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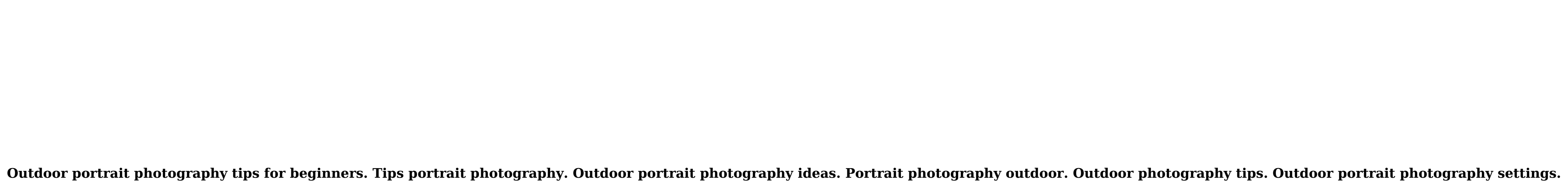








Apple usually releases a new operating system (OS) every 1-2 years for their MacBook computers. There are two (2) main OS variants for Apple, namely the earlier Mac OS X versions and the newer macOS versions.macOS Ventura is the latest and current Apple operating system for MacBook devices. This article will list down and include all the different Apple OS versions, release dates, version numbers and codenames.S/NoReleased DateVersionCodeName1March 24th, 2001Mac OS X 10.0Cheetah2September 25th, 2001Mac OS X 10.1Puma3August 23rd, 2002Mac OS X 10.2Jaguar4October 24th, 2003Mac OS X 10.3Panther5April 29th, 2005Mac OS X 10.4Tiger6October 26th, 2007Mac OS X 10.5Leopard7August 28th, 2009Mac OS X 10.6Snow Leopard8July 20th, 2011Mac OS X 10.7Lion9July 25th, 2012Mac OS X 10.8Mountain Lion10October 22nd, 2013Mac OS X 10.9Mavericks11October 16th, 2014Mac OS X 10.10Yosemite12September 30th, 2015Mac OS X 10.11El Capitan13September 20th, 2016macOS 10.12Sierra14September 25th, 2017macOS 10.13High Sierra15September 24th, 2018macOS 10.14Mojave16October 7th, 2019macOS 10.15Catalina17November 12th, 2020macOS 11Big Sur18October 25th, 2021macOS 12Monterey19October 24th, 2022macOS 13VenturaBelow is the list of all the macOS versions ever released to date.macOS VenturaReleased on October 24th 2022, macOS Ventura is the nineteenth release, and its version is referred to as macOS 13.The wallpaper colours for this macOS release are a combination of dark orange and blue.New features include:Support for AVIF and WebP image formats,Ability to edit and un-send recent iMessagesHands-off features in FaceTime enable the ability to transfer a call between multiple Apple devices.macOS MontereyReleased on October 25th 2021, macOS Monterey is the eighteenth release and often referred to as macOS 12.The wallpaper colour for this macOS release is a dark shade of purple.New features include:Live Text allows users to copy, paste, translate and lookup texts from images Low Power mode for longer battery lifeNew Password Manager for MacmacOS Big SurReleased on November 12th 2020, macOS Big Sur is the seventeenth release and is referred to as macOS 11.The wallpaper colours for this macOS release are a combination of different shades of red, purple, orange and blue. New features include:Quick toggles for Control Center for Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, screen brightness, etcFaster search and indexing of Spotlight searchEncryption at the file levelmacOS CatalinaReleased on October 7th 2019, macOS Catalina is the sixteenth release and is referred to as macOS 10.15The chosen colours for this macOS release are different shades of purple.New features include:Removal of iTunesActivation Lock prevents unauthorized use and drives erasure of T2 security chip devices.Voice control navigation of the operating systemmacOS MojaveReleased on September 24th 2018, macOS Mojave is the fifteenth release and is referred to as macOS 10.14The wallpaper colour for this macOS release is dark blue.New features include:Add Group FaceTimeRevamp Apple App StoreMetadata preview in FindermacOS High SierraReleased on September 25th 2017, macOS High Sierra is the fourteenth release and is referred to as macOS 10.13The wallpaper colours for this macOS release are shades of orange and yellow.New features include:Improved Siri for a more natural and expressive voiceSupport for High-Efficiency Video Coding (HEVC)Apple File System (APFS) replaces HFS Plus as the macOS default file system.macOS SierraReleased on September 20th 2016, macOS Sierra is the thirteenth release and is referred to as macOS 10.12The wallpaper colour for this macOS release uses different shades of yellow.New features include:Introduction of Pictures-in-Picture for playing video across the systemNight Shift feature to reduce blue light at night to aid sleepImproved Photos app to group similar pictures through their scene and object recognitionWhen sending files using WhatsApp, you can send videos, audio, or document files. However, not all file extensions are supported by WhatsApp. When you attempt Old computer monitors can take up a lot of space in your home or office, and you may be wondering what to do with them. You know how important it is to keep your conversations private, right? That's where secure messaging apps like Signal come into play. While Signal is Today, were going to explore the pros and cons of using the Signal app. With the rising concern for online privacy, it's no wonder that Hey there, tech enthusiasts! Today, were diving into the world of instant messaging for businesses. You might be wondering, whats the benefit of using WhatsApp Have you ever found yourself in a panic, wondering if you can trust data recovery software? Or maybe youve asked yourself, does data recovery softwareHave you ever tried sending a video over Telegram only to have it bounce back because the video format is not supported? Weve all beenIn todays digital age, cloud storage has become a vital tool for individuals and businesses, offering a convenient and secure way to store, access, and The evolution of Mac operating systemsshowcases Apples commitment to innovation and enhancing user experience. Starting in 1984 with the original