

Summary

iOS 18.7 and iOS 26 are both available for iPhone users. iOS 18.7 offers security fixes for 12 vulnerabilities, while iOS 26 introduces new features and improved security, including enhanced Passkey support and better app permission controls. Although iOS 26 has some bugs, it will receive more security updates in the future, making it the more secure option in the long run.

Table of Contents

1. [The Case For iOS 18.7](#)
2. [iOS 26.0.1 Is On Its Way](#)
3. [The Case For iOS 26](#)
4. [iOS 26.1 Will Change iPhone Security, For The Better](#)
5. [iOS 18.7 Vs iOS 26 — The Verdict](#)

[Kate O'Flaherty](#) Sep 24, 2025 at 05:20am EDT



Apple's iOS 26 is here, alongside an update for those who want to wait to upgrade to the latest iPhone software, iOS 18.7.

Getty Images

Update Sept. 24, 2025: This article, originally published on Sept.22, has been updated to add news of an exciting iPhone security enhancement in iOS 26.1.

Apple's [iOS 26](#) is here, alongside an update for those who want to wait to upgrade to the latest iPhone software, [iOS 18.7](#).

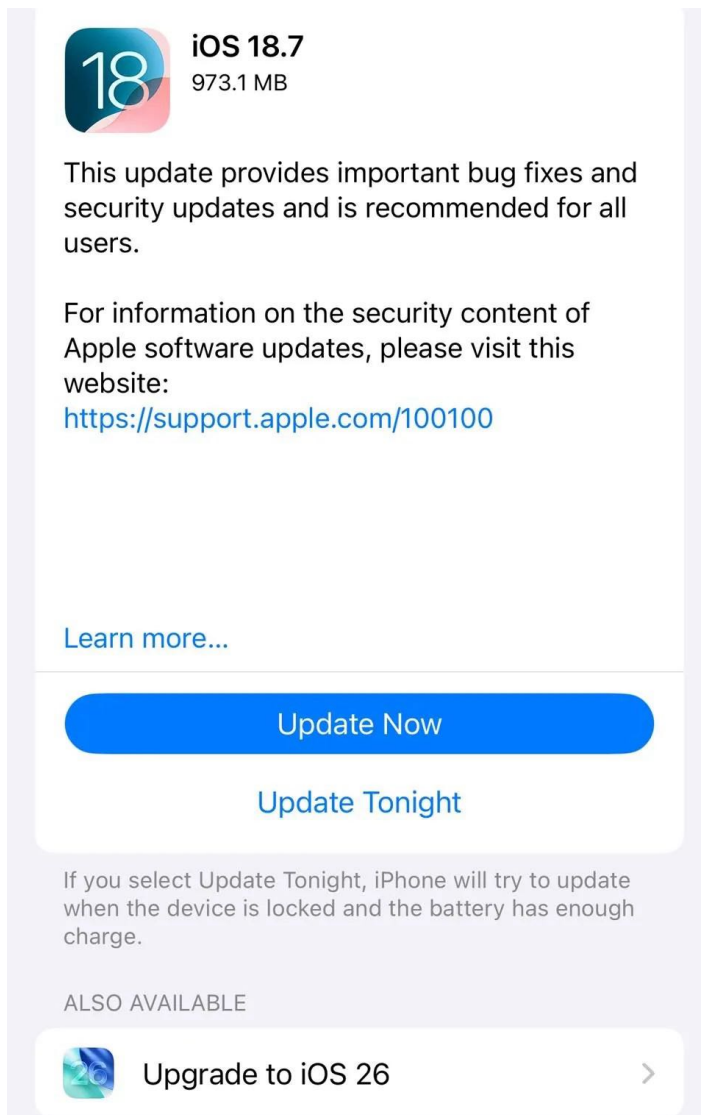
Both iOS 26 and iOS 18.7 are available for anyone whose iPhone will run the software, so for now, the choice is yours. But iOS 18.7 and iOS 26 fix a long list of security issues, which means you must update to one of them ASAP.

So, which iPhone update should you choose?

The Case For iOS 18.7

If anything, iOS 18.7 is a safe option for those who want a secure iPhone but don't care about iOS 26 features. The iOS 18.7 update contains fixes for 12 security vulnerabilities, some of which are serious.

These include two flaws in WebKit, the engine that underpins the Safari browser and one in the Kernel at the heart of the iPhone operating system. Meanwhile, an issue in Shortcuts tracked as CVE-2025-43358 could see a Shortcut able to bypass sandbox restrictions, according to Apple's [support page](#).



The screenshot shows an iOS update notification for iOS 18.7. At the top left is a large '18' icon. To its right, the text reads 'iOS 18.7' and '973.1 MB'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'This update provides important bug fixes and security updates and is recommended for all users.' Another paragraph follows: 'For information on the security content of Apple software updates, please visit this website: <https://support.apple.com/100100>'. Below the text is a 'Learn more...' link. The main update options are 'Update Now' (a large blue button) and 'Update Tonight' (a smaller blue button). A note below these options says: 'If you select Update Tonight, iPhone will try to update when the device is locked and the battery has enough charge.' At the bottom, under 'ALSO AVAILABLE', there is a button for 'Upgrade to iOS 26' with a right-pointing arrow.

One big reason to go for iOS 18.7 is that it's always possible to change your mind. Once you have upgraded to iOS 26, there is no going back. And new data from cloud-based call center solution provider MightyCall shows a surge of regret among iPhone users after the iOS 26 launch. Searches for "how to downgrade iOS 26 to 18" jumped 572% week-over-week, while general downgrade searches rose 335%, according to the firm.

