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About this capture

Mac Basics: AirDrop lets you send files from your Mac to nearby Macs and iOS devices

AirDrop makes it easy to send files wirelessly from your Mac to other Mac computers, and with OS X Yosemite you can also share with iOS devices.

AirDrop files between your devices

In OS X Yosemite, AirDrop helps you quickly transfer files between your Mac and nearby Mac computers or iOS devices using Wi-Fi. You don't have to be connected to the same network in order to transfer files – your devices automatically set up a direct wireless connection for AirDrop.

AirDrop is available from the Finder, the Share menu, and in Open and Save windows. When you choose AirDrop in Yosemite, your Mac looks for nearby devices that can also use AirDrop. This includes Mac computers with OS X Lion or later installed, and iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch devices with iOS 7 or later. Use one of the following methods to transfer a file wirelessly to a nearby device.

Sending files

You can send files from the Finder on your Mac to other nearby devices and Mac computers using AirDrop.

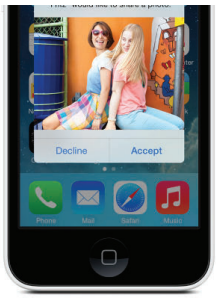
1. In Finder, select Go > AirDrop, or select AirDrop in the sidebar of a Finder window.
2. Drag and drop one or more files onto the image of a device you want to send to, that appears in the AirDrop window.
3. Click Send.

If you don't see the receiving device in the AirDrop window, make sure the recipient is set up to get files over AirDrop.

Receiving files

If you send files to a device that uses your iCloud account, the files automatically received by the device. If you send files to someone else, the receiver needs to Accept the transfer to download what you're sending.

Click Save on the receiving Mac to save the incoming files to the Downloads folder.

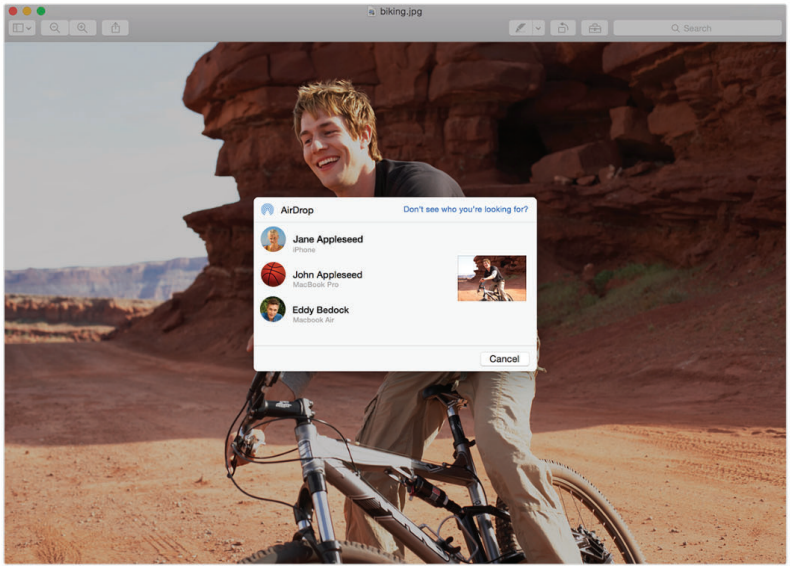


To receive files on an iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch, click Accept when you see an AirDrop notification.

To view a file you've received, open an app that works with that kind of file. For example, you can view word processing documents in Pages, and images in Photos.

Sharing items with AirDrop

You can also send files directly from your apps using the Share feature.



1. From an app, click the Share button or right-click an item that you want to share.
2. Select AirDrop from the menu of sharing options that appears.
3. Select the recipient in the Share sheet that appears.
4. Click Send.

Don't see who you're looking for?

When you select AirDrop, OS X looks for other Mac computers and devices that are nearby that also use AirDrop. If you don't see someone in the AirDrop window, here are some things to check.

Preventing senders

You can prevent people you don't know from sending you files, or you can allow everyone. If you don't see a recipient in the AirDrop window, they might only accept files from people who in their Contacts list. Ask them to add you in their Contacts app, or have them select the option "Allow me to be discovered by: Everyone" in the AirDrop window.

