

# printout

Keystone MacCentral Macintosh Users Group ❖ <http://www.keystonemac.com>

## Artista Impresso Pro

by Tom Bank, Sr

**JixiPix** is a relatively new player in the graphics software field. Their focus has been on individual apps that treat your a photographs in a variety of specific ways. One app (Artista Oil) gives a photo an oil painting effect; another (Snow Daze) turns a picture taken at any time of year into a winter scene; while yet another (Simply HDR) spreads the light and color range in a photograph and enhances the detail. There are twenty two of these apps in all. A year or two ago JixiPix's Aquarella, which adds a number of painterly effects to a photo, was reviewed in a well received KeyMac presentation.

An interesting feature of the way **JixiPix** offers their products is that from the start they have released their programs for use on a stand-alone basis on Macintosh and Windows computers, then separately as apps for the iPhone and other tablet type devices, and also as plug-ins for programs like Photoshop. In the past these have been separate items on the JixiPix list. If you wanted to use the features of one or another app on your Mac and you had Photoshop, Lightroom, or Photoshop Elements, you had to choose whether to buy the stand-alone program or the plug-in.

Recently there's been a new addition to the JixiPix line. Actually, Artista Impresso is two of their recent offerings, because there is an Hobbyist version sold as Artista Impresso and a Pro version which offers additional features, including the ability to operate as a plug-in with the Adobe products. What these two apps do is focused on the inspired techniques of the late 18th/early 19th century impressionist painters and tries to give the user the tools to emulate in their photos the effects the masters achieved on canvas.

At our May meeting Tom Bank, Sr., will describe, illustrate, and attempt to satisfactorily demonstrate the effects that can be achieved with Artista Impresso Pro. Tom also has a discount code provided by JixiPix which will be good on any of the many products in their line. Come and see for yourself whether this new product will be a useful addition to your digital photography tool box. ☺

Meet us at

**Bethany Village Retirement Center**

Education Room

5225 Wilson Lane, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

**Tuesday, May 19, 2015 6:30 p.m.**

**Attendance is free and open to all interested persons.**

# Contents

**Artista Impresso Pro by Tom Bank, Sr.** . . . . . 1

**Foscam Security Camerom by Linda Cameron.** . . . . . 3 - 4

**iCloud Photo Library: The Missing FAQ by Joe Kissell** . . . . . 4 - 8

**iOS 8.3 Triggers an Avalanche of Improvements by Josh Centers** . . 9 - 10

**Personal Hotspot iOS8 By Linda Cameron** . . . . . 10 - 11

**Rumors and Reality by Tim Sullivan.** . . . . . 11 - 12

**April Software Review** . . . . . 12

Keystone MacCentral is a not-for-profit group of Macintosh enthusiasts who generally meet the third Tuesday of every month to exchange information, participate in question-and-answer sessions, view product demonstrations, and obtain resource materials that will help them get the most out of their computer systems. Meetings are free and open to the public. The *Keystone MacCentral printout* is the official newsletter of Keystone MacCentral and an independent publication not affiliated or otherwise associated with or sponsored or sanctioned by any for-profit organization, including Apple Inc. Copyright © 2015, Keystone MacCentral, 310 Somerset Drive, Shiresmanstown, PA 17011.

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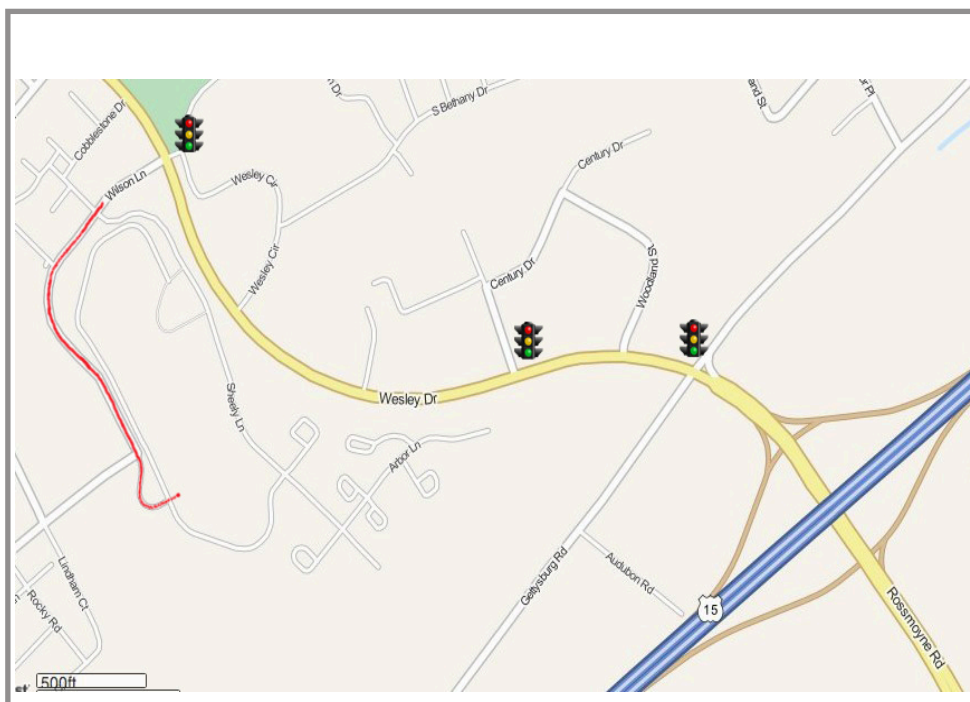
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by Linda Cameron

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## Foscam Security Camera

While back, I reviewed a free app called [Presence](#) which can turn an iPad or other Apple device into a security camera, allowing you to check in with your iPhone while away. The only problem with that setup is that you have to find the perfect spot to plug in the iPad (or other iOS device) and it only shows one view. When it is dark, you only see the blackness.

