

Setting Up Wi-Fi Sync for iOS Devices

by Mike Sullivan | Cove Apple Club | May 9, 2012

With the introduction of iOS 5.0 in November, 2011, Apple has enabled all iOS mobile devices (iPad, iPhone and iPod touch) to operate as “free-living organisms,” which never need to be tethered to a computer for sync, updates or backup and restore.

Newly-purchased iOS devices since then have come out-of-the-box with this ability, but devices in use prior to iOS 5 must be sent through a final tethered setup process to enable the Wi-Fi sync and backup.

Here’s how:

Confirm system requirements:

- iTunes 10.5 or later for Mac or PC
 - To update iTunes, launch iTunes and choose “Check for updates...” from the File menu.
- iOS device must be running iOS 5.0 or later (current version is 5.1.1)
 - To update iOS prior to 5.0, first connect your iOS device to your computer and launch iTunes. Then select your device from the Source list on the left and click on the Summary tab at the top. Click “Update software” to download and install the latest iOS software.
- All the devices (mobile and the Mac or PC) must be connected to the same LAN. The iOS devices connect to the LAN over Wi-Fi, and the Mac or PC can be connected by Wi-Fi or via Ethernet, as long as they are all using the same router.

Setup:

1. Connect the iOS device to the computer using the USB sync/charge cable
2. Launch iTunes
3. Select your device in the left-hand Source column
4. Click the Summary tab
5. Scroll to the Options section and enable “Sync with this iOS device over Wi-Fi”
6. Click Apply and wait for the changes to be applied
7. Quit iTunes
8. Disconnect your iOS device
9. Open iTunes
10. On iOS device, confirm that Wi-Fi sync is enabled in Settings → General → iTunes Wi-Fi Sync

With all these settings in place, your device will automatically sync to iTunes at least once a day, if all of the following conditions are met:

- iOS device is powered on, asleep and connected to a power source
- Wi-Fi network is present and iOS device is connected to the network
- Your Mac or PC is on
- iTunes is open on your Mac or PC

For additional help or troubleshooting, see <http://support.apple.com/kb/TS4062>