Sending files to and from an older Mac

If a Mac you're using with AirDrop was manufactured before 2012, you can send and receive files with other Mac computers.

1. On the sending Mac, click "Don't see who you're looking for" in the AirDrop window.
2. Select the option to "Search for an Older Mac."
3. On the receiving Mac, open a new Finder window and click AirDrop in the sidebar.

Tips for sending files

Make sure Wi-Fi and Bluetooth are enabled on your Mac and your iOS device. Although you don't have to connect to a specific network, Wi-Fi needs to be on to send and receive files using AirDrop.

Move your devices closer together. AirDrop is designed to work within a range of approximately 30 feet (9 meters). If you need to send a file to someone farther away, consider using File Sharing, iCloud, or email instead.

If you're using a firewall on your Mac, you won't be able to receive AirDrop files if you have enabled "Block all incoming connections" in the Security & Privacy pane of System Preferences.

Make sure your devices meet system requirements for AirDrop.

System Requirements

To see if your Mac works with AirDrop, make sure you're in the Finder by clicking the desktop (the background area of your screen), or by clicking the Finder icon in the Dock. Then, check to see if AirDrop is listed as an option in the Go menu. If you don't see AirDrop listed, your Mac doesn't support this feature.

In order to transfer files between a Mac and and an iPhone, iPad or iPod touch, your iOS device needs iOS 7 or later installed and your Mac needs to be a 2012 or later model. To transfer files between two Mac computers, you need one of the Mac models listed below and OS X Lion or later.

MacBook Pro (Late 2008 or newer)*
MacBook Air (Late 2010 or newer)
MacBook (Late 2008 or newer)*
iMac (Early 2009 or newer)
Mac Mini (Mid 2010 or newer)
Mac Pro (Early 2009 with AirPort Extreme card, or Mid 2010)
*The MacBook Pro (17-Inch Late 2008) and the white MacBook (Late 2008) do not support AirDrop.

For help identifying your Apple product, choose About This Mac from the Apple menu, or refer to the Apple Support website.

Learn More

For more information about AirDrop, search for "AirDrop" from the Help menu on your Mac. You can also find more information from these articles:

iOS: Use AirDrop to wirelessly share content

Last Modified: Nov 18, 2014

Helpful?
Yes No
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About this capture

Use Continuity to connect your iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, and Mac

Continuity lets you seamlessly move between your iPhone, iPad, and Mac, or use them together.

Continuity features include Handoff, Phone Calling, Instant Hotspot, and SMS. You can start an email or document on iPhone, for example, and then pick up where you left off on your iPad. You can use your iPad or Mac to make and receive phone calls through your iPhone.

Before you get started

Check that the iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, or Mac you'd like to use meet the system requirements for Continuity.

Handoff

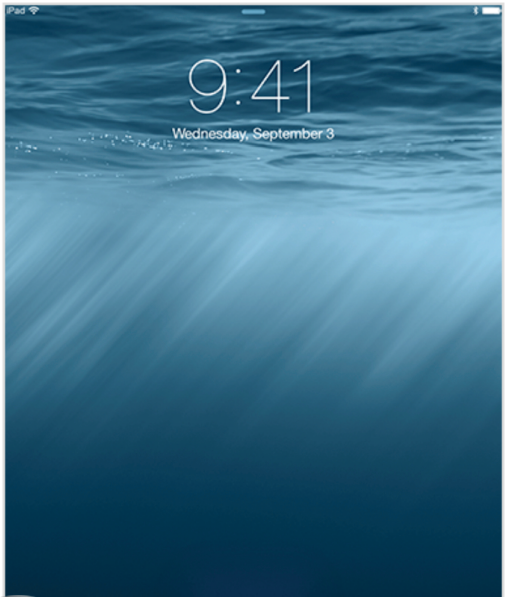
Use Handoff with Apple apps such as Mail, Safari, Maps, Messages, Reminders, Calendar, Contacts, Pages, Numbers, and Keynote. Start a document, email, or message on one device and pick up where you left off on another device. You can also use Handoff with some third-party apps.