I decided I wanted a security camera that can pan and tilt and see in the dark. After a bit of research, I ordered a [Foscam HD Vision FI9831P](#). One feature that sold me was the ability to use an app on my iPhone that can scan a code on the bottom of the camera, automatically putting in the settings for my iPhone app to use it.



When I got the camera, I realized I didn't know how to set it up so it would be on my wireless network. It wasn't something you just plug in and it works by putting in the password for my network—like setting up a Roku or AppleTV. Luckily, I had ordered directly from Foscam and that gave me free tech support for the life of the camera.

The tech support guy had a thick accent and was in India. He and I had trouble understanding each other. He didn't even bother trying to talk to me that much. He had me download and install an app called Teamviewer which allowed him to see my computer and have access to it so he could just set it up himself. First of all, it would have been nice if he had asked permission to have access to my computer. I had no idea that he was planning to do that. He downloaded a few small apps that provided information (once I plugged the camera directly into my router temporarily). These apps gave the IP address of the camera and the port number. He opened Airport Utility and when

I needed to put a password into my Network, he opened Keychain Access to get the password! That blew my mind! I tried to put in the password myself, but while he had access to my Mac, my keyboard refused to type all the letters.

After a bit of time, he got the video to show up on Safari and then I unplugged the camera and put it back where I wanted it, in the living room. Then he did a couple more things so it worked wirelessly.

He got it set up and working and I was able to view the camera video on my iPhone, so I finally hung up and went about trying to scan the code with my iPad so I could use it also to view the camera's video.

When I first scanned the code with my iPhone, it took quite a while before it was successful and I could move onto the next step. For some odd reason, the iPad never did successfully scan the code. However, I was able to manually set up the iPad by looking at the settings on my iPhone.

When I was at my Toastmaster meeting that night, I looked in on the cats who were sleeping in chairs. I turned on the mic and talked to them. Their heads popped up and their eyes stared straight at the camera. It was night time so the video showed in black and white since it uses infra-red at night. In the daylight, the video is in normal color. I can move my fingers across the iPhone to move the camera lens to different places. It is like a ball that can be turned in any direction.

Right at the moment, the camera sits on a desk with a view of the living room and kitchen. I had planned to mount it on the wall, thinking it would be a better view, but I had a friend hold it up on the wall while I went to check the view and I decided the desk was actually a better location. This camera does come with a wall mount that uses 2 screws. It has to be plugged into AC, so that limits where I can put it.

The next day, I thought I would try and use Foscam's Cloud service that lets you login to see your camera video from any web browser. They have a free account if you don't care about a lot of features, or you can pay \$8, \$20 or \$50 a month to store video and pictures from your cameras on their website. I am sure a lot of people buy more than one camera so they can have security monitoring several locations. For now the free cloud server is fine for me since I can just go there and view the live feed whenever I want. There is an SD card slot on the back of the camera but I am not using that because I need to buy an SD card.

I think when I use the Foscam Viewer app on my iPhone or iPad, I can record or take pictures if I want to.

The video from the camera is high definition. When viewed on the iPhone or iPad, it looks pretty good until you pan the room, which blurs the video until it stops. Stopping where you want is tricky when viewing remotely from your device. It is easy to go too far in any direction and it takes a bit of patience to get the camera facing where you want it.

The main reason I wanted this camera was because I needed to go to San Diego for a few days. A brother was getting married for the first time. My whole family would be there. I hadn't gone anywhere in 7 years and my cats have never been left alone. The whole idea was making me nervous.

While I was on my way to San Diego, and while I was there and even coming back — I would check in on the cats several times per day. Seeing them doing their normal thing (sleeping and eating) helped to alleviate my worries. I

even saw Derek there cleaning the litter boxes and checking their food and water a couple of times. The hotel I stayed in had free WiFi and a couple of computers in the lobby anyone could use. I was also able to go to the [Foscomcloud.com](http://Foscomcloud.com) site to see my camera's video. That was nice since it was a bigger screen than my iPhone.

Next time I go somewhere, I might get a second Foscam camera for the bedroom, since one cat spent more time in there than in the rooms I could monitor.

I am pleased with this camera so far. The tech support is pretty good as far as helping you right away, but it would be better if the person could let you know what he is doing as he does it, and if he could speak English better. The price seemed very reasonable to me—\$128 including 2 day shipping. 🍻

by Joe Kissell

## iCloud Photo Library: The Missing FAQ

**With** the release of Photos for Mac in OS X 10.10.3, Mac users have not only a replacement for the much-maligned iPhoto but also access to iCloud Photo Library, an iCloud feature for syncing photos that Apple introduced in iOS 8.1. In theory, this feature should “just work,” magically syncing all your photos across all your devices. But like so many things in the Apple ecosystem, iCloud Photo Library raises a number of vexing questions, especially for anyone whose use case is in any way atypical.

To Apple's credit, the company did post an [iCloud Photo Library FAQ](#), and it's worth reading for several basic details. Unfortunately, that FAQ didn't answer any of the questions I had personally, and judging by the email and comments we've received from readers, confusion over this feature is widespread.

I've compiled a list of those missing questions, along with answers based on my own testing and research, and the experiences of others on the TidBITS staff and Jason Snell, who's writing [“Photos for Mac: A Take Control Crash Course.”](#) If this FAQ doesn't answer your question — or if my answers don't match what you're seeing — please let me know in the comments, and I'll do my best to update the article accordingly.

### Question: What is iCloud Photo Library?

Answer: iCloud Photo Library is an iCloud feature that, when enabled on any given Mac or iOS device, syncs the entire contents of that device's Photos library to Apple's servers and thence to any other devices that meet the system requirements, are signed in with the same iCloud credentials, and have iCloud Photo Library enabled.

