

# macOS Sonoma

Instructor: Jeff Bohr, Naples Mac Help

# macOS Sonoma

## About Your Instructor

- I have been using the Mac platform since 1986, and began using Macs during English and Journalism courses at Northern Kentucky University. I have never owned a PC.
- 🍏 Certified Support Professional macOS Sonoma
- 🍏 Certified Associate - Mac Integration macOS 14
- I provide on-site support and training in the Naples, Florida area.
- I assist both residential and business clients.



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# macOS Sonoma

## Agenda

- Review macOS history
- Check System and Hardware requirements
- Review Apple's Feature list
- Review usage of new features



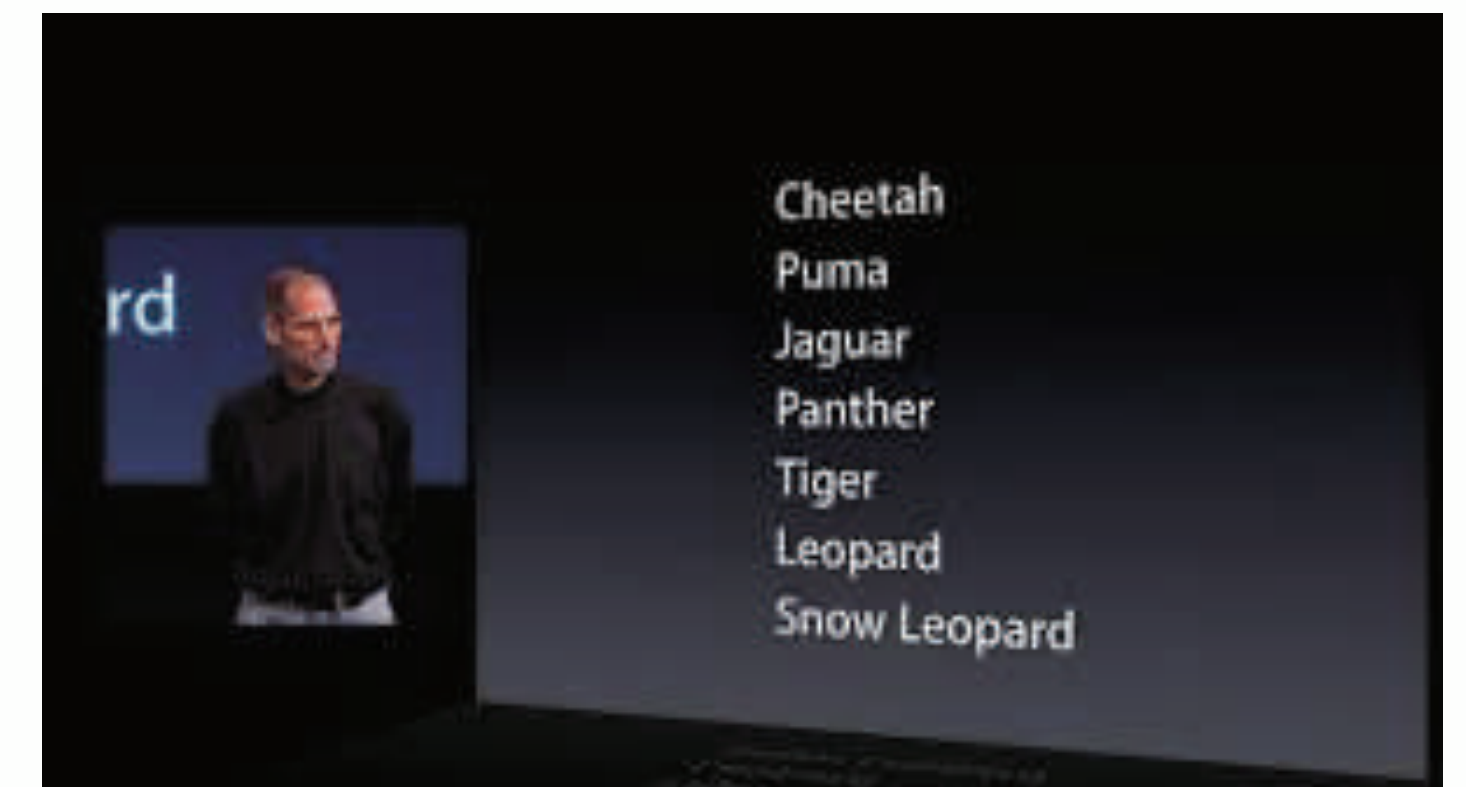
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# macOS Sonoma

## A Little Mac History: Naming OS Versions

Versions of macOS have had both public and private internal code names since OS X was released as a beta version for \$29.95 on September 13, 2000. This makes it easier than saying "I am running macOS 10.13.2." They started naming the operating system (OS) with names of big cats until 2013, when they switched to names of locations in Apple's home state of California, likely because they were running out of large members of the feline species.

The first Mac OS X Public Beta was internally code named "Kodiak."



# macOS Sonoma

## Naming OS Versions



### Version

- OS X 10.0: Cheetah
- OS X 10.1: Puma
- OS X 10.2: Jaguar
- OS X 10.3 Panther (Pinot)
- OS X 10.4 Tiger (Merlot)
- OS X 10.4.4 Tiger (Intel: Chardonay)
- OS X 10.5 Leopard (Chablis)
- OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard
- OS X 10.7 Lion
- OS X 10.8 Mountain Lion (Zinfandel)

### Release Date

March 24, 2001  
September 25, 2001  
August 24, 2002  
October 24, 2003  
April 29, 2005  
April 29, 2005  
October 26, 2007  
August 28, 2009  
July 20, 2011  
July 25, 2012

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## Naming OS Versions



### Version

- OS X 10.9 Mavericks (Cabernet)
- OS X 10.10: Yosemite (Syrah)
- OS X 10.11: El Capitan (Gala)
- macOS 10.12: Sierra (Fuji)
- macOS 10.13: High Sierra (Lobo)
- macOS 10.14 Mojave
- macOS 10.15 Catalina
- macOS 11 Big Sur
- macOS Monterey
- macOS Ventura

### Release Date

- October 22, 2013
- October 16, 2014
- September 30, 2015
- September 20, 2016
- September 25, 2017
- September 24, 2018
- October 7, 2019
- November 12, 2020
- October 25, 2021
- October 24, 2022

# macOS Sonoma

## Naming OS Versions



Version

- macOS Sonoma

Release Date

September 26, 2023



# macOS Sonoma

## macOS Sonoma Introduction

macOS Sonoma (version 14) is the latest major release of macOS, Apple's operating system for Macintosh computers. The successor to macOS Ventura, it was announced at WWDC 2023 on June 5, 2023, and released on September 26, 2023. It is named after the wine region located in California's Sonoma County.