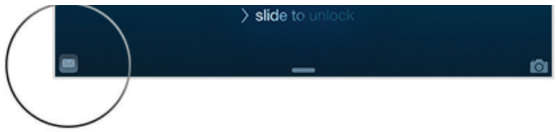
To use Handoff:

- Sign in to the same iCloud account on all your devices.
- Turn on Bluetooth on all the devices you want to use. Make sure your devices are near each other.
- Connect all your devices to the same Wi-Fi network.

Then, use one of the apps listed above on one of your devices.

On your second iOS device, swipe up from the bottom-left edge of the Lock screen, where you see the app's activity icon.





You can also go to the multitasking display by double-clicking the Home button on your your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch. Then tap the app.

On your Mac, the Handoff app icon appears on the Dock. Or you can press Command-Tab to switch to an app with a Handoff icon.

Turn off Handoff

To turn off Handoff on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch, go to Settings > General > Handoff & Suggested Apps, and turn off Handoff.

On your Mac, go to System Preferences > General and uncheck the Allow Handoff setting.

Phone calls

With Continuity, you can make and receive cellular phone calls from your iPad, iPod touch, or Mac when your iPhone is on the same Wi-Fi network.

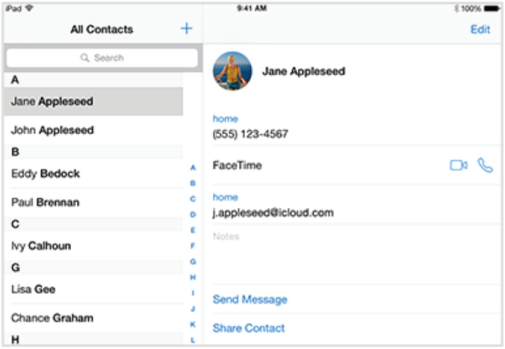
To make and receive phone calls, here's what you need:

To make and receive phone calls, here's what you need:

1. Sign in to the same iCloud account on all your devices, including your Mac.
2. Your iPhone and your iPad or iPod touch need to use iOS 8 or later. Your Mac needs to use OS X Yosemite.
3. All devices must be on the same Wi-Fi network.
4. All devices must be signed in to FaceTime using the same iCloud account. This means any device that shares your Apple ID will get your phone calls. Look below for instructions on how to turn off iPhone cellular calls.
5. Wi-Fi Calling needs to be off. Go to Settings > Phone. If you see Wi-Fi Calling, turn it off.

Make a call

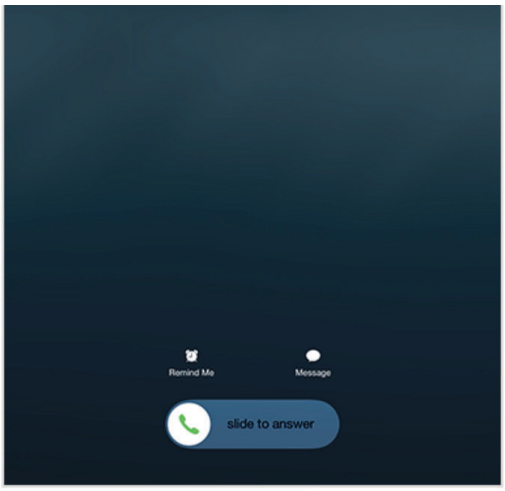
To make a phone call on your Mac, iPad or iPod touch tap or click a phone number in Contacts, Calendar, or Safari.



You can also tap a phone number from a recent contact in the multitasking display on your iPad or iPod touch.

Answer a call

To answer a phone call on your iPad or iPod touch, just slide to answer:



On your Mac, you see a notification when you receive a call on your iPhone. You can answer the call, send it to voicemail, or send the caller a message, right from your Mac.