### Q: What are the system requirements?

A: For starters, you need an [iCloud account](#), which anyone can get for free. Apple says you must be using OS X 10.10.3 or later on a Mac, and iOS 8.3 on an iOS device. (Even though iCloud Photo Library was available in earlier versions of iOS 8, there were apparently changes in iOS 8.3 that are necessary to make your photos sync with your Mac.) You can also access your photos in the Photos Web app at [iCloud.com](http://iCloud.com), but only after you have synced the Photos library from at least one device.

### Q: Does the Photos Web app let me do everything Photos on my Mac or iOS device can do?

A: No. It's mostly for viewing photos. You can upload JPEG graphics via the Web too, but not other formats. And you can download and email photos, and mark your favorites. But that's pretty much it.

### Q: Is iCloud Photo Library useful even if I have only one compatible device?

A: Possibly. Because it syncs your photos to the cloud, it provides a backup of sorts. (I definitely would not trust iCloud Photo Library to be my sole backup, but it could come in handy if you have just one device and it's lost, stolen, or broken.) Having all your photos online also makes sharing a bit simpler, in that you can send someone a link to an existing photo or album in the cloud instead of sending the original photos by email or some other means.

### Q: Is iCloud Photo Library free?

A: Sort of yes, but mostly no. iCloud accounts include a paltry 5 GB of free storage, which is shared across all features (including email, iCloud Drive, and iOS backups). Very few people have such small photo libraries that they can fit in the space available for free. As a result, if you

want to use iCloud Photo Library, you'll have to [pay Apple for enough extra storage to hold your photo library](#). You can upgrade to 20 GB for \$0.99 a month, 200 GB for \$3.99 a month, 500 GB for \$9.99 a month, or 1 TB for \$19.99 a month. (Those figures are for the United States; prices vary by country.)

**Q: Does iCloud Photo Library let me sync my photo library with my spouse or other family member?**

A: No. Your iCloud Photo Library is tied to your iCloud username, and is intended for syncing your own photos and videos among your own devices. It is not designed to sync photos between iCloud accounts.

However, iCloud Family Sharing is designed to do exactly that. It creates a Family photo album on each family member's devices; anything a family member puts in that album (which must be done manually) syncs across all the other family members' devices. I say more about this in [Use iCloud Family Sharing](#), a chapter in my book "[Digital Sharing for Apple Users: A Take Control Crash Course](#)."

**Q: I thought there was already a photo sync feature called My Photo Stream. How is this different?**

A: Since iCloud replaced MobileMe, the service has included a feature that provides limited syncing of photos amongst your devices. It was originally called Photo Stream, and later rebranded to My Photo Stream. My Photo Stream still exists, and you can use it either instead of or in addition to iCloud Photo Library (as discussed later in this FAQ). Although the two services sound superficially similar, and both feature automatic syncing of photos, they differ in many details. Here's a quick rundown of the major features of each:

**iCloud Photo Library:**

- Gives you a single library across your Macs, iOS devices, and the iCloud Web site
- Supports both photos and videos
- Counts against your iCloud storage quota
- Can store as many photos as you like, for as long as you keep paying
- Works over Wi-Fi or cellular connections in iOS (to disable cellular data for Photos, go to Settings > Cellular and turn off Photos)
- Replaces Camera Roll (and the My Photo Stream album) in iOS
- Disables syncing photos directly with your Mac or PC via iTunes
- Uploads original, full-resolution photos but optionally stores smaller, optimized copies on each device
- When enabled, causes photos and videos to be omitted from iOS backups (because that would be redundant)

**My Photo Stream:**

- Supports only photos
- Doesn't count against your iCloud storage quota
- Stores only your 1,000 most recent photos on each device
- Stores photos online for 30 days
- Does not work over cellular connections in iOS
- Uploads original, full-resolution photos, but downloads smaller versions on iOS devices
- Is not accessible from the iCloud Web site

**Q: Can I still use My Photo Stream with Photos?**

A: Yes. But if you're also using iCloud Photo Library, you won't see a separate My Photo Stream album; all your pictures will appear in All Photos.

**Q: If I enable iCloud Photo Library and have adequate storage space, is there any point to keeping My Photo Stream on too?**

A: My Photo Stream is still useful if you need to preserve compatibility with devices that don't meet the system requirements for iCloud Photo Library, and provides a backup method of photo sync in the event that you do hit your iCloud storage limit. Apart from those factors, it's probably less confusing to stick with just one or the other.

**Q: If I use Photos in OS X 10.10.3 or iOS 8.3, am I required to use iCloud Photo Library?**

A: Absolutely not. You can leave iCloud Photo Library turned off and continue using and/or syncing Photos exactly as you did with iPhoto or Aperture. If you don't want to pay for extra storage, or are concerned about exposing your photos to the cloud, or have other concerns based on later answers in this FAQ, you're under no obligation to use iCloud Photo Library. (For that matter, you don't have to use Photos at all, if you already have iPhoto, Aperture, or a similar app you like.)

**Q: Is there any reason I can't continue to sync photos via iTunes?**

A: If you were previously syncing photos between your Mac or PC and iOS device(s) using iTunes, you can continue doing so with Photos (as long as you have iTunes 12.1.2 or later) and leave iCloud Photo Library turned off. However, if you enable iCloud Photo Library on your Mac, you will no longer be able to sync photos from that Mac with your iOS devices via iTunes.

**Q: I heard Apple removed iPhoto and Aperture from the Mac App Store. Can I really keep using them?**

A: Yes. Apple no longer offers those apps for sale, but if you already have them installed on your Mac, they will continue to work just as before. Even if you delete them,

you should be able to re-download them from the Purchased view in the Mac App Store, although I can't guarantee that will always be the case. In addition, it's unlikely that there will ever be updates, so they may cease to work at some point in the future.

