

10 simple tips to speed up a slow Mac

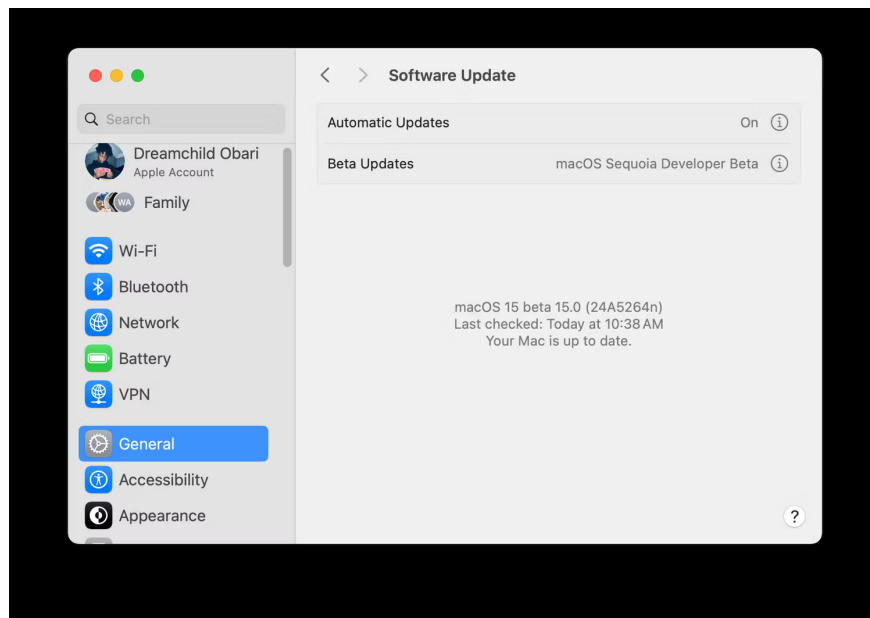
Macs can run slower than usual when there's not enough space, too many background processes, and outdated software.

Quick fixes like closing demanding apps and clearing caches can help, but more comprehensive solutions may often be needed.

1. Update macOS

Software updates deliver bug fixes, patches, and improvements that often speed up your Mac. Apple releases a new version of macOS every year, so make sure your system is running the latest version to stay up to date with any performance improvements.

To update macOS, click the **Apple** icon in the menu bar and go to **System Settings > General > Software Update** . Remember to back up your Mac first in case something goes wrong.

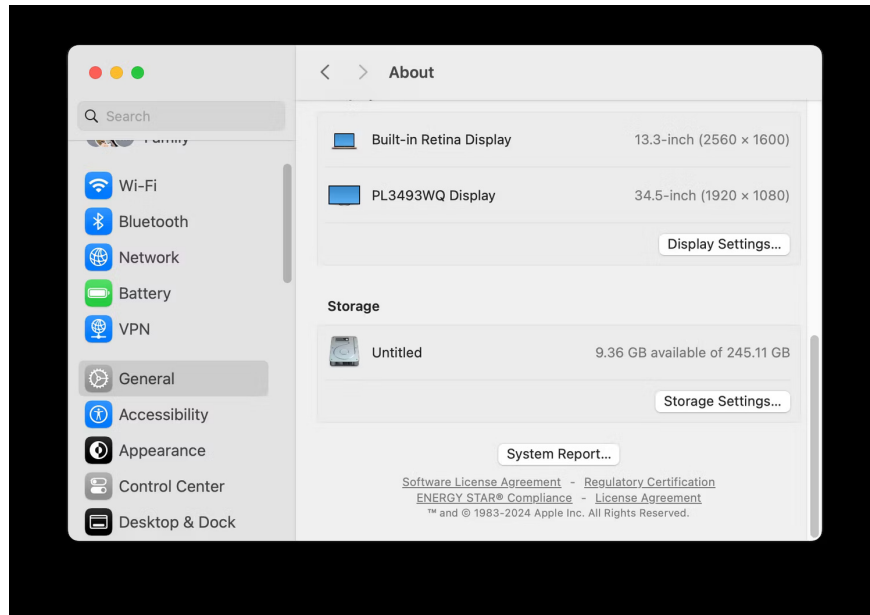


If you have a newer version of macOS, you'll see an **Upgrade Now** or **Update Now** button . Click on it and the download will begin. After a while, the Mac will reboot automatically and proceed with the installation process.

