



October 2015

Welcome to the iDevices (iPhone, iPad Apple Watch & iPod) SIG Meeting.

To find Apps that are free for a short time, click this icon below:



iCuffs

Chain-like device connects two apple watches together and makes them impossible to take off, tightening as you try to free yourself.





NEWS

3 Important Improvements in iOS 9 That Are Less Than Obvious



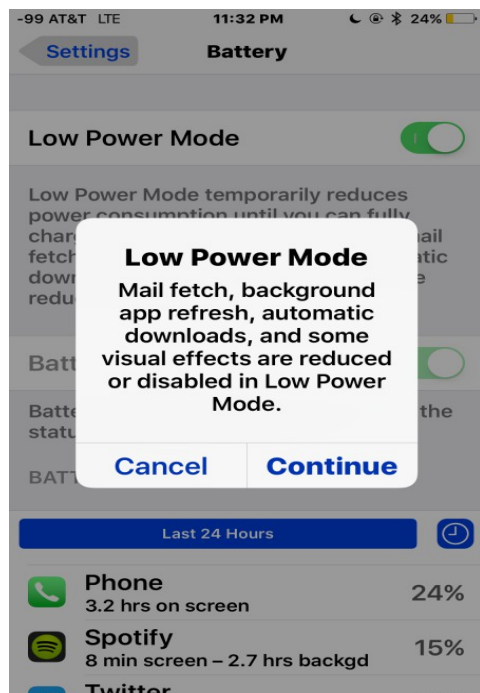
Much of what's great about the [iOS 9 update](#) (ok, now technically [iOS 9.0.1](#)) is not blazingly obvious to the average iPhone, iPad, or [iPod touch](#) user. That's intentional, as Apple put a lot of emphasis on under-the-hood improvements this time around, and [iOS 9](#) offers some great enhancements that, unless pointed out, are fairly subtle.

In no particular order, here are three of the more important subtle improvements offered in iOS 9...

Better Battery Management... Yes Really

Every iPhone or [iPad](#) user has been there... their device has 20% battery or less remaining, but they

won't be near a charger anytime remotely soon. This is where the new Low Power Mode feature steps in, designed specifically for these type of situations. When enabled, Lower Power Mode temporarily disables some battery hungry features, including email fetch, background app refresh, automatic [app downloads](#), and many visual effects. It also reduces the CPU speed of the iPhone temporarily so that it consumes less power overall.



The result of enabling Lower Power Mode is a notable improvement in battery life, particularly in those situations where you need to preserve what remaining battery life is left on an iPhone. You'll be prompted to enable the feature when battery [life hits](#) 20% or less, but you can also choose to enable it anytime yourself by going into Settings > Battery > Lower Power Mode and turning it on.

Increased Security

iOS 9 offers notable improvements to security for iPhone, iPad, and iPod [touch users](#), some of which are obvious to the user, and some which are just under the hood. First up, and fairly obvious when a user first updates to iOS 9, is the inclusion of a new six-digit passcode option, which is the new default. A six digit passcode means that it becomes incredibly difficult for someone to guess your passcode, with over a million possible combinations available, making the [passcode locked screen](#) considerably more secure than it was before. If you skipped the setup of a 6 digit passcode, you can set one at anytime by going into Settings > Touch ID & Passcode > Change Passcode and picking the option.



Aside from the improved passcode protection options, iOS 9 directly patched [over 100 potential security vulnerabilities](#) with the update, making it the most secure version of iOS out there.

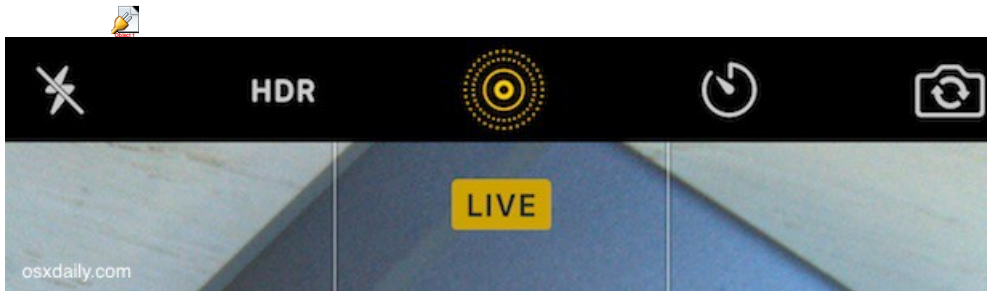
There's a User Facing File System! Kind Of...