**Q: What should I do if my photo library is already in iPhoto or Aperture?**

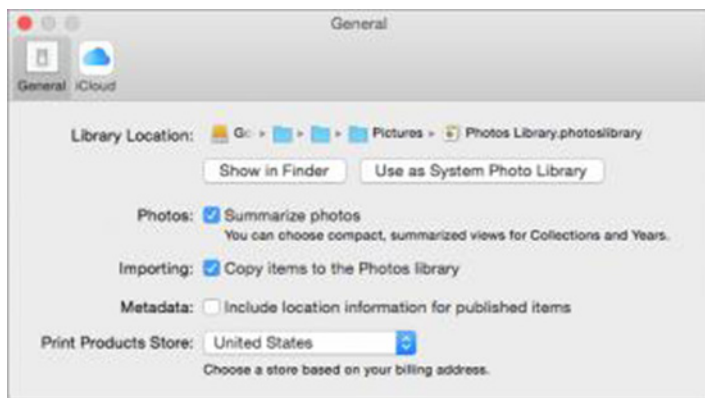
A: When you run Photos for the first time, it will ask if you want it to use an existing iPhoto or Aperture library. If you choose to do so, it will import all your photos (in a clever way that avoids duplicating the files on your disk) and then, if iCloud Photo Library is enabled, sync the photos from Photos to the cloud. However, because iCloud Photo Library is not directly compatible with iPhoto or Aperture, any subsequent changes you make to your iPhoto or Aperture libraries will not sync to iCloud Photo Library; you'd have to manually import those new or modified photos into Photos for them to sync.

**Q: What if I have multiple Photos libraries?**

A: Photos can have just one library open at a time (just like iPhoto and Aperture), but you can have as many different Photos libraries on disk as you like. You can switch to another one either by double-clicking it in the Finder, or by holding down Option when you launch Photos and choosing a different library for that session. But note that only one library at a time can sync to the cloud using iCloud Photo Library — namely, your System Photo Library (see next question).

**Q: What is my System Photo Library?**

A: It's the library Photos considers primary, which means, for example, that it's the one iCloud uses (for iCloud Photo Library, My Photo Stream, and other purposes) and the one iCloud-enabled apps can access. If you have only one Photos library on your Mac, that is by definition your System Photo Library. However, if you have more than one library, you can switch to a different one and designate that library as your System Photo Library by choosing Photos > Preferences > General and clicking Use as System Photo Library.



**Q: What is iCloud Photo Sharing?**

A: iCloud Photo Sharing is a third iCloud photo-related feature, independent from iCloud Photo Library and My

Photo Stream, that makes it possible to share special albums called "photo streams" with other people.

**Q: What happens if you turn on iCloud Photo Library on multiple Macs or iOS devices, each with an existing, independent Photos library?**

A: The libraries merge, regardless of whether they previously overlapped in any way. After everything has synced, the Photos app on each of your devices (and on the iCloud Web site) should contain exactly the same set of photos and videos.

**Q: If I enable iCloud Photo Library on multiple devices that already have overlapping photos in their respective libraries, will the resulting merged library contain duplicates?**

A: It shouldn't. In my testing, merging libraries did not result in duplicate images.

As to whether Photos sorts out the duplicates locally or in the cloud, my test results were ambiguous. On one Mac, I turned off iCloud Photo Library, manually uploaded a very large photo to iCloud Photo Library using my Web browser, and also added the photo to Photos manually. Then I reenabled iCloud Photo Library while watching network activity in Activity Monitor, and the amount of data transmitted was only a small fraction of that photo's size. That test (which I repeated, with variations, several times) implied that before uploading a photo, Photos somehow determines (presumably by means of a [checksum](#) or similar mechanism) whether that photo is already in the cloud, and if so, it skips uploading that one — and it does the reverse when considering which images to download.

However, on another Mac, my results were less positive. This Mac started out with a Photos library that greatly overlapped what was already in iCloud Photo Library, yet after I enabled iCloud Photo Library on this second Mac, it transmitted a massive quantity of data over the next couple of days. While the data volume was significantly smaller than the total size of my Photos library, it was also several orders of magnitude larger than what it should have been if only checksums were being transmitted. I can't account for this difference, because Photos tells me only how many photos are left to be uploaded or downloaded, not which ones (or whether they're being transferred in their entirety). This lack of transparency is disturbing — a clear indication of exactly what Photos is doing now (and what it did recently) would be welcome.

In any case, if the photos in two locations aren't identical, you could certainly have duplicates, and I would not be at all surprised if Photos failed at matching duplicates from time to time.

On the plus side, library merging appears to err on the side of data retention. For example, suppose there's a photo already synced to the cloud. You delete that photo from a non-System Photo Library, and then tell Photos to make that library the System Photo Library. In the process of

merging your newly selected library with the cloud, Photos will download the photo you previously deleted, rather than deleting that photo from the cloud. So, you could end up with unwanted photos, but that's better than not having photos you do want.

**Q: What happens if you turn on iCloud Photo Library on a Mac, allow its System Photo Library to sync, and then set a different library as the System Photo Library?**

A: First, Photos warns you that switching the System Photo Library will turn off iCloud Photo Library (which is a good thing, because you might want to switch your System Photo Library temporarily without syncing it to iCloud). Assuming you really do want to sync a different library, you must go to System Preferences > iCloud, click the Options button next to Photos, and select iCloud Photo Library to reenable it. (It looks like you can reenable it in Photos > Preferences > iCloud, too, but in my testing, that checkbox had no effect; as soon as I switched panes or closed the window, it deselected itself.) Reselecting iCloud Photo Library also selects My Photo Stream by default, but you can deselect it if you want.



Once you've reenabled iCloud Photo Library, your newly selected System Photo Library merges with the one already synced to iCloud.

