

Apple updates iOS 12 to extend iMessage and FaceTime support on older devices

Summary

Apple released iOS 12.5.8 and iPadOS 12.5.8 for older devices, including iPhone 5s and iPad Air, to extend the certificate required for iMessage, FaceTime, and device activation beyond January 2027. It is recommended to install the update to ensure these services continue working and to address any potential bugs.

Marcus Mendes | Jan 26 2026 - 5:41 pm PT



Apple has released iOS 12.5.8 for a small group of older iPhones, iPads, and the iPod touch, containing an important update for devices that can't upgrade to modern versions of iOS. Here are the details.

Three years (and three days) later, a new system update

Today, Apple released multiple [beta](#) versions of its operating system for developers, alongside several updates for devices running stable versions of iOS and iPadOS.

Two of these releases, iOS 12.5.8 and iPadOS 12.5.8, include an important certificate extension ahead of its expiration in January 2027. From Apple's release notes:

This update extends the certificate required by features such as iMessage, FaceTime, and device activation to continue working after January 2027.

Apple says that iOS 12.5.8 and iPadOS 12.5.8 are available for the following devices:

- iPhone 5s
- iPhone 6
- iPhone 6 Plus
- iPad Air
- iPad mini 2
- iPad mini 3
- iPod touch (6th generation)

This means that if you, or someone you know, is still rocking one of these devices, it's important to install the update to ensure key services like iMessage and FaceTime, as well as device activation, continue working after January 2027.

And while there's still plenty of time before these certificates expire, it may be worth updating just to shake out any bugs that may have cropped up since the last system update, released on January 23, 2023.