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TAKE CONTROL OF

# iOS 15 AND iPadOS 15

*by* JOSH CENTERS

\$10.99

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# Read Me First

Welcome to *Take Control of iOS 15 and iPadOS 15*, version 1.4, published in May 2022 by alt concepts. This book was written by Josh Centers and edited by Joe Kissell.

This book shows you how to use all the new features in iOS 15 and iPadOS 15, like Focus, copying text out of images, identifying wild plants with Visual Lookup, using the new Safari, and more.

If you want to share this ebook with a friend, we ask that you do so as you would with a physical book: “lend” it for a quick look, but ask your friend to buy a copy for careful reading or reference. Discounted classroom and user group copies are available.

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## Updates and More

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## Basics

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To check which version of iOS you're currently using, open the Settings app and tap General, then About. Look on the About screen for the Version line, which will provide the version of iOS/iPadOS.

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## Touch and Hold

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Throughout this book, I use the term *touch and hold*. Here's what I mean: Lightly place your finger on the screen and hold it there for a few moments. You might feel some haptic feedback when that triggers an action.

Apple used to include a feature called 3D Touch on some iPhones where you had to *press* on the screen to perform various actions. Apple has scrapped that entirely, so now touch and hold takes its place. The upshot is that these features aren't just limited to certain iPhones, but are available on all iPhones and iPads.

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## What's New in Version 1.4

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Apple included several new features in iOS 15.4 and iPadOS 15.4, which most notably added Universal Control to the iPad—the last of the major promised features for iOS 15 and iPadOS 15. See [Features Added Since 15.0](#).

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## What Was New in Version 1.3

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Apple has released iOS 15.2 and iPadOS 15.2, which adds more promised features to those operating systems, including App Privacy Report and Digital Legacy. See [Features Added Since 15.0](#).

# Introduction

If the iOS 15 and iPadOS 15 releases could be summed up in single word, it would be: FINALLY.

These releases tick off so many things that users have wanted for years. Better iPad multitasking? Yes, finally. Extensions in Safari? Yes, finally. Apple account recovery, even after death? Yes, finally. On-device Siri? Yes, finally. Support for two-factor authentication in the password manager? Finally. Tags in Notes? Finally. Free temporary iCloud storage so you can upgrade to a new device without paying more? Finally. The option to view FaceTime participants in a regular grid instead of faces bouncing all over the screen? Finally!

iOS 15 and iPadOS 15 add other features that you probably always wanted, but weren't sure were possible. Things like being able to copy text right out of a photo and paste it into a note, or watching a movie with a friend over FaceTime.

While it's not fair to say "finally" to this, iPadOS 15 brings the App Library and widgets from iOS 14, along with the ability to hide Home screen pages. New to both iOS 15 and iPadOS 15 is the option to rearrange Home screen pages.

However, there might be some features you didn't want. Apple has set out to redesign Safari across the iPhone, iPad, and Mac. These changes proved controversial across the betas, forcing Apple to make some major changes, even if the company hasn't retreated entirely. Apple has also included ways to undo those changes, which I explain.

Despite Safari's quirks, the betas of these releases were solid, and I expect the same of the public releases. They bring many long-requested features that should make your iPhone and iPad experience better.

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## iOS and iPadOS 15: What Works on Your Device and What Doesn't

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iOS 15 and iPadOS 15 have many great new features, but not every feature works with every device.

To figure out what features will work on your devices, I refer you to my TidBITS article [The Real System Requirements for Apple's 2021 Operating Systems](#). There will undoubtedly be additional features added as new hardware devices are rolled out, and this book will be updated to address those.

