In addition, users must be physically close to one another – although AirDrop transfers should work over a rather large area, somewhat like accessing Wi-Fi across different rooms in a house.

Apple's marketing for AirDrop focuses on photo sharing. Given the limitations of the service, at least at launch, this is no doubt a wise move to help prompt usage. Photo sharing services are hugely popular, after all.

Security Concerns

Users can choose to accept AirDrop files from their contacts, or from anyone with the appropriate device, or not at all.

Security will be an obvious concern for most users. Apple states that AirDrop files are "fully encrypted." Even still, it seems likely that someone masquerading as a contact – perhaps posing as a friend seated at the other end of a large college classroom – could send a malicious file that the recipient unwittingly accepts. There are no doubt other potential opportunities for ill intent.

Wireless analyst Jack Gold said: "security will clearly be an issue, despite Apple always claiming it's not. Things get hacked."

New Modes of Sharing

Despite these limitations, AirDrop possesses the *potential* to spur new forms of sharing digital content -and thus, potential new applications and even new businesses could spring from AirDrop.

According to mobile market analyst Chetan Sharma, AirDrop should prove a "better way to share than text or email." He also noted that AirDrop could enable other "communication modes" such as "airdropping a coupon instead of email them."

Again, the overarching concern, Sharma says, is that users must have very easy controls over what content they choose to accept, when and from whom. Otherwise, it becomes little more than spam.

Brian S Hall

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PRESS RELEASE
JUNE 10, 2013

Apple Unveils iOS 7

Completely Redesigned With Stunning User Interface & Great New Features

SAN FRANCISCO—June 10, 2013—Apple® today unveiled iOS 7, the most significant iOS update since the original iPhone®, featuring a stunning new user interface. iOS 7 is completely redesigned with subtle motion, an elegant color palette and distinct, functional layers that make it feel more alive. The typography has been refined for a cleaner, simpler look, and the use of translucency and motion makes even simple tasks more engaging. iOS 7 has hundreds of great new features, including Control Center, Notification Center, improved Multitasking, AirDrop®, enhanced Photos, Safari®, Siri® and introduces iTunes Radio™, a free Internet radio service based on the music you listen to on iTunes®.

"iOS 7 is the most significant iOS update since the original iPhone," said Craig Federighi, Apple's senior vice president of Software Engineering. "To create it, we brought together a team with a broad range of expertise from design to engineering. With what we've been able to achieve together, we see iOS 7 as an exciting new beginning."

"There is a profound and enduring beauty in simplicity, in clarity, in efficiency. True simplicity is derived from so much more than just the absence of clutter and ornamentation—it's about bringing order to complexity," said Jony Ive, Apple's senior vice president of Design. "iOS 7 is a clear representation of these goals. It has a whole new structure that is coherent and applied across the entire system."

iOS 7 is completely redesigned with an entirely new user interface, but will be instantly familiar to the hundreds of millions of iPhone, iPad® and iPod touch® users around the world. The new interface actually makes your phone appear bigger because everything is designed to take advantage of the entire screen. The redesigned fonts look amazing on the Retina® display, creating even sharper text.

iOS 7 introduces Control Center. Now the controls you want to access quickly are all in one convenient place. With just one swipe from the bottom of your screen, you have access to controls for Airplane Mode, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth or Do Not Disturb, and the ability to adjust screen brightness, pause or play a song, jump to the next track and stream your music with AirPlay®. Control Center also gives you instant access to apps such as Clock, Camera, Calculator and the Flashlight.

With iOS 7, Notification Center is now available from the Lock screen so

you can see all your notifications with a simple swipe, and the new Today feature in Notification Center gives you an at-a-glance view of your day with a summary of the important details such as weather, traffic, meetings and events.

With improved Multitasking in iOS 7, developers have the ability to enable any app to multitask in the background with a new API. Users have the ability to switch between their apps in a more visual and intuitive way, and iOS 7 pays attention to which apps you use most and automatically keeps your content up to date in the background.