2. Free up storage space

When the storage drive reaches its maximum capacity, performance will decrease rapidly. Large files can negatively impact your Mac's speed more than small files. If possible, leave at least 10 to 20% of your drive space free.

To check free space on your hard drive, click the **Apple** menu and go to **About This Mac > More Info** . Then scroll down to **Storage** .

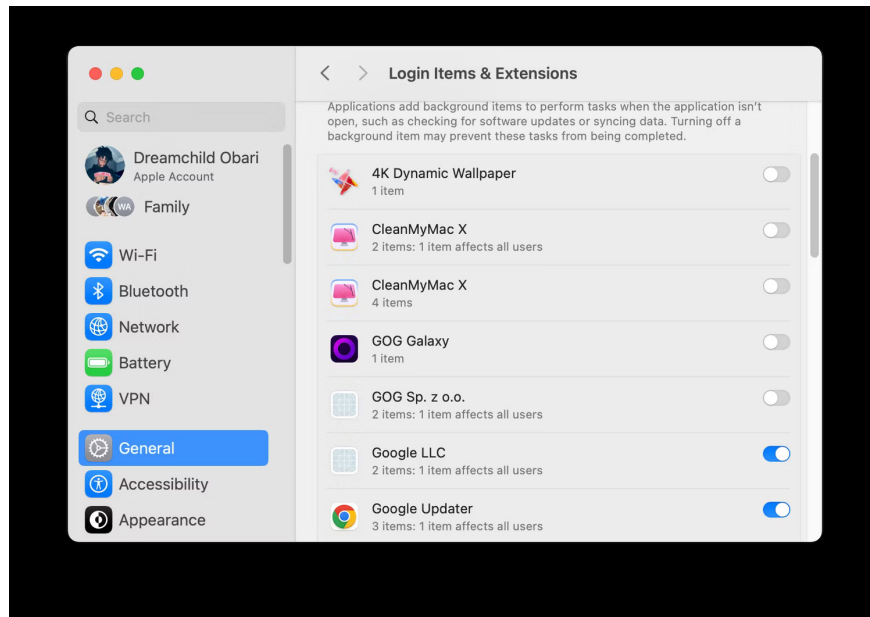


If you're running low on space, you should check out our guide on how to free up space on your Mac. Additionally, you should move your photo and music libraries to an external hard drive or back up with a cloud provider as they can take up a significant amount of space.

3. Delete startup items

Startup items can greatly slow down your Mac and delay proper startup. You should review your list of startup items and remove applications that may be slowing down your Mac. To do this, perform the following steps:

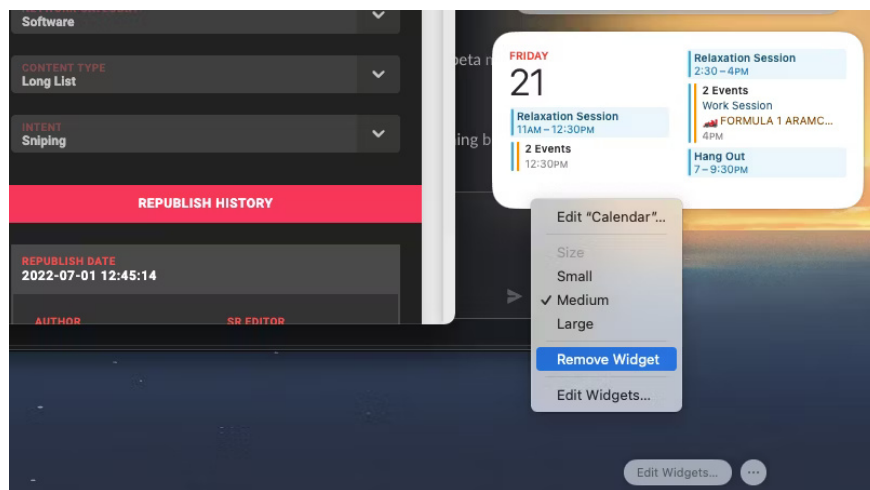
1. Go to **System Settings > General** .
2. Select **Login Items & Extensions** .
3. Turn off items that you no longer want to load on startup.



4. Delete unnecessary widgets

Having a lot of widgets running in the background can also cause your Mac to run slowly. To remove some of these widgets:

1. Open **Notification Center** by clicking the date or time in the upper right corner of the screen.
2. Find the widget you no longer want and **Control-click** it to open the context menu.
3. Select **Remove Widgets** .