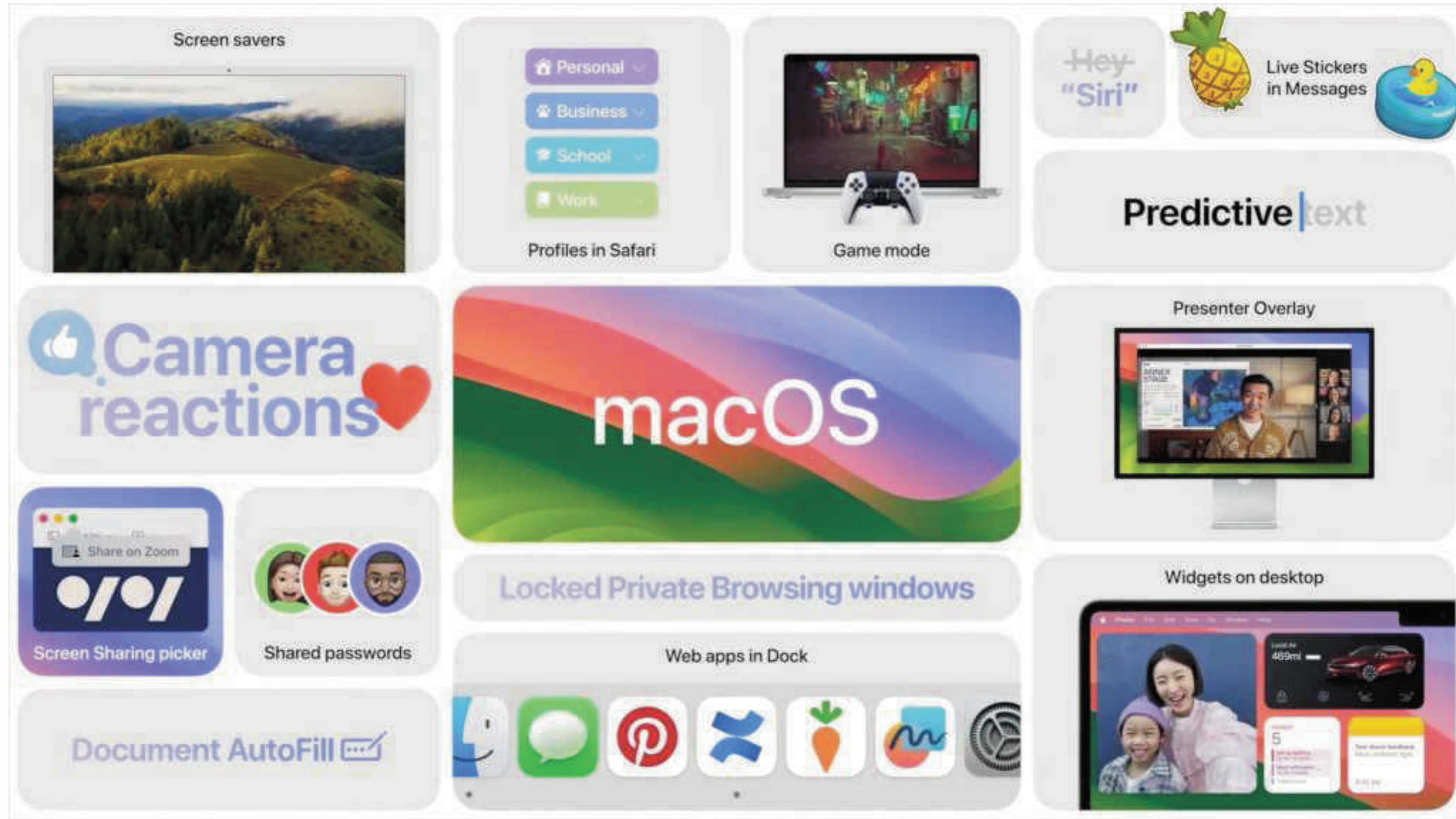
The first developer beta was released on June 5, 2023, and macOS Sonoma entered public beta on July 11, 2023.





# macOS Sonoma

## Introduction



# macOS Sonoma

## Hardware Requirements

macOS Sonoma  
is compatible with  
these devices.

**iMac**  
2019 and later  
[Learn more >](#)

**Mac Pro**  
2019 and later  
[Learn more >](#)

**iMac Pro**  
2017  
[Learn more >](#)

**Mac Studio**  
2022 and later  
[Learn more >](#)

**MacBook Air**  
2018 and later  
[Learn more >](#)

**Mac mini**  
2018 and later  
[Learn more >](#)

**MacBook Pro**  
2018 and later  
[Learn more >](#)

## Hardware Requirements: Specific Hardware List

### MacBook Pro

- MacBook Pro (16-inch, 2023)
- MacBook Pro (14-inch, 2023)
- MacBook Pro (13-inch, M2, 2022)
- MacBook Pro (16-inch, 2021)
- MacBook Pro (14-inch, 2021)
- MacBook Pro (13-inch, M1, 2020)
- MacBook Pro (13-inch, 2020, Two Thunderbolt 3 ports)
- MacBook Pro (13-inch, 2020, Four Thunderbolt 3 ports)
- MacBook Pro (16-inch, 2019)
- MacBook Pro (13-inch, 2019, Two Thunderbolt 3 ports)
- MacBook Pro (15-inch, 2019)
- MacBook Pro (13-inch, 2019, Four Thunderbolt 3 ports)
- MacBook Pro (15-inch, 2018)
- MacBook Pro (13-inch, 2018, Four Thunderbolt 3 ports)

### MacBook Air

- MacBook Air (15-inch, M2, 2023)
- MacBook Air (M2, 2022)
- MacBook Air (M1, 2020)
- MacBook Air (Retina, 13-inch, 2020)
- MacBook Air (Retina, 13-inch, 2019)
- MacBook Air (Retina, 13-inch, 2018)

### iMac

- iMac (24-inch, M1, 2021)
- iMac (Retina 5K, 27-inch, 2020)
- iMac (Retina 5K, 27-inch, 2019)
- iMac (Retina 4K, 21.5-inch, 2019)

### iMac Pro

- iMac Pro (2017)

### Mac mini

- Mac mini (2023)
- Mac mini (M1, 2020)
- Mac mini (2018)

### Mac Studio

- Mac Studio (2023)
- Mac Studio (2022)