AirDrop is an entirely new way to quickly and easily share content with people nearby. When you've got something you want to share, AirDrop shows you your contacts close by. Just select who you want to share with and AirDrop does the rest. AirDrop transfers are peer-to-peer so you can use it anywhere, without any network or set up required, and transfers are fully encrypted so your content is protected and private.

iPhones are used to take more photos around the world every day than any other camera, and with iOS 7 the new Camera app features filters so you can add real-time photo effects. The Camera app now includes a square camera option, and you can quickly and easily switch between your four cameras—video, photo, square and panorama—with just a swipe.

iOS 7 includes a redesigned Photos app that introduces Moments, a new way to automatically organize your photos and videos based on time and location. You can zoom out to see all your photos organized by Moments, Collections of Moments and Years. iOS 7 includes iCloud Photo Sharing, the easiest way to share just the photos you want with just the people you want. With iCloud® Photo Sharing, family and friends can contribute their own photos and videos to your shared photo streams, and the new Activity view displays updates from your shared streams all in one place.

Safari's redesigned user interface lets you see more of your content—starting with full-screen browsing. The new smart search field helps simplify searching, and there's a new view for your bookmarks and your Safari tabs. With iCloud Keychain®, your passwords and credit card information are securely stored and available on all your devices, so navigating password protected sites or autofilling during transactions is simple and secure. Enhanced Parental Controls allow you to automatically block access to adult websites or only allow access to a specific set of permitted websites.

Siri sounds better than ever with new male and female voices and includes Twitter search integration, so you can ask Siri what people are saying on Twitter*. Siri also now has Wikipedia integration, providing access to the world's most popular Internet reference site. Siri offers Bing web search within the app and the ability to change device settings and play back voicemail.

The Music app has a beautiful new design and includes the new iTunes Radio, a free Internet radio service featuring over 200 stations and an incredible catalog of music from the iTunes Store®, combined with features only iTunes can deliver. iTunes Radio is the best way to discover new music. When you tune into iTunes Radio on your iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Mac®, PC or Apple TV®, you'll have access to stations inspired by the music you already listen to, Featured Stations curated by Apple and genre-focused stations that are personalized just for you. iTunes Radio evolves based on the music you play and download. The more you use iTunes Radio and iTunes, the more it knows what you like to listen to and the more personalized your experience becomes. iTunes Radio also gives

the more personalized your experience becomes. iTunes Radio also gives you access to exclusive "first listen" premieres from top selling artists, Siri integration plus the ability to buy anything you hear with just one tap.

With over 900,000 apps, the App Store℠ is the world's largest app marketplace. iOS 7 now features Popular Apps Near Me, a new way to find apps based on your current location, and iOS 7 will automatically keep your apps up to date. The App Store also comes with a new Kids category, allowing teachers and parents to easily discover apps for children by age.

Additional new iOS 7 features include:

- a new Find My iPhone Activation Lock feature that requires your Apple ID and password before you can turn off Find My iPhone, erase data or re-activate a device after it's been remotely erased;
- Night Mode in Maps that responds to ambient light when you use it in the dark;
- FaceTime® audio for high quality calls over a data network;
- Notification sync, so when you dismiss a notification on one device it is dismissed on all of your devices;
- Phone, FaceTime and Messages blocking to prevent specific people from being able to contact you;
- Tencent Weibo support for users in China, a Chinese-English bilingual dictionary, and improved Chinese input including handwriting recognition for multiple Chinese characters;
- the ability for businesses to more efficiently deploy and manage iPhones and iPads; and
- enhanced in-car integration, bringing an Apple designed experience into the car for the first time.

The iOS 7 beta software and SDK are available immediately for iOS Developer Program members at developer.apple.com. iOS 7 will be available as a free software update for iPhone 4 and later, iPad 2 and later, iPad mini and iPod touch (fifth generation) this fall. Some features may not be available on all products.

*US English, French and German will be available with the launch of iOS 7. Additional languages will be added over time.

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5G WIRELESS

Apple will spend roughly $1 billion over the next seven years for a license to InterDigital's patents. What that new deal means for Ericsson and Nokia remains to be seen.

Mike Dano, Editorial Director, 5G & Mobile Strategies
October 3, 2022

3 Min Read

Apple plans to spend nearly $1 billion over the next seven years for a license to InterDigital's patents. The move potentially indicates the iPhone maker's continued willingness to engage with the likes of Ericsson and Nokia for similar patent-licensing deals.

"On September 30, 2022, InterDigital, Inc. (the "Company") renewed a patent license agreement with Apple, Inc," InterDigital wrote in a brief SEC filing Monday. "The Company expects to recognize approximately $134 million in revenue each year over the seven-year term of the license, which commenced on October 1, 2022."

