

How to perform a clean install of macOS 10.15 Catalina

This article guides you through the process of a clean install of macOS 10.15 Catalina, using a bootable USB, instead of upgrading your Mac using Apple's standard installation package, retaining existing data and all applications due to user settings.

This article guides you through the process of performing a clean install of macOS 10.15 Catalina using a bootable USB method, instead of upgrading your Mac using Apple's standard installation package, retaining existing data and all applications. installed by the user.

Creating a bootable USB gives you a convenient way to install a new copy of macOS Catalina on multiple Macs. Doing a clean install can also eliminate annoying phenomena and strange behaviors that your Mac may experience over time, often helping to regain space due to junk files or third-party applications. three leave.

To follow the steps in this article, you'll need a blank 16GB or larger USB (USB-C or USB-A, depending on the Mac) and 1 or 2 hours of downtime to wait for the installation to complete. socks.

Also, make sure to back up the entire Mac first with Time Machine so you can restore the original system from the Recovery partition if something goes wrong.

Compatibility check

?macOS Catalina? is a major update that introduces a host of new features and changes, including cross-platform support for third-party apps, no longer iTunes, iPad as the second screen, Screen Time, etc .

Any Mac that can run macOS Mojave will run ?macOS Catalina?, except for Mac Pro models between 2010 and mid 2012. The full list of compatible Mac models is as follows:

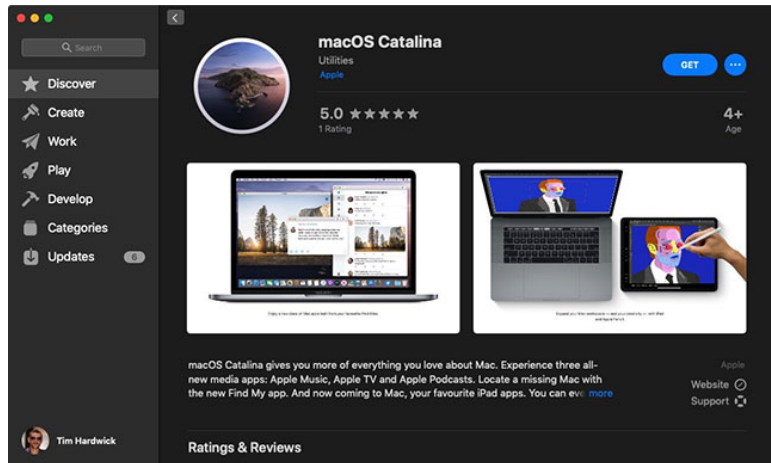
1. MacBook (early 2015 or newer)
2. MacBook Air (Mid 2012 or newer)
3. MacBook Pro (Mid 2012 or newer)
4. Mac mini (Late 2012 or newer)
5. iMac (Late 2012 or newer)
6. iMac Pro (2017)
7. ProMac Pro? (Late 2013)

To check if your Mac is compatible, open the **Apple** menu in the upper left corner of the Mac screen and select **About This Mac** . Look directly below the OS X version number in the **Overview** tab - if the Mac model name is the same or newer than the options in the compatibility list above, then your Mac is compatible with ?macOS

Catalina?.

How to perform a 'clean' installation of macOS Catalina?

1. Download macOS Catalina from Mac App Store.

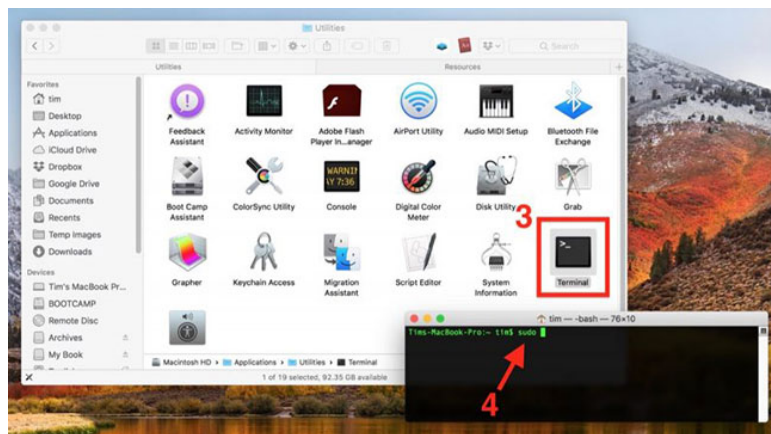


Download macOS Catalina?

