



boomtree25321 shutterstock

ICLOUD USEFUL FEATURES YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT

iCloud is a key part of the Apple world, and here's how you can make the most of it!

One of the main reasons people love the Apple ecosystem is how well their devices work together. iCloud, Apple's cloud service, is the star of the show when it comes to this. You get a free account when you set up an Apple ID, which still comes with only 5GB of cloud storage. I suggest upgrading to at least 50GB, which is \$0.99 a month.

When you sign up for more storage, you're also getting iCloud+, which adds some extra perks. iCloud+ is where the magic happens, but since iCloud has been around for so long, these extras can

sometimes get lost in the shuffle.

Here are some iCloud features you should start using right away.

HIDE MY EMAIL

When on the web, it feels like you need to give sites an email address to access everything, which can be a bit concerning since you're not sure what they're doing with it. And even if they're upfront about it, sometimes there's just not much you can do, especially when it's for a service you really need. Plus, since you might need to get an email from that service sometimes, you want to make sure you have an address that's easy to reach.

When you're setting up a new account and choosing to log in with an Apple Account, you have a couple of options. You can use your regular iCloud email address, or you can create a new email alias using Hide My Email. With Hide My Email, Apple will generate an email address ending in @privaterelay.appleid.com, and it'll forward any emails you get to your actual iCloud address.

SHARE PASSWORDS WITH FAMILY MEMBERS

Ever find yourself getting tired of your kids' requests for the Apple TV+ password? If you have an iCloud Family Plan, you can

set up Family Passwords, which is where you can share login information. First, make sure all the devices your family uses are running at least iOS 17, iPadOS 17, and macOS Sonoma.

To create a Family Passwords group, go to Settings → Family → Recommended for Your Family, and then scroll down to the More Recommendations section, where you'll find a button for Set Up Family Passwords. The Passwords app will open, and it'll guide you through setting up a shared group. You can add or remove people (they need to be in your Contacts) and then pick the passwords you want to share.

OTHER GREAT ICLOUD FEATURES

iCloud+ has some other cool features, some of which are a bit more niche, while others are pretty common and you might already be using them. Here are a few:

- iPhone, iPad, and Mac backups.
- Safari bookmark sharing (just turn on Safari in iCloud settings).
- Private Relay for keeping your privacy while you're browsing the web.
- Custom Domain Email, where you can use your own domain (like yourname.com) with iCloud Mail.
- Apple Invites, a service for organizing events.



JEFF BOHR
Naples Mac Help

Jeff is your one-stop Mac expert, an Apple Certified Support Professional, and 40-year Mac user. He can be reached at jeff@jeffbohr.com or 239.595.0482