InterDigital did not provide additional details. However, the issue had been pressing against the R&D company. InterDigital focuses on developing high-end technologies, including those in the 5G realm, and then earning revenues on its patents through licensing deals.

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Creating Robust 5G SA Core

Figure 1:

(Source: Rhea Eason/Alamy Stock Photo)

"Apple has been our licensee since 2007 before they shipped the very first iPhone," InterDigital CEO Liren Chen said in August during his company's most recent quarterly conference call. "So through such a long-term relationship here, there have been multiple renewals happening. And we feel confident about the current negotiations based on how much our technology has advanced. And frankly, they have become even more important with the connected world with a lot of multi-video content consumed on devices."

He also pointed out that InterDigital's deal with Samsung – the world's other big smartphone maker – is also up for renewal in the fourth quarter of this year.

"It's worth noting that both Apple and Samsung has a much higher concentration of the premium devices in their worldwide sales. So these devices will make more and better use of our high-end technology," InterDigital's Chen suggested.

InterDigital's stock was up slightly Monday to around $47 per share following its announcement with Apple.

Into the future

It's unclear how InterDigital's deal with Apple might affect the iPhone maker's ongoing negotiations with Ericsson. The two are almost a year into a new patent-licensing battle wherein Ericsson is working to derive higher patent-licensing revenues from Apple via its 5G patent holdings.

And Ericsson appears to be firming up its position against Apple. Late last month, the United States International Trade Commission (ITC) issued a new order that puts Ericsson "in great shape," according to Florian Mueller, an intellectual property expert who maintains the Foss Patents website.

Mueller argued that, at this stage, Apple is facing some serious legal setbacks, and it's possible that the iPhone vendor will reach some kind of cross-licensing patent agreement with Ericsson before the December start of a trial on the topic.

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Mueller has also speculated that Apple may soon need to ink a new deal with Nokia for 5G patents also. Nokia, for its part, is working to assert its 5G patents against a range of smartphone makers. In that effort, the company recently managed to convince a German court to ban the sale of Oppo smartphones in that country in order to force Oppo to the negotiating table.

Related posts:

- Apple, Ericsson square off over 5G patents
- With patents, Nokia and Ericsson batter phone makers with sales bans
- Ericsson gets closer to banning Apple's 5G iPhones in the US

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Use AirDrop to wirelessly share content

With AirDrop, you can share photos, videos, websites, locations, and more with people nearby with an Apple device.

What you need

To share content with AirDrop, both people need one of these devices using iOS 7 or later, or a Mac with OS X Yosemite:

- iPhone 5 or later
- iPad (4th generation or later)
- iPad mini
- iPod touch (5th generation)

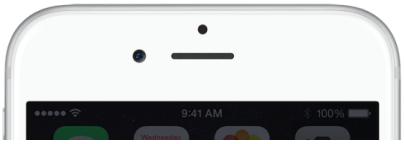
You also need to turn on Wi-Fi and Bluetooth. If you want to share with your contacts, sign in to your iCloud account.

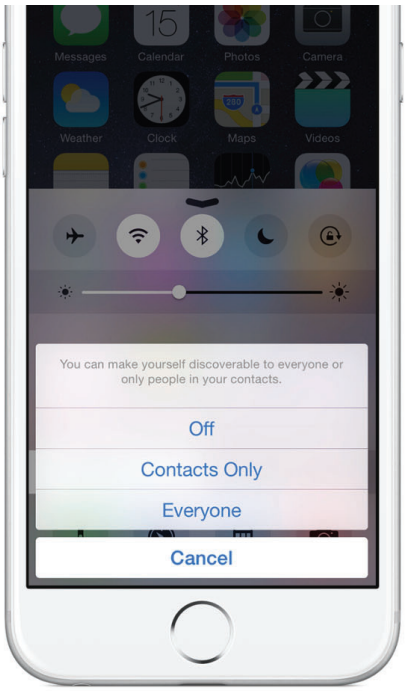
Learn more about using AirDrop to share with people using a Mac with Yosemite.

Turn on AirDrop

Use Control Center to turn AirDrop on or off and control whom you can share content with.

1. Swipe up from the bottom of your screen to show Control Center.
2. Tap AirDrop.
3. Choose one of these options:
   - Off: Turns off AirDrop.
   - Contacts Only: Only your contacts can see your device.
   - Everyone: All nearby iOS devices using AirDrop can see your device.