iOS 9 includes a user accessible file system of sorts... well, ok maybe not a file system like the Finder, but in the form of an app called iCloud Drive. If that sounds familiar, it's because iCloud Drive exists in OS X too, but with a native app in iOS 9 it becomes much easier to use files between [your iPhones](#), iPads, and Macs. For example, if you save a file into iCloud, you'll be able to access it from the any device signed into the same [Apple ID](#) through iCloud Drive. Additionally, if you [copy files to iCloud Drive on the Mac](#), they'll now be visible in the iCloud Drive app on the [iPhone and iPad](#), where you can open, edit, and save them, all easily and seamlessly.



When configuring iOS 9 you'll see an option to enable iCloud Drive, but if you missed it or skipped it, just go to Settings > iCloud > iCloud Drive to turn it on and make it visible on the [device home](#) screen.

How to Disable or Enable Live Photos on iPhone 6s Camera

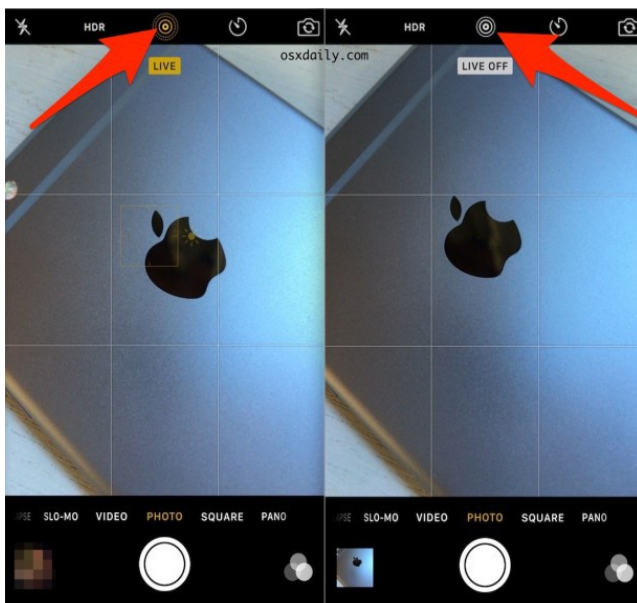


Live Photos are a notable camera feature of the new iPhone, which basically allow a typically still photo to transform into a short movie clip instead, with live action from a second before and after the picture was taken with the iPhone Camera. This is definitely an interesting feature of the new iPhone Cameras and it's particularly well suited for taking pictures of people and animals, but not all users are interested in using the Live Photos ability. Additionally, since each Live Photo is basically a tiny movie clip, they take up more storage space than usual on the iPhone.

If you'd like to disable Live Photos ability on the iPhone, or turn it back on again, you'll find it's very easy to toggle the live action photography feature directly from the Camera app.

Turn Live Photos ON or OFF on iPhone Camera

1. Open the Camera from either the iPhone lock screen or the Camera app
2. From the Photo view, tap the little concentric circle icon near the top (or side) of the screen to toggle Live Photos ON or OFF, if it's in yellow, the feature is on
3. Take your pictures as usual



The Live Photo toggle works beyond just the current picture, meaning if you turn Live Photos off, all future pictures won't use the Live Photo capture until it has been enabled again. Similarly, if Live Photos is turned into the On position, all pictures will capture live until it's turned off again. This is quite useful, and in direct contrast to the HDR toggle, which turns itself off constantly regardless of how many times you turn it back on again.

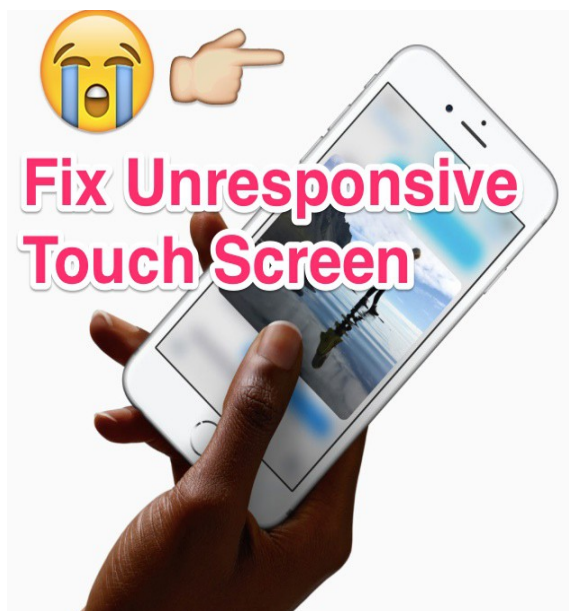
Keep in mind that turning the Live Photo feature on or off again won't have any impact on existing Live Photo images, whether in your photo library or used on the lock screen of your iPhone