Macintosh System Software, Apple has consistentlyupdated its operating systemo provide Mac users with the latest technology and features. The journey began with the Classic Mac OS and has progressed to the Unix-based macOS we know today, demonstrating significant advancements in usability, security, and functionality.In 2001, Apple co-founder Steve Jobs introduced Mac OS X, marking a major transformation with its modern architecture and the Aqua interface. Each subsequent version of macOS has built upon this foundation, integrating new features and refinements that improve both the aesthetics and performance of Mac computers. With releases ranging from the early Mac OS X Cheetah to the more recent macOS Monterey, the operating system has become increasingly efficient and user-friendly, appealing to both long-time Apple enthusiasts and new users.Understanding the progressing and key features of Mac operating systems offers valuable insights into how the platform has influenced personal computing. It also highlights how Apple has adapted to user needs and technological trends. This knowledge benefits not only tech enthusiasts but also everyday users who depend on their Macs for daily tasks. Mac OS began its journey in 1984 with System 1.0. This groundbreaking operating system introduced the world to the graphical user interface (GUI), a stark contrast to the command-line interfaces prevalent at the time. Over the years, it evolved through numerous iterations like System 2.0, System 3.0, and so on, each bringing new features and improvements. Key milestones include System 6 in 1988, which brought color to the Mac interface, and System 7 in 1991, a major rewrite that introduced features like virtual memory and improved multitasking. The late 1990s saw the rise of Mac OS X, a Unix-based operating system designed to be more stable and powerful. The first version, Mac OS X 10.0 Cheetah, arrived in 2001. While it retained some familiar elements of the classic Mac OS, it marked a significant shift in the platforms architecture and capabilities. Mac OS X continued to evolve with releases like 10.1 Puma, 10.2 Jaguar, and 10.3 Panther. These versions brought performance enhancements, new applications, and refinements to the user interface. Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger, released in 2005, was a particularly significant update, introducing features like Spotlight search and the Dashboard. Subsequent versions like Leopard (10.5), Snow Leopard (10.6), Lion (10.7), and Mountain Lion (10.8) continued this trend of innovation. In 2013, Apple introduced Mac OS X 10.9 Mavericks, the first version to drop the Mac OS X naming convention and simply be called OS X. This release also marked the beginning of free upgrades for Mac users. OS X 10.10 Yosemite, released in 2014, brought a redesigned user interface and closer integration with iOS devices. In 2016, Apple rebranded OS X to macOS, aligning it with the naming scheme of iOS, watchOS, and tvOS. macOS 10.12 Sierra introduced features like Siri integration and Apple Pay on the web. Subsequent releases like High Sierra (10.13), Mojave (10.14), Catalina (10.15), Big Sur (11), Monterey (12), Ventura (13), and Sonoma (14) continued to refine the user experience and introduce new capabilities. Released in 2024, macOS 15 Sequoia is the latest version of Apples operating system for Macs. It introduces new features such as iPhone Mirroring, which allows users to control their iPhones directly from their Macs. Sequoia also includes updates to Safari, a new Passwords app, and other enhancements focused on improving productivity and user experience. YearVersionNameVersion NumberKey Features2001Cheetah10.0Foundation of the Unix-based Mac OS2001Puma10.1Performance improvements2002Jaguar10.2New applications, improved stability2003Panther10.3Expos, FileVault, iChat AV2005Tiger10.4Spotlight, Dashboard, Automator2007Leopard10.5Time Machine, Spaces, Quick Look2009Snow Leopard10.6Performance optimizations, Grand Central Dispatch2011Lion10.7Mac App Store, Launchpad, full-screen apps2012Mountain Lion10.8Cloud integration, Messages, Notification Center2013Mavericks10.9Free upgrades, Maps, iBooks2014Yosemite10.10Redesigned UI, Continuity, Handoff2016Sierra10.12Siri, Apple Pay on the web, Universal Clipboard2017High Sierra10.13APFS, Metal 2, HEVC support2018Mojave10.14Dark Mode, Stacks, Dynamic Desktop2019Catalina10.15Sidecar, Catalyst apps, removal of iTunes2020Big Sur11Major UI redesign, Control Center, M1 chip support2021Monterey12Shortcuts, Focus Modes, AirPlay to Mac2022Ventura13Stage Manager, Continuity Camera, Passkeys2023Sonoma14Enhanced widgets, gaming mode, screen savers2024Sequoia15iPhone Mirroring, updated Safari, new Passwords appIf youre using an older Mac, you might be wondering which macOS is best for you. Heres a quick guide: Check Compatibility: Not all Macs can run the latest macOS versions. Visit Apples website to see which versions your Mac supports. Consider Your Needs: If you need the latest features and security updates, go for the newest version your Mac supports. If you rely on older software that might not be compatible with the latest version, stick with an older one. Read Reviews: Before upgrading, read reviews and user feedback to get a sense of potential issues or compatibility