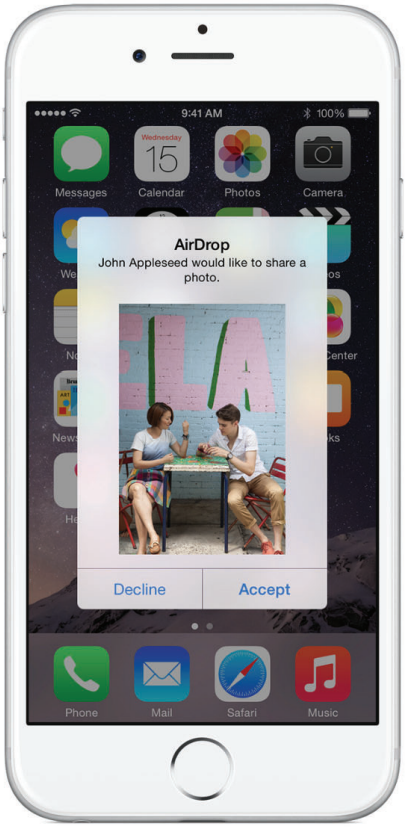
Share content

You can share content from apps such as Photos, Safari, Contacts, and more.

1. Tap the content you want to share.
2. Tap Share or ⬆.
3. Depending on the app, you might be able to select other items you want to share.

4. Tap the name of a nearby AirDrop user or the Apple device. If you're sharing Contacts Only and can't find a nearby user, check that both of you are signed in to an iCloud account. If you still can't find a nearby user, consider setting AirDrop to Everyone.

The other user will receive an alert with a preview of the content you want to share, and can either accept or decline. If the other user accepts, they'll get the content in the app you sent it from. For example, photos will appear in the Photos app and websites will open in Safari.



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AirDrop security

Apple devices that support AirDrop use Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) and Apple-created peer-to-peer Wi-Fi technology to send files and information to nearby devices, including AirDrop-capable iOS devices running iOS 7 or later and Mac computers running OS X 10.11 or later. The Wi-Fi radio is used to communicate directly between devices without using any Internet connection or wireless access point (AP). In macOS, this connection is encrypted with TLS.

AirDrop is set to share with Contacts Only by default. Users can also choose to use AirDrop to share with everyone, or turn off the feature entirely. Organizations can restrict the use of AirDrop for devices or apps being managed by using a mobile device management (MDM) solution.

AirDrop operation

AirDrop uses iCloud services to help users authenticate. When a user signs into iCloud, a 2048-bit RSA identity is stored on the device, and when the user enables AirDrop, an AirDrop short identity hash is created based on the email addresses and phone numbers associated with the user's Apple ID.

When a user chooses AirDrop as the method for sharing an item, the sending device emits an AirDrop signal over BLE that includes the user's AirDrop short identity hash. Other Apple devices that are awake, in close proximity, and have AirDrop turned on, detect the signal and respond using peer-to-peer Wi-Fi, so that the sending device can discover the identity of any responding devices.

In Contacts Only mode, the received AirDrop short identity hash is compared with hashes of people in the receiving device's Contacts app. If a match is found, the receiving device responds over peer-to-peer Wi-Fi with its identity information. If there is no match, the device does not respond.

In Everyone mode, the same overall process is used. However, the receiving device responds even if there is no match in the device's Contacts app.

The sending device then initiates an AirDrop connection using peer-to-peer Wi-Fi, using this connection to send a long identity hash to the receiving device. If the long identity hash matches the hash of a known person in the receiver's Contacts, then the receiver responds with its long identity hashes.

If the hashes are verified, the recipient's first name and photo (if present in Contacts) are displayed in the sender's AirDrop share sheet. In iOS and iPadOS, they are shown in the "People" or "Devices" section. Devices that aren't verified or authenticated are displayed in the sender's AirDrop share sheet with a silhouette icon and the device's name, as defined in Settings > General > About > Name. In iOS and iPadOS, they are placed in the "Other People" section of the AirDrop share sheet.

The sending user may then select whom they want to share with. Upon user selection, the sending device initiates an encrypted (TLS) connection with the receiving device, which exchanges their iCloud identity certificates. The identity in the certificates is verified against each user's Contacts app.

If the certificates are verified, the receiving user is asked to accept the incoming transfer from the identified user or device. If multiple recipients have been selected, this process is repeated for each destination.

See also

Platform protections

iCloud overview

TLS network security

Helpful? Yes No

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