

and links, such as images, videos, text, contact info, directions, YouTube videos, and other data. It shares content with Bluetooth, Bluetooth Low Energy, WebRTC, and peer-to-peer Wi-Fi. It can be configured only to share content offline, restricting it to Bluetooth-only operation. When sharing content between two devices registered on the same Google account, there is no need to confirm file transmission or wake the other device to receive shared content. Forget data usage or document sharing on chat apps; Nearby Share is the authentic sauce for sharing files on Android and Windows.



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Android Beam API being deprecated by Google

By **Rei Padla** - December 20, 2018 0



People may not realize it but some old apps work because of Android Beam. It's a connectivity feature that has been around since the beginning of Android. We don't usually talk about it but now that it's being deprecated, we like to focus on it one more time before it's totally gone. It works with the NFC technology, ready even before those NFC-enabled contactless payment terminals was introduced. This is actually an Android 4.1+ API so you know it's old but it does allow a number of great functions like tapping two phones to share files.

To be honest, nobody taps two smartphones together anymore to share photos, documents, web pages, and contacts. There may be a few who do but it's really uncommon. Because of this, the tech giant is deprecating the API. Soon, support for such feature will totally be gone.

This simple "handshake" via NFC is one of Android Beam's more popular uses. That was before when files are smaller but since files are bigger, they require WIFI Direct or Bluetooth now.

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This deprecating move follows what we told you recently that [Google Play Services is ending support for API level 14, 15](#). We have a feeling related announcements will be made as we enter a new year.

Android Beam support will still be out there but sans support. There may not be major uses for it now but we are grateful how it helped the mobile consumers with quick file transfer and sharing in the past.

VIA: [XDA Developers](#)

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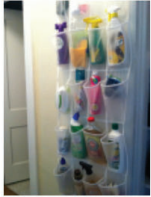




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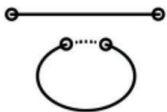
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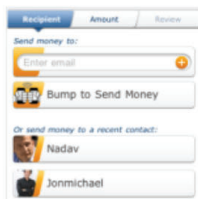
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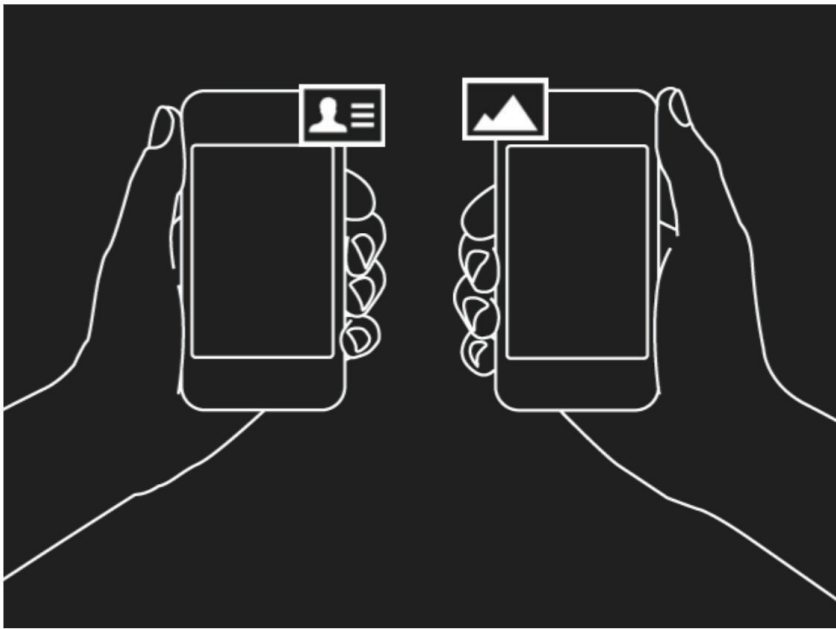
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Bump and Flock, the file sharing apps Google acquired last fall, will be shut down by the end of this month. Both apps will stop working and be removed from Google Play and the App Store on January 31, [Bump confirmed on its blog today](#).

Google bought Bump Technologies, which make both apps, back in September, and [Android Police reports](#) that work on the app appeared to stop shortly after the acquisition.

Bump, which let users tap phones together to share contacts and other files, raised nearly \$20 million and enjoyed high download rates, but failed to monetize successfully as other easy, mobile-friendly ways to share information were developed, most notably Apple's AirDrop for iOS 7. Flock is [a collaborative photo-sharing app](#) Bump Technologies released in 2012.

As [TechCrunch's Josh Constine wrote in September](#), the sale wasn't an acquihire, but Google might plan to turn Flock into part of Google+ in order to compete with Facebook's photo sharing and Dropbox's photo saving services, especially since Google+'s Party Mode, a photo sharing service based around events, failed to gain real traction. The acquisition of Bump Technologies also gave Google access to several mobile communication patents that could help it improve Android and create better alternatives to near-field communication (NFC).

When the startup [announced its acquisition by Google](#), co-founder David Lieb said in a statement that "We strive to create experiences that feel like magic, enabled behind the scene with innovations in math, data processing, and algorithms. So we couldn't be more thrilled to join Google." The acquisition price was undisclosed but sources told TechCrunch it was around \$35 million, a relatively low amount considering how much funding Bump had raised. [Bump's investors included](#) Y Combinator, Sequoia Capital, Felicis Ventures, SV Angel, Andreessen Horowitz, and many angels.

