

Summary

Apple released iOS 18.7, a smaller update focused on security fixes, for iPhones from 2018 onwards. This update is ideal for users with older iPhones that can't run iOS 26 or those who prefer to wait for initial bug fixes before upgrading. While iOS 18.7 provides immediate security benefits, iOS 26 offers the latest features, including Liquid Glass, and is recommended for long-term security.

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[David Phelan](#) Sep 17, 2025 at 04:40pm EDT

Updated Sept. 17 with more details of the new update and further analysis of which to choose.



Apple iOS 18.7
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Apple's latest iPhone software, iOS 26, is now on general release: read full details of it [here](#). But maybe you don't want to plump for the new system just yet, or your iPhone won't run it. In that case, iOS 18.7, also just released, is for you. Here's what you need to know. Incidentally, Apple also released updates for the Mac for those not wanting to update to macOS 26 just yet.

iOS 18.7 Or iOS 26: Which Should You Choose?

Note that simultaneous releases of iOS 18 and iOS 26 versions won't continue indefinitely. Apple usually runs the two versions in parallel for maximum two months,

to give the cautious time to get used to what's new. But the company also wants you to get on board with the new software if you can before too long.

[Forbes Apple Releases iOS 26: Transformational iPhone Software With New Design And Features. By David Phelan](#)

If you don't want to get caught up in the first-day shenanigans, you could download iOS 18.7 today. It will take less time because it's a smaller download (about a 15th of the size of iOS 26) but will provide security updates for now.

Staying off iOS 26 for now may also be appealing if you don't care for the signature update: Liquid Glass. This has been warmly received but not universally liked. Still, be warned, you will have to update sooner or later if you want full security protections. So, like it or not, Liquid Glass is in your future unless you choose not to update at all, and nobody is recommending that.

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[Yahoo News](#) had interesting commentary on how you'd choose. "The update to iOS 18.7 is intended for two groups: owners of older iPhones such as the XR, XS, or XS Max, which can no longer install iOS 26, and users who deliberately choose not to switch immediately. Many iPhone owners wait for initial bug fixes before making a major version jump. Apple is responding with an update that focuses more on security than new features," it said.

The report also highlighted a different issue: supposing you're not against Liquid Glass because of the way it looks but you just like the way things are now, and want to keep your device up to date, "without visual or functional changes." Then iOS 18.7 is a good stopgap before you make the leap.

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Plus, of course, however solid iOS 26 is, iOS 18 has been going for much longer so is bound to be more stable. It is, after all, a proven system. "Especially for older models, it may be wise not to switch to the latest software right away to preserve performance," it said.

More commentary points in the same direction. The website [howtoisolve.com](https://www.howtoisolve.com) points out that this isn't an either/or situation. You can install iOS 18.7 now and iOS 26 later — they're both free, after all. On the other hand, if you go straight for iOS 26, downgrading again could be trickier — Apple stops signing releases after a short time.

The benefit of starting with iOS 18.7 is that it ensures any bugs on earlier iOS 18 versions can be sorted, and this can mean you'll stabilize system performance. It also "Reduces the chance of update errors like 'Software Update Failed' when installing

iOS 26,” it says and that it “Installs quickly and doesn’t require much free space,” which may be a legitimate concern for some users.

More than that, it gives you a chance to stay protected while you sit back and see what public reactions to iOS 26 turn out to be. So far, though, they seem largely positive.

Nevertheless, there’s an inevitability to iOS 26 in the end, so you’re really just postponing something that will come. Going straight to iOS 26 saves an extra update cycle and includes all the security goodness of iOS 18.7. Most importantly, it gets you access to the latest performance upgrades and a chance to enjoy Liquid Glass. Unless, of course, you’ve decided you don’t like the new software.

Even so, “If you want maximum stability, safety, and a smoother jump, install iOS 18.7 first, then move to iOS 26,” the report concludes. I’d also say that either path is safe, so long as your iPhone has enough storage space. “There’s no wrong choice here,” the report says.

Which iPhones Can Run iOS 18.7?

This update is for all iPhones from 2018 onwards. That means the iPhone Xs, iPhone Xs Max and iPhone XR and all iPhones since, including the iPhone SE in both its second- and third-generation models. And all members of the iPhone 16 series are included, right up to the iPhone 16e. Note that iOS 26 is available to all of these phones except the first three. It’s compatible with iOS 11 and onwards.

How To Get It

Open the iPhone Settings app, then choose General, followed by Software Update. Next, click on Download and Install, and it’ll be on your phone shortly. It’s a smallish update, as these things go, weighing 973MB on my iPhone 16 Pro Max. It downloaded and installed quickly — less than 10 minutes total.

iOS 18.7 — What’s In The Release

Apple is tight-lipped about what’s in iOS 18.7, merely saying “This update provides important bug fixes and security updates and is recommended for all users.” It hasn’t yet updated with full details of exactly what bugs have been squished and usually releases details of security concerns later, when users have had a chance to update to protect themselves.

More to follow as the details become known.

[Forbes 5 Apple AirPods Pro 3 Details Nobody Told You By David Phelan](#)