



Device Migration & Secure Data Transfer

Cross-platform checklists for moving your data without loss

iPhone and Android in every direction • US and EU / UK notes

iOS

Android

US

EU / UK

Inside this protocol

- Route finder: iPhone to iPhone, Android to Android, and across platforms
- A data-by-data table showing what moves automatically and what needs manual work
- Step-by-step playbooks, including the new built-in Android 17 and iOS transfer tools
- Secure handling of photos, messages, passwords, authenticators and eSIMs
- Verification, old-phone retirement, troubleshooting and a printable master checklist



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How to use this document

Pick your route in **Section 1**, review what moves automatically in **Section 2**, then follow the checklist in **Section 3** and the playbook in **Section 4**. Section 8 shows how to retire the old phone safely, and Section 11 is a one-page master checklist.

Related Master Matrix entries: ID 1 (Switching Ecosystems), ID 9 (Safe Data & Contact Migrations), ID 10 (Anti-Theft Hardening), ID 13 (SIM Lock), ID 22 (eSIM Setup), ID 24 (Forgotten Passcode).

The one rule that prevents data loss

Do not erase, trade in or sell the old phone until you have verified the new one (Section 7) and kept the old one untouched for about 30 days. Almost every migration disaster is an old phone wiped too early.



SECTION 1

1 Choose Your Route

Built-in transfer tools changed in 2026. Google and Apple jointly built native iPhone-to-Android and Android-to-iPhone transfer into Android 17 and recent iOS releases, partly to meet the EU Digital Markets Act. Older app-based methods still work when the new route is not available on your device.

From → To	Best method	Needs	Watch out for
iPhone → iPhone	Quick Start or iCloud backup restore during setup	Both on latest iOS; Wi-Fi; power	Face ID, Wallet cards and Apple Watch need re-setup.
Android → Android	Setup wizard "Copy apps & data" (cable or wireless) or Google backup; Samsung Smart Switch for Galaxy	Google account; cable for the most complete copy	App data restores only if the app supports it. Authenticators need separate handling.
iPhone → Android	Android 17 native switch (wireless or cable) on supported phones; otherwise Android Switch app or Samsung Smart Switch with a cable	iOS 26.3 or later for the new method; new phone on first setup	Roll-out is gradual (Pixel 8 and newer, Galaxy Z Flip8 / Fold8 first). Turn off iMessage first. Full photo library may need an iCloud transfer.
Android → iPhone	Transfer without app during setup (iOS 26.5, compatible Android 17), otherwise the Move to iOS app	iPhone at the setup screen; Wi-Fi; power on both	Must be a fresh setup; keep Move to iOS on screen; a call or other app cancels the transfer.
Old phone lost, broken or locked	Restore from cloud backup (iCloud or Google) onto the new phone	Account credentials; a recent backup	Authenticator and message data may be unrecoverable. See Matrix ID 24.

Check the date

The new Android 17 and iOS transfer experience began rolling out in June and July 2026 on a limited set of devices, with more phones expected to follow. If your setup screen does not offer "Copy data from iPhone" or "Transfer without app", use the older method rather than waiting.

SECTION 2

2 What Moves and What Does Not

Auto means the official transfer tool handles it. **Partial** means it moves in some situations or needs a follow-up step. **Manual** means you must do it yourself. Confirm each item on the actual transfer screen, because tools vary by device and version.

Data	iPhone → Android	Android → iPhone	Notes
Contacts, calendar	Auto	Auto	Adding your Google account on iPhone also keeps them in sync.
Photos and videos on the phone	Auto	Auto	Photos that exist only in iCloud need a separate transfer (Section 5.1).
Text messages (SMS/RCS), call history	Auto (newer method)	Auto (messages, call history)	iMessage must be turned off before leaving iPhone.
WhatsApp chats	Partial	Partial	Use the official WhatsApp flow offered by the switch tool; cloud backups do not cross platforms.
Google account sign-in	Auto (Android 17)	Manual sign-in	Android 17 can carry the Google account across from an iPhone.



Data	iPhone → Android	Android → iPhone	Notes
Passwords and passkeys	Partial	Partial	Newer tools move some. Verify, and treat exports carefully (Section 5.4).
Wi-Fi networks	Auto (Android 17)	Manual	Re-enter if missing.
eSIM and phone number	Auto (new method)	Auto (new method, compatible Android 17)	Carrier support required. See Section 5.5.
Apps	Manual	Partial	Free apps may be matched; reinstall from the store. Purchases do not cross stores.
Notes	Partial	Manual	Check what the tool moves; otherwise copy to a cloud notes app.
Health and fitness history	Manual	Manual	Apple Health data can be exported but does not import directly into Android apps. Sync via the fitness service account.
Music, books, documents	Manual	Manual	Sign in to streaming services; copy files through cloud storage or a computer.
Authenticator codes	Manual	Manual	Re-enrol each account (Section 5.4).
Smartwatch, earbuds, smart home	Manual	Manual	Unpair and re-pair. Apple Watch needs an iPhone.
Payment cards and passes	Manual	Manual	Re-add in Google Wallet or Apple Wallet; banks may need re-verification.



