AI image editing with Spatial Reframing



You can now adjust and reframe your subjects from the background with Apple's Spatial Reframing.

Apple/Screenshot by CNET

Along with all of the additional AI features coming to your iPhone, Apple is introducing some impressive AI-enabled image editing.

Some features aren't anything we haven't seen before in this age of AI, such as the ability to clean up a photo by removing objects. Others, however, are more impressive. The Extend feature will allow you to zoom out of a photo's frame, and Apple

Intelligence will generate additional image data to add more to your scene.

Apple Intelligence models will allow you to adjust general framing, but the showstopper feature is Spatial Reframing. Combining its image and AI models, you'll see something truly special if it works as intended. The demo showed an image of two children in the foreground, and when Spatial Reframing was enabled, it allowed the subjects to be reframed in a hyperrealistic, 3D way, repositioning them against a different part of the background with just a swipe of the finger.

If the feature works anywhere near as well as the demo, Apple may have a killer photo-editing feature that will allow you to create the perfect photo, unlike what you're able to do today.

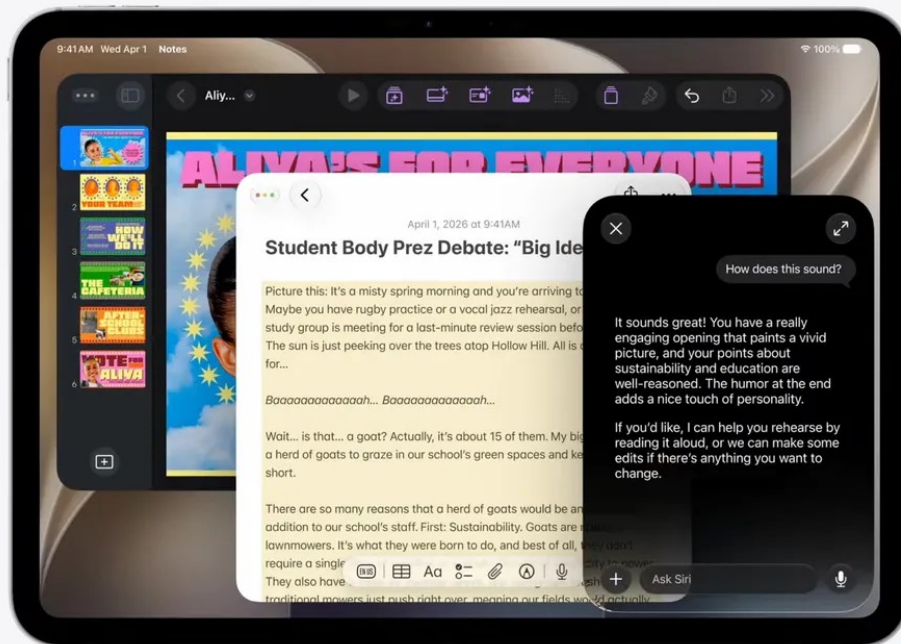
Siri's Visual Intelligence is Apple's take on Google Lens

Apple's expansion of Siri progresses to what's on screen with Visual Intelligence, which has different functions depending on which Apple product you're using.

On iPhones, Visual Intelligence acts a lot like Google Lens, adding context and info for whatever your camera is pointed at. Take a look at food, and it'll share nutritional value, or a restaurant bill to show how to split it. On Macs, Visual Intelligence recognizes what's on screen and offers suggestions. On the Vision Pro, it recognizes what you're literally looking at in a more immersive way.

Siri can write articles and emails for you

By Meara Isenberg



Apple/Screenshot by CNET

You can tap the new version of Siri to write emails, messages and more on your behalf. You can

describe what you need to the assistant, and it will generate drafts of work assignments or create texts to a friend while reflecting how you typically communicate. You can also select words you've written and ask the new Siri for feedback.

Apple Intelligence will organize your Safari tabs

By Tyler Graham



Passwords

Apple Intelligence, Safari and the Passwords app are coming together to allow you to fix compromised passwords with a click. That's an impressive feature, if it works how Apple promises.

Apple/Screenshot by CNET

Any time I open up my iPhone's Safari browser, I'm jumpscared by dozens of disorganized tabs I haven't bothered to clean up. Safari's latest

integration with Apple Intelligence may finally solve that problem for me. The agentic AI will automatically sort any tabs you have open into topic groups, allowing you to jump between your different searches with ease. Any future tabs will get automatically sorted into existing groupings as well.