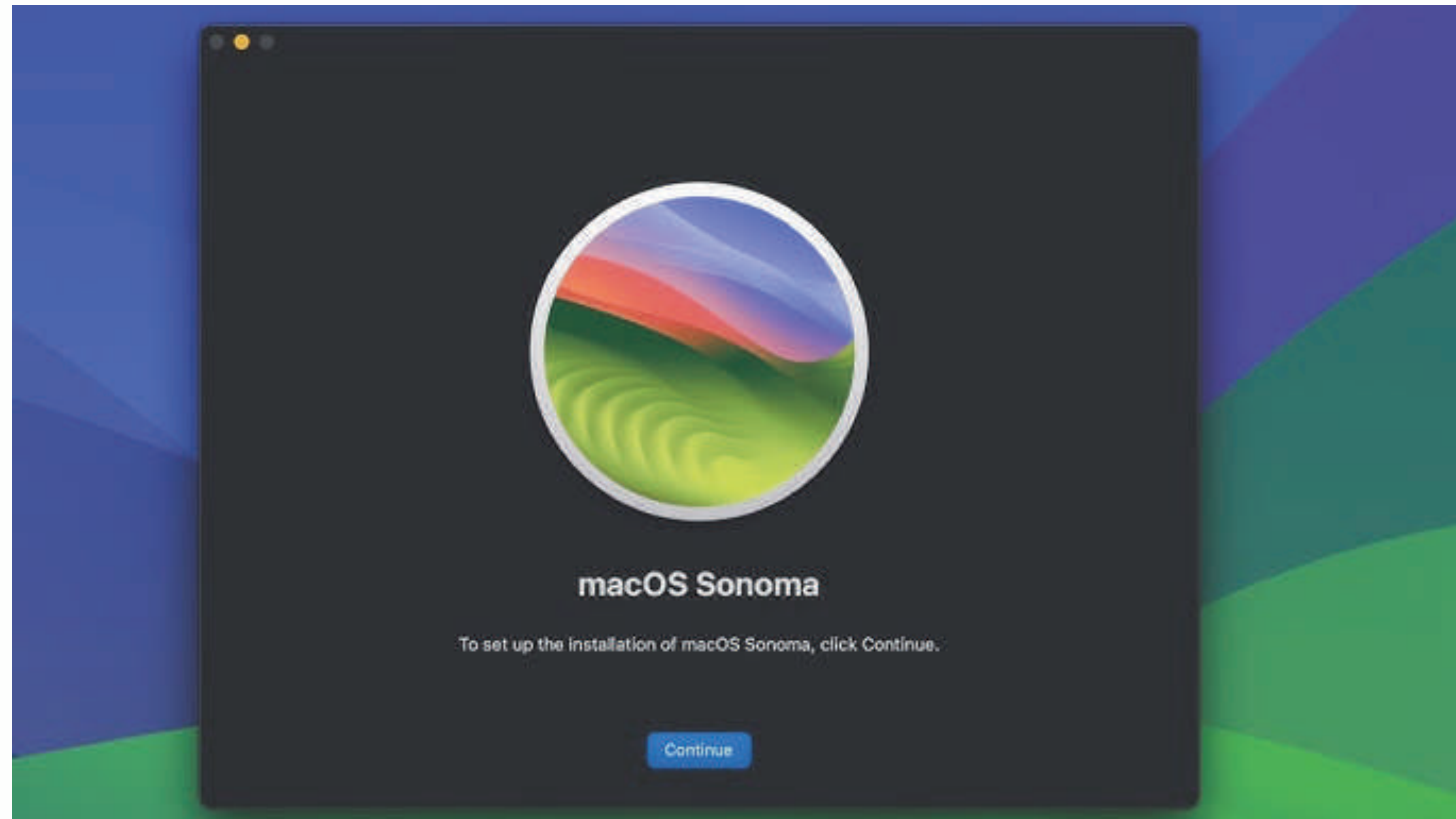
### Mac Pro

- Mac Pro (2023)
- Mac Pro (2019)

# macOS Sonoma

## Downloading macOS Sonoma

Go to System Preferences > General > Software Update to find macOS Sonoma. Click Upgrade Now and follow the onscreen instructions.



# macOS Sonoma

## Features

- Homescreen Widgets/Interactive widgets are now available on Mac
- Easier Screen Sharing
- Enhanced Video Effects
- More Privacy in Safari
- More With Messages
- Game Mode
- Communication Safety Features
- New Aerial Screen Savers
- An Improved Typing Experience
- Accessibility Features
- Upgrades to the Notes App
- Game Mode
- Safari Profiles
- Videoconferencing
- AirPods Features
- Autofill Security Codes
- Sync shared passwords across your family
- Get a mini crossword every day

# macOS Sonoma

## Widgets on your Mac!



## Widgets on your Mac!

macOS Sonoma finally addresses the ongoing widget problem plaguing Apple computers for the past several years. Gone are the days of having to open Notification Center to see important information like weather, battery details for your connected Apple devices, and more. Now, you can see all that data directly on your desktop thanks to some really well-crafted widgets.

These widgets are almost exactly like those on iOS 17. To get started, you just right-click (or control-click) on the desktop, select Add Widgets, then select the ones you want. The first widget determines where the rest of the widgets are set up. Of course, widget quality depends on the app you're using, too, so keep that in mind.

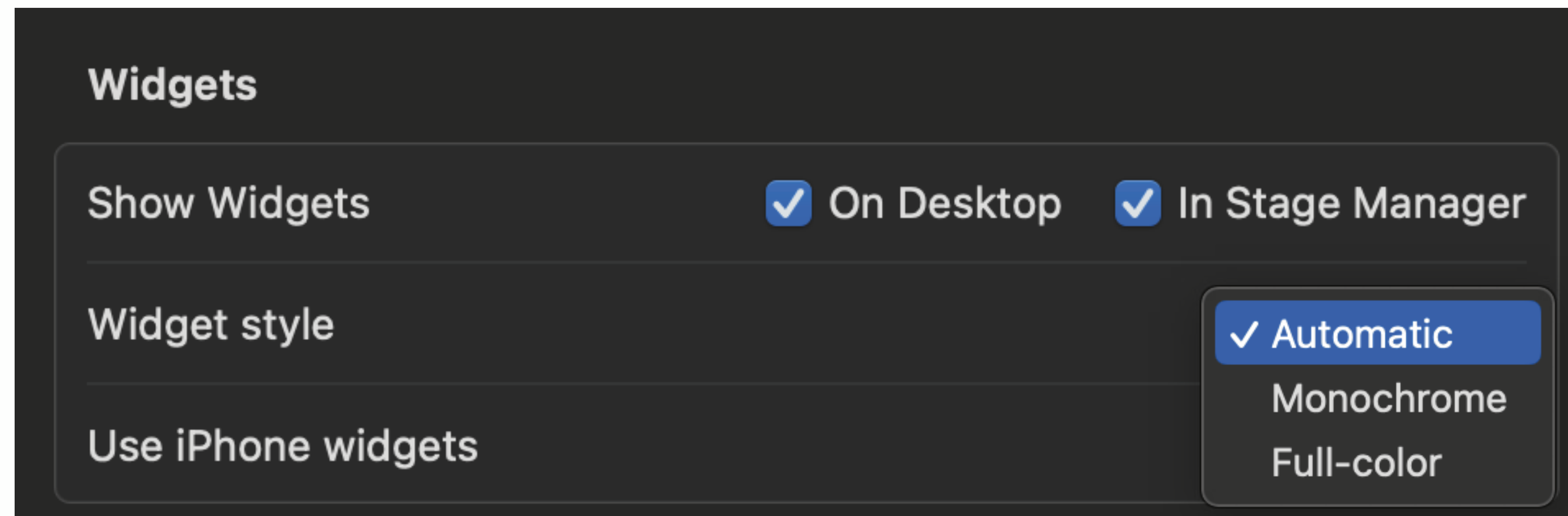
Ultimately, these widgets make it easy to keep up with important information directly on your Mac's desktop. That's made even better with the ability to tap on the desktop to clear all windows, which offers a clean way to check in on things before heading back to work. While it might be easy to clutter up the smaller display of the 13-inch MacBook Air, the 15-inch MacBook Air and larger screens seem to leave plenty of room to set up multiple widgets without getting in the way of anything.

# macOS Sonoma

## Widgets on your Mac!

When not in use, interactive desktop widgets fade into the background by taking on a monochrome style, allowing you to concentrate on the active app or window.

