

Precautions against disasters

Advice from John Gupwell

u3a iPads group 26th April 2024

Discoveries & Queries:

Current iPad OS is 17.4.5

A. BACKUPS

Why do we need to backup our iPad? There are several reasons why we may need to have backups for our photos, documents and other files. Backups may help in the future if a problem results in a loss of all our precious information and content. Such problems may include:

- ~ The iPad is lost or stolen.
- ~ The iPad has a software issue (e.g. following an update).
- ~ There is a hardware fault (battery failure, screen damage).
- ~ Setting up a newly purchased iPad as a mirror copy of an old iPad.

Backup Methods for iPad

The good news is that Apple provides several ways to backup the content of an iPad. Perhaps the simplest is to use iCloud as this just needs a WiFi connection; no need to connect to a computer. iCloud backups include **all** the information and settings stored on your iPad. Each iPad account gives 5GBs of **free** iCloud storage that can be used to backup the iPad. More space can be bought for a monthly charge, currently £2.99 monthly for 200GB.

• To backup to iCloud

1. Go to **Settings**, select your iPad account (tap your **name**).
2. Tap **iCloud** in list on right of screen to see a list of Apps using iCloud
3. Scroll down, tap **iCloud Backup** and switch to ON. Tap **Backup Now** if no recent backups.
4. Can return to iCloud page and scroll back up and tap **Manage Account Storage** to see the list of items currently backed up. These can be changed as required.

• To backup to a Mac or PC computer

This can be more efficient (faster) than iCloud if you need to restore your iPad, but takes more effort to create the backup. So probably good to use both iCloud & Mac/PC.

To Mac

1. Connect iPad to Mac via a cable - e.g. the iPad charging cable. Once connected the iPad will ask if you trust this computer.
2. On the Mac, click on **iPad's name**, under Locations in sidebar on left of Finder window, then click **Back up now**.

To PC, it must have on it the **iTunes** app.

1. Connect iPad to PC via a cable, then open **iTunes** on PC and click **Device** button.
2. Click **Summary**, then click **Backup Now** (which is below Backups).

• To backup to a Flash Drive/Memory Stick

These are available from Amazon in various sizes but they can **only** be used to backup photos, videos, contacts, not for all iPad content. It can be handy to have photos on a memory stick so you can easily show them via another computer. Prices currently range from £5 - £50. Some can be unreliable.

Note: Hard drives need too much current to run, so cannot run directly from an iPad.

B. DEAD BATTERY

Having a portable battery available can save the day if your iPad battery runs down when you are not able to plug it in. It may need an adapter to make the connection. Apple advise that battery life is longer (over years) if the daily battery is kept between 40% - 80%. The iPad battery level shows in **top right corner** of the Home screen. Press and hold this corner to see the information shown larger mid-screen.

C. NO SPACE LEFT ON IPAD

System updates from Apple need space on the iPad to install themselves. Many apps require extra space to run properly (e.g. to remember where you have been so that the Go Back button works). To check how much space is left on your iPad open **Settings > General > iPad Storage**. Here you can see what is using up your iPad's memory. This screen suggests ways of saving space (e.g. offload unused apps, reduce the resolution of photos stored on iPad, etc). You can store things in iCloud instead of on your iPad if you wish. **Settings > ID > iCloud > Manage Account Storage** or on a memory stick.

The next iPads meeting is at 2pm on Friday 24th May 2024
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