



Mac OS 26.x Tahoe

Introduction:

+ Tahoe 26.x is the latest Macintosh operating system from Apple.

+ Previous Systems:

- + OSX 10.8 Mountain Lion
- + OS X 10.9 Mavericks
- + OS X 10.10 Yosemite
- + OSX 10. 11 El Capitan
- + Mac OS 10.12 Sierra
- + Mac OS 10.13 High Sierra
- + Mac OS 10.14 Mojave
- + Mac OS 10.15 Catalina
- + Mac OS 11 Big Sur
- + Mac OS 12 Monterey
- + Mac OS 13 Ventura
- + Mac OS 14 Sonoma
- + Mac Os 15 Sequoia

Introduction:

- + Unlike 10.8 and before; THIS ONE IS FREE!
- + Tahoe is a major upgrade to the Mac OS; and its biggest change is the liquid glass interface and appearance.
- + They are still using California locations for a name. The numeric number 26 now reflects the year that the system will spend most of the time out. (2026)
 - + Note Apple usually releases new OSs in September, or early October.

Introduction:

- + Normally one would expect to have to get new programs to run on the M1-M4 mac. Intel programs are handled by Rosetta 2. This support continues in Tahoe.
- + Apple states that Rosetta 2 support will end fall 2027

Requirements:

- + Models supported: (Changes from Sequoia)
 - + iMac (2020 or newer)
 - + MacBook Pro (2020 13" with 4 Thunderbolt ports, 2019 16" Intel or all Apple Silicon 2020 or newer)
 - + MacBook Air (Apple Silicon 2020 or newer)
 - + Mac mini (2020 or newer)
 - + Mac Pro (2019 or newer)
 - + Mac Studio 2022+
 - + Looks like support for Mac Pro 2019, iMac 2020, and the two Macbook Pros are the only remaining Intel macs supported.
NEXT Mac OS will not have Intel support
- + At least 30 to 40 GB available free Hard drive space

Requirements (cont'd):

- + Memory (Ram) requirements probably 8 GB.
 - + Could not find stated Apple Requirements
 - + My research found compatible machines shipped with at least 8 GB
- + Apple is now shipping all New Macs with 16GB memory; this implies some of Apple Intelligence will require this amount
- + Again, more RAM is desirable. If you have only 8 GB of upgradeable RAM, Upgrade if you are a medium to power user!

Upgrading:

- + A common question is can you upgrade from versions before the last one OS X 15 Sequoia? Yes. The earliest system that was shipped with the supported Macs was Mac OS 10.15 Catalina.

Upgrading (cont'd):

- + Check to make sure that your software, especially third-party software (non-Apple) will work in Mac OS 26.x Tahoe
 - + Check Vendors websites. You have not been able to run PPC apps since OSX 10.6
- + Check your printer. May need Vendor driver, Airprint, Gutenprint, or may not be supported at all.

Tips:

- + Have a least one, preferably more Backups before updating!
- + Power off and remove external Hard drives before installation.
 - + Hard drives have been messed up, and external Hard drives could hang up installation process. It happened to me on OSX 10.8
- + It is a big download ~ 16.9+ GB! It will take awhile.
- + The post download installation will take some time too

Tips (cont'd):

- + Clicking on the Install button will force a restart
- + There might be more restarts:
- + You may see additional updates after you install Tahoe.

Why Upgrade?

- + To Use and enjoy the new features in MacOS 26.x! Have the “latest and greatest!”
- + However, I know many have strong opinions on not upgrading
 - + “If its not broken don’t change”
 - + But the issue is the rest of the industry does change and fast
 - + Yes, you still can drive a 1950’s car today, but something like a Mac Plus is more like a Roman Ox cart!
 - + Turbotax 2025 will require Mac OS 14 Sonoma or later
 - + Office 2024 from Microsoft requires Ventura or later
 - + AI requires the latest OS 15 Sequoia

Why Upgrade? (cont'd)

- + Security
- + Apple is only supplying current updates for the following OS's:
 - + 14.x Sonoma
 - + 15.x Sequoia

When to Upgrade?

- + Question is hard to answer.
- + Software can't be perfect out of the gate.
 - + If you wait till 26.1 or better 26.2 version a lot of large bugs are fixed
 - + Ideally all third party software vendors would have updates ready to go with the release date of a new Mac OS.
 - + However big vendors can run into issues of bureaucracy etc.
 - + Small vendors (1 or few persons) may have too much work to finish on time.
- + But if you have more than one Mac, select one for the upgrade, then evaluate upgrading the rest.
- + Note that we are will be seeing features introduced in 26.2 that were missing in previous versions.