Apple will update iOS 18 with security-only fixes for a few months after issuing a major point upgrade, in this case, iOS 26. After this period, iOS 18 updates will only be available for those who [can't upgrade their iPhone to iOS 26](#).

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

For now, if you are a business user, or you can't stand bugs that come with iOS 26—which so far include the usual battery drain and more—iOS 18.7 is probably the

Apple's iOS 26 has been released alongside an update for those who want to wait to upgrade to the latest iPhone software, iOS 18.7.
Apple iPhone

best update for you.

iOS 26.0.1 Is On Its Way

One thing that might make cautious updaters sit up and listen is the fact that iOS 26.0.1 is apparently coming soon, according to a report on [MacRumors](#), which cites a reliable leaker's X account.

The update will have a build number of 23A350, according to the report. It will fix bugs and perhaps even include a security update or two. The iOS 26.0.1 upgrade is also very small, which means it's likely to be fast-arriving.

It's possible that iOS 26.0.1 will fix a camera related bug being seen on the iPhone Air and new Pro models. "In his iPhone Air review, *CNN Underscored's* Henry T. Casey said some of the photos he took with the iPhone Air and iPhone 17 Pro Max at a concert contained 'small blacked-out portions' and 'white squiggles'," MacRumors writes,

Apple acknowledged the issue, saying it is working on a fix. The iPhone maker told Casey that the issue can happen in "very rare cases when an LED light display is extremely bright and shining directly into the camera."

Several other Apple fans are complaining of issues after updating to iOS 26. "While watching movies on SharePlay the audio does not route to my Bluetooth headphones after iOS 26 update," one iPhone user wrote on a [thread](#) on the Apple discussion forum. "I've troubleshooted and noticed that my headphones are connected and will show as connected while watching the movie, but no audio until my partner ends the call."

Another user says iOS 26 "worked for one day and has been horrible ever since."

"I am unable to play music or listen to videos while my phone is locked. I am unable to open the Bluetooth area of the settings app making it impossible to connect to items (AirPods, TV, ect). The phone lags and won't even shut off when it's prompted to do so. I so desperately wish I never ungraded because now my phone literally doesn't work," they lamented.

"I wish I never did the software update. Without a recent backup, I can't easily revert to iOS 18 either," says another user on the MacRumors website. "There are so many small bugs it's infuriating. Can't even scroll without it getting choppy and seeing translucent descending artefacts in Safari on a 15 Pro Max."

Other users are reporting the usual issues with battery drain.

However, I have updated to iOS 26 on my iPhone 16 Pro and it is working fine. The Liquid Glass interface does take a bit of getting used to. There's no doubt it's somewhat blurry. However, there are lots of cool features to try out, especially if AI is your bag.

The Case For iOS 26

Apple's iOS 26 comes with a bunch of very cool new iPhone features, many of which improve your security. For example, iOS 26 boosts support for Passkeys, making security and privacy more simple for users, says Jake Moore, global cybersecurity advisor at security outfit ESET. "Apple's iOS 26 offers the most up to date protection and addresses newly discovered vulnerabilities and permission controls. There are also better controls to tighten restrictions on how apps can access sensitive data," he says.

If you, like me, are an early adopter of Apple software and don't care about some minor bugs—most of which will be fixed quickly—then iOS 26 is the update for you. The iOS 26 update will also be ultimately more secure than iOS 18.7, because Apple will now focus on its latest operating system for bug fixes, giving you a more substantial list of patches going forward. The iOS 26 update fixes more than 25 flaws.

Plus, if your iPhone can run iOS 26, you will need to update to it eventually, as Apple will stop offering fixes for devices running iOS 18 by choice, probably by early 2026.

...

iOS 26.1 Will Change iPhone Security, For The Better

It's now emerged that another version of Apple's latest iPhone software, iOS 26.1 is coming soon. The next point update to iOS 26 will introduce some major changes to your security via a refresh to a feature some of you might be familiar with — Rapid Security Responses.

Apple first introduced Rapid Security Responses in iOS 16, with the idea of being able to release important patches on the fly, rather than alongside bug fixes and features in a whole new iOS version. All started fine with these, but then, a Rapid Security Response went wrong and Apple was forced to quickly issue another update to fix it. After that, the iPhone maker remained tight-lipped, but no further Rapid Security Responses were ever seen.

With iOS 26.1, Rapid Security Responses are back, under the new name Background Security Improvements, according to a report in [MacWorld](#), which has seen its existence in the code.

There will be a slight difference in Background Security Improvements, because they will happen in the background requiring no user interaction, once you have opted in to getting them. Apple will also be able to roll back Background Security Improvements, showing the iPhone maker learnt from the snafu it suffered with the early Rapid Security Response.

If this does happen, it's another reason iOS 26 will be more secure than staying on iOS 18. However, the feature won't arrive until iOS 26.1 is released some time in October or November.

iOS 18.7 Vs iOS 26 – The Verdict

In the end it comes down to personal choice. Apple's iOS 18.7 will be better for some people, iOS 26 for others.

For the non-early adopters, iOS 18.7 is “a stable update that offers bug fixes without any new features,” says Moore. However, he points out, you will miss out on the “more advanced security safeguards that iOS 26 is offering.”

The update you choose is up to you, but you must select either iOS 18.7 or iOS 26 to keep your iPhone safe. So, what are you waiting for? Go to your iPhone's Settings > General > Software Update and download and install iOS 18.7 or iOS 26 now.