**Q: So at that point, after syncing has completed, my new System Photo Library would contain all the photos from my previous library, and I could just delete the old library, right?**

A: Yes. But don't make me remind you about the importance of backups, because something can always go wrong.

**Q: What happens if I delete a photo from Photos with iCloud Photo Library enabled?**

A: Deleting photos is a two-step process, much like using the Trash in the Finder or in an email app. If you delete a photo from Photos on any of your devices that have iCloud Photo Library enabled, that photo will be moved to a "Recently Deleted" area — not only on that device but also in the cloud and on your other devices. (In Photos on a Mac, choose File > Show Recently Deleted; in iOS, tap Albums > Recently Deleted.) You can retrieve photos from this area before they're deleted permanently, and if you do, they'll be restored on all your devices. You can also select one or

more photos in this view to delete them permanently, or click Delete All (in Photos on a Mac) to delete them all.

Now, here's a curious twist. Ordinarily, iCloud Photo Library keeps deleted photos for 30 days, after which it erases them completely and they disappear from the Recently Deleted view on all your devices. But Photos says that the deletion process may itself take up to 40 days (whether you erase a photo from Recently Deleted manually or wait for it to age out). I assume that means Apple still has a copy somewhere — perhaps in a backup — even though you can't see or access it. So if you're trying to erase evidence of a crime or indiscretion, you might be out of luck.

**Q: What happens to my photos if I sign out of iCloud on a Mac that is (or was) using iCloud Photo Library?**

A: Nothing. Your photos stay right in your Photos library. Turning off iCloud Photo Library merely turns off syncing; it does not cause any photos to be deleted from your Mac.

**Q: What happens to my photos if I sign out of iCloud on a Mac that is (or was) using iCloud Photo Library and then sign back in using a different iCloud account that already had its own iCloud Photo Library?**

A: The two libraries merge for the newly selected iCloud account. That is, Photos on your Mac will, after the sync completes, contain all the photos that were in either library, and so will all the other devices signed in with that Apple ID, with iCloud Photo Library enabled. Meanwhile, the set of photos stored in the cloud for your previously selected iCloud account will remain unchanged, unless you switch libraries again or access that account from another device.

**Q: What happens if you pay for iCloud Photo Library storage and then stop paying?**

A: Nothing happens to the photos stored on your Mac(s) and iOS device(s). What you pay for is the service of syncing your data to the cloud and storing copies there. If you stop paying, the cloud copy of your library will disappear and your devices will stop syncing, but your local copies remain unchanged.

If all your devices were so low on space that you had no local, full-resolution copies and the originals were stored only in the cloud, that could theoretically leave you with only low-resolution versions of some of your photos. I have found no information on Apple's Web site about what happens in this situation, but I'd tend to assume the worst. (So, a reminder: back up everything!)

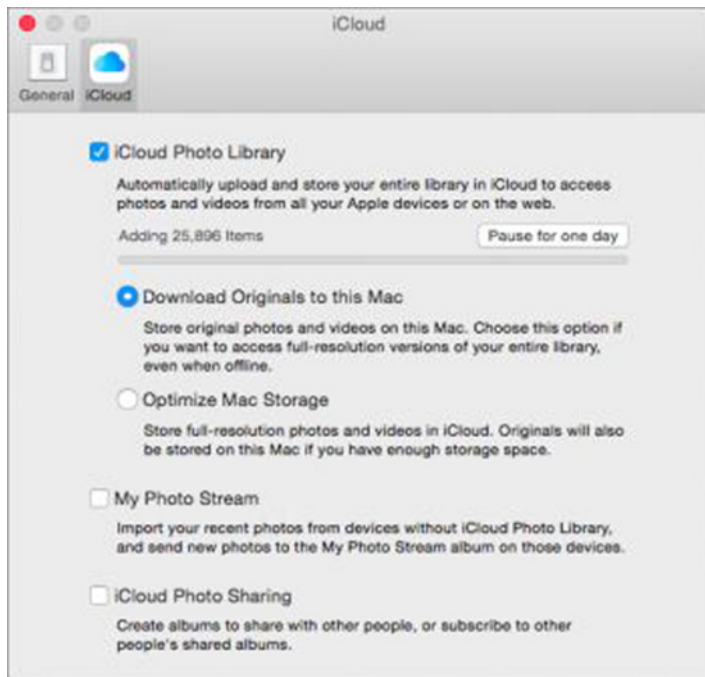
**Q: Will iCloud Photo Library be considerate of my bandwidth and data cap?**

A: No. Not even remotely. As soon as you turn on iCloud Photo Library, your Mac will start transferring photos to (or from) the cloud as fast as your Internet connection can handle them. If you have a couple hundred gigabytes of photos, they'll all be uploaded, which could have such unpleasant effects as saturating your Internet connection

(and thus slowing down everything you want to do on the Internet with all your other devices) and blowing out your monthly data-transfer allowance in a big hurry (if you have one, as the majority of broadband customers in North America do). It happened to me, and it has happened to other people I know. It's pretty awful.

**Q: So, um... is there anything I can do about that whole bandwidth issue?**

A: Yes. First, you can pause transfers. To do this, go to Photos > Preferences > iCloud and click Pause for One Day, which does exactly what it says. (You can manually resume transfers before the day is up by clicking Resume.) But if you need transfers to pause for a longer period of time, you'll have to click that button every day. Your second option is to temporarily disable iCloud Photo Library altogether by going to System Preferences > iCloud, clicking the Options button next to Photos, and deselecting iCloud Photo Library. There's no penalty for doing so; this merely disables syncing, and does not affect any photos on your Mac (except that if iCloud Photo Library has downloaded low-resolution versions of any photos but not the full-resolution copies at the moment you disable syncing, Photos may delete the low-resolution versions, and will warn you that it's about to do so). If and when you later reselect it, syncing will resume.