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- **Bump Technologies**
 - **Founded** October 2008
 - **Total Funding** \$19.9M
 - **Overview** Bump Technologies builds mobile applications and APIs that allow two smartphones to identify one another and connect by simply being bumped together. The company was founded in 2008 and is based in Mountain View, California. Bump Technologies is funded by Y Combinator, Sequoia Capital, Andreessen Horowitz and other angel investors.
 - **Website** <http://bu.mp>
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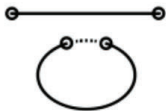
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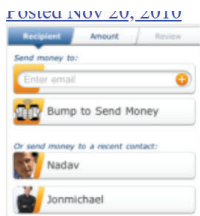
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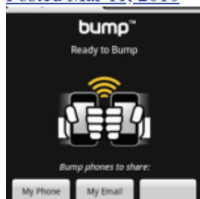
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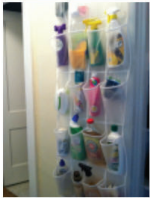
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AirDrop 101: Easily Send Content Between Nearby iPhones, iPads, and Macs

AirDrop allows you to quickly and easily send links, photos, files, and more content between nearby iPhones, iPads, and Macs. Just open up the Share panel and tap a nearby device.

This works a bit like [Android Beam on Android phones and tablets](#). However, it all works wirelessly over Bluetooth with no [NFC](#) contact required. It's only compatible with Apple's own devices.

Why AirDrop is So Useful

If you have Apple devices, AirDrop is a simple way to send content back and forth with another person — or between your devices. It just takes a few taps, and everything happens entirely wirelessly. If someone is nearby — and they have to be nearby, within Bluetooth range — you won't need to rely on SMS, iMessage, email, or other communication apps to send stuff back and forth.

Unlike similar Android and Windows Phone solutions that require back-to-back NFC contact of your phones, AirDrop works entirely wirelessly over Bluetooth. It's available on iPhones and iPads since iOS 7, and Macs since OS X 10.10 Yosemite. You can use it to send content between your own devices, or share it with someone else's devices if they're nearby. Unfortunately, AirDrop does require Apple devices, so it isn't compatible with Android or Windows devices.



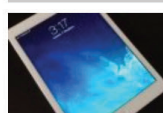
AirDrop Depends on Your Contacts for Privacy

By default, AirDrop only makes you discoverable to people who are in your contacts list. If you want to AirDrop with people, they'll need to add you to their contacts, and you'll need to add them as a contact. This shouldn't require much effort — if you're doing this with someone you know, you're probably already in each other's contacts. If you want to AirDrop with people without adding each other to your contacts, you can always temporarily switch AirDrop to work with everyone, ignoring contacts.

This feature ensures you won't just appear in other people's AirDrop panels as you walk around. People won't be able to see your name if you're nearby, and they won't be able to send anything to you. Only those in your contacts will have permission to see you.

Using AirDrop on an iPhone or iPad

[Pull up the "Control Center" panel](#) on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch by placing your finger below the screen and moving it upward. You can see whether AirDrop is enabled by looking at the "AirDrop" status here. As AirDrop relies on Bluetooth, it'll be off if Bluetooth is disabled.



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Tap the AirDrop option to control how AirDrop works. You can disable it, only enable AirDrop for people in your contacts (this is the default), or allow AirDrop for everyone.

To actually use AirDrop, tap the Share button in any application on iOS. You'll see the list of nearby people and devices you can AirDrop to at the top of [the Share panel](#). Tap a name and device to share the current content with them, sending it wirelessly via Bluetooth.

It may take a moment for your phone or tablet to discover nearby devices, so hold on. You can also try waking up a device if it's not found — for example, you may need to wake up an iPhone or iPad if you want to AirDrop to it and it doesn't appear immediately.

The person you're AirDropping to will see a notification on their device, informing them that you want to send them some sort of content — a web address, photo, or something else.

Using AirDrop on a Mac

On a Mac, you'll find the list of available devices you can AirDrop to under Finder. Drag-and-drop files into another device to share them. For example, you could drag-and-drop a file onto a person's name and it'd send it to their Mac. Or you could send a photo from your Mac to your iPhone.

As you can on iOS, you can choose who can see you in their AirDrop list with the options at the bottom of the window. Just click the "Allow me to be discovered by:" menu.

AirDrop is also integrated into Mac OS X 10.10 Yosemite's new sharing features. For example, you can click the Share button in the Safari web browser and choose AirDrop to send a link to the current web page via AirDrop, just as you can on a mobile device.

Crucially, AirDrop is compatible between both iOS devices and Macs, making it a convenient way to wirelessly send content between nearby devices of any type — as long as they're made by Apple. AirDrop works very well if you use Apple devices, and it's the kind of solution that should really be adopted by Android and Windows devices as well. AirDrop helps solve the problem of sharing files, photos, and other bits of data between nearby devices.

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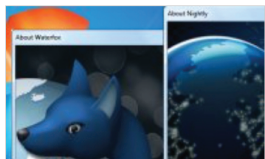
Chris Hoffman is a technology writer and all-around computer geek. He's at home using the Linux terminal as he is digging into the Windows registry. Connect with him on [Google+](#).

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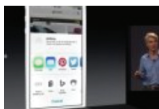
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