SECTION 3

3 Pre-Migration Checklist

Start at least a week before the switch. Some steps, especially iCloud photo transfers, take days.

7 days before

- ☐ Update the old phone and the new phone to the latest software.
- ☐ Check storage on the new phone. Content must fit; the transfer tools do not always warn you.
- ☐ Back up the old phone (iCloud or Google, plus a computer copy of irreplaceable photos).
- ☐ List every account you use: email, banking, work, social, shopping, streaming.
- ☐ Write down or confirm credentials for Apple Account, Google account and any password manager.
- ☐ Start any iCloud-to-Google Photos transfer now if you are leaving iPhone (Section 5.1).
- ☐ Check that the phone is carrier-unlocked and that your carrier supports eSIM transfer (Matrix IDs 13 and 22).
- ☐ Note the account PIN or passcode your carrier needs to verify a number or eSIM move.

1 day before

- ☐ Run a fresh backup and let it finish.
- ☐ Back up WhatsApp or other chat apps using the official in-app tool.
- ☐ Move authenticator apps: add the new device for critical accounts, or save recovery codes (Section 5.4).
- ☐ iPhone leavers: turn off iMessage and FaceTime (Settings > Messages, Settings > FaceTime).
- ☐ Remove the SIM only if you are moving a physical SIM; leave eSIMs until the guided transfer.
- ☐ Charge both phones above 50% and gather the right cable (USB-C to USB-C, or the adapter that came with the new phone).
- ☐ Disable Advanced Data Protection only if you need to export iCloud Photos, and plan to turn it back on afterwards.



SECTION 4

4 Route Playbooks

4A iPhone to iPhone

- Turn on the new iPhone and place it near the old one. Choose Quick Start and follow the prompts, then select a direct transfer or an iCloud restore.
- Keep both phones near each other and plugged in until the progress bar finishes.
- After the transfer, set up Face ID again, re-add or verify Wallet cards, re-pair Apple Watch, and let apps finish downloading.
- Transfer an eSIM from the old iPhone as prompted, and check cellular service before wiping the old phone.

4B Android to Android

- At the setup screen choose to copy apps and data from another phone, then connect with a cable or use the wireless option. Sign in with the same Google account.
- On Galaxy phones, Samsung Smart Switch can copy over cable, Wi-Fi or from a computer, including Samsung-specific data.
- Let the background restore of apps finish (it can take hours after the screen says done).
- Sign back in to authenticator, banking and messaging apps individually.

4C iPhone to Android

- **Before:** update the iPhone to iOS 26.3 or later, turn off iMessage and FaceTime, and charge both phones.
- On the new Android phone, choose **Copy data from iPhone or iPad** during setup. Use a cable if you want the most data types, or the wireless option if you do not have one.
- Scan the on-screen QR code with the iPhone camera, and keep the iPhone unlocked and nearby.
- Select the data types to move. If your phone is offered the eSIM option, confirm it on the iPhone by double-clicking the side button. **The number stops working on the iPhone after an eSIM transfer.**
- If the phone does not offer the new method, use the Android Switch app (or Samsung Smart Switch) with a cable instead.
- **After:** check Google Photos for your library, request the iCloud photo transfer if needed, reinstall apps and sign in to services manually if you relied on iCloud passwords.

4D Android to iPhone

- If your Android phone runs a compatible version of Android 17 and the iPhone is on iOS 26.5, choose **Transfer without app** during iPhone setup and scan the QR code with the Android camera.
- Otherwise install **Move to iOS** from Google Play. On the iPhone setup screens choose **Move Data from Android** and enter the code shown on the iPhone into the app.
- Turn on Wi-Fi on the Android phone, turn off its mobile data, and plug both phones into power.
- **Keep the Move to iOS app on screen.** A call or switching to another app cancels the transfer. Wait for the loading bar on the iPhone to finish, even if the Android phone says it is done.
- Check the iPhone has enough storage. Download missing apps from the App Store and sign in again to Google services.



- If setup was already finished on the iPhone, you must erase it and start again to use the transfer tools.