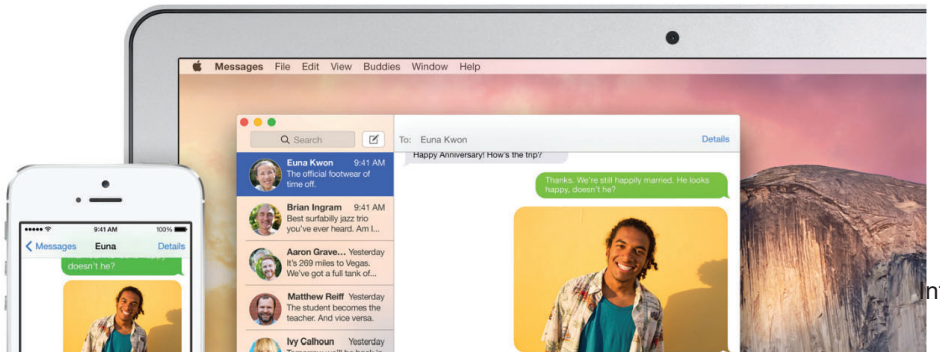
Turn off iPhone cellular calls

To turn off iPhone cellular calls on your iPad or iPod touch, go to Settings > FaceTime and turn off iPhone Cellular Calls.

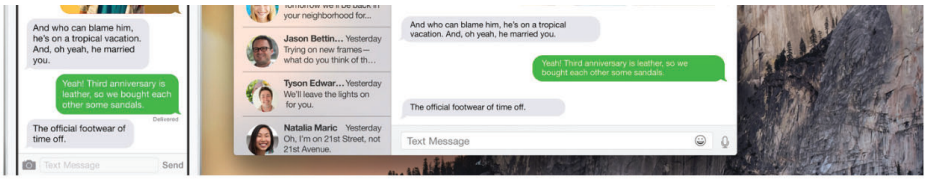
On your Mac, open the FaceTime app and go to FaceTime > Preferences. Click Settings and deselect the iPhone Cellular Calls option.

SMS

With Continuity, all the SMS and MMS text messages you send and receive on your iPhone also appear on your Mac, iPad, and iPod touch. Even if the person you're communicating with doesn't have an iPhone. And regardless of what phone they have, you can reply from whichever device is closest to you, including your iPad or Mac. You can also initiate a conversation by clicking a phone number in Safari, Contacts, or Calendar.



InterDigital Exhibit 2055, p. 114
Microsoft v. InterDigital
IPR2024-00305



To use Continuity for SMS and MMS with your iPhone and your Mac, iPad or iPod touch

Your iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch need to use iOS 8.1, and your Mac needs to use OS X Yosemite.

1. Sign in to iMessage on your iPhone, your other iOS devices, and your Mac using the same Apple ID.
2. On your iPhone: Go to Settings > Messages > Send & Receive > You Can Be Reached By, and add a check to both your phone number and email address. Then, go to Settings > Messages > Text Message Forwarding, and enable the device(s) you would like to forward messages to.
3. Your Mac, iPad, or iPod touch will display a code. Enter this code on your iPhone to verify the SMS feature.

Instant hotspot

You can use Personal Hotspot on your iPhone to provide Internet access to your other devices without additional setup. You'll need to sign in to iCloud using the same Apple ID as your iPhone. Also, your cellular provider needs to provision your Personal Hotspot.

To get Internet access from your iPhone:

On your iPad or iPod touch, go to Settings > Wi-Fi on your other iOS device and select your iPhone or iPad that has a cellular connection.

On your Mac, go to the Wi-Fi menu at the top of your screen and select your iPhone or iPad that has a cellular connection.

Last Modified: Jul 2, 2015

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About this capture

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)

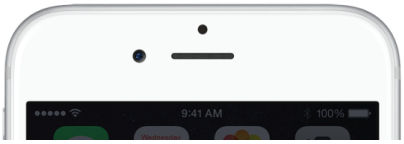
You also need to turn on Wi-Fi and Bluetooth. If you want to share with your contacts, sign in to your iCloud account.