But what if you quit Photos? Won't that also stop syncing? Maybe. My initial experiments showed that transfers did indeed stop when I quit Photos. After Jason Snell pointed out that he had different results, I ran more tests. My revised results suggest that downloads from iCloud Photo Library pause when you quit Photos, but uploads continue even when the app isn't running. Furthermore, My Photo

Stream (if enabled) may transfer photos when Photos isn't running. All that to say: quitting Photos might help in certain situations, but you can't count on it.

**Q: Could I avoid the bandwidth problem by enabling Optimize Mac Storage?**

A: Probably not. iCloud Photo Library always stores full-resolution photos and videos in the cloud. If you go to Photos > Preferences > iCloud and select Optimize Mac Storage, that means your Mac will download full-resolution copies of any photos added by other devices if there's enough space; only if you lack sufficient storage space on your Mac will it download lower-resolution copies instead. (And, if this happens, you can still manually download the full-resolution version of any image you want to work with.) In iOS, there's a similar option that works the same way; go to Settings > iCloud > Photos and select Optimize iPhone (or iPad) Storage.

**Q: Will Apple ever fix this problem — for example, by letting me throttle the bandwidth Photos uses?**

A: I have no idea.

**Q: Are there any other risks to syncing my photos with iCloud Photo Library?**

A: There are always risks on the Internet. In particular, anyone who knows (or guesses, or hacks) your iCloud username and password could see all the photos and videos in your library. This is yet another good reason to use a long, random password (see ["Take Control of Your Passwords"](#)) and two-step verification (see ["Apple Implements Two-Factor Authentication for Apple IDs,"](#) 21 March 2013). But if your library contains any photos that could cause significant harm or embarrassment if they were to be made public, the wiser course is not to use iCloud Photo Library at all and sync your photos locally instead.

**Q: Should I use iCloud Photo Library or Dropbox, Amazon Cloud Drive, or some other cloud storage method?**

A: It depends. If you use only Apple devices — and especially if they're all running Yosemite or iOS 8 — iCloud Photo Library gives you the most convenient, seamless experience. Other providers, including Dropbox and Amazon Cloud Drive, charge less than Apple does for online storage of photos and videos, and also work on a wider range of platforms. So if saving money is your top priority or you want to sync photos with a Windows or Android device, for example, another service might be a better choice. But the key thing to keep in mind is that iCloud Photo Library is the only cloud storage service that Apple's Photos app supports. So if you want to use Photos to manage your photos and videos and also have cloud storage and syncing, iCloud Photo Library is definitely the way to go. ☞



# iOS 8.3 Triggers an Avalanche of Improvements

Apple has released iOS 8.3, and while the large update doesn't bring any major new features, it offers a [massive list of bug fixes and performance improvements](#), by far the most of any update to iOS 8 so far. You can download the update via Settings > General > Software Update, or through iTunes.

As always, it's a good idea to wait a few days to see if the update causes any problems, but so far it appears that iOS 8.3 brings the performance and stability that has been lacking in earlier releases of iOS 8. However, some users are reporting that [Touch ID is not working for App Store purchases in iOS 8.3](#), forcing them to enter their passwords manually. We at TidBITS have not experienced this problem.

With iOS 8.3, iCloud Photo Library is now officially out of beta to coincide with the release of Photos for Mac; we'll have more about that soon, but we strongly recommend not turning it on for the first time until we've completed our research against the final versions of iOS 8.3, OS X 10.10.3 Yosemite, and Photos 1.0 for Mac.

The first change you might notice in iOS 8.3 is the addition of over 300 new emoji. There are new flag emoji, along with a new one for the Apple Watch, but the bulk of the new symbols expand the diversity of emoji with symbols for same-sex couples and for different ethnicities. Some emoji now have selectable skin tones, which you can see by tapping an emoji, and then selecting your preference from the popover. The emoji picker has also been redesigned for seamless scrolling.



In addition to the new emoji, you might also notice a bit of a speed boost, particularly in these areas that Apple calls out:

- App launching
- App responsiveness
- Messages
- Wi-Fi
- Control Center
- Safari tabs
- Third-party keyboards
- Keyboard shortcuts
- Simplified Chinese Keyboard

The release notes also boast of improved stability in Phone, Mail, Bluetooth, Photos, Settings, Weather, and Genius Playlists in Music.

I haven't noticed significant changes on my iPhone 6, however switching between keyboards is now faster, and scrolling through Safari tabs seems smoother.

Another keyboard tweak that you'll appreciate is the lengthening of the Space bar while entering URLs in Safari. In previous versions of iOS 8, the Go button was lengthened, shortening the Space bar and causing users to type periods accidentally.

Users of Google two-factor authentication will be pleased to learn that when adding a Google account in Settings > Mail, Contacts, Calendars, you can now use your two-factor token instead of an app password.

iOS 8.3 includes a few Wi-Fi and Bluetooth fixes, addressing issues like being continuously prompted for login credentials, devices randomly disconnecting from Wi-Fi networks, and hands-free calls spontaneously disconnecting, as well as an issue where audio playback could stop working with some Bluetooth speakers.

If you're a [Sprint customer](#), iOS 8.3 now allows Wi-Fi calling, which had previously been exclusive to T-Mobile in the United States. If your carrier supports it, you can enable Wi-Fi calling in Settings > Phone.

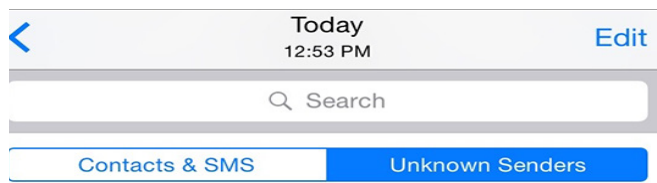
You can now download free apps from the App Store without a password. Visit Settings > iTunes & App Store > Password Settings, and under Free Downloads, disable Require Password (you'll have to enter your iTunes password). Note that the Password Settings menu will not appear if you have Touch ID enabled for App Store purchases in Settings > Touch ID & Passcode (Thanks to [Bhasker Bhat](#) for solving that mystery!).

