

Learn About Handoff & Continuity

by Mike Sullivan | Cove Apple Club | October 8, 2014

New in Yosemite & iOS 8, Handoff & Continuity let you move tasks and communications seamlessly between your Mac running OS X Yosemite and your iPhone or iPad running iOS 8.

For example, if a call comes in on your iPhone, but your iPhone is two rooms away, your Mac will alert you and you can pick up the call right on your Mac. Conversely, you can originate a call from your Mac, placing the call using your iPhone's cellular telephone connection.

You can also start drafting an email on your iPad, then move to your Mac where the drafted email is waiting for you to finish. Or open a website in Safari on your iPad, and jump instantly to that same page in Safari on your Mac.

These apps on Yosemite and iOS 8 support Handoff: Mail, Safari, Maps, Messages, Reminders, FaceTime, Calendar, and Contacts. On iPhone, the Phone app can also handoff to the Mac, and the Mac can make and take calls through the iPhone; you can also write and receive SMS messages from your Mac via your iPhone.

Pages, Numbers, and Keynote are being updated to support handoff (coming later this month with Yosemite). The Handoff API is available to third-party developers who can choose whether to make use of it in their own apps.

Supported Devices for Handoff and Instant Hotspot:

- MacBook Air (2012 or later), MacBook Pro (2012 or later), iMac (2012 or later), Mac mini (2012 or later, Mac Pro (late 2013)
- Check the type of Mac you have from the Apple menu  → About This Mac → More Info
- Handoff and Instant Hotspot work with iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch with iOS 8 and the Lightning connector.
- To handoff phone calls and SMS (text) messages, you need an iPhone with iOS 8 and a Mac with OS X Yosemite, and an activated carrier plan.

To enable Handoff on the Mac running OS X Yosemite:

- System Preferences → General → Allow Handoff between this Mac and your iCloud devices
- System Preferences → Bluetooth → On
- System Preferences → Wi-Fi → On and connected to the same Wi-Fi network as the iPhone
- All devices signed into the same iCloud account using the same Apple ID

To enable Handoff on iPhone running iOS 8:

- Settings → General → Handoff & Suggested Apps → Handoff → On
- Settings → Bluetooth → On
- Setting → Wi-Fi → On and connected to the same Wi-Fi network as the Mac
- All devices signed into the same iCloud account using the same Apple ID

Read step-by-step instructions on how to enable Handoff, Instant Hotspot and Continuity on your mobile devices and Mac, and learn how to handoff from Mail, Safari, iPhone, FaceTime and Messages at:

<http://goo.gl/iG1R4z>