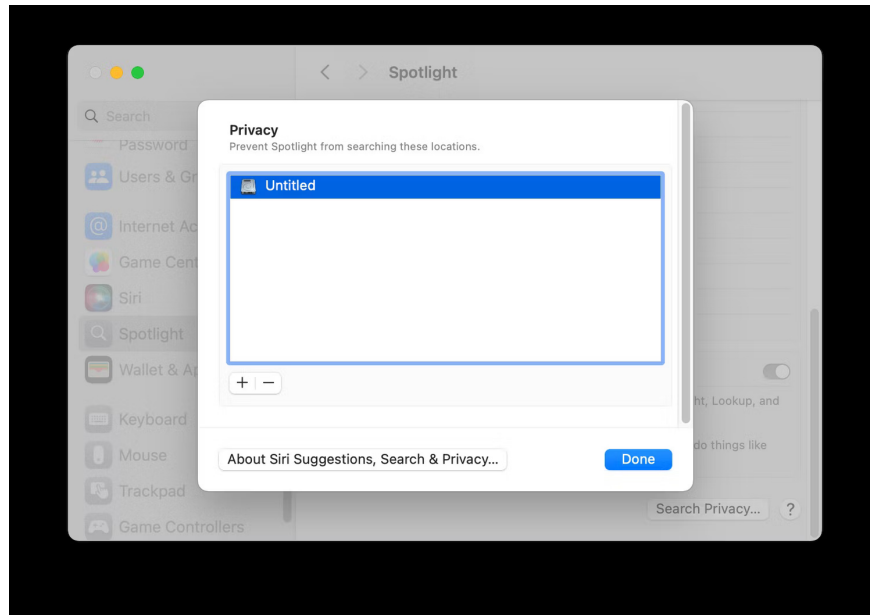


5. Rebuild the Spotlight index

If Spotlight is not returning expected results or is particularly slow, rebuilding the Spotlight index will be helpful. Follow these steps to do this:

1. Go to **System Settings > Spotlight > Search Privacy** .
2. Click the plus (+) button and select the drive or folder you want to re-index.

3. Confirm that you want to (temporarily) exclude these from Spotlight.
4. Select the same drive or folder and click the minus (-) button to delete them again.

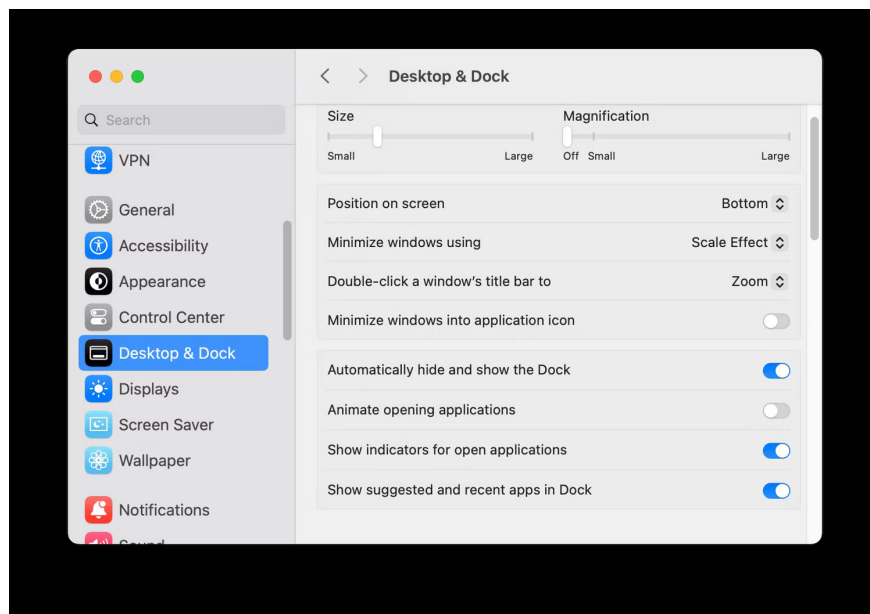


This will force Spotlight to re-index that drive or folder, helping Spotlight searches run more smoothly. This process may take some time, so be patient if Spotlight seems to have difficulty at first.

