

## iOS 11 Review

Every year, Apple (AAPL) introduces a new iPhone model. That's great news for anyone in the market for a new iPhone. But every year, Apple also introduces a new iPhone and iPad operating system—the software you look at and tap on all day long. The new software is called iOS 11. Apple's coding elves have cleaned up a million annoyances, swept out a million cobwebs, and tightened up a million processes. And some nice big-ticket new features. Here's what's new.

### The new Control Center

For such a tiny device, there are an awful lot of settings you can change—hundreds of them. That's why Apple invented the Control Center: a panel that offers quick access to the controls you need the most. In iOS 11, the Control Center has blossomed. Your list of available buttons is much longer than it ever was before and the Control Center is now all on a single screen.

Here are the buttons that have always been there: Airplane Mode, WiFi, Bluetooth, Brightness, Volume, Rotation Lock, Do Not Disturb, Music playback, Airplay, Flashlight, Camera, Calculator, Timer, and Airdrop. Now, though, there's a much longer raft of options. You can choose which buttons you want to appear on the Control Center, and in which order. The new Control Center buttons:

- *Notes*. Gives you immediate access to Notes, so you can jump in, no matter what you were doing, to write down something quickly: a phone number someone's giving you or a brainstorm you've just had for a million-dollar idea.
- *Screen Recording*. The idea is to let you record videos of what's happening on the iPhone screen—with narration, if you like. It's fantastic as a teaching tool, if you want to capture some anomaly to send to tech support, or to demo your new app. You see a 3-2-1 countdown, which is intended for you to get out of the Control Center and get into whatever app you're trying to record. The finished video winds up in your Photos app.
- *Do Not Disturb While Driving*. This important new iOS feature prevents notifications, calls, or texts from lighting up your phone or making it ring whenever you're behind the wheel and in motion. Usually, you'll want it to turn on automatically when you're driving; this new button is primarily useful for turning DNDWD off—when you're in the passenger seat.
- *Cellular Data on/off*. Great if you're worried about your monthly cap.
- *Stopwatch, Alarm*. One-tap shortcuts to these modules of the Clock app.
- *Apple TV Remote*. Better controls than the physical one.
- *Guided Access*. Opens the on/off switch for Guided Access, otherwise known as "kiosk mode." It locks the phone into one particular app, so that (for example) your toddler can play around without wreaking any real havoc on your phone.
- *Low Power Mode*. Here's a one-touch way to manually switch on the battery-saving feature known as Low Power Mode.
- *Magnifying glass mode*. Turns the entire phone into a powerful, illuminated magnifying glass.

- *Text Size*. There are all kinds of ways to make text bigger and more readable on the iPhone's screen. But this new Control Center option gives you a more immediate way of making adjustments—say, when you suddenly find yourself on some web page done up in 3-point type. Tap to see a vertical slider, whose segments indicate increasingly larger type sizes.
- *Voice Memos*. The Voice Memos app is handy for recording speeches, interviews, song ideas, and so on. What's not handy was the long slog to get into the app and start recording. No more! Tap this button to open the Voice Memos app, where another tap begins the recording. Better yet, a hard-press on this Control Center button produces a menu that lists your three most recent recordings (for instant playback)—and a New Recording button.
- *Wallet*. Here's another way to jump into your Apple Wallet.

## **Storage Help**

Another category of new features is designed to assist with the chronic problem of running out of room on the iPhone:

- *Camera app*. iOS 11 invites you to adopt new file formats for photos (HEVC) and videos (H265), which look the same as they did before but consume only the half the space. (When you export to someone else, they convert to standard formats.)
- *Storage optimization*. The idea: As your phone begins to run out of space, your oldest files are quietly and automatically stored in iCloud, leaving Download icons in their places on your phone, so that you can retrieve them if you need them.