What's New? - Introduction

+ New:

- + Liquid Glass, New Icons
- + New Apps: Phone, Journal, Games
- + Live Translation
- + New Disk Image Format

+ Changed

- + Safari
- + Spotlight
- + Messages
- + Notes
- + Brightness and Volume indicators

New Naming:

- + The last operating system Sequoia was 15.x
- + Normally the new system Tahoe would have been 16.x
- + However, Apple changed the naming scheme to reflect the year in which the system would be considered current.
 - + The Mac OS is typically introduced in Sept of the previous year
- + Apple continues California locations for the Name. iOS and iPad OS just have numbers.

New Features-Liquid Glass

- + Liquid Glass is Apple's branding term for a reskinned look of the new Tahoe system
- + Definitely has been controversial
- + Noted by translucent elements and rounded corners
- + There is a setting to tint window background to negate some of the transparency effects.
 - + System Settings>Appearance>Window>Tint Window...
- + There is also System Settings> Accessibility> Display> Reduce transparency. Much more pronounced than above, and has side effects on the display

New Features-Liquid Glass (cont'd)

- + Apple has changed many system and its own supplied app icons. See the Arstechnica article for more details.
- + Demos

New Features:

- + Filevault is now on by default
 - + Filevault has been around for awhile. It provides extra security by encrypting your Internal hard drive.
 - + External drives are not encrypted by default. You have to manually encrypt them using Disk Utility
- + Live Translation: Only for M series Macs. Translate messages and Voice Calls. Adds subtitles to Facetime calls.
- + New disk image format called Apple Sparse Image Format, or ASIF: Faster performance. Useful for virtualization machines in addition to application install images.

Changes: Spotlight

- + Spotlight has been around since Tiger 10.4
 - + You can search, do unit conversions, sports scores etc.
- + You can now search a URL with a filter. There are now four new sub categories.
 - + Applications: Think of the old Launchpad. Five of you most frequently used apps on top, with other apps below alphabetized .
 - + Files: Similar to above but for files. Buttons at the top let you filter to specific applications.
 - + Actions: List of actions; i.e. start a timer, send an email. Can assign quickkey shortcuts.

Changes: Spotlight (cont'd)

- + Clipboard: A history of the last 8 hours of your cut and pastes
 - + Something third party apps have been doing for years.
 - + Saves time, no longer copy from one document to paste in another, then go to a web page copy then paste into the second document, etc Copy what you want on each document or webpage as you go, then paste multiple items as you go
- + Demo

Changes: Safari 26

- + WebGPU: New graphics standard added 3 D rendering
- + SVG favicons: Added support. These are icons on tabs.
- + Pretty Text: For the web pages that support it, this will clean up the text. Short lines, ragged right edges will be cleaned up etc
- + Additional Atomizing: Additional privacy in hiding info about your device

Changes: Messages, Notes and Vol/Brightness

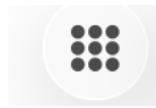
- + Messages: Add backgrounds to messages.
- + Notes: Can now handle Markup support
- + Volume and Brightness: popup windows are rounded and show up in the upper right corner of the screen. No longer at lower right corner as it has been.

New Apps: Journal

- + Journal App was introduced in IOS 17.2/iPad OS 26
- + Option to have multiple journals say daily and vacations
- + You can add photos. And Voice recordings with translation (M series macs only for translation)
- + Demo

New Apps: Phone

- + Similar to the new Phone App introduced in IOS /iPad OS 26
- + Uses continuity feature to connect to your iPhone
- + Has all the iPhone features; recents, voicemails etc.
- + Can now let you dial outgoing calls from you Mac.



New Apps: Games

- + New to the Mac. Consolidates your games
- + Works with games bought within the App, open in App store button for previous purchased games, and or Apple Arcade
- + Has friends Tab a repository of recent friend activity, and allows you to invite your friends into multiplayer games
- + Library Tab.

Final Comments

- + This release introduces Liquid Glass a major change in the look of the Mac OS. I personally can live with the changes and have turned on tint.
- + Others may not want the new Interface. I'm not sure Apple will revert to the older interface; it may modify it or let you modify other features in future builds.
- + <https://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2025/09/macOS-26-tahoe-the-ars-technica-review/>
- + Release history: <https://support.apple.com/en-us/122868>

Appendix:

+ Sequoia Mac OS 15 Requirements:

Models supported:

- + iMac (2019 or newer)
- + iMac Pro (2017 or newer)
- + MacBook Pro (2019 or newer & two 2018 models)
- + MacBook Air (2020 or newer)
- + Mac mini (2018 or newer)
- + Mac Pro (2019 or newer)
- + Mac Studio 2022+