problems. By considering these factors, you can choose the macOS version that best suits your needs and ensures a smooth and enjoyable computing experience. Apple has continuously improved its Mac operating systems since 1984. Each version of macOS builds on the last, enhancing user experience, knowing the history of macOS can inform and enrich users computing practices. Apple has developed its proprietary operating systems for Macintosh computers since their introduction. The evolution of these systems reflects significant advances in technology and user interface design. Below each section traces the development of these operating systems, highlighting key updates and features. The first Macintosh System Softwarelater known as Classic Mac OSdebuted in 1984. It laid the foundation with a graphical user interface that others would soon follow. Over the years, this system saw regular updates to improve performance and add features. With the arrival of Mac OS X 10.0 Cheetah in 2001, Apple initiated a new era. This phase is notable for the introduction of the Aqua interface and its codenames based on big cats. Each release brought enhancements and new functionalities up to OS X 10.11 El Capitan. Mac OS X 10.0 Cheetah (2001) Mac OS X 10.1 Puma (2001) Mac OS X 10.2 Jaguar (2002) Mac OS X 10.3 Panther (2003) Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger (2005) Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard (2007) Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard (2009) Mac OS X 10.7 Lion (2011) OS X 10.8 Mountain Lion (2012) OS X 10.9 Mavericks (2013) OS X 10.10 Yosemite (2014) OS X 10.11 El Capitan (2015) Each version included essential security updates and bug fixes. For example, Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard introduced Time Machine and improved energy efficiency. The company rebranded its OS as macOS starting with macOS 10.12 Sierra in 2016. This aligns it with their other operating systems, like iOS and watchOS. Sierra brought Siri to the Mac and focused on cloud storage improvements. macOS continued to evolve with annual software updates, each providing users with enhanced features and security. macOS 10.12 Sierra (2016) macOS 10.13 High Sierra (2017) macOS 10.14 Mojave (2018) macOS 10.15 Catalina (2019) macOS 11 Big Sur (2020) macOS 12 Monterey (2021) macOS 13 Ventura (2022) The latest version always includes the most recent security measures and features. macOS 11 Big Sur, for instance, introduced a significant design overhaul and updated Safari browser. macOS 13 Ventura offered improved multitasking with Stage Manager and better gaming capabilities. As of the current date, users have witnessed the transition from macOS 10.12 Sierra through to macOS 13 Ventura, with each release emphasizing enhanced user experience and system security. When exploring the array of macOS versions, it is crucial to highlight the innovations and tools that have marked its evolution. Each new release brings advancements in usability and a suite of applications that enhance the user experience. The Aqua interface debuted with Mac OS X Cheetah, introducing visual elements like the Dock and the Menu Bar. Key features like Spotlight were added later to provide quick search capabilities across the system. Desktop Stacks, appearing in macOS Mojave, helped users keep their desktop tidy by organizing files into groups. Safari, the default web browser, and Mail have been mainstays since the early days of OS X, receiving consistent updates to improve performance and user experience. Over time, macOS integrated various applications like Messages, which replaced iChat, and iBooks, known for its vast collection of titles. iTVones evolved into dedicated apps like Music, Podcasts, and TV in macOS Catalina. macOS utilities have provided users with robust system management tools. Time Machine offers a seamless way to perform backups, while Finder, the file management hub, has seen enhancements like Quick Look for previewing files. VoiceOver gives assistive access, and Siri brought voice-activated controls to the Mac. System utilities like About This Mac give users a detailed view of their hardware and software specifications. Apples macOS operating system has undergone numerous iterations since its inception. Each version brought new features and improvements to enhance the user experience on Mac computers.From Mac OS X 10.0 Cheetah in 2001 to the latest macOS Sonoma in 2023, Apple has released 21 major versions of its desktop operating system.The naming conventions for macOS have evolved over time. Initially called Mac OS X, it transitioned to OS X in 2012 and finally to macOS in 2016.This change aligned the naming with Apples other operating systems like iOS and tvOS. The versions have been named after California landmarks since 2013, starting with Mavericks.Mac OS X 10.0 Cheetah introduced the Aqua interface and laid the foundation for future versions. Subsequent releases like Puma, Jaguar, and Panther brought performance improvements and new applications.Tiger introduced Spotlight search and Dashboard widgets, while Leopard added Time Machine backup.Snow Leopard focused on under-the-hood enhancements, and Lion introduced features like Mission Control and full-screen apps.Lets now see the complete chronological releases