(Above animated gif picture via [CultOfMac](#))

Of course, at the moment you will need either the iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus, as those are the only two devices which support the Live Photos feature on their [cameras](#) currently. With that said, you can expect this feature to stick around for future iPhone releases going forward.

Fix an Unresponsive Touch Screen on iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus



Some [iPhone 6s](#) and iPhone 6s Plus users have noticed their devices touch screen becomes unresponsive. The unresponsive frozen touchscreen seems to happen at random, and also commonly when the device is freshly unlocked from the locked screen, either with a pass code or through Touch ID. The unresponsive touch issue is not subtle, as any onscreen element does not respond to any touch, tap, or other screen interactions, and typically lasts for 5 to 10 seconds until the display becomes responsive again.

While the cause of the unresponsive screen issue is uncertain, there are a few possible remedies if you experience an touch screen problems on [iPhone](#) 6s and iPhone 6s Plus. We'll walk through the troubleshooting methods from easiest to most involved.

And to be perfectly clear, this problem is general unresponsiveness of the touch screen, it's not specific to any particular app. If you find a [specific iOS app is crashing, try these tips to fix that](#).

Wait! Clean Your Screen!

The very first thing you should do is make sure the screen is clean, clear of any oils, residues, liquids, or any other gunk that may be mucking up the screen responsiveness. Just give your display a good look in various lighting conditions, and wipe it off a few times with a cotton cloth, just make sure there isn't anything egregious on there. A layer of goo of any sort can easily make any touch screen less

responsive than you're expecting, so even if [your iPhone](#) 6s or iPhone 6s Plus is brand new, if someone rubbed a bunch of greasy peanut butter fingers all over the display, that could very likely be contributing to the touch screen not responding to touch as expected.

1: Forcibly Reboot the iPhone

Next you should try a force reboot of the iPhone, this works to resolve an unresponsive touch screen, and many other issues, for the vast majority of cases:

- Hold down the [Home button](#) and Power button simultaneously, continue holding both buttons until you see the [Apple](#) logo appear on the screen then release

When the iPhone boots back up, hopefully the touch screen will no longer be unresponsive.

If you continue to experience issues with the touchscreen after [forcibly rebooting](#) the iPhone, continue with the next steps.

2: Restore the iPhone from a Backup

This requires a computer and USB cable, you'll be first making a backup to iTunes, then restoring with that backup.

1. Connect the iPhone to a computer with [iTunes](#)
2. Choose to "Encrypt backup" if you haven't done so yet, and choose to "Back up to this computer"
3. Choose "Back up now" and let the process complete, this can take a while
4. When finished, click on the "Restore" button, choose the backup you just made to restore to
5. Let the backup restore to the iPhone and try using it as normal

If the [iPhone screen](#) continues to exhibit strange freezing and unresponsive touch behavior, your next step is to erase it and set it up as new.

3: Set Up the iPhone as New with an Erase & Factory Reset

Do not do this if you have not made a recent backup. You will lose data if you do this, this erases the iPhone and deletes everything from the iPhone, resetting it to a factory state.

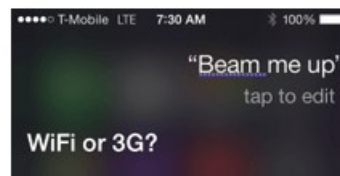
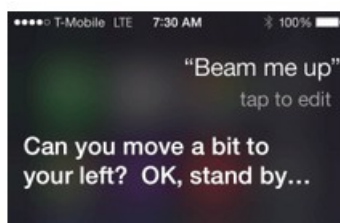
Once the iPhone has been setup as new, don't restore from a backup quite yet, try to use the iPhone as if it was brand new. If the [iPhone works](#) and the touchscreen is responsive as it should be, it suggests

there could be a problem with the backup you used to restore earlier.