2. When the download is complete, close the installer window by selecting the **Quit Install macOS** option in the menu bar or using the keyboard shortcut **Command / ? + Q**

3. Launch the **Terminal** application (found in **Applications > Utilities > Terminal**).

4. At the **Terminal** command prompt , type **sudo** followed by a space.

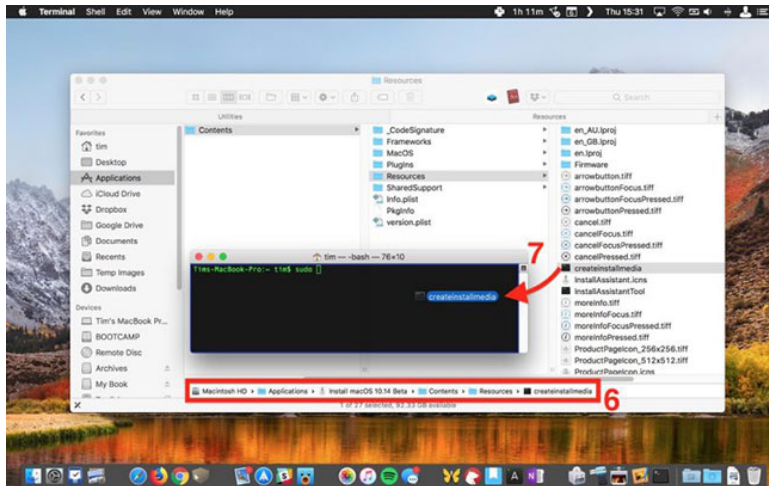


Type sudo followed by a space

5. Next, open the **Finder** window, navigate to the **Applications** folder, right-click (or press **Ctrl**) on macOS 10.15 installer and select **Show Package Contents** from the context menu.

6. Navigate to **Contents > Resources** in the installer package.

7. Drag the **createinstallmedia** file into the **Terminal** window .



Drag the **createinstallmedia** file to the **Terminal** window

8. Still in the **Terminal** window, enter:

```
/Applications/Install macOS Catalina.app/Contents/Resources/createinstallmedia -
```

But replace **XXXXX** with the name of the USB you plan to use as a bootable installer.

9. When you have replaced the **XXXXX** at the end with the name of the USB, press the **Enter** key on your keyboard to run the completed **Terminal** command.

10. Enter the admin password when prompted.

11. Type **Y** and press **Enter** when prompted and the command will create the **Catalina** installer that can boot on **USB**. This will take a few minutes to complete, so let it run until you see the **"Install media now available"** message . Note that if asked if you want to install **Xcode** in the process, you can click **Not Now** and the process will complete successfully.

Reboot and install

You can install **Catalina** on your **Mac** as soon as the **USB** installer is created. To do so, restart your **Mac** and hold the **Option/?** phím key as soon as you hear the restart sound. Then follow these steps:

1. Use the mouse cursor or arrow keys on the keyboard to select the drive named **Install ?macOS Catalina?** in the list that appears on the screen.

2. Once the **USB** has booted, select **Disk Utility** from the **Utilities** window, select the **Mac** boot drive from the list and click **Erase**.

3. When the **Mac's** boot drive is formatted, go back to the **Utilities** window and select **Install macOS** , select the newly erased boot drive when asked where to install the operating system, and follow the on-screen prompts to

complete the installation. .

To install Catalina on another Mac, first make sure it is powered off, then simply plug in the USB installation tool you created and turn on the Mac. When you hear the start tone, press and hold the Option/? phím key and follow the three steps above.

You finished reading the article "**How to perform a clean install of macOS 10.15 Catalina**" 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.