

### Summary

Over a billion smartphones, including iPhones, are no longer eligible for security updates, making them vulnerable to attacks. A new visual guide helps users identify obsolete iPhone models and encourages upgrading to newer devices to ensure security. The list of obsolete iPhones includes models like the iPhone 8 and older, highlighting the importance of staying updated to protect against evolving threats.

Zak Doffman Apr 12, 2026 at 10:46pm EDT



Are you on the list — check now.  
San Francisco Chronicle via Getty Images

Something needs to change. There are now [more than a billion smartphones](#) that are no longer eligible for security updates and fixes. Every new vulnerability and every new attack becomes a serious threat. Is your phone now at risk?

If you own an Android, [it's complicated](#). Updates come from both Google and the manufacturers. With iPhones, though, it's very simple. And now there's a visual guide that lets you check your model against the list of obsolete iPhones. That means iPhones with unpatched threats,

iPhones that *are* now at risk.

[Forbes 'Unprotected' — 1 Billion iPhone And Android Users Must Act Now By Zak Doffman](#)

In the last year, we have seen multiple “[mercenary spyware](#)” warnings from Apple, and we have had countless update now warnings in the press, as the iMaker releases a train of major and minor iOS updates.

If your iPhone is on the list of “obsolete” models, meaning no more updates, then you should upgrade to a new or newer device. You can also use the new visual guide, courtesy of [@privatetalky](#) on X, to check which iPhones are safe to buy.

If your phone is not obsolete but is now just receiving security updates or nearing the end of support, then you should consider a new phone. What you must not do is assume your device will remain safe — the scourge of AI has accelerated the pace and expanded the scale of attacks. Do not take the risk.

[To view the original source article, please click here.](#)

This new chart is simple but effective. It's also timely. With Apple's recent release of critical updates for older phones, coming not long after its battle to push iOS 18 users to upgrade to iOS 26, the install base is more complex than usual.

The Prompt: Get the week's biggest AI news on the buzziest companies and boldest breakthroughs, in your inbox.

The detailed list of iPhones now off support can be found [here](#). It includes the iPhone 8, which dropped support 12-months ago, and any devices older than that.

iPhone	iPhone 4S (8GB)
iPhone 3G (China mainland) 8GB	iPhone 5
iPhone 3G 8GB, 16GB	iPhone 5C
iPhone 3GS (China mainland) 16GB, 32GB	iPhone 5S
iPhone 3GS (8GB)	iPhone 6
iPhone 3GS 16GB, 32GB	iPhone 6 Plus
iPhone 4 CDMA	iPhone 6s (32GB)
iPhone 4 CDMA (8GB)	iPhone 6s Plus (32GB)
iPhone 4 16GB, 32GB	iPhone 8 (PRODUCT)RED™
iPhone 4 GSM (8GB)	iPhone 8 Plus (PRODUCT)RED™
iPhone 4S	iPhone SE

You can also find the list on [Apple's own website](#):

[\*Forbes FBI Warns iPhone And Android Users—End-To-End Encryption Won't Protect You By Zak Doffman\*](#)

Jamf's latest [mobile threat report](#) warns that "an out-of-date OS means unpatched, exploitable vulnerabilities." Yet despite this, more than half of all organizations are now being put at risk from employees with outdated phones.

"Over 50% of mobile devices are running outdated OS versions, and a significant number are compromised or infected," [Zimperium](#) warns, adding that "a significant percentage of devices are not upgradeable due to the device's age." Don't be that user. Check the list. And if you've timed out, stop using your old iPhone now.