4: Call Apple Support or Visit an Apple Genius Bar

If you've forcibly rebooted the iPhone, you've restored from a backup, and you've setup the iPhone as new, and the touch screen is still unresponsive, it's time to call Apple official support or visit a [genius bar](#) at an Apple Store.

Any [new iPhone](#) is under warranty for a year, and the iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus are new enough that there is no question as to warranty coverage for a potentially defective product. Typically in these situations, if an iPhone is determined to be not functioning properly after all software resets and restores have been attempted, Apple will provide you with a new replacement iPhone, assuming it has not been damaged and otherwise falls within their warranty.



IS SIRI FRIENDLY?

3 Tips to Reduce High Cellular Data Usage on iPhone with iOS 9



While some users are having trouble with [cellular data not working at all in iOS 9](#) with certain apps, another set of [iPhone](#) users are experiencing the opposite problem, with *excessive mobile data consumption after updating their iPhones to iOS 9*. Given that most users don't have [unlimited data](#)

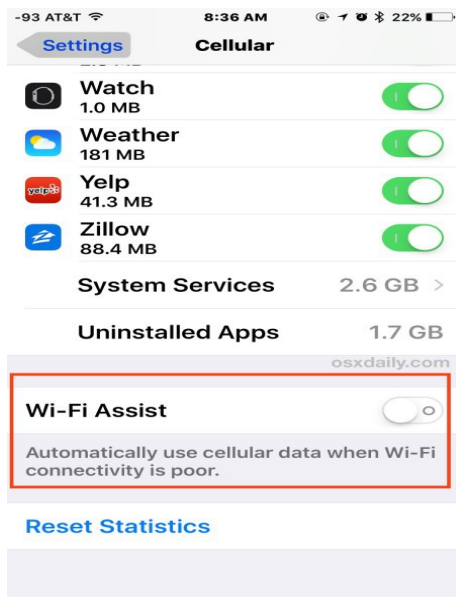
[plans](#), heavy cellular data usage can lead to overage charges pretty quickly, but fortunately there are some easy adjustments that can be made to resolve the hungry [mobile data](#) appetite of iOS 9 on iPhones.

If you're experiencing abnormally high [cellular](#) data usage after updating to [iOS](#) 9, making some changes as outlined below should remedy the problem.

1: Disable Wi-Fi Assist to Reduce Cellular Data Usage

Wi-Fi assist automatically uses cellular data when a wi-fi connection is poor, even if the iPhone is connected to a local wireless network. This is great in that your internet experience is more reliable, but it's not so great in that it means you'll undoubtedly be using more cellular data if you're on a cruddy wi-fi network. The solution is to turn this off:

1. Open the Settings [app](#) and go to "Cellular"
2. Scroll all the way to the bottom and find "Wi-Fi Assist" and toggle that to the OFF position
- 3.

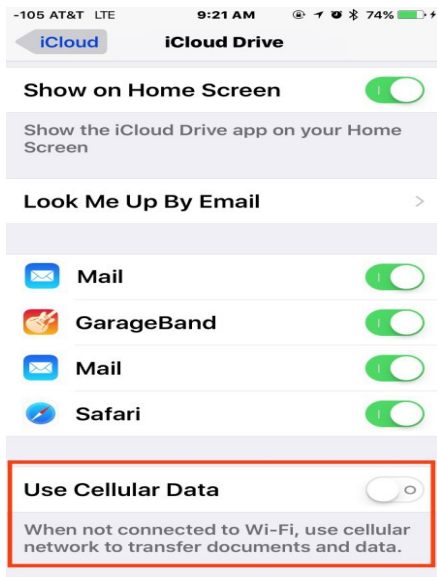


Wi-Fi Assist alone has been attributed to unusually heavy cellular data usage with iOS 9, but it's by no means the only culprit.