6. Turn off visual effects

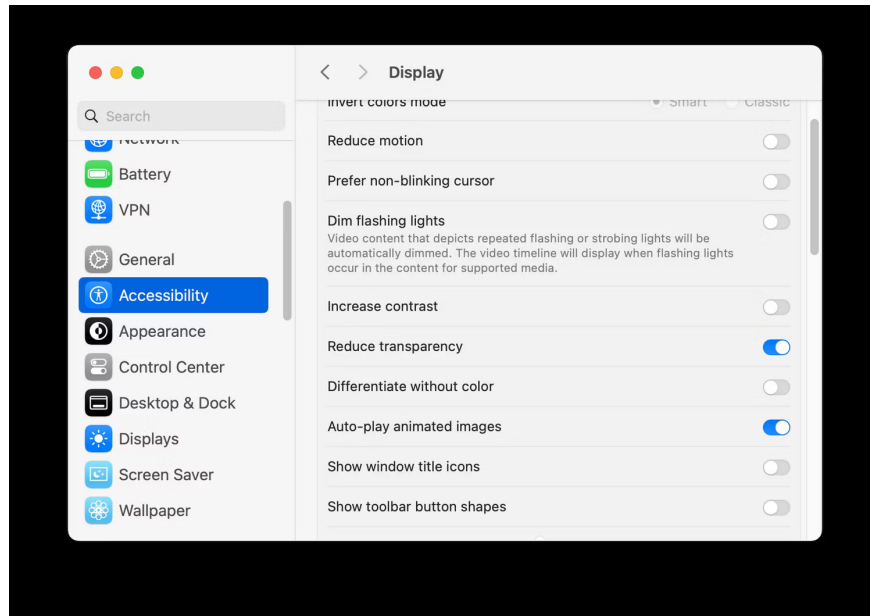
macOS's subtle visual effects may affect its performance more than you think. To disable these:

1. Go to **System Settings > Desktop & Dock** .
2. Turn off **Animate opening applications** .
3. Set the **Minimize windows using** option to **Scale Effect** .



Then, change the display settings by following these steps:

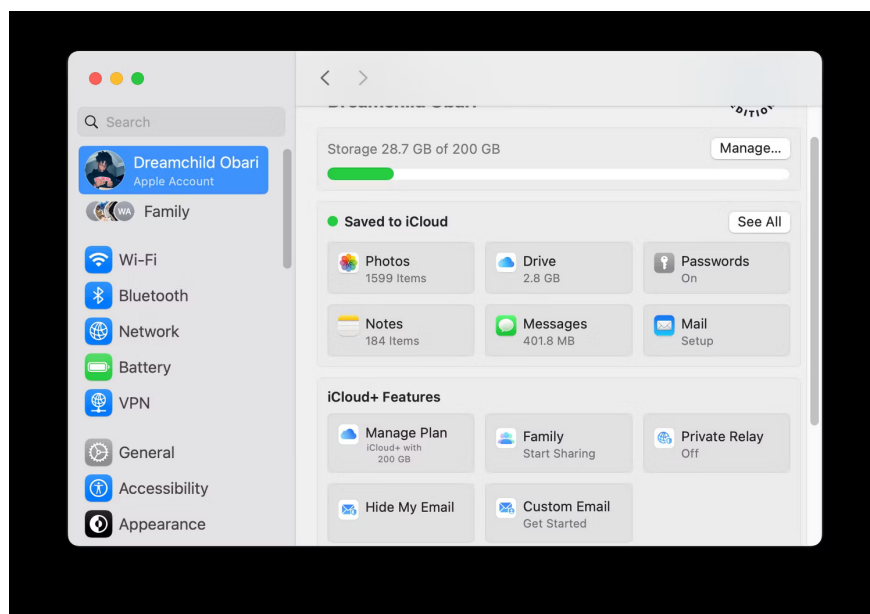
1. Go to **System Settings > Accessibility > Display** .
2. Turn on **Reduce Transparency** .



7. Don't sync too much cloud data at once

Syncing large folders to the cloud using services like iCloud, Google Drive, or Dropbox can sometimes slow down the system. So remember to regularly review which files and folders are uploading to the cloud to make sure you're not sending too much data at once.

You can review and adjust what data is backed up to iCloud by going to **System Settings > [Your Name] > iCloud** .

