

iOS 7 Tips & Hints: iPad Edition

by Mike Sullivan | Cove Apple Club | October 9, 2013

Tip: Disable the Lock Screen Passcode

During initial setup, the iOS 7 setup wizard defaults to enable a lock screen passcode on your device. This is a good thing, since it provides a first-level of protection for your iPhone or iPad if it is lost or stolen. Apple recommends you use a passcode on your device. If you'd rather not use it, and are prepared to accept the risks, here's how you can disable it:

1. Settings → General → Passcode Lock
2. Enter your passcode when prompted
3. On the Passcode Lock settings page, tap Turn Passcode Off
4. Enter your passcode one final time. Your lock screen passcode is disabled.

You can also choose to leave the lock screen passcode enabled, but change some of the settings that control how often you need to enter it. To adjust those settings, skip Step 3 above and check out the settings under "Require Passcode."

Tip: Enable Automatic App Updates

iOS 7 can automatically check for app updates from the App Store, as well as download and install App updates. Here's how to enable this feature, which is disabled by default:

1. Settings → iTunes & App Store
2. Automatic Downloads → Switch on the types of updates you'd like to have automatically updated.
3. Use Cellular Data → Leave this feature switched **OFF** if you are on a metered (capped) cellular data plan. If you have unlimited data, you can enable automatic updates over cellular. With this option switched off, automatic updates will only download when your device is on a Wi-Fi network.

Tip: Customize or enable/disable the Today View

New in iOS 7 is the "Today View" of your upcoming Calendar events, a weather snapshot, and your current and overdue Reminders. You can turn Today View on or off, and choose which items appear in the Today View.

To show Today View, swipe down from the top edge of the screen.

1. Settings → Notification Center
2. Today View → Toggle on or off as you wish
3. Under Today View:, you can customize which items will appear in your Today view

Tip: Use AirDrop to send items to friends nearby

iOS 7 introduces AirDrop, a quick, easy way to send photos, Safari links, contacts, videos, or just about anything else with a "Share" button on your iPad or iPhone, instantly and securely to friends nearby.

1. On your iPhone or iPad, make sure you and your friend have Wi-Fi turned on, and that you are both connected to the same Wi-Fi network.
2. Ask your friend to open Control Center, and enable AirDrop. They may need to enter their iCloud password. This only needs to be done once.
3. Find an item you'd like to share. Almost anything on your iPhone or iPad that has a "Share" button can be sent over AirDrop.
4. Tap the Share button for the item you'd like to share via AirDrop.
5. You'll see your friend's photo and name in the AirDrop section of the sharing menu. Tap their photo to send the item to them over AirDrop.

AirDrop requires iPhone 5 or later, iPad mini, iPad (4th generation) or later, or iPod touch (5th generation) or later.