2: Turn Off iCloud Drive Cellular Data Use

iCloud Drive is a really great addition to iOS 9, but if you use it often and have a ton of files going back and forth, it can be fairly data hungry. Turning this off will help:

1. Go to the Settings app and choose "iCloud"
2. Go to "iCloud Drive" and toggle 'Use Cellular Data' to the OFF position



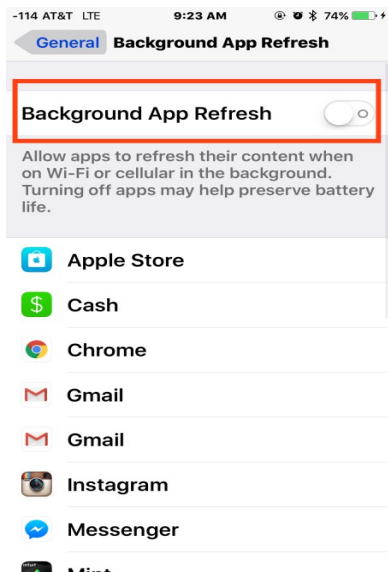
3.

Turning this off just means you'll need to connect to a wi-fi network to transmit files and data between the iPhone and iCloud Drive.

3: Disable Background App Refresh to Stop Background Cellular Data Usage

Background App Refresh is a feature that is theoretically useful in that it allows apps to update themselves in the background when not active, similar to how applications work on a desktop computer like OS X or Windows. But in practice, it often leads to excessive battery usage, and if the background apps tap into data, you'll find they can be ravenous to cellular [data plans](#) too. Just turn this off:

1. Open the Settings app and go to "General" followed by "Background App Refresh"
2. Toggle the top switch to the OFF position (this will impact all the apps listed below, no need to change them individually)



3.

Less data usage, and you may also discover [your iPhone](#) running iOS 9 to be [performing faster](#) and has [better battery life](#) too. Not exactly a bad trade-off!

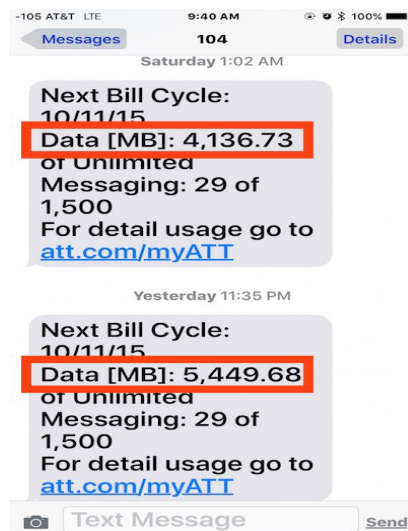
Additional Tips for Cutting Down High Cellular Data Usage

You can go further if you want to really put your cellular data usage on a diet by making further adjustments:

- [Prevent certain apps from having cellular data access at all](#) on the iPhone, useful if one or two particular apps are the identified data hog
- [Turn off cellular data on the iPhone completely](#) if you're really in a pinch and already over your mobile plan limit
- [Change the cellular data speed from LTE to 3G or 2G Edge](#) to use less data by making things download slower on mobile, applying a speed limit of sorts (note there isn't a data limit though, it's just slower)
- [Turn off automatic app updates and downloads in iOS](#)





All of these tips should really help to cut down on data usage if you've discovered it to be a bit excessive since updating to iOS 9.

How high the cellular data use is seems to vary per [iPhone user](#), the networks they use, the apps they have, and what they do with their iPhone in general. For an example of higher cellular data use, here's my own data plan from Saturday morning through Monday evening, where 1.3GB of data was consumed doing nothing unusual, just normal stuff on the iPhone 6S. But, because of the Wi-Fi Assist feature, a good amount of that 1.3GB of data was offloaded onto the cellular connection when the wi-fi connection was less capable.



That's pretty heavy for usage for just under a four day period, and for users with a normal cellular plan they could quickly eat through their allotment. Of course, if you still have a coveted and ancient unlimited data plan like I do, you may not care about any of this, so let your iPhone eat data like there's no tomorrow if you want. But for most users with metered data plans, making some changes can avoid overage charges and unexpected cell [phone](#) bills.

Free Reference Materials For your iDevices

Apple iPhone User Guide	Apple iPad User Guide	Apple Support Page	Apple Watch Manual
			
Click the picture above to view			

[Click here to compare prices for Apple products](#)

Apps That Might Be of Interest



7 Little Words



DuckDuckGo
Search & Stories



Speedtest.net
Mobile Speed...



Speed PRO+



Movies by Flixster,
with Rotten...

Special Note: [These pages contain links to third party websites.](#)

I cannot guarantee any third party website that you may access through the links.
Also, it does not mean that I endorse those websites, or that I accept any responsibility for the content or use of those websites.