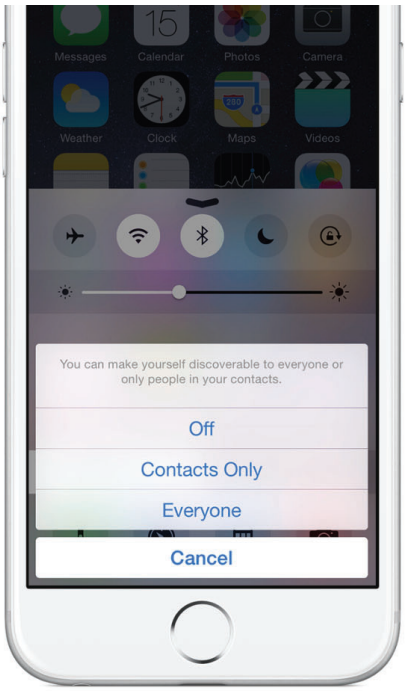
Learn more about using AirDrop to share with people using a Mac with Yosemite.

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.





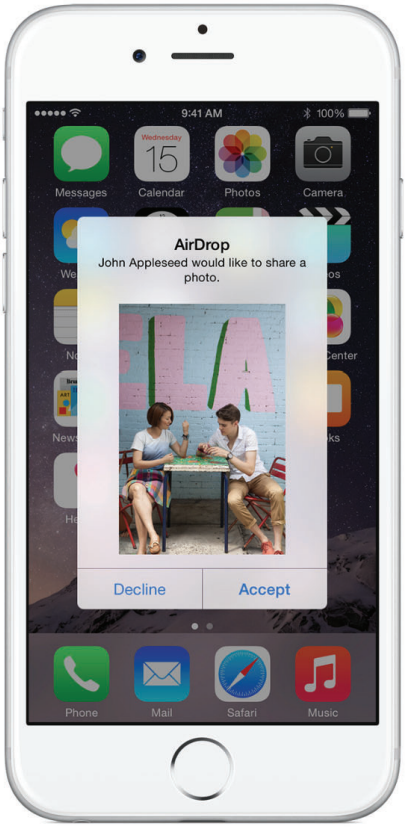
Share content

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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Microsoft v. InterDigital
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Helpful? Yes No

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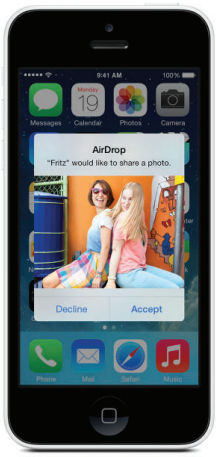

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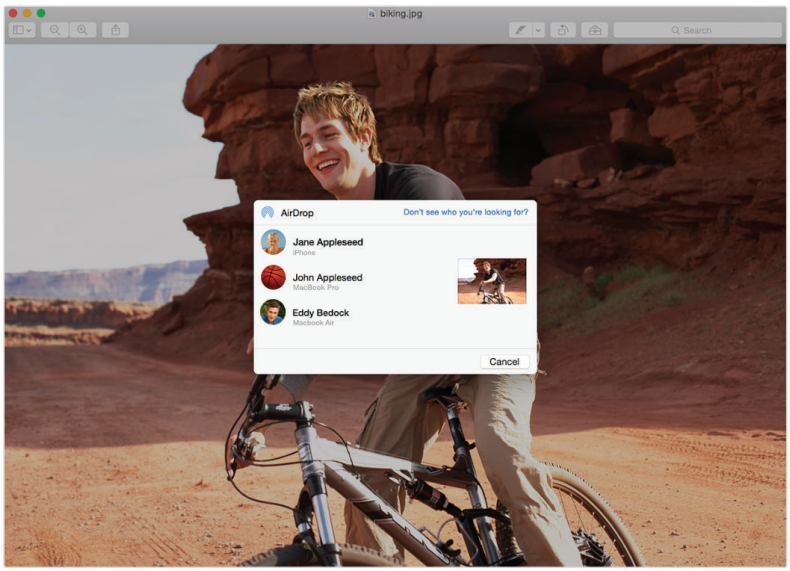

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