Other Apple Intelligence promises are even loftier. A new "describe an extension" feature will let you explain a website extension you want to use in plain text, with Apple Intelligence supposedly coding it to your specifications to use in the Safari browser. The browser will also identify any passwords you have that may have been compromised in a hack -- and let you rectify the issue with stronger, AI-generated passwords with a single click.

Those are some eye-popping claims, but if Apple Intelligence really can seamlessly bring these features to the forefront of the Safari experience, then it's possible the tech giant is getting back in the AI race in a big way.

The latest version of Siri is what we've been waiting for

By Blake Stimac

Apple/Screenshot by CNET

The newest version of Siri is finally here. Named Siri AI, it takes advantage of the best of Apple Intelligence, which uses Google's Gemini models.

Apple touts Siri AI as a significantly better assistant, which can tap into more information, take in more context, and go deep into the operating system and its features. The company gave the example of looking for concert tickets: Siri could tell you how to buy them online, let you know they'll be sold through a lottery system and set a reminder when it's time to get in line.

Apple has lagged in the AI space, and this new version doesn't just let it catch up, but will help it create new products in the future.

Siri sounds smarter in almost every way, understanding more context, and you can even fine-tune how it sounds.

Read more: [Siri AI is the Apple Voice Assistant Revamp We've All Been Waiting For](#)

Siri AI and Visual Intelligence comes to the Vision Pro.

As someone who owns a Vision Pro, I've honestly never felt compelled to talk to Siri while wearing it. Apple's new Siri AI could make that interaction feel a little more natural.

Apple says you'll be able to place a visualization of Siri AI anywhere in your space, then look at it and start speaking without saying, "Hey, Siri." The assistant is also getting Visual Intelligence, allowing it to answer questions about whatever you're looking at through the headset.

In one demo, a user looked at a backpack and asked whether it would work as a carry-on for an upcoming flight. Siri AI recognized the bag, pulled in details about the trip and said it should fit. They then asked whether a pair of hiking boots would fit inside, and Siri AI answered that too.

Being able to look at an object and immediately ask a question about it feels like a sensible use of the Vision Pro's cameras and spatial interface. Not sure how much I'll use it, but I can definitely see myself messing around with it.

Slow your roll, Siri

By Tyler Graham

More capable assistant **More conversational** **Dedicated Siri app** **Visual Intelligence**

The Visual Intelligence feature might be what most people take away from today's presentation, but this accessibility feature stuck out to me.

Apple/Screenshot by CNET

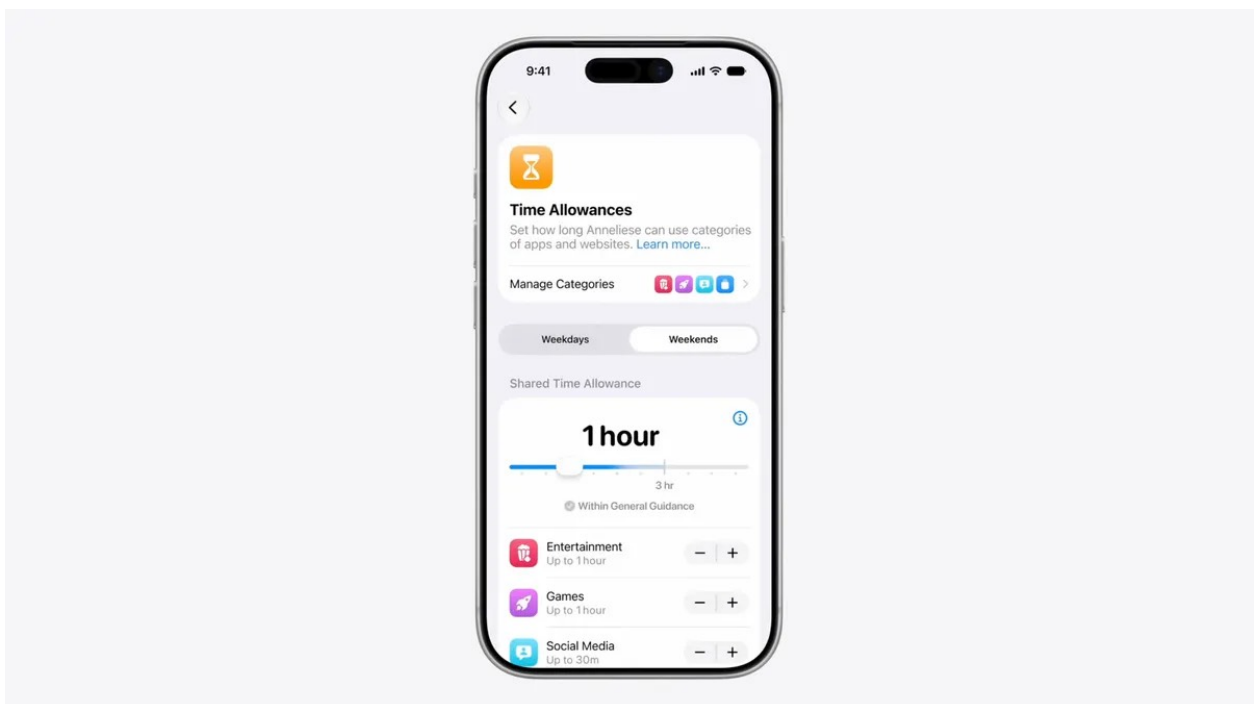
The flashy AI-powered features might be the biggest focus of the new slate of Siri announcements, but they're not what caught my eye. I think it's a much bigger deal that you can now adjust Siri's speaking pace when responding to inquiries -- if you've got places to be, you can adjust a slider to make the bot spit out an answer even faster than before.