The update fixes a number of orientation quirks, including a fix for stuck orientations, a fix for upside-down orientations on the iPhone 6 Plus, and an issue that prevented apps from rotating. Apple also claims that orientation rotation performance has been improved. We've noticed that

Safari seems to maintain scroll position when changing orientation in Reader View, which wasn't reliable before.

Messages sees some welcome improvements, such as a fix for group messages that sometimes split, an issue that prevented messages from being forwarded or deleted, and an issue that prevented photo previews from displaying.

Messages in iOS 8.3 now allows you to filter unknown senders in Settings > Messages. When enabled, it disables notifications from senders who are not in Contacts, and it splits messages into two lists: Contacts & SMS and Unknown Senders.



You can also now instruct Siri to place a call via speakerphone.

There are also improvements with Family Sharing, with increased reliability for Ask to Buy notifications, a fix for a bug that prevented family members from downloading free apps, and a fix for a bug that would prevent apps from launching or updating.

iOS 8.3 includes many more tweaks than we can list here, including improvements to CarPlay, enterprise connectivity, accessibility, and various miscellaneous fixes.

As always, the iOS update includes a [slew of security fixes](#). Apple has also released [Apple TV 7.2](#) for the third-generation Apple TV with a number of similar security improvements. 🍷

By **Linda Cameron**  
Mid Columbia Macintosh Users Group

## Personal Hotspot iOS8

A good friend just bought a new house in a neighborhood that has yet to get the infrastructure for Charter or Frontier. He can't hook up internet or phone from either of those two sources. It could be 6 months or more before any of those are available. He finally went ahead and had Dish hook up satellite so he can watch football and whatever else is on TV. He decided that, out of necessity, he would have to switch to another cell phone plan in the meantime since his iPhone 5 is his only phone for now.

I had him come to my house and we logged into his T-Mobile account from my Mac and picked a pay-by-the-month plan that includes unlimited talk, unlimited text, unlimited data and up to 5GBs for a Hotspot. It is \$80 a month plus about \$5 tax. I am sure many people are spending that much or more for their monthly cell phone plan and maybe they don't get as much? I got this friend hooked on Korean dramas (like me) and he figured he would be able to watch them on his iPhone, but not his 55" HD TV like he had been doing with the Roku before he moved. I reminded him that he had the Hotspot included in his phone plan and he should try using it. He would be able to watch on his iPad which is a lot bigger than the iPhone. He went into his Settings on the iPhone and turned on Personal Hotspot and was able to start watching Netflix and DramaFever on his iPad. He was very happy about that. I then suggested he ought to see if the Roku would also work with his Hotspot. He messed with it for a while and suddenly, his iPhone showed up as a WiFi source and he was able to watch on his bigscreen TV. He was even happier. We talked about it and figured that he should

check his T-Mobile account often to see how much data was being used in the Hotspot since it was limited to 5GBs a month. After a couple of weeks, he reported that he had used practically no data on the Hotspot but on his regular Data, he was up to about 30GBs!

I visited him at his house recently so he could demonstrate how well the Hotspot was working for streaming on the Roku/TV. While we were there, I opened my own iPhone 5s Settings and turned on Personal Hotspot and suddenly my iPhone was showing up as a WiFi source on his Roku screen! I was dumbfounded! After entering a password from my iPhone, we tried it out by playing part of a video on the Roku and it worked great! The reason I was so amazed is that a couple of months ago, I turned on Hotspot on my iPhone while playing around, and there was a message saying I had to get a cell plan that includes Hotspot to use it. I have an Unlimited data plan but no Hotspot plan. But now, all of a sudden I can turn on Hotspot and it works? When I got home, I started researching online and discovered that on any iPhone that has iOS8 or later, you can turn on Personal Hotspot in settings. Apparently, it works using your data plan and T-Mobile doesn't even know I am using my data for a Hotspot. My friend, Ed also had recently updated to iOS8 and that is probably why his plan is showing he hasn't been using his Hotspot at all even though he has been using the heck out of it!

As for me, I have WiFi with my Charter internet and I don't need to use my iPhone as a Hotspot, unless the power goes out for a length of time. As for Ed, he is really benefitting

from this new iOS8 feature and it came just at the right time.

Ed has reported that using his iPhone as a Hotspot does wear down the battery faster, so he usually puts it on the charger when he is streaming videos to the Roku. I think

using a lot of data on a cell phone does use more battery power because I notice when I am using even Audio FaceTime, my battery goes down a bit in half an hour of usage.

Personal Hotspot is one of the new iOS8 features and it is worth getting. 📶

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by Tim Sullivan

## Rumors and Reality

**Searching the web:** When a search engine finds a handful of web sites that meet the search criteria, it lists those sites in some sort of order. Google developed PageRank as one way of ordering the list. In its simplest form, the sites that are the most popular (referred to by other sites) win.

One main disadvantage of PageRank is that it favors older pages. A new page, even a very good one, will not have many links unless it is part of an existing site.

PageRank can be manipulated by 'link farms.' These are sites that imbed paid links. Since December 2007, when it started actively penalizing sites selling paid text links, Google has combatted link farms and other schemes designed to artificially inflate PageRank. How Google identifies link farms and other PageRank manipulation tools is among Google's trade secrets.