of MAC OS names and versions: Chronological Evolution of macOSApples macOS has undergone significant transformations since its inception, evolving from a revolutionary graphical interface to a sophisticated, feature-rich operating system. Its journey spans decades, marked by distinctive codenames and continuous innovation.The Origin and Early VersionsMac OS X Public Beta, codenamed Kodiak, debuted in September 2000, introducing users to the Aqua interface.This paved the way for Mac OS X 10.0 Cheetah, released in March 2001. Cheetah brought a completely redesigned user experience to Macintosh computers.Mac OS X 10.1 Puma followed in September 2001, improving performance and adding features like DVD playback.In August 2002, Mac OS X 10.2 Jaguar arrived, introducing MPEG-4 support and enhancing network compatibility.Mac OS X 10.3 Panther launched in October 2003, featuring FileVault encryption and Expos for efficient window management.April 2005 saw the release of Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger, which introduced Spotlight search and Dashboard widgets.The Era of Big CatsMac OS X 10.5 Leopard, released in October 2007, brought Time Machine backup and Boot Camp for Windows installation.Snow Leopard (10.6) followed in August 2009, focusing on performance improvements and introducing Exchange support.July 2011 marked the arrival of Mac OS X 10.7 Lion, featuring full-screen apps and LaunchPad.OS X 10.8 Mountain Lion debuted in July 2012, integrating iCloud and introducing the Notification Center.This era showcased Apples commitment to refining user experience and expanding functionality. Each release built upon its predecessor, adding new features while maintaining the core ethos of simplicity and elegance.The Introduction of OS X and California LandmarksOS X 10.9 Mavericks, released in October 2013, marked a shift from big cat names to California landmarks. It introduced Tags and improved multi-display support.OS X 10.10 Yosemite followed in October 2014, bringing a redesigned interface and Continuity features.OS X 10.11 El Capitan launched in September 2015, focusing on performance and stability.September 2016 saw the release of macOS 10.12 Sierra, which introduced Dark Mode and desktop Stacks.Recent Advances in macOSmacOS 10.15 Catalina, launched in October 2019, marked the end of 32-bit app support and introduced Sidecar for iPad integration.macOS 11 Big Sur followed in November 2020, bringing a major redesign and optimizations for Apple Silicon.October 2021 saw the release of macOS 12 Monterey, enhancing FaceTime and introducing Universal Control.macOS 13 Ventura arrived in October 2022, featuring Stage Manager for improved multitasking.The latest version, macOS 14 Sonoma, released in September 2023, continues to refine the user experience with features like interactive widgets and improved video conferencing tools.Latest Preview VersionThe Latest Preview macOS 15, also known as macOS Sequoia, will introduce several new features and enhancements such as Apple Intelligence, iPhone Mirroring, Window Tilting, Password Management App etc.This version was announced in June 2024 but its release date is to be determined.Key Features and TechnologiesmacOS has introduced numerous innovative features and technologies over the years, enhancing user experience, productivity, and system capabilities. These advancements have shaped the operating systems evolution and set it apart in the computing landscape.Innovations in User InterfaceThe Aqua interface, introduced with Mac OS X, brought a sleek and modern look to the Mac.Expos, later renamed Mission Control, revolutionized window management by allowing users to view all open windows simultaneously.Spaces enabled virtual desktops for improved organization. Multi-touch gestures on trackpads enhanced navigation and control.Stage Manager, a recent addition, simplifies multitasking by automatically organizing open apps and windows.Desktop Stacks keep files tidy by grouping them by type. The Dock provides quick access to frequently used apps and documents. Launchpad offers an iOS-like app launcher interface.Widgets, initially part of Dashboard, now integrate directly into the Notification Center, providing at-a-glance information.Continuity features like Handoff and Continuity Camera seamlessly connect Macs with iOS devices, enhancing productivity across platforms.Enhancements to Apps and ServicesSafari, Apples web browser, has evolved with features like Reading List and iCloud Tabs. The Mac App Store centralizes software distribution and updates. iCloud integrates cloud storage and syncing across macOS devices. Spotlight search has become more powerful, offering quick access to files, apps, and web content. Time Machine provides built-in backup functionality. Notes, Messages, and Reminders have gained collaborative features and cross-device syncing.Mail has improved with features like Smart Mailboxes and inline image editing. Preview offers robust PDF editing capabilities.Address Book, now Contacts, manages personal and professional connections. Automator enables task automation without coding knowledge.Security and Privacy FeaturesmacOS has prioritized security with features like Gatekeeper, which verifies app sources before installation. FileVault provides full-disk encryption to