For many features, an A12 Bionic processor or better is required. That includes:

- iPhone XR, XS, and XS Max
- iPhone SE (2nd generation)
- iPad (8th generation)
- iPad mini (5th generation)
- iPad Air (3rd generation)
- iPad Pro (3rd generation)

Features that require an A12 Bionic or later include:

- Spatial Audio and Portrait Mode in FaceTime
- The “all new city experience” and immersive walking directions in Maps
- Live Text in Camera
- Visual Lookup in Photos
- Siri on-device processing, on-device personalization, on-device dictation, and continuous dictation
- Animated backgrounds in the iOS 15 Weather app

Other features with specific system requirements include:

- **Car keys and home keys:** iPhone XS and later
- **Walking steadiness:** iPhone 8 and later
- **Zoom in QuickTake videos:** iPhone XR, XS, XS Max, and later
- **5G enhanced connectivity:** iPhone 12 models, iPad Pro 12.9-inch (5th generation), and iPad Pro 11-inch (3rd generation)
- **Spatial Audio with head tracking using AirPods Pro and AirPods Max:** iPhone 7 and later, iPad Pro 12.9-inch (3rd generation and later), iPad Pro 11-inch, iPad Air (3rd generation and later), iPad (6th generation and later), and iPad mini (5th generation)

# iOS 15 and iPadOS 15

## Quick Start

If you're brand new to iOS or iPadOS, start with [An iOS/iPadOS Crash Course](#). Otherwise, this chapter offers some suggestions for things you should look at first.

### *Get your bearings in reworked features:*

- Apple has overhauled Safari in iOS and iPadOS. For instance, the address bar is now on the bottom in iOS. Learn how to [Navigate the New Safari Interface](#).
- iPadOS now has explicit onscreen controls for making and managing multitasking windows. Learn how to [Multitask in iPadOS 15](#).
- The Memories feature in Photos has been remade from the ground up to be smarter and more flexible. See [Play with the New Memories](#).

### *Communicate better:*

- [Send Links to FaceTime Conversations](#) and schedule FaceTime calls.
- [Finding What's Shared with You](#) in various apps. For instance, webpages shared with you in Messages now have a special place in Safari. The same goes for photos, music, and other types of media.

### *Discover new features in old apps:*

- [Take a Quick Note](#) on the iPad.
- [Organize Your Browsing with Tab Groups](#) in Safari, which let you maintain separate bundles of tabs. For instance, you could have one tab group for work and another for personal browsing.
- [View the Interactive Globe](#) in Maps. It's not especially useful, but it's fun to play with.

- [Take Advantage of Live Text](#) to extract text from images. One of the most impressive new features in iOS 15 and iPadOS 15 lets you select and copy text in images as easily as you can any text. That works in Camera, Photos, and Safari.
- [Adjust Playback Speed](#) in Voice Memos to speed up or slow down playback.

# An iOS/iPadOS Crash Course

Most people know the basics of iOS and iPadOS or pick them up quickly. I've seen it myself with both young children and older folks who didn't grow up with computers. But there might be some things you've missed.

Apple publishes very nice user guides for the [iPhone](#) and [iPad](#), and I strongly encourage you to check those out.

I also encourage you to check out [Apple's YouTube channel](#), which sometimes posts useful instructional videos in addition to promotional content.

Here is a quick crash course on using iOS and iPadOS.

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## Navigate the Lock Screen

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The Lock screen is the first thing you see when you wake an iPhone or iPad, so let's start there. The Lock Screen displays your latest notifications, and offers quick access to Control Center, Search, the Camera app, and Widgets.

**Note:** To learn about notification summaries and Focus, turn to Control Your Notifications.

Modern iPhones and iPads have one of two authentication mechanisms: Touch ID, which lets you authenticate with a fingerprint, or Face ID, which lets you authenticate with facial recognition.

First, you need to wake up the device. You can use the Sleep/Wake button, but it's not always convenient to press. On devices with Home buttons, pressing the Home button also wakes the screen. On Touch ID devices without Home buttons, tapping the screen wakes the device.

With Touch ID, you unlock the device by placing a recognized finger on the Home button. Face ID unlocks when it recognizes your face. If it doesn't recognize your face (like if you're wearing a mask), you may be prompted to enter your passcode. An [Apple Watch can also be used to unlock your iPhone](#) in those situations.