PageRank is not the only system used. Other link-based ranking algorithms for Web pages include the

- the HITS algorithm (used by Teoma and now Ask.com.) The scheme assigns two scores for each page: its authority, which estimates the value of the content of the page, and its hub value, which estimates the value of its links to other pages.
- the IBM CLEVER project: Members of the Clever project have come up with a mathematical algorithm that views the Net as simply web pages pointing at each other. It also takes into account the notion of hubs, which point to quality content and link information together, and the idea of authority pages, which are often written by specialists in certain fields.
- the TrustRank algorithm: TrustRank seeks to combat spam by filtering the web based upon reliability. The method calls for selecting a small set of seed pages to be evaluated by an expert. Once the reputable seed pages are manually identified, a crawl extending outward from the seed set seeks out similarly reliable and trustworthy pages. TrustRank's reliability diminishes with increased distance between documents and the seed set.

The logic works in the opposite way as well. This is called Anti-Trust Rank. The closer a site is to spam resources, the more like it is to be spam as well.

- the Hummingbird algorithm: Google started using Hummingbird about August 30, 2013. Hummingbird is about synonyms but also about context. Google always had synonyms, but with Hummingbird it is also able to judge context — thereby judging the intent of a person carrying out a search, to determine what they are trying to find out. Hummingbird pays more attention to each word in a query, ensuring that the whole query — the whole sentence or conversation or meaning — is taken into account.

Apparently as many searches are initiated on mobile device as on desk- or lap-bound computers. Results need to be tailored to the devices — single, long pages that can be easily scrolled. Google is updating its algorithms so that they consider a site's "mobile-friendliness" in determining whether it should prominently appear in your search results. Basically, this means that some sites will turn up less often if they aren't as easy to read or use on mobile phones.

Do not consider this to be a totally altruistic move on Google's part. If the experience of searching on smartphone is frustrating or poor — if there's a lot of content that can't be read — people are less inclined to use Google search. And if search traffic declines, Google won't be able to serve up as many ads.

**The materials** used in the Apple Watch and Apple Sport Watch are different.

### Sport watch:

The Apple Watch Sport is created with anodized aluminum. The aluminum alloy is 60 percent stronger than standard alloys, but is also very light — 30 percent lighter than the Apple Watch in fact. At this time there is very little comment on the case. No kudos, no complaints.

Apple's description of how Ion-X glass is made is almost identical to Corning's description of how Gorilla Glass is made.) The Ion-X glass measure 7 on the Mohs hardness scale. That's pretty hard. Consumer Reports measured what it takes to scratch the glass. Using picks of designated hardness, the 7 pick did not produce a scratch, but the 8 pick did. As a side note, a household key did not generate a scratch, but sandpaper did.

### Watch

The Apple Watch uses sapphire glass which is (almost) impervious to scratches.

The case is crafted from stainless steel, giving it a more premium look than the Sport Watch, with the mirror finish definitely adding to its appeal. The case does scratch. All stainless steel scratches. "Don't Panic" (*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.) [The scratches are easy to buff out.](#)

BTW Some jewelers will gold plate your watch. Probably a lot cheaper than actually buying an Apple Watch Edition.

**Photo app notes:** • Controls can adjust up to 8 levels of brightness. Besides shadows, midtones, and light, the in-betweens can be adjusted. Also test the luminance channel in the histogram. It displays a histogram based on how our eyes perceive color.

- Slow motion video controls include a bar that indicate when the video actually starts and ends playing in slow motion. Drag the handles to adjust when that happens.

- Add a dark vignette. Go to Edit mode, pick Adjust, Add, Vignette. The size and feathering can be adjusted.

- Add text labels to slides in a saved slideshow. Select the photo, click the plus symbol at the lower right. Then Add Text. (The text position cannot be changed, but text attributes can be.)

[Check here to view a tips and tricks video.](#) 📺

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## April Software Review

### iMac Graphics Update

**Apr 23, 2015 – 722 KB**

System Requirements

- OS X Yosemite 10.10.3 (14D131+)

This update fixes an issue that may cause iMac computers to become unresponsive when viewing certain very large JPEG images.

Affected models:

- iMac (Retina 5K, 27-inch, Late 2014)
- iMac (21.5-inch, Late 2013)
- iMac (27-inch, Late 2013)

### FujiXerox Printer Drivers v3.1 for OS X

**Apr 16, 2015 – 52.8 MB**

System Requirements

- OS X Yosemite
- OS X Mavericks
- OS X Mountain Lion
- OS X Lion

This download includes the latest Fuji-Xerox printing and scanning software for OS X Yosemite, OS X Mavericks, OS X Mountain Lion and OS X Lion.

### OS X Yosemite 10.10.3 Supplemental Update 1.0

**Apr 16, 2015 – 1.8 MB**

System Requirements

- OS X Yosemite 10.10.3 14D131

The OS X Yosemite 10.10.3 Supplemental Update fixes a video driver issue that may prevent your Mac from starting up when running certain apps that capture video.

### Pro Video Formats 2.0.1

**Apr 13, 2015 – 4.2 MB**

This update includes support for the following professional video codecs:

- Apple Intermediate Codec
- Apple ProRes
- AVC-Intra
- DVCPRO HD
- HDV
- XDCAM EX / HD / HD422
- MPEG IMX
- Uncompressed 4:2:2

This update also adds the following MXF support:

- Native import, edit, and share of MXF files with Final Cut Pro X and Motion
- MXF share presets for Compressor
- MXF OP1a export

### iTunes 12.1.2

**Apr 9, 2015 – 215.4 MB**

System Requirements

- OS X version 10.7.5 or later
- 400MB of available disk space
- iTunes in the Cloud, iTunes Match, and iTunes Radio availability may vary by country
- iTunes Radio requires OS X version 10.7 or later
- iTunes Extras requires OS X version 10.9.3 or later

This update improves support for syncing photos to your iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch from the new Photos app for OS X. In addition, this update also adds several refinements to the Get Info window and improves overall stability. 📺