## **Siri updates**

Apple's done some work on its voice assistant, too:

- *A new voice for Siri*. Apple says that the new male and female voices sound more like actual people; to me, they just sound younger.
- *Siri translates languages*. Siri can now translate phrases from English into Chinese, French, German, Italian, or Spanish. You can say, "How do you say 'Where's the bathroom?' in French?" It works surprisingly well—she nails the accents. More languages coming soon.
- *Siri understands followup questions*. Siri now does better at understanding followup questions. ("Who won the World Series in 1980?" "The Tigers." "Who was their coach?" "Roy Williams.")

## **A lot of miscellaneous**

The rest of iOS 11 falls into the category best called, "Everything else."

- *A file manager!* A new app called Files lets you work with (and search) files and folders, just as you do on the Mac or PC. You can tag them, search them, sort them, view them as a list or as icons. The Files app shows the contents of your iCloud Drive, as well as your Box and Dropbox files. You can select files to share with others. For the first time, iOS has a "Finder" - Manage, file, sort, search, copy, and delete files here.

- *Redesigned apps drawer in Messages.* All the stuff they added to Messages last year (stickers, apps, live drawing) cluttered up the design and wound up getting ignored by lots of people. The new design is cleaner, with only two icons.
- *App Store.* The App store gets a big redesign, with a greater emphasis on editorial descriptions—almost like a blog. One chief fix is breaking out Games into its own tab, so that game and non-game bestseller lists are kept separate.
- *One-handed typing.* With a tap on the little globe key, you can opt for a narrower keyboard huddled against one side, for easier one-handed typing when you're carrying coffee. (You can now zoom in Maps one-handed, too.)
- *Automatic QR-code scanning.* You don't need a special app to scan those square QR barcodes anymore. Just use the regular Camera app. If it sees a QR code, it offers the corresponding link, phone number, or address in a pop-up bubble.
- *Improvements to Photos.* The Photos app offers smarter auto-slideshows (called Memories).
- *Improvements to Live Photos.* Live Photos are weird, three-second video clips, which Apple introduced in iOS 9. In iOS 11, you can now shorten one, or mute its audio, or extract a single frame from that clip to use as a still photo. The phone can also suggest a "boomerang" segment (bounces back and forth) or a loop.
- *Smarter typing suggestions.* When you're typing, the auto-suggestions above the keyboard now offer movie names, song names, or place names that you've recently viewed in other apps. Auto-suggestions in Siri, too, include terms you've recently read. And if you book a flight or buy a ticket online, iOS offers to add it to your calendar.
- *Crop or mark up screenshots.* When you take a screenshot (press the Home+Side buttons), your captured graphic appears for a few seconds as a miniature in the corner of the screen. Tap it for cropping and annotating tools.
- *AirPlay 2.* If you buy speakers from Bose, Marantz, and a few other manufacturers (not Sonos), you can use your phone to control multi-room audio. You can start the same song playing everywhere, or different songs in different rooms.
- *Shared "Up Next" playlist.* If you're an Apple Music subscriber, your party guests or buddies can throw their own "what song to play next" ideas into the ring.
- *Lane guidance.* When you're driving, Maps now lets you know which lane to be in for your next turn and the speed limit, just as Google Maps does.
- *Indoor Maps.* The Maps app can now show you floor plans for a few malls and 30 airports.
- *iCloud file sharing.* Finally, you can share files you've stored on your iCloud Drive with other people, just as you've been able to do with Dropbox for years.

## **iPad Exclusives**

Many of the biggest changes in iOS 11 are available only on the iPad.

- *Mac features.* In general, the big news here is the iPad behaves much more like a Mac. For example, you can drag-and-drop pictures and text between apps. The Dock now holds up to 13 apps, available from within any app, and perfect for

switching apps, just as on the Mac. There's a new Mission Control-type feature, too, for seeing what's in your open apps.

- *Punctuation and letters on the same keyboard.* Now, punctuation symbols appear above the letter keys. You flick down on the key to "type" the punctuation—no more having to switch keyboard layouts.
- *Pencil features.* If you've bought Apple's stylus, you can tap the Lock screen and start taking notes right away. You can mark up PDFs just by starting to write on them. A new feature lets you snap a document with the iPad's camera, which straightens and crops the page and turning it into a PDF, so that you can sign it or annotate it. Handwriting in the Notes app is now searchable, and you can make drawings within any Note or email message.

