Use Your Mobile Device As A Hotspot

How to set up a Personal Hotspot on your iPhone or iPad

A Personal Hotspot lets you share the cellular data connection of your iPhone or iPad (Wi-Fi + Cellular) when you don't have access to a Wi-Fi network.

Set up Personal Hotspot

1. Go to Settings > Cellular > Personal Hotspot or Settings > Personal Hotspot.
2. Tap the slider next to Allow Others to Join.

If you don't see the option for Personal Hotspot, contact your carrier to make sure that you can use Personal Hotspot with your plan.

Connect to Personal Hotspot with Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, or USB

You can connect to a Personal Hotspot using Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, or USB. And with iOS 13 or later, devices that are connected to a Personal Hotspot will stay connected, even if the screen is locked, so those devices will still get notifications and messages.

Here are some tips for using each method.

When you connect a device to your Personal Hotspot, the status bar turns blue and shows how many devices have joined. The number of devices that can join your Personal Hotspot at one time depends on your carrier and iPhone model. If other devices have joined your Personal Hotspot using Wi-Fi, you can use only cellular data to connect to the Internet from the host device.

Use these steps to connect:

Wi-Fi

On the device that you want to connect to, go to Settings > Cellular > Personal Hotspot or Settings > Personal Hotspot and make sure that it's on. Then verify the Wi-Fi password and name of the phone. Stay on this screen until you've connected your other device to the Wi-Fi network.

On the device that you want to connect, go to Settings > Wi-Fi and look for your iPhone or iPad in the list. Then tap the Wi-Fi network to join. If asked, enter the password for your Personal Hotspot.

Bluetooth

To make sure that your iPhone or iPad is discoverable, go to Settings > Bluetooth and stay on that screen. Then on your Mac or PC, follow the manufacturer directions to set up a Bluetooth network connection. Learn more about using Personal Hotspot with Bluetooth.

Personal Hotspot supports Bluetooth connections with Mac, PC, and other third-party devices. To connect another iOS device, use Wi-Fi.

USB

Make sure that you have the latest version of iTunes on your Mac or PC. Then connect your iPhone or iPad to your computer with the USB cable that came with your device. If you see an alert that says tap "Trust This Computer?" tap Trust.

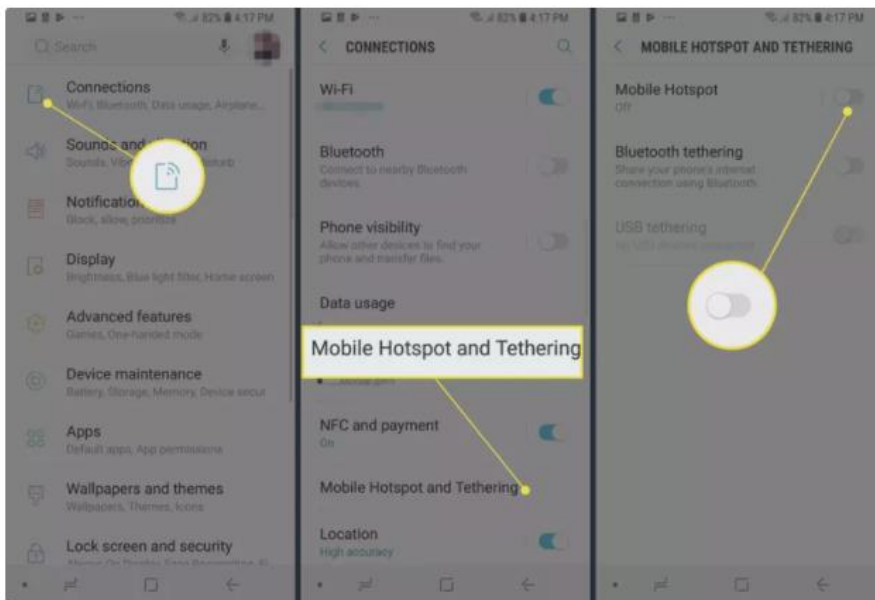Learn more about connecting a device to your iPhone or iPad's Personal Hotspot.

Android Directions

On Your Samsung Smartphone

To turn on the Wi-Fi hotspot, follow these steps:

1. Go to **Settings** > **Wireless & networks**. Then, tap **Connections** > **Mobile Hotspot and Tethering**.

2. Turn on the **Mobile Hotspot** toggle switch. The phone becomes a wireless access point and displays a message in the notification bar when it's activated.