SECTION 5

5 Special Data Types

5.1 Photos and videos

- **iCloud to Google Photos:** sign in at Apple's Data and Privacy page, choose **Transfer a copy of your data**, and select Google Photos. Requirements: iCloud Photos in use, two-factor authentication on the Apple Account, a Google account with enough storage, and Advanced Data Protection turned off.
- The transfer copies, not moves. Originals stay in iCloud. It can take several days, and Apple shows the storage needed before you confirm.
- **Google Photos to iCloud:** the reverse transfer is available in the same Apple Data and Privacy tools for photos and videos only, and does not work while Advanced Data Protection is on.
- **Verify:** compare photo and video counts on old and new libraries, and spot-check older years and shared albums.

5.2 Contacts and calendars

- The simplest long-term approach is to add your Google account on iPhone (or sign in with iCloud on Android through the web) so contacts and calendar sync continuously.
- Manual route: export contacts as a vCard (.vcf) from iCloud or Google Contacts, then import into the other service. Check for duplicates afterwards.

5.3 Messages and WhatsApp

- SMS/RCS and call history move with the official tools. iMessage does not move, and an iPhone number left registered on iMessage can silently swallow texts sent to the new Android phone.
- **iMessage fix:** turn off iMessage and FaceTime before leaving iPhone. If texts still do not arrive, deregister the number at Apple's selfsolve.apple.com/deregister-imessage page.
- WhatsApp: use the official transfer flow in the switch tool. Do not rely on the Google Drive or iCloud backup to cross platforms.

5.4 Passwords, passkeys and authenticators

- This is the highest-risk area, so do it last and slowly. Never disable two-factor on the old phone until the new one is confirmed working.
- **Password managers** (1Password, Bitwarden and similar) work across platforms: just sign in on the new phone.
- **Platform managers:** Android 17 can carry some passwords and passkeys from iPhone. Otherwise export and import carefully. Exported CSV files are **unencrypted**. Import, verify, then delete the file and empty the trash.
- **Passkeys** are tied to an ecosystem. For critical accounts (email, banking, cloud, crypto), register a passkey or sign-in method on the new phone before retiring the old one.
- **Authenticator apps:** backups are generally platform-specific. For each important account, add the new phone as a second factor (or re-scan the QR code), test a login, and only then remove the old device. Save recovery codes.



5.5 eSIM and phone number

- iPhone to Android: Settings > transfer on iOS 26.3 or later lets you move a number and data. Place devices together, select the number, and double-click the side button to confirm.
- Android to iPhone: the number can be activated during the Move to iOS flow, or transferred without the app on iOS 26.5 with a compatible Android 17 phone.
- If the guided transfer is unavailable, your carrier can reissue an eSIM QR code. Have the account PIN ready, and expect a short period without service. See Matrix ID 22.

SECTION 6

6 Security Rules for Transfers

Do	Do not
Use the official tools built into the phones, or Google and Apple apps and sites	Install third-party "phone transfer" programs that ask for broad permissions or payment
Use a private Wi-Fi network or a cable	Run a transfer over public Wi-Fi
Keep both phones unlocked, nearby and charging	Use the old phone for calls or other apps during Move to iOS
Delete exported password files and backups made for the move	Email yourself password exports or leave them in Downloads
Turn Advanced Data Protection back on after exporting	Leave extra security features off permanently
Test sign-ins on the new phone before removing the old one	Wipe the old phone straight after the progress bar finishes

SECTION 7

7 Verification Checklist

Run this on the first day, then repeat the key checks after a week.

- ☐ Photo and video counts match; spot-check recent and old items.
- ☐ Contacts and calendar entries are present and not duplicated.
- ☐ Send and receive an SMS or RCS text; send a WhatsApp message.
- ☐ Phone number works for calls and mobile data; eSIM shows active.
- ☐ Log in to email, banking and work apps; complete any re-verification prompts.
- ☐ Authenticator codes work on every critical account; recovery codes saved.
- ☐ Wallet cards, transit and loyalty passes re-added and tested.
- ☐ Smartwatch, earbuds and car Bluetooth re-paired.
- ☐ Backups are switched on for the new phone (iCloud or Google One).
- ☐ Notifications, alarms and default apps behave as expected.



SECTION 8

8 Retiring the Old Phone Safely

Wait until Section 7 is complete and about 30 days have passed. Keep the old phone switched off and charged in a safe place during that time.

Step	Details
1. Final backup	Make one last backup in case something was missed.
2. Deregister messaging	iPhone leavers: confirm iMessage and FaceTime are off, and use Apple's deregister page if texts are missing.
3. Remove from accounts	Remove the old device from Find My, your Apple Account device list, or your Google account Devices page. Unpair watches and accessories.
4. Sign out	Sign out of Apple Account / Google account and remove screen locks or Activation Lock / reset protection.
5. Factory reset	Follow the reset steps in the Performance Recovery guide (Section 6) or your manufacturer's instructions. Confirm the reset finished.
6. Sell, trade or recycle	Remove the SIM and memory card. Use a trusted trade-in, or authorised take-back for recycling. Do not bin batteries or phones.
7. Clean up	Delete temporary exports and backups you no longer need.