### **Coming this winter**

Two major features didn't make the cut in the initial release of iOS 11. They're coming, Apple says, in an update later this year:

- *Person-to-Person payment within the Messages app.* You'll be able to send payments directly to your friends—your share of the pizza bill, for example—right from within the Messages app, much as people do now with Venmo, PayPal, and their ilk. (Of course, this works only if your friends have iPhones, too.) When money comes to you, it accrues to a new, virtual Apple Pay Cash Card; from there, you can send it to your bank, buy things with it, or send it on to other people.
- *Messages in iCloud.* Unlike your Mail and Notes, Messages has never resided in iCloud, that is changing soon. Your entire text-message history gets auto-synced to all your new Apple devices. This feature will also mean that that huge, multi-gigabyte hunk of Messages won't have to sit on your phone, eating up space.

In summary, iOS 11 is a huge improvement to your iPhone/iPad experience!

***David Pogue, Tech Columnist for Yahoo Finance November 2017***

# Mac OS High Sierra Review

It's no shock that Apple puts most of its effort into improving the iPhone. The iPhone is the cash cow. The Mac, on the other hand, constitutes only a puny 12 percent of Apple's revenue.

So Mac fans should be grateful, I guess, that the mothership still releases another free version of the Mac OS every fall. These upgrades make all of our Macs better. The one Apple released this fall is called Mac OS High Sierra (macOS 10.13). As the new name suggests, it's just a refinement of last year's Mac OS Sierra.

## Safari upgrades

Apple has continued to work on Safari, its Web browser, and says that the new version is the fastest desktop Web browser in the world. It also uses less power. Apple claims that you can watch Netflix for two hours longer in Safari than other browsers. In practice, that's true.

Maybe even more thrilling to the world's Internet surfers (and less thrilling to advertisers), Safari can now auto-block auto-play videos. Now, no video begins playing unless you click it. For each Web site, you can choose Safari-Settings for This Website and specify that videos are never allowed to play; always allowed; or not allowed only if they have sound. This feature works beautifully, and it makes the Internet a calmer place. It easily auto-paused videos on CNET, CNN, Bloomberg, and even Yahoo.

That's not the only way Safari will frustrate advertisers. Apple says that "Safari now uses machine learning to identify advertisers and others who track your online behavior, and removes the cross-site tracking data they leave behind." You can also create different viewing settings for different sites. You might like the New York Times site to appear with larger text, Flash turned on for Dilbert.com, and so on. Page zoom, Reader view, location services, and use of your camera and microphone are among the settings memorized for each site.

And if you like the Reader view—which hides all ads, navigation stuff, blinking stuff, competing colors and fonts—you can now tell Safari to use it for everything. Every time you open an article that works with Reader, it pops into that format automatically. You end up with far fewer migraines from just surfing the Web.

## Photos

This is a big one. The Photos app is finally ready for prime time.

The editing tools have been redesigned and goosed nearly to Photoshop levels; you can now manipulate the Curves of a photo's histogram, or edit only the reds (for example) in a photo.

I love that the Auto-Fix button is now right on the Photos main toolbar. This is the editing control most people use most of the time—it does a very good job at fixing the color, exposure, and contrast values for a photo—and now you don't have to heave into Editing mode to apply it to a photo, or a whole batch of them. If you still want to do your editing in Photoshop (or any other external program), Apple has finally restored this fantastic feature (which was in iPhoto) to Photos. Better yet, the changes you make in that app are non-destructive—you can undo them at any time.

A new Imports view shows not just the latest batch of imported photos, but the batch before that, and the batch before that, and so on. The redesigned Photos has a cleaner, well organized sidebar at left. You can now filter your view by Favorites, photos you've edited, only movies, only stills, and so on. The Faces feature, which knows who's in each photo, has been improved, and the face-categorizing you've done on the Mac gets auto-synced to your iPhone and iPad. The Photos feature, called Memories (automatically grouped and curated slideshows with music), is much smarter now. Instead of grouping photos only by event or location, they now auto-recognize and auto-build slideshows of your pets, babies, outdoor activities, performances, weddings, birthdays, and sports games. Apple has opened up its "order your photos printed on mousepads, books, calendars, etc." feature to other companies.