If you prefer this look, you can make it permanent by going to System Settings -> Desktop & Dock. In the "Widgets" section, set Widget Style to Monochrome

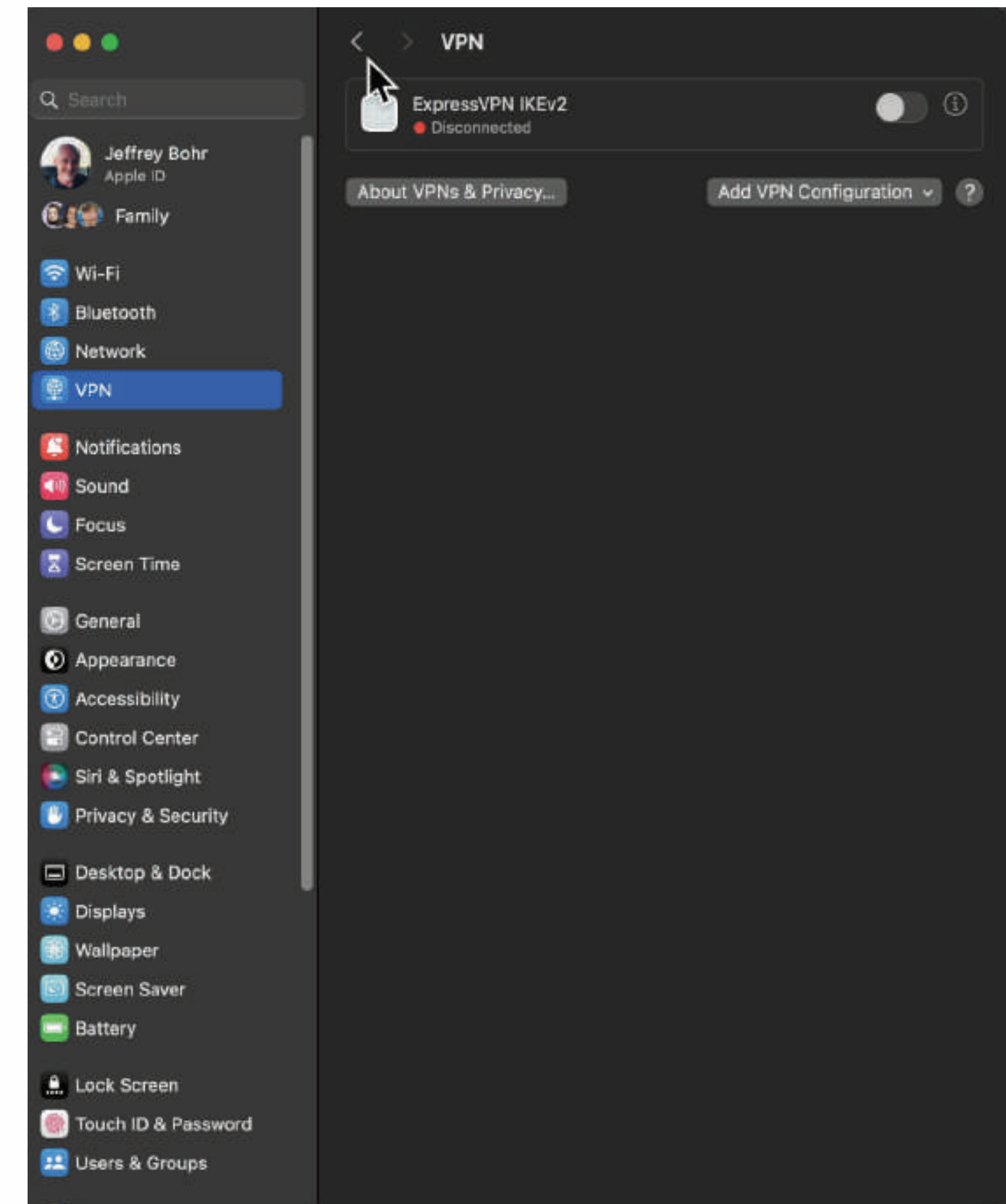




## System Settings Navigation

In macOS Ventura, Apple replaced System Preferences with System Settings to align it with iOS and iPadOS, but the way controls were organized left many users wanting.

The same System Settings interface remains in macOS Sonoma, but it is now easier to navigate through different menu screens you have visited without continually scrolling through the sidebar, thanks to the addition of backward and forward buttons.



# macOS Sonoma

## Better Screen Sharing

Screen Sharing is its own app in macOS Sonoma. It's located in Applications/Utilities, and includes a list of all computers you've connected to in the past, the ability to see all computers on your local network with screen sharing enabled, and the option to create groups of computers.

It also features a high performance mode when a screen sharing connection has been established. Click the info (i) button next to a connection, and change the Screen Sharing Type from Standard to High Performance. High performance mode allows you to use the native resolution of the host computer's display, reduces latency, improves image quality, and features HDR and multi-monitor support. The feature is available on Macs with Apple silicon running macOS Sonoma or later.



**Screen Sharing**

## Better Screen Sharing


### Use High Performance screen sharing

High Performance screen sharing allows for advanced color workflows and improved responsiveness.

High Performance screen sharing supports stereo audio, HDR video reference mode, 4:4:4 chroma subsampling, and high frame rates (30 or 60 fps).

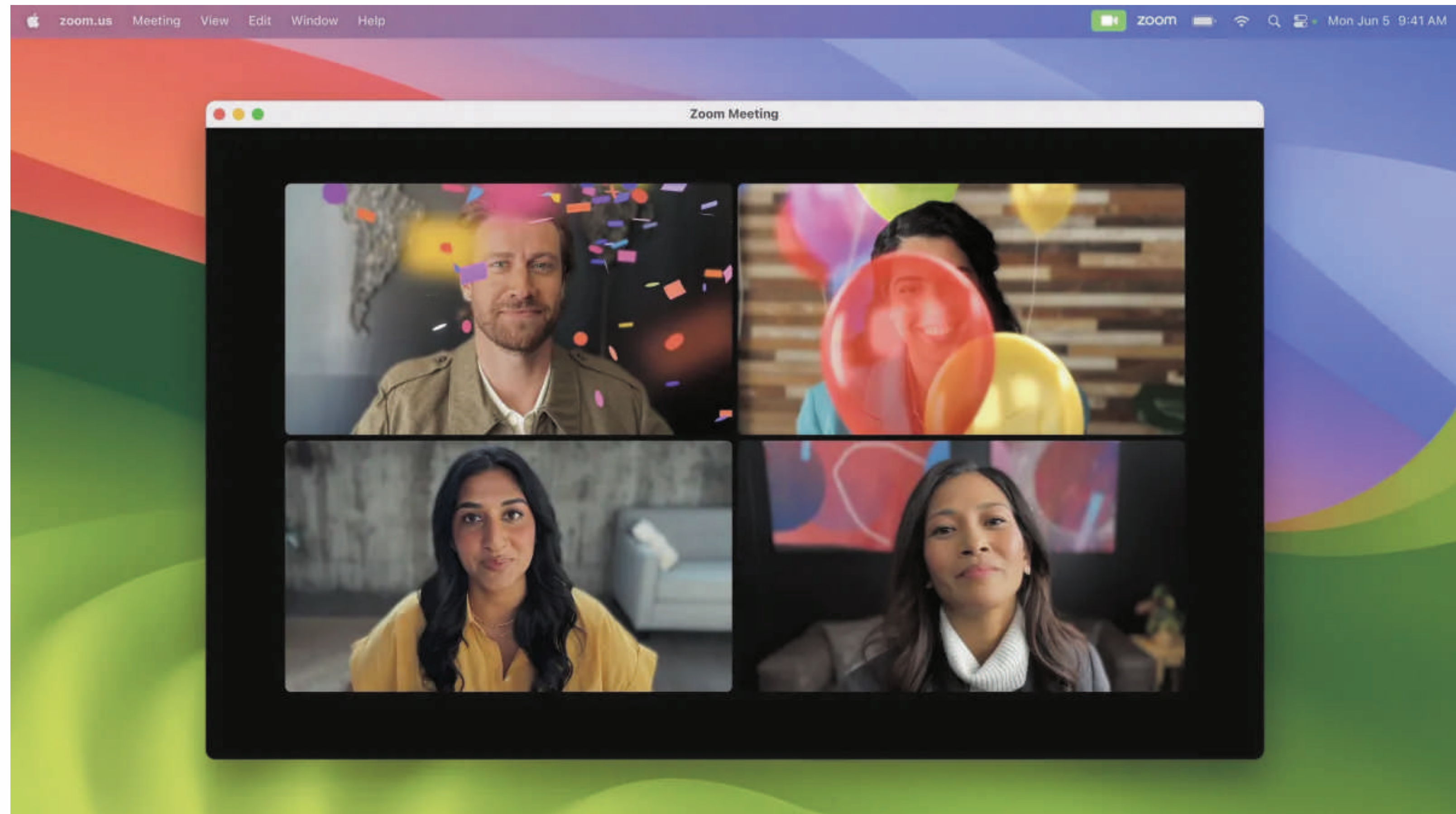
### Turn on High Performance screen sharing