protect data. XProtect offers built-in malware detection and removal.Privacy enhancements include granular app permissions, allowing users to control access to location, camera, and microphone.Safaris Intelligent Tracking Prevention limits cross-site tracking. Apples commitment to privacy extends to features like Sign in with Apple, which provides a secure alternative to social media logins.VoiceOver, an advanced screen reader, improves accessibility for visually impaired users. System Integrity Protection prevents malware from modifying system files. Regular security updates and patches ensure ongoing protection against emerging threats.Transition and CompatibilitymacOS has undergone significant transitions in processor architecture and software compatibility. These changes have shaped the evolution of Apples operating system and its ecosystem.From PowerPC to Intel and BeyondMac OS X 10.4 Tiger marked a pivotal moment in 2005, introducing support for Intel processors alongside PowerPC.This transition allowed for improved performance and wider software compatibility. In 2006, Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard became the first version to run exclusively on Intel-based Macs.The shift to Intel architecture opened doors for hardware virtualization, enabling users to run Windows on their Macs. This feature expanded the Macs versatility and appeal to a broader audience.In 2020, Apple announced another major transition with the introduction of Apple Silicon. macOS Big Sur (version 11) became the first to support these custom-designed ARM-based chips, offering enhanced performance and energy efficiency.Software and Hardware EcosystemThe Mac App Store, introduced with Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard, centralized software distribution and simplified the user experience. It streamlined app discovery, installation, and updates.Apples focus on vertical integration became more pronounced with each macOS iteration. The company tightened the connection between hardware and software, optimizing performance and security.Cross-platform compatibility improved significantly. Features like Handoff, introduced in OS X 10.10 Yosemite, allowed seamless work transitions between Mac and iOS devices. This integration strengthened Apples ecosystem and user loyalty.Third-party developers adapted to these changes, updating their applications to maintain compatibility across different Mac processor architectures. This ensured a smooth transition for users and preserved software availability. Apple announced macOS 26 (Tahoe) at WWDC 2025, with a public release expected this September. Since its debut in 2001, the macOS system has undergone several visual, performance, and feature transformations. Regardless of how recent updates have landed, Apple has done more than just rename its operating system. Nows a good time to look back. Whether youre a longtime Mac user or just curious about Apples OS history, heres a complete list of macOS versions in order, from Cheetah to Tahoe. Heres a list of all macOS names and their dates of public release: Mac OS X 10.0 Cheetah March 24, 2001 Mac OS X 10.1 Puma September 25, 2001 Mac OS X 10.2 Jaguar August 23, 2002 Mac OS X 10.3 Panther October 24, 2003 Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger April 29, 2005 Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard August 28, 2009 Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard August 28, 2009 Mac OS X 10.7 Lion July 20, 2011 OS X 10.8 Mountain Lion July 25, 2012 OS X 10.9 Mavericks October 22, 2013 OS X 10.10 Yosemite October 16, 2014 OS X 10.11 El Capitan September 30, 2015 macOS 10.12 Sierra September 20, 2016 macOS 10.13 High Sierra September 16, 2017 macOS 10.14 Mojave September 24, 2018 macOS 10.15 Catalina October 7, 2019 macOS 11 Big Sur November 19, 2020 macOS 12 Monterey October 25, 2021 macOS 13 Ventura October 25, 2022 macOS 14 Sonoma September 26, 2023 macOS 15 Sequoia September 16, 2024 macOS 26 Tahoe Expected September 2025 The latest macOS release, macOS 26 or macOS Tahoe, was officially announced at WWDC on June 9, 2025. This major update marks Apples shift to year-based version numbering across all its software. Its currently in developer beta and is scheduled for worldwide public release in September 2025. NOTE The current latest stable version of macOS is macOS Sequoia, released in 2024. Time needed: 3 minutesNot sure which macOS version is running on your Mac? Heres how to check: Click the Apple logo in the top-left corner of your screen. Select About This Mac from the dropdown menu. A window will pop up showing some system specs along with your macOS name and version number. As of 2025, Apple no longer supports MacOS 11 Big Sur and earlier versions. And since they dont and wont receive security updates or compatibility improvements, they leave you far more vulnerable to bugs and threats. If youre still using Big Sur (2020) or an older version like Catalina, Mojave, or High Sierra, I strongly recommended upgrading to a newer version. You can try macOS 12 Monterey, macOS 13 Ventura, macOS 14 Sonoma, macOS 15 Sequoia, and the latest macOS 26 Tahoe. You may also want to check out the official macOS Tahoe device compatibility list to see if your Mac makes the cut. Discover the complete list of Mac