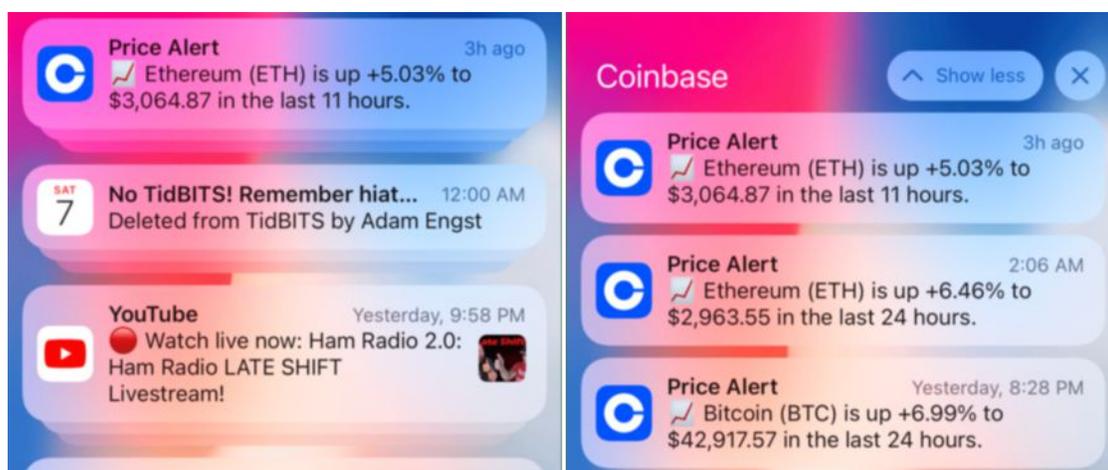
To lock your device again, press the Sleep/Wake button.

Here's how to perform common functions on the Lock screen *before* you unlock it:

- **Manage notifications:** Notifications appear on your Lock screen; these may include messages, emails, news alerts, and sometimes just useless junk you don't care about. (You can turn them off per app in Settings > Notifications > *App Name*.)

**Tip:** By default, iOS and iPadOS show previews of your notifications when the device is unlocked, which is convenient, but a potential privacy risk. You can adjust that in Settings > Notifications > Show Previews.

Notifications from the same app are often grouped together, and you can tap the group to expand it (**Figure 1**).



**Figure 1:** Tap a notification stack to expand it. Tap Show Less to re-stack it.

Swipe left on a notification to reveal two buttons: Options and Clear. Tap Clear to get rid of the notification, or you can keep swiping it to the left to clear it in one movement. Tapping Options

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## About the Author

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Josh Centers is the Managing Editor of [TidBITS](#), editor-in-chief of [Unprepared](#), and founder of [Apple Buying Advice](#). He is also the author of [Take Control of Notes](#), [Take Control of Apple TV](#), and [Take Control of Apple Home Automation](#), and coauthor of [Take Control of Preview](#) with Adam Engst. He has been featured in USA Today, Macworld, Scientific American, the Washington Post, Boing Boing, the Wirecutter, and other publications, as well as on Comedy Central, HuffPost Live, and Voice of America.

Josh lives in Tennessee with his wife and sons.

## Acknowledgments

Thanks to Joe Kissell who helped make this book a reality; my wife for putting up with me as I wrote this book; and Jesus Christ, who makes all things possible.

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Hey guys, like and subscribe to my [YouTube channel](#) for tech tips and analysis. I also have a [Twitter](#) if you enjoy bad tweets.

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## About the Publisher

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alt concepts, publisher of Take Control Books, is operated by [Joe Kissell](#) and [Morgen Jahnke](#), who acquired the ebook series from TidBITS Publishing Inc.'s owners, Adam and Tonya Engst, in 2017. Joe

brings his decades of experience as author of more than 60 books on tech topics (including many popular Take Control titles) to his role as Publisher. Morgen's professional background is in development work for nonprofit organizations, and she employs those skills as Director of Marketing and Publicity. Joe and Morgen live in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, with their two children and their cat.

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[alt concepts](#), 419 8B-3110 8th St. East, Saskatoon, SK S7H 0W2 Canada

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