When controlling or observing using a supported Apple Silicon Mac and client Mac, you can enable High Performance screen sharing.

- In Remote Desktop  select a computer list in the sidebar of the main window, select a computer, then choose Interact > Control or Interact > Observe. If the computer supports High Performance screen sharing, you see the Select Screen Sharing Type pane and can choose High Performance.
- To edit the chosen Screen Sharing Type later, select the computer, choose File > Get Info, Control & Observe, then select the desired Screen Sharing Type at the bottom.

# macOS Sonoma

## FaceTime Reactions



# macOS Sonoma

## FaceTime Reactions



## FaceTime Reactions

### Balloons

To show balloons, make a victory sign (peace sign). Or click the Balloons button 🎈 in the Reactions submenu.




### Hearts

To show red hearts, use two hands to make a heart sign. Or click the Hearts button ❤️ in the Reactions submenu.




## FaceTime Reactions

### Thumbs Up

To show a thumbs up emoji, hold one thumb up. Or click the Thumbs Up button  in the Reactions submenu.



### Thumbs Down

To show a thumbs down emoji, hold one thumb down. Or click the Thumbs Down button  in the Reactions submenu.



## FaceTime Reactions

### Fireworks

To show fireworks, hold two thumbs up. Or click the Fireworks button 🎆 in the Reactions submenu.



### Lasers

To show laser beams, make the sign of the horns 🤘 on each hand. Or click the Lasers button 🌟 in the Reactions submenu.





## FaceTime Reactions

### Rain

To show stormy rain, hold two thumbs down. Or click the Rain button ☁️ in the Reactions submenu.



### Confetti

To show confetti, make two victory signs (peace signs). Or click the Confetti button 🎉 in the Reactions submenu.



## Presenter Overlay

When you're in a FaceTime or Zoom call, click-hold the green traffic light in the corner of an open app window and you'll see a screen sharing option, while a new Presenter Overlay feature can be used to keep you on screen and better able to point to details.

When on a video call, you can either place yourself inside a movable bubble in the corner of the window or desktop that you're sharing, or you can bring on-screen content into the background of your own environment so that it looks as if you're standing just in front of it.

## Presenter Overlay




### Presenter Overlay

Requires macOS Sonoma or later on a Mac with Apple silicon

Presenter Overlay elevates your presence by including you on top of the content that you're sharing when on a video call.

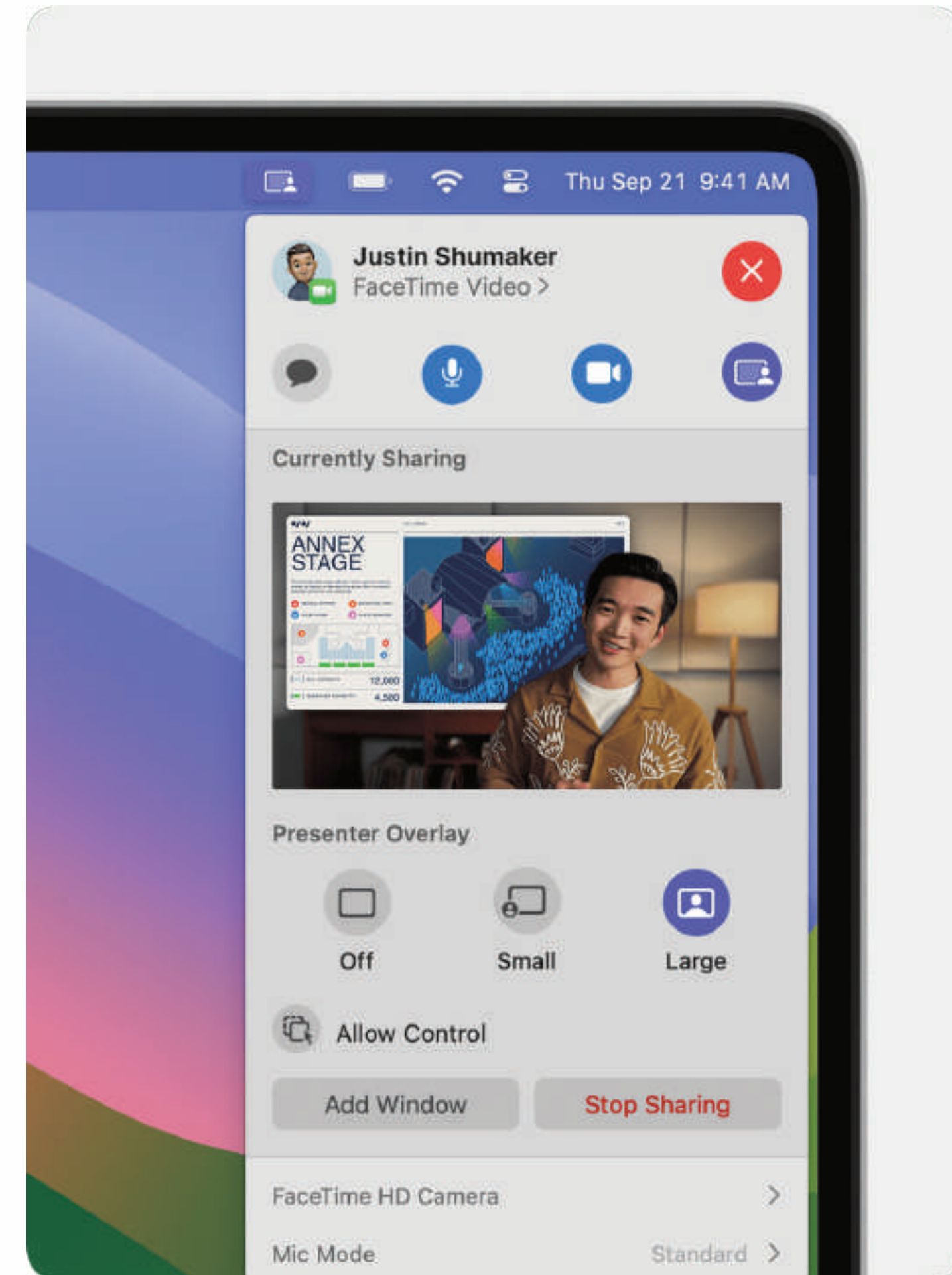
#### Presenter Overlay: Large

The large overlay keeps you prominent while your shared screen is framed next to you — even when [using Center Stage](#). Your room appears in the background (virtual backgrounds are disabled), and you can walk, talk, and move in front of the screen.