operating systems in order, including Mac OS X, macOS, and OS X. Explore their features and timeline of releases from Mac OS System 1 to macOS 12 Monterey.Evolution of Mac Operating SystemsMac OS XMac OS X, also known as Mac OS 10, was a significant milestone in the evolution of Mac operating systems. It was first released in 2001 and marked a shift towards a more Unix-based system compared to its predecessor, Mac OS 9. Mac OS X introduced a sleek and modern user interface, as well as enhanced stability and performance. With each new version, Apple continued to improve upon the foundation laid by Mac OS X, making it a favorite among Mac users worldwide.macOSIn 2016, Apple rebranded its operating system from Mac OS X to macOS, aligning it with the naming convention of its other software products like iOS and watchOS. macOS builds upon the legacy of Mac OS X, offering a seamless integration with other Apple devices and services. The latest version, macOS 11 Big Sur, introduced a fresh design overhaul and improved performance features, further solidifying its position as a leading operating system in the tech industry.OS XOS X was an interim branding used by Apple for its operating system from 2012 to 2016, bridging the gap between Mac OS X and macOS. It retained the core features and functionality of Mac OS X while introducing new innovations and improvements. OS X served as a transition phase for Apple as it prepared to rebrand its operating system to macOS, signaling a new era of innovation and integration across its entire product lineup. macOS 11 Big SurmacOS 11 Big Sur is the latest version of Apples operating system, released in 2020. It represents a significant leap forward in terms of design, performance, and security. With a refreshed interface inspired by iOS, macOS 11 Big Sur offers a more cohesive user experience across all Apple devices. From the introduction of Control Center to improvements in Safari and Messages, macOS 11 Big Sur is a testament to Apples commitment to pushing the boundaries of what is possible with its operating systems.Overall, the evolution of Mac operating systems has been a journey of innovation and refinement, with each new release building upon the successes of its predecessors. From Mac OS X to macOS 11 Big Sur, Apple has consistently delivered cutting-edge technology that continues to delight and inspire users around the world. Features of Mac Operating SystemsUser InterfaceWhen it comes to Mac operating systems, one of the standout features has always been the sleek and user-friendly interface. Apple has always been known for its attention to detail and design, and this is evident in the way Mac OS presents itself to users. From the iconic dock at the bottom of the screen to the intuitive gestures on the trackpad, every aspect of the user interface is designed to make navigation and interaction as seamless as possible.SecuritySecurity is a top priority for Apple, and this is reflected in the Mac operating systems. With built-in features like Gatekeeper, which helps protect your Mac from malicious software, and FileVault, which encrypts your data, Mac OS goes above and beyond to ensure your personal information is safe and secure. Regular updates and patches also help to keep your system protected from the latest threats, giving you peace of mind while using your Mac.Performance OptimizationIn addition to a beautiful interface and top-notch security, Mac operating systems are also optimized for performance. Whether youre using a powerful MacBook Pro or a more budget-friendly MacBook Air, you can expect smooth and efficient operation across the board. From the way applications launch to the way files are stored and accessed, Mac OS is designed to make the most of the hardware it runs on, giving you a fast and responsive experience every time you use your Mac.User-friendly interfaceRobust security featuresPerformance optimization for efficient operation Timeline of Mac Operating System ReleasesMac OS System 1Mac OS System 1, released in 1984, was the first-ever operating system for Macintosh computers. It laid the foundation for future Mac OS versions with its innovative graphical user interface and iconic features such as the Finder and the Trash Can. Despite its limitations compared to modern operating systems, Mac OS System 1 was a groundbreaking achievement in the world of personal computing.iOS All InfoMac OS X 10.0 CheetahIn 2001, Apple introduced Mac OS X 10.0 Cheetah, marking a significant shift in the Mac operating system. Cheetah brought a new level of stability, performance, and usability to Mac users, with like the Aqua interface and the Dock. This release set the stage for future versions of Mac OS X and solidified Apples reputation for creating user-friendly and innovative operating systems.macOS 10.15 CatalinaReleased in 2019, macOS 10.15 Catalina introduced a host of new features and improvements to the Mac operating system. From the introduction of Sidecar, allowing users to use their iPads as a second display, to the separation of iTunes into separate Music, TV, and Podcasts apps, Catalina brought a fresh, and modern feel to the Mac experience. This release also marked the end of support for 32-bit apps, signaling Apples commitment to pushing the boundaries of technology forward.macOS 