Finally, Apple introduces some editing options to Live Photos: those weird, three-second video clips that the iPhone can capture. You can now shorten a Live Photo, mute its audio, or extract a single frame to use as a still photo. Photos can also suggest a "boomerang" segment (bounces back and forth) or a loop (repeats over and over). And it has a new Long Exposure filter, which blurs a babbling brook or stars moving across the sky, as though taken with a long exposure.

### **A new file system**

The file system is the underlying, invisible software that controls the management of files and folders on your Mac. For almost 20 years, Mac fans have been using one called HFS+. And now, there's the Apple File System, or APFS. It's designed for the new era of solid-state drives and increased security threats.

Most of its benefits are under the hood: Far better security (for example, more sophisticated FileVault encryption for your whole hard drive); better crash resistance; more efficient storage; and faster operation.

The two aspects of APFS you'll probably notice first are how big the files and folders in a window are now just instantly displayed. You can now duplicate a file or a folder instantly, no matter how big it is. APFS is what Apple uses on iPhones and iPads already, so it's already had some time in the field—and now it's on the Mac, too. Well, at least it's on Macs with solid-state drives like MacBook laptops. APFS doesn't yet auto-convert traditional spinning hard drives, Apple Fusion drives, or external drives.

## Notes

In the Notes app, you can now pin your most used notes (to do lists, grocery lists, etc.) to the top of the list, so they don't get sorted down chronologically as they do now. They show up on your iPhone like that, too. You can now add a table to a Note for clearer views. Great for committee assignments, sports scores, and so on.

## Miscellaneous

- *Smaller multimedia.* In both iOS 11 and Mac OS High Sierra, Apple offers new file formats that permit your photos and videos to look the same as before, but to consume only half the space. This is a huge deal for anyone whose phone or Mac is constantly filled up. For photos, it's called the High Efficiency Image File Format (HEIF); for videos, it's the High Efficiency Video Codec (HEVC, or h.265). When you export these photos and videos, they convert to standard formats like JPEG and h.264.
- *Mail enhancements.* When you search in Mail, a Top Hits section presents the messages Mail thinks are the best matches, based on Read status, senders you've replied to, your VIPs, and so on. Mail also offers a split-screen view when composing new messages in full-screen mode. And it stores your messages in 35 percent less disk space. More space is always welcome.
- *A new voice for Siri.* The new male and female voices sound much more like actual people. (They're the same ones that just appeared in iOS 11.)
- *iCloud file sharing.* Finally, you can share files you've stored on your iCloud Drive with other people, just as you've been able to do with Dropbox for years. To do so, right-click an icon; from the shortcut menu, choose Add People. Now you can send an invitation to anyone by message, email, or whatever, and you can specify how much editing control they have. The catch, of course, is that the recipient must be using iOS 11 (on an iPhone or iPad) or Mac OS High Sierra.
- *Capture a FaceTime moment as a Live Photo.* You can snap a 3-second snippet of a video chat—a Live Photo—for later sharing. (You can't do so secretly, however; the other person knows.)
- *Messages in iCloud.* When you sign into any new Mac, iPhone, or iPad with your iCloud credentials, your entire texting history gets downloaded automatically. Saving the Messages history online also saves disk space on your Mac.
- *Family storage sharing.* You can now share an iCloud storage plan with family members.
- *More Spotlight wisdom.* The Spotlight search feature can now provide flight arrival and departure times, terminals, gates and flight maps when you type in a flight number. It can also return multiple Wikipedia results on a single screen.
- *Developer goodies.* Apple now offers development kits for virtual reality and augmented reality, for introduction next year on their newest, fastest machines.

In summary, High Sierra delivers lots of small incremental improvements.

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