1. Use the screen-sharing feature of your video app to share a screen.
2. From the screen-sharing menu  in the menu bar, click Large . Use the video preview in this menu to confirm that the effect is working and see what your viewers see.
3. To move the shared screen to the other side of you, move your pointer over the video preview, then click the button with the opposing arrows  in the lower-right corner of the preview.

## Presenter Overlay



Presenter Overlay: Large



## Presenter Overlay

### Presenter Overlay: Small

The small overlay shows your face in a movable bubble, which gives more space to the screen you're sharing. You can point to important details.

1. Use the screen-sharing feature of your video app to share a screen.
2. From the screen-sharing menu  in the menu bar, click Small .
3. To move the bubble, drag it to any position in your video window (not in the preview window).

## Presenter Overlay

Presenter Overlay: Small



## More New Safari Features

Apple has made a laundry list of changes, additions and improvements to its Safari web browser. Everything from privacy and security to the way you can access sites has been updated.

On a code level, things have been updated to make Safari faster than ever, but there are plenty of new features and options to explore too. It's now possible to add web apps to the Dock so you can treat any website like an app, for example. Use the Add To Dock option and you can Command + Tab your way between apps and sites, and enjoy the benefit of an improved notification experience.

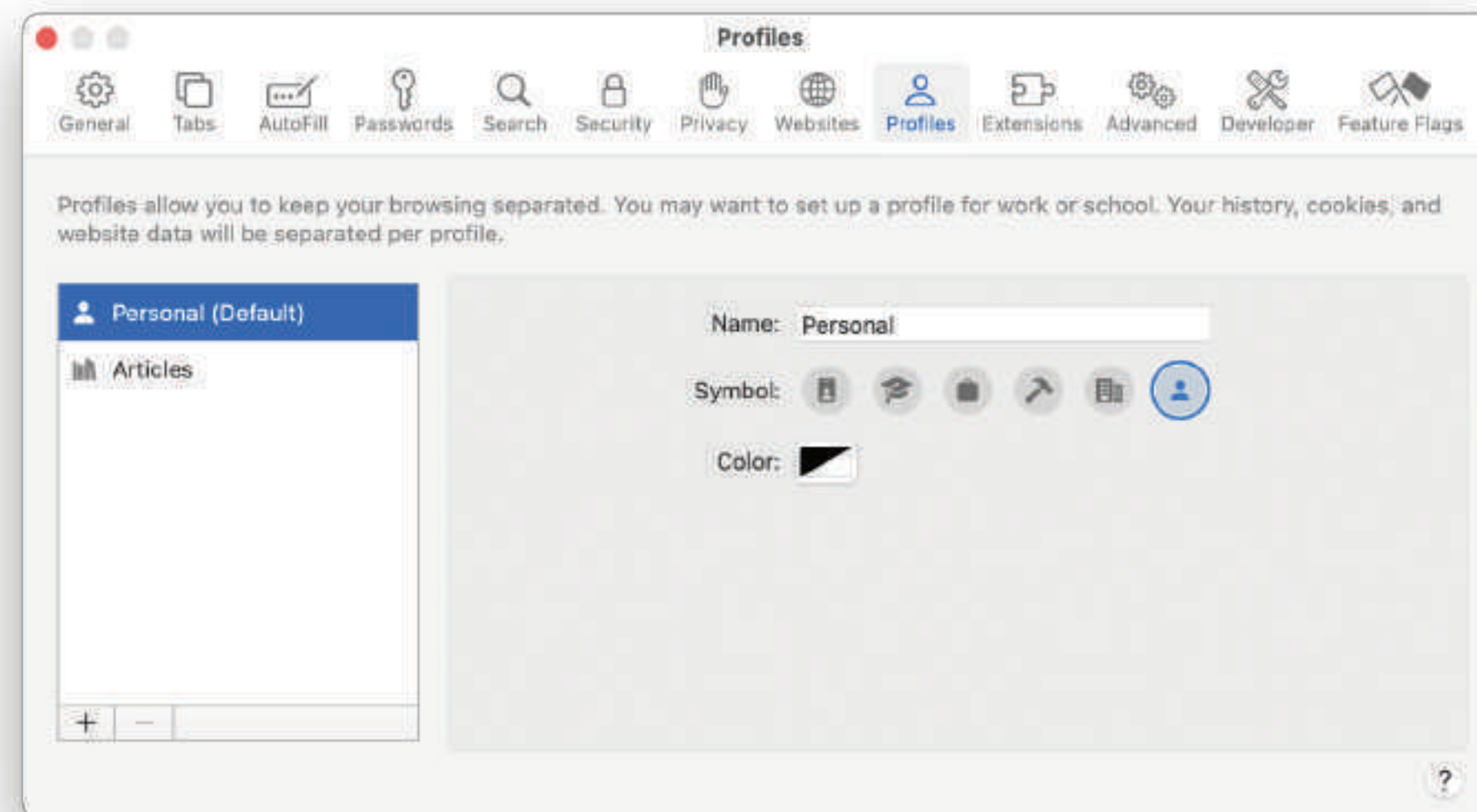
From a security point of view, there is now the ability to share passkeys and iCloud keychain passwords. There have also been various privacy enhancements such as the automatic removal of URL trackers in Private Browsing. On top of this, Private Browsing also now offers even more privacy by locking windows when they are not being used.

## More New Safari Features

Safari has gained a new feature called Profiles, which is designed to help keep your browsing separate for different use cases like Work, School, or Personal.

Go to the Profiles section in Safari -> Settings..., and you can create custom profiles, choose a symbol and color for each one, and select a Favorites folder.