12 MontereyThe latest addition to the Mac operating system family, macOS 12 Monterey, was released in 2021 with a focus on enhancing productivity and connectivity. With features like Universal Control, allowing seamless use of a single keyboard and mouse across multiple Apple devices, and Live Text, enabling users to interact with text in images, Monterey continues Apples tradition of innovation and user-centric design. This release further cements Apples position as a leader in the tech industry, constantly pushing the boundaries of what is possible with technology.In conclusion, the evolution of Mac operating systems has been a journey of innovation, user-centric design, and pushing the boundaries of what technology can achieve. From the groundbreaking Mac OS System 1 to the latest macOS 12 Monterey, each release has brought new features, improvements, and advancements that have shaped the way we interact with our Mac devices. As we look towards the future, its exciting to think about what the next iteration of the Mac operating system will bring and how it will continue to revolutionize the way we work, create, and connect. Wondering what the name of the latest macOS version is? Want to know what the next version of macOS will be called? Curious about the versions of Mac OS X that came before? Here well fill you in on the names of the different versions of the Mac operating system in order: from the newest macOS to the first version of Mac OS X and the codenames that Apple used for them. Well also show you how you can check which version of macOS you are running and find out what the latest version of macOS is. The latest version of macOS is called macOS Sequoia after Sequoia National Park located in Californias Sierra Nevada mountain range. That version of macOS launched to the general public in September 2024, with subsequent updates coming every few weeks. The latest version of Sequoia is macOS 15.5, which arrived on May 12, 2025. It includes a Screen Time update, some changes in Mail, and security patches. Its worth noting that macOS 26 Tahoe is on the way, having been announced at WWDC 2025 on June 9. Its currently in a developer beta with a public beta expected in July ahead of a full launch in September or October. If you are looking for help installing macOS read: How to update macOS and Fixes for Macs that wont update. We can also help with How to install macOS on an unsupported Mac. macOS Tahoe is in beta right now.Foundry macOS is the Mac operating system, like iOS is the iPhone operating system and iPadOS is the iPad operating system. Its the software that runs in the background, providing the user interface and providing the link between the hardware and software. All Macs run macOS, previously known as Mac OS X, and have done so since the introduction of the first version of Mac OS X in 2001. Before that, Macs ran Mac OS 9 which came out in October 1999 and received updates until December 2001. Mac OS X was based on technology from NeXT Computer, which was another company founded by Steve Jobs. Jobs brought the technology back to Apple with him when he was reinstated as Apple CEO. The operating system is Unix-based. Mac OS X was launched more than two decades ago on March 24, 2001. Theres been a lot of change over those two decades: good and bad. From the problems with the first edition (it was slow and didnt run important apps like Microsoft Word) Mac OS X has evolved through various iterations and various designs to what we know today. Weve seen tight integration with iOS devices, the incorporation of the cloud, and the arrival of excellent and helpful features including integrated Time Machine backups, Quick Look which lets you see a preview of a document without opening the application, and innovations like Expos and Spaces and Desktop Stacks to help you work more efficiently. For an overview of the features of the various versions of the Mac operating system, showing how it has developed over time, take a look at our video above. If you want to know the names Apple assigned to Mac OS X over the years, and the codenames that were used internally, read on. Heres an overview of every version of Mac OS X and Mac OS X Apple has released. Youll find a complete list of the latest release of each version of OS X and macOS, along version code names, along with internal code names (if available): OS X 10 beta: Kodiak September 13, 2000 OS X 10.0: Cheetah March 14, 2001 (Latest: 10.0.4) OS X 10.1: Puma September 15, 2001 (Latest: 10.1.5) OS X 10.2: Jaguar August 14, 2002 (Latest: 10.2.8) OS X 10.3: Panther October 24, 2003 (Latest: 10.3.9) OS X 10.4: Tiger (Merlot) April 29, 2005 (Latest: 10.4.11) OS X 10.4.4: Tiger (Chardonnay) January 10, 2006 (for Intel Macs) (Latest: 10.4.11) OS X 10.5: Leopard (Charlie) October 26, 2007 (Latest: 10.5.8) OS X 10.6: Snow Leopard August 28, 2009 (Latest: 10.6.8) OS X 10.7: Lion (Barolo) July 20, 2011 (Latest: 10.7.5) OS X 10.8: Mountain Lion (Zinfandel) July 25, 2012 (Latest: 10.8.5) OS X 10.9: Mavericks (Cabernet) October 22, 2013 (Latest: 10.9.5) OS X 10.10: Yosemite (Syrah) October 16, 2014 (Latest: 10.10.5) OS X 10.11: El Capitan (Gala) September 30, 2015 (Latest: 10.11.6) macOS 10.12: Sierra (Fuji) September 20, 2016 (Latest: 10.12.6) macOS 10.13: High Sierra (Lobo) September 25, 2017 (Latest: 10.13.6) macOS 10.14: Mojave (Liberty) September 24, 2018 (Latest: 10.14.6, July 2021) macOS 10.15: Catalina (Jazz) October 7, 2019 (Latest: 10.15.7, Security Update 2022-005, July 2022) macOS 11: Big Sur (GoldenGate) November 12, 2020 (Latest: 11.7.10, September 11, 2023) macOS 12: Monterey (Star) October 25, 2021 (Latest: 12.7.6, July 29, 2024) macOS 13: Ventura (Rome) October 24, 2022 (Latest: 13.7.6, May 12, 2025) macOS 14: Sonoma (Sunburst) September 26, 2023 (Latest: 14.7.6, May 12, 2025) macOS 15: Sequoia (Glow) September 18, 2024 (Latest: 15.5, May 12, 2025) macOS 26: Tahoe (Cheer) launch date TBC We have a full list of which Macs run which versions of macOS here. You can install a beta version of macOS and test new features that havent yet launched. If you want to install the latest beta of macOS read about joining Apples beta program. Foundry As you can see from the list above, with the exception of the first OS X beta, all versions of the Mac operating system from 2001 to 2012 were named after big cats, from Cheetah to Panther to the final release, Mountain Lion. But while the public-facing builds were named after big cats, internally, they were named after wines (aside from OS X 10.6 which had no codename). Even after Apple switched public-facing code names to places in California back in 2013, it carried on naming them after wines internally until 2014. In 2015, Apple decided to change the theme of internal code names from wines to types of apples. Original. In 2016, Apple took the plunge to unify the branding of its operating systems by rebranding Mac OS X to macOS, which sits nicely alongside iOS, tvOS, and watchOS and paved the way for macOS 11, the successor to Mac OS X, which arrived twenty years after the first beta of Mac OS X. In 2025, Apple decided to sync up the numbering system between all its operating systems. They are all 26 as they will live most of their lifetime as the most recent version in the year 2026 before being replaced with 27. Apple still supports regular features and security updates to the most recent version of macOS. Right now this is Sequoia, also known as macOS 15. The previous two versions of macOS also receive security updates and bug fixes. If you are running macOS 14 Sonoma or macOS 13 Ventura you will still get security updates. Since the arrival of Sequoia, Apple no longer supports macOS 12 Monterey which arrived in 2021 (and with the arrival of Sonoma in 2023 it stopped support for macOS Big Sur, which arrived in 2020). See: How long do Macs and MacBooks last? Its worth noting that when macOS 26 Tahoe launches this fall, its likely that macOS 13 Ventura will stop getting security updates. Apple also issues updates to its Safari web browser. The latest version of Safari for Mac is Safari 18 (as of September 2024) and it requires Ventura, Sonoma or Sequoia. Foundry You can tell which version of macOS you are running by clicking on the Apple logo in the top left and choosing About This Mac. It will clearly show which version of macOS you are running along with the most recent version that your Mac has installed Its easy to find out which version of macOS is running on a Mac.Foundry If you want to update your Mac to a newer version of macOS the method will be determined by the version of macOS you are running. Very old versions of Mac OS X came on a disk and any security updates came via Software Update. Since the arrival of the Mac App Store in 2011 (as an update to Snow Leopard) versions of Mac OS X and macOS have been available to download via the Mac App Store. However, that changed with Mojave, which arrived in 2018. Now operating system updates come in via Software Updates which is either located in System Settings > General > Software Update or in System Preferences > Software Update (pre-Ventura). One of the benefits of this is that your Mac can be set to automatically download the latest updates and install them, keeping your Mac up-to-date with minimum effort on your part. Incidentally, you can still find the macOS software on the Mac App Store, since Macs will be set to update macOS automatically. If you want your Mac to update automatically follow these steps: In Ventura or later: Open System Settings. Click on General. Click on Software Update. Click on the i beside Automatic Updates and make sure that Check for updates, Download new updates when available, and Install macOS updates are selected. This way your Mac will automatically update to the latest version. If you would prefer not to have your Mac do this automatically you can deselect these options. In Monterey, Big Sur, Mojave, or Catalina: Open System Preferences. Click on Software Update. Check the box beside Automatically keep my Mac up to date (or Download new updates when available). Now select the box Install macOS updates. In High Sierra or earlier: Open System Preferences. Click on App Store. Check the box beside Automatically check for updates it should have a tick in it as should the four options below that Now deselect the box beside Download newly available updates in the background. Read all about how to update your Mac here. We also have a list of every version of iOS where you can see the latest versions and how long Apple supports iPhones for.



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