

You can now set up your new Mac with an iPhone or iPad, and it might just be the best new time-saver

News By [Jacob Krol](#) published 15 hours ago



(Image credit: Future / Lance Ulanoff)

- Apple's ushered in a new continuity feature with iOS 18.4 and macOS Sequoia 15.4
- You can now use an iPhone or iPad to help set up your Mac
- While relatively small, this could be a huge time-saver

Part of what makes the [Apple](#) ecosystem so good – and appealing to newcomers or folks just buying new devices – is the continuity between them, even including set-up. For instance, to set up an [Apple Watch](#) or [AirPods](#), just hold the device near your iPhone.

Setting up an iPad? Hold it near your iPhone, follow the steps, and scan the glowing blue orb. Setting up a new iPhone? Hold it near your old iPhone. This takes a lot of the manual nature out of a new device setup and even helps authenticate your account.

While [iOS 18.4](#), [iPadOS 18.4](#), and [macOS Sequoia 15.4](#) didn't bring with them the next major set of Apple Intelligence features, they did bring with them something awesome. And if you are getting a new Mac, planning to get one, or frequently reset your old ones, you're in for a treat.

...

As long as you're up to date – meaning your Mac has the latest version of Sequoia and your iPhone or iPad is running iOS or iPadOS 18.4, you can now set up that new Mac with your other Apple device. Really neat, and it could save you time. As with the speedy setup, you'll need Wi-Fi and Bluetooth enabled for these two devices to connect.

So, what does this quick setup speed up? All-important Wi-Fi credentials, design choices like dark mode or icon size, accessibility features, and more are included. Plus, since you're authenticating and signing in with your Apple

Account (formerly Apple ID), you can elect to turn on [iCloud](#) features like a shared desktop, your photo library, Messages in the Cloud, your long list of passwords, notes, and other items.

How setting up your Mac with an iPhone or iPad works



(Image credit: Apple)

Now, the good news is that this whole process really speeds up the setup process for your Mac – and that goes for whether it’s a desktop, like the [Mac mini](#), [Mac Studio](#), or [iMac](#), or a laptop, like the [MacBook Air](#) or [MacBook Pro](#).

You’ll still boot up the Mac and select your language, but then, under the familiar screen that asks “Transfer Your Data to this Mac,” you’ll find a new option:

...



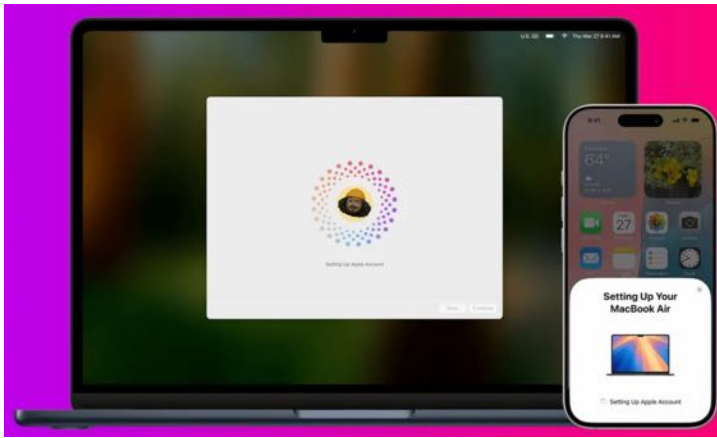
(Image credit: Apple)

That third option – **Set up with iPhone or iPad** – is what you’ll need to select to do just that. From there, your Mac will then start looking for a nearby device, and you’ll want to unlock your iPhone or iPad and bring it close by.

Then just like when setting up a new iPhone or an iPad, a splash screen will appear on the bottom asking if you want to use your Apple Account to “Set Up New Mac.” Simply hit continue and then you’ll scan a pattern displayed on your Mac with

your iPhone. That’s the final step for authentication here.

After that, you’ll be asked if you want to enable any accessibility settings and then create your Mac account. The last step is a bit of a waiting game as your Apple Account syncs up with your Mac, and then you can wrap up the setup.



(Image credit: Apple)

Basically, you're speeding through the authentication process and getting some of the previously customized settings associated with your new Mac.

It's nice to have, and if you've ever dreaded setting up your new Mac, you might question how you've lived without it.

...