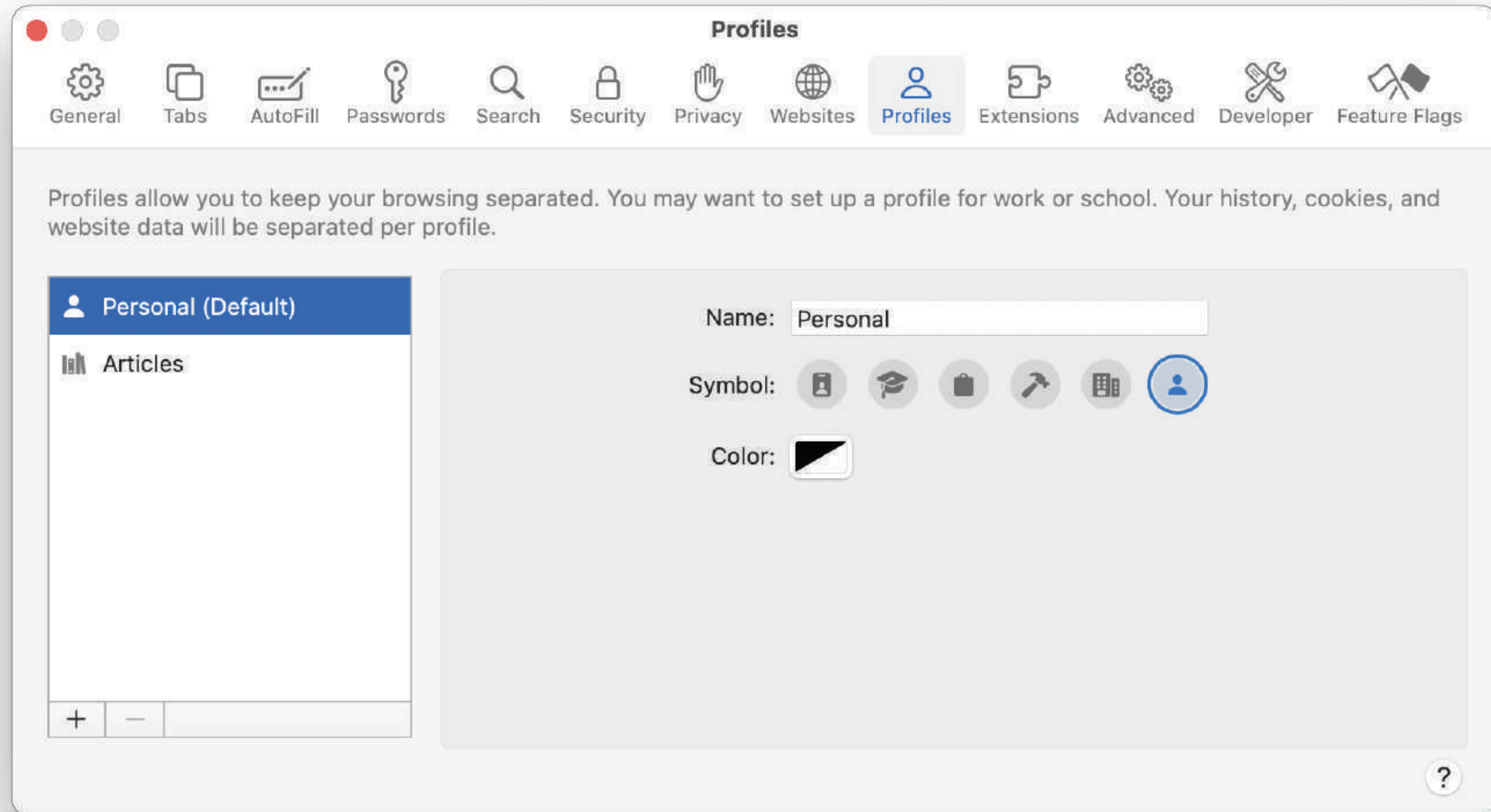
Profiles silo your history, Tab Groups, and cookies, and you can also assign specific extensions to different profiles to optimize your browsing experience based on the task at hand.





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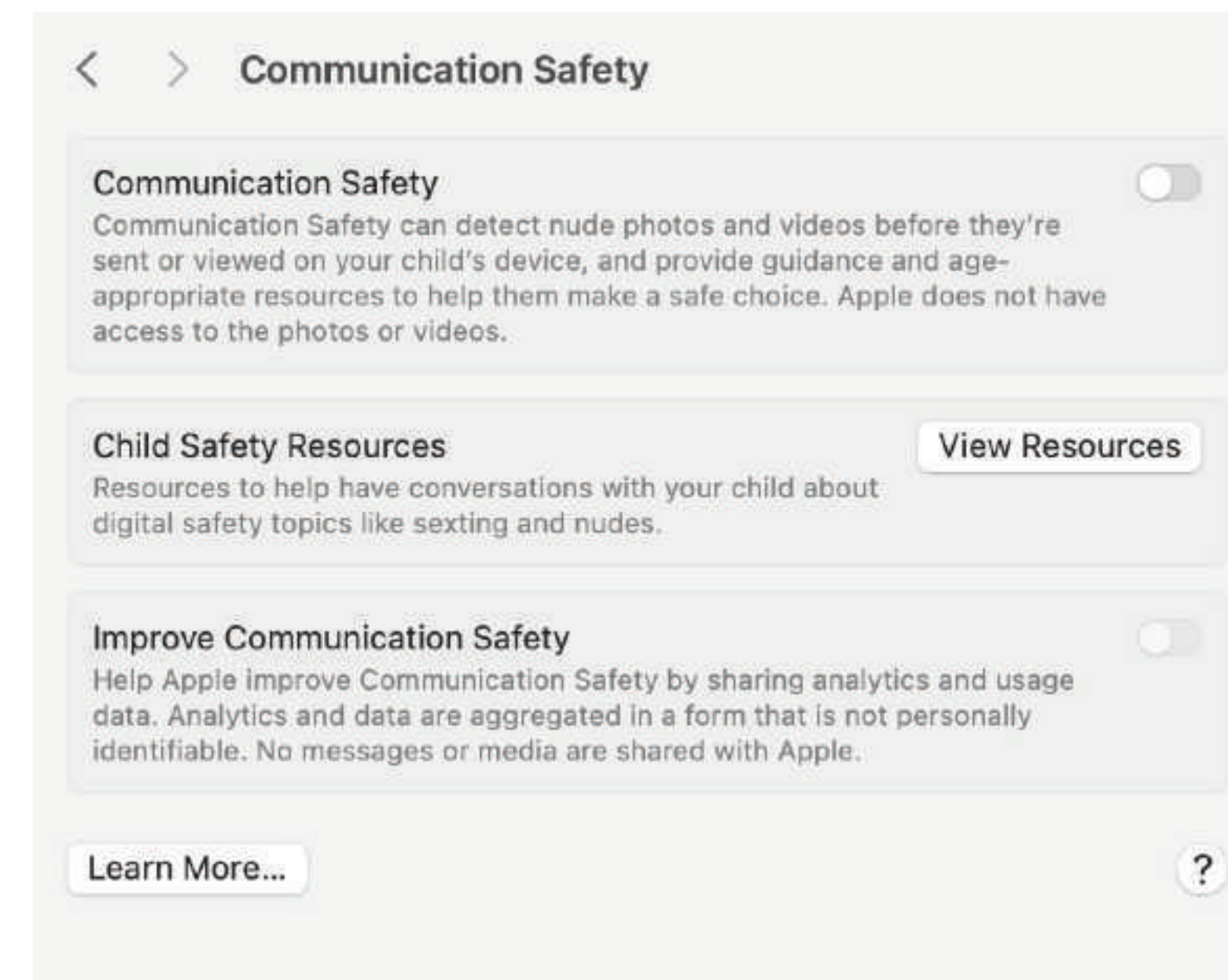
## More New Safari Features