SECTION 9

9 Regional Notes: US and EU / UK

Topic	United States	EU / UK
Why built-in transfer exists	Google and Apple announced the joint effort voluntarily. Roll-out is by device and version.	In the EU, the Digital Markets Act pushed Apple and Google towards app-free transfer and a simpler eSIM transfer. Availability may start earlier or differ by country.
Data you can request	No general federal portability right. State laws such as California's give residents access to personal data; Apple and Google offer export tools.	GDPR / UK GDPR give a right to receive personal data you provided in a portable format. Apple's and Google's transfer tools are available in many countries.
Carrier steps	Carriers often require an account PIN, app approval or SIM-swap protection. Phones must be unlocked to use another carrier.	Operators usually offer an eSIM QR code or app activation. Roaming rules differ for travel after a switch.
Cloud storage costs	Free tiers fill quickly. Check the extra storage needed before a photo transfer.	Same. Prices and plans vary by country.



SECTION 10

10 Troubleshooting Matrix

Symptom	Likely cause	Try first	Escalate when
Transfer option not shown	New method not yet rolled out to your phone or software version	Update both phones; check iOS 26.3+ / 26.5 and Android 17	Use the Android Switch app, Smart Switch or Move to iOS instead.
Transfer stalls or restarts	Sleep, call, weak Wi-Fi, low battery	Keep screens on, both phones charging, stay near the router	Switch to cable; retry from the beginning.
Move to iOS cancelled	A call or another app interrupted it	Keep the app on screen, turn off mobile data, avoid calls	Erase the iPhone and restart setup if it already finished.
Texts not arriving on Android	Number still registered with iMessage	Turn off iMessage and FaceTime	Use Apple's deregister page; wait a few hours.
Photos missing	Photos only in iCloud, or not enough storage	Check Google Photos; start the iCloud transfer	Free up Google storage; confirm Advanced Data Protection is off.
Not enough storage	New phone cannot hold the content	Transfer only essential data; use cloud for the rest	Add storage or clear the new phone.
Apps or purchases missing	Apps and in-app purchases do not cross stores	Reinstall free apps; sign in to developer accounts	Contact the developer for cross-platform licences.
Authenticator codes not working	Codes were not migrated	Use recovery codes; re-enrol the account	Account recovery with the provider (can take days).
eSIM transfer fails	Carrier or phone unsupported; account PIN missing	Use the carrier app or QR code	Carrier support or a store visit.



SECTION 11

11 Printable Master Checklist

7 days before	1 day before	Day of switch	Day 1 to 7	Day 30
☐ Update both phones ☐ Back up old phone ☐ Start iCloud photo transfer ☐ Check carrier and eSIM ☐ List accounts and logins	☐ Fresh backup finished ☐ WhatsApp backed up ☐ iMessage and FaceTime off ☐ Authenticators prepared ☐ Cables and chargers ready	☐ Charge both above 50% ☐ Use official tool or cable ☐ Keep phones unlocked and near ☐ Confirm eSIM if prompted ☐ Do not use other apps	☐ Run verification checklist ☐ Re-enrol authenticators ☐ Re-add Wallet cards ☐ Re-pair accessories ☐ Enable new backups	☐ Final backup of old phone ☐ Remove from accounts ☐ Sign out and factory reset ☐ Sell, trade or recycle ☐ Delete temporary exports

SOURCES

Sources and verification

- Apple Support, *Move from Android to iPhone or iPad* (support.apple.com/en-us/118670), including "Transfer without app" on iOS 26.5 with compatible Android 17
- Apple Support, *Transfer an eSIM and data from your iPhone or iPad to an Android device* (support.apple.com/en-nz/126058)
- Apple Support, *Transfer a copy of your iCloud Photos collection to another service* (118257) and *Transfer a copy of your photos and videos to iCloud Photos* (120924)
- Google Photos Help, *Transfer iCloud photos and videos to Google Photos*; Pixel Phone Help, *Fix issues with data transfer on a new Pixel phone* (iMessage deregistration)
- Google blog, *Galaxy Unpacked: Switch from iPhone to Android with ease* (22 July 2026); MacRumors (22 July 2026) and Android Authority (17 June 2026) coverage of the Android 17 Switch experience
- Beebom (27 July 2026) report on expanded data types including call history, passkeys and encrypted RCS messages

Verification note. The Android 17 and iOS 26.3 / 26.5 transfer features were announced and began rolling out between June and July 2026, and availability is expanding. Confirm on your screen what your phone offers. Photo-transfer timing, WhatsApp behaviour, authenticator backup limits, Quick Start and Smart Switch steps, and regional-law summaries reflect standard manufacturer guidance and may differ by device, carrier or country. This is not legal advice.



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