



## iOS 26.1 Or iOS 18.7.2—Here's Which New iPhone Update To Choose

Kate O'Flaherty Nov 14, 2025 at 05:24am EST




Apple has released [iOS 26.1](#), alongside another iPhone update, iOS 18.7.2. Both iPhone upgrades fix a number of security issues and bugs, but only iOS 26.1 includes new features.

You can still choose whether to upgrade your iPhone to iOS 18.7.2 or iOS 26.1. So, which iPhone update should you select?

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### The Case For iOS 26.1



**iOS 26.1**  
12.45 GB

This update adds new languages for Live Translation with AirPods, a new tinted option for Liquid Glass, and includes other features, bug fixes and security updates for your iPhone.

For information on the security content of Apple software updates, please visit: <https://support.apple.com/100100>

[Learn more...](#)

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#### **iOS 26.1 Fixes A Hefty List Of Flaws:**

Apple's iOS 26.1 fixes a hefty list of flaws, including more patches than the iOS 18.7.2 release. While some of these might not affect iOS 18, Apple does prioritise its latest operating system for vulnerability patching, making it the more secure version of the software for those who [can upgrade](#) to it.

**iOS 26.1 Addresses Bugs:** While some people like to wait to update to new iOS versions to address any bugs, iOS 26 has been out for a couple of months now. That means early bugs in the software are being addressed by the iPhone maker. It also means you haven't got long left to choose not to update, as Apple won't support iOS 18 for all devices forever.

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Apple iPhone

**iOS 26.1 Adds New Features, Including One Crucial For iPhone Security:** Among the security features in [iOS 26](#) is one that's game-changing — [Background Security Improvements](#). With this iOS 26.1 feature, you don't have to worry about keeping track of security updates, as your iPhone or iPad will now be able to do this on the fly, in the background. That means you can assess each bigger feature upgrade as it comes, without compromising your security. In an age where iPhones are being targeted more broadly with [spyware](#), it's certainly something worth having.

## **The Case For iOS 18.7.2**

**iOS 18.7.2 Includes Security Fixes:** While the patch list isn't as hefty for [iOS 18.7.2](#) as iOS 26.1, the update still fixes around three dozen vulnerabilities in the iPhone's software, including issues in the Kernel and WebKit, which are often serious. If you choose to upgrade to iOS 18.7.2 rather than iOS 26.1, you'll be pretty well covered for security fixes.

**iOS 18.7.2 Avoid Liquid Glass, Plus Apple Will Let You Stay on iOS 18...For Now:** Another reason to choose iOS 18.7.2 over iOS 26.1 is you avoid divisive features such as Apple's Liquid Glass, which some users strongly dislike. Apple is updating iOS 18 with important security upgrades, probably until the end of the year at least. This means you can wait for iOS 26.2 — [due mid Dec.](#) — safely and reassess things then.

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## **iOS 26.1 Vs iOS 18.7.2—Which iPhone Update To Choose**

At the moment, either iOS 26.1 or iOS 18.7.2 is a good option for those whose iPhones can run both versions.

“If your device can run iOS 26.1 and you're happy to move to the newest major version, it's the better option for security and the latest privacy add-ons and controls,” advises Jake Moore, global cybersecurity advisor at ESET.

However, if you own an older device that doesn't support iOS 26, or you haven't got the space for “the enormous amount of data required for the upgrade,” iOS 18.7.2 “still provides pretty solid protection,” he says.

In the end, the choice of iOS 18.7.2 or iOS 26.2 is down to your individual preference and threat profile. For example, if you are a business user or need strong security protections, iOS 26.1 is the update for you. Most average users can make do with iOS 18.7.2.

So, what are you waiting for? Go to **Settings > General > Software Update** and download and install **iOS 26.1** or **iOS 18.7.2** now.