More crucially, though, you'll be able to slow Siri's responses down. This makes Siri's sentences a tad

easier to parse, and it's a step in the right direction toward a more accessibility-centered experience. Another new feature allows you to make Siri more expressive in the way it delivers responses. And you can still change the bot's accent to your liking.

Parental controls and child accounts

By Meara Isenberg



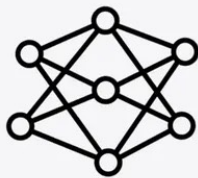
Apple/Screenshot by CNET

Apple said it's expanding its child safety features this year with new tools for parents. Apple is adding the ability for parents to approve new websites their child visits, expanding on the controls they already have over the apps their kids download.

Apple already blurs inappropriate content that a child receives or attempts to send, and this year it will block gore and violent content. When it comes to parental control over screen time, Apple is introducing daily time allowance recommendations for entertainment, games and social media, providing a starting point for parents across all three areas. These new features apply to parents with parental controls and children with child accounts.

Apple breaks down the new architecture behind Apple Intelligence

By Nelson Aguilar



APPLE FOUNDATION MODELS



GOOGLE GEMINI MODELS

Apple is tapping Google Gemini technology for its new AI models.
Apple/Screenshot by CNET

Craig Federighi is spending some time explaining what is happening behind the scenes with Apple Intelligence and, more importantly, why it should make Apple's AI features feel more useful.

Apple says its upgraded AI models were developed through its collaboration with Google and use the technology behind its AI, Gemini. Depending on the request, the work can happen directly on your device or through Apple's Private Cloud Compute servers.

The company is also introducing a new "system orchestrator," which essentially helps Apple Intelligence connect the dots between your apps, personal files, whatever is on your screen and information from the web.

Federighi is also emphasizing privacy. Apple says information sent to the cloud is used only to complete your request and is not stored or made accessible to the company.

Apple's new child accounts are the culmination of a wider trend

By Tyler Graham



Sensitive Content Analysis

Sensitive content analysis and parental restrictions are a less intrusive way of barring children from certain online spaces.

Apple/Screenshot by CNET

The tech giant's new iPhone update is framed as a way for parents to "guide their children's digital journey." It's an unobtrusive way to prevent kids from seeing nudity, violence or other inappropriate content online. It's also the culmination of a wider industry trend spurred by increasing regulatory oversight.

Legislation like the Kids Online Safety Act continues to advance through the US government. If KOSA passes, it will limit how minors are able to interact with social media sites. We're increasingly moving into an era of online age verification -- which some critics warn will impact the right to free speech.

Apple's new feature is a less intrusive way to prevent minors from accessing certain inappropriate content. It remains to be seen whether the child accounts actually work, but at least you don't need to upload your ID to a third-party online.

Read more: [Stop Children From Taking and Sharing Nudes, UK Prime Minister Tells Tech Companies](#)

iOS 27 supports iPhone 11 and newer

Apple's upcoming iOS 27 will keep the iPhone 11 as the baseline for this year's big software update, giving older iPhones access to some of the latest and greatest for the operating system.

Usually, when new operating system versions are released, older devices are left by the wayside. This time around, iOS 27 has the same compatibility as

iOS 26, giving older compatible iPhones one more year before they're on the chopping block.

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