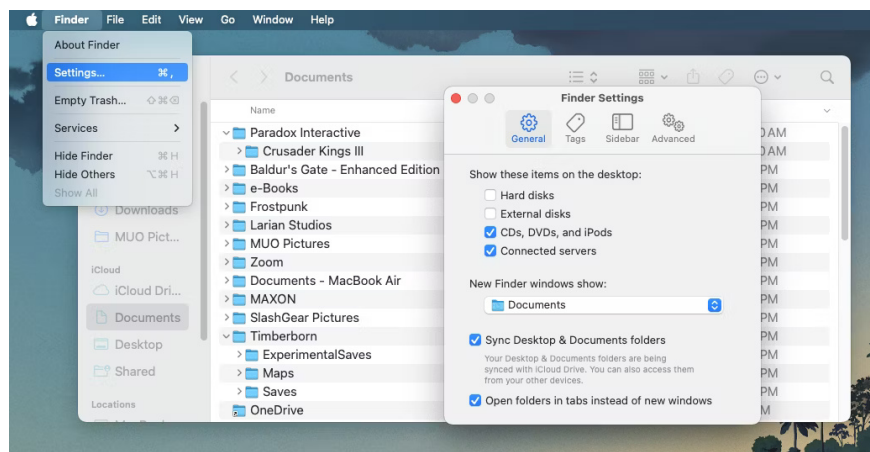


To manage which folders are synced with other cloud storage providers, you'll typically need to go into the settings of the app you're using (like Dropbox or Google Drive). Try to avoid synchronizing folders that change frequently.

8. Set default Finder folder

Every time you open Finder, it loads the folder that is set as default. If this is a large folder, this may take longer than expected. Instead, you should change this folder to a smaller, less demanding folder so that Finder can load faster:

1. Open Finder.
2. Go to the menu bar and click **Finder > Settings** .
3. In the **General** tab , go to the **New Finder windows show** drop-down menu and select the new default folder.



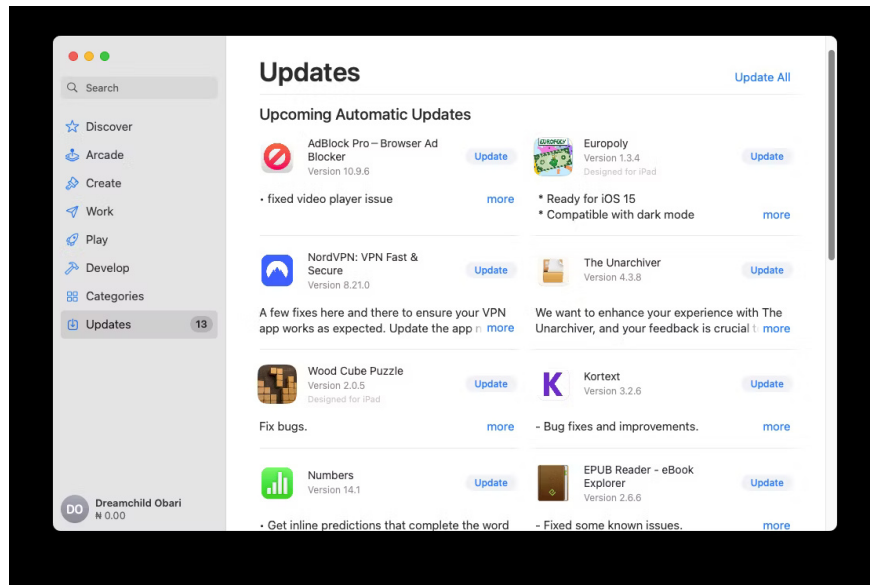
9. Delete browser add-ons

Since most people's computing work these days happens in a browser, it's easy to confuse a slow browser with a slow Mac. The easiest fix here is to remove unnecessary and cumbersome add-ons or extensions from any browser you use.

Follow this detailed guide to remove browser add-ons to speed up your browser and your Mac.

10. Always update the application

Outdated software that hasn't been optimized for the latest version of macOS can make your Mac run slower than it actually is. Therefore, it is always worthwhile to update applications on your computer.



To do this, go to **App Store > Updates** . If there are any app updates available, you'll see them listed here. Click to update individual apps, or select **Update All** in the upper right corner to install all available updates at once.

With these simple tricks, you will see a noticeable improvement in your Mac's speed. However, if your device still isn't operating at an acceptable speed, reinstalling macOS is necessary to see if that solves the problem. If not, it might be time to upgrade to a new Mac.

You finished reading the article "**10 simple tips to speed up a slow Mac**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.