3. To find the password and instructions for the hotspot, tap **Mobile Hotspot**. Use this password to connect your other devices to the hotspot, just as you would connect them to any other Wi-Fi network.
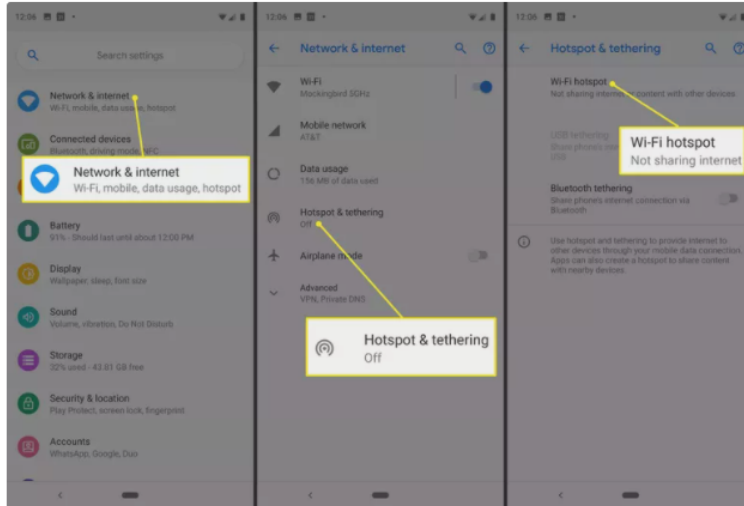
> 💡 **Tip:** To change the default password, tap **Password** and enter a new password.

> 🔔 **Warning:** Be selective when sharing your Wi-Fi hotspot with other people. Also, data processed through this Wi-Fi feature counts against your monthly allotment of mobile data.
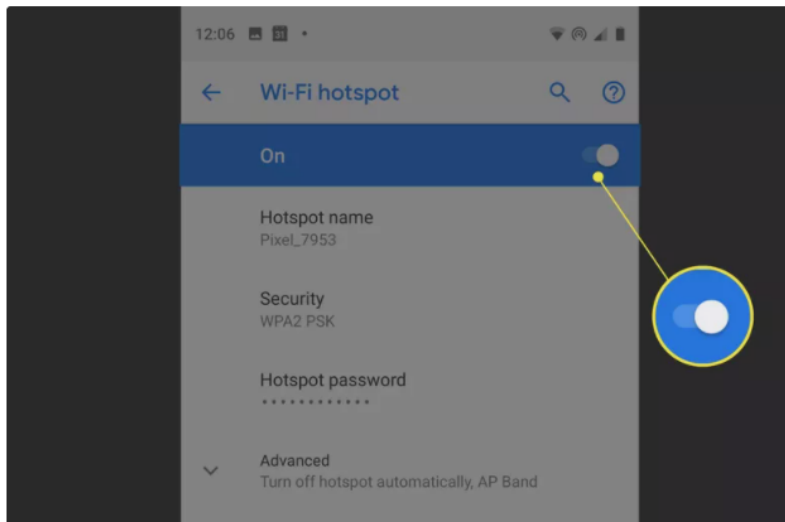
On Your Pixel or Stock Android Smartphone

Follow these steps to enable a hotspot on a Pixel or stock Android:

1. Go to **Settings** > **Network & Internet**.

2. Tap **Hotspot & tethering** > **Wi-Fi hotspot**.

3. Turn on the **Wi-Fi hotspot** toggle switch.

4. Optionally, change the hotspot name, password, and other advanced settings such as automatic shutoff and the AP Band.

Find and Connect to the New Wi-Fi Hotspot

When the hotspot is activated, connect your other devices to it as you would any other Wi-Fi network:

1. On your device, find the Wi-Fi hotspot. It might notify you that new wireless networks are available.

   > 🔔 **Note:** To find the wireless networks, use your Android phone and go to **Settings** > **Wireless & networks** > **Wi-Fi settings**. Then, follow the general Wi-Fi connection instructions for most computers.

2. Establish the connection by entering the password for the Wi-Fi hotspot.

Enable Wi-Fi Hotspot for Free on Carrier-Restricted Plans

You might not get internet access on your laptop or tablet after you connect because some wireless carriers restrict Wi-Fi hotspot access only to those who pay for the feature.

In this case, use an app such as Elixir 2, which toggles the Wi-Fi hotspot on or off on your home screen. This makes it possible to access the hotspot feature directly and without adding extra charges from your wireless provider. If Elixir 2 doesn't work, FoxFi does the same thing.

Be aware that, in many cases, bypassing carrier limitations constitutes a terms-of-service violation in your contract. Use these apps at your discretion.