

New Apple mobile software arrives Wednesday

September 17 2014



Attendees inspect the new iPhone 6 during an Apple special event at the Flint Center for the Performing Arts in Cupertino, California, on September 9, 2014

New-generation Apple software for powering its coveted mobile devices is set for release on Wednesday, two days ahead of the arrival of its latest iPhones.

The iOS 8 [mobile operating system](#) will be available free for download to many iPhone and iPad models and will be pre-installed on iPhone 6

and iPhone 6 Plus, which hit the market on Friday.

Apple unveiled iOS 8 at its annual developers conference in San Francisco in June.

The new [operating software](#) is tailored to deliver a seamless experience for users flitting between Apple mobile gadgets and popular Macintosh computers.

Alongside operating system updates, the California company unveiled HealthKit software to manage personal healthcare and HomeKit for home appliances. They are integrated into the latest system update.

HealthKit will provide a secure haven for data collected by devices such as fitness bands that track activity and sleep.

Apple also synched iOS 8 to HomeKit software that could let iPhones or iPads be used as a centralized control for Internet-linked gadgets such as door locks, lights, thermostats and security systems.

Apple came up with a common network protocol, so not only can an iPhone be used to open smart locks, but virtual assistant Siri can dim lights and lower thermostat settings when told, "Get ready for bed."



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Apple has also beefed up graphics and speed capabilities for games, which are consistently among the hottest applications on its [mobile devices](#).

Capabilities woven into operating software include one called "Continuity," which lets tasks started on one Apple gadget be automatically handed off to another one nearby.

Messages or calls can also be handed off between devices.

Apple last week announced that it is adding a smartwatch to its growing array of devices that will work together.

The Apple Watch will not be released until early next year.

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