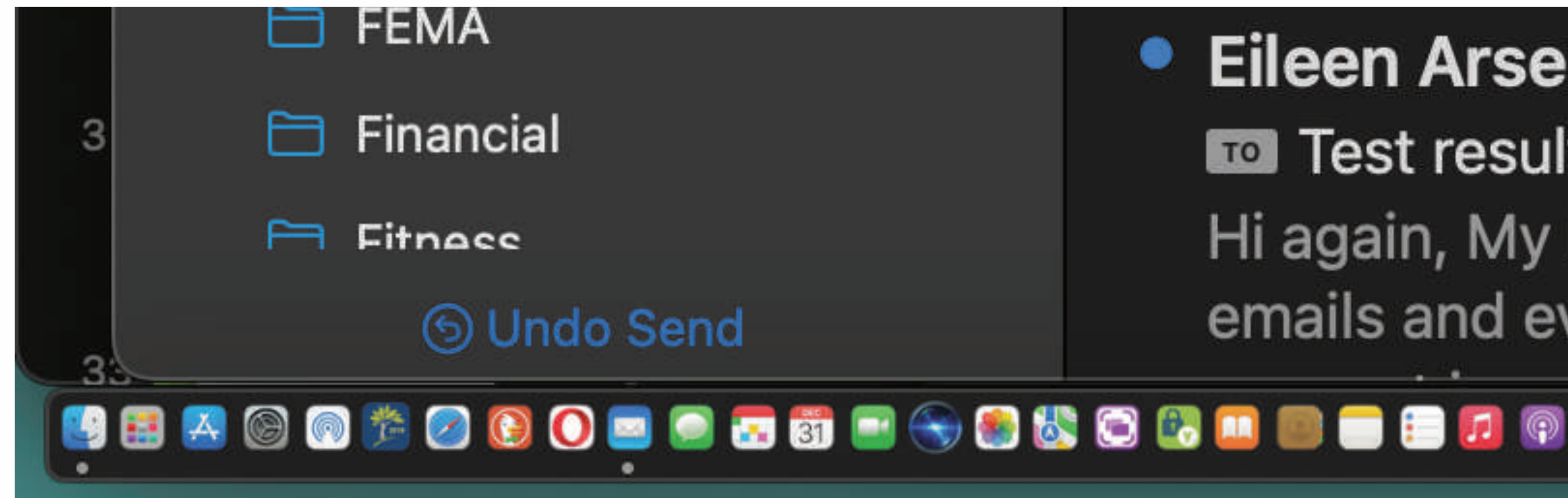
## Communication Safety Features

Communication Safety is an opt-in feature that warns children when sending or receiving photos that contain nudity. It's enabled by default for children under the age of 13 who are signed in with an Apple ID and part of a Family Sharing group, but parents can also enable it for older teens as well.

When the feature is enabled in System Settings -> Screen Time -> Communication Safety, photos and videos containing nudity are automatically blurred in supported apps including Messages and FaceTime, and the child will be warned about viewing sensitive content. The warning also provides children with ways to get help. It uses on-device processing to detect photos and videos containing nudity, ensuring that Apple and third parties cannot access the content, and that end-to-end encryption is preserved in the Messages app.



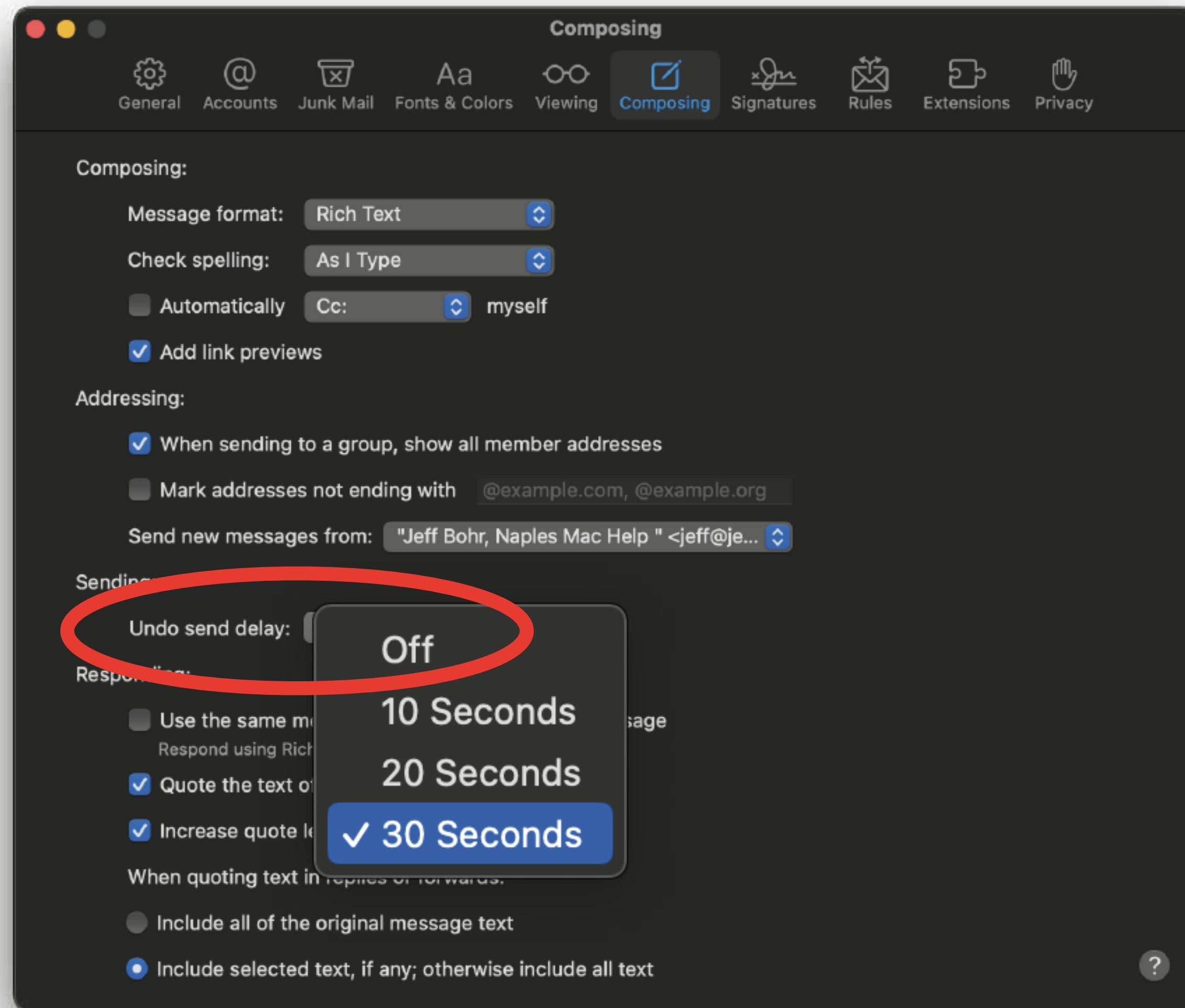
## Undo Sent Email



After sending the email, an Undo Send option will appear at the bottom of the sidebar (if you don't have the sidebar showing, select View -> Show Sidebar in the menu bar). By default, you have 10 seconds to click it before the option disappears, after which the message cannot be unsent, but the interval can also be set to 20 or 30 seconds or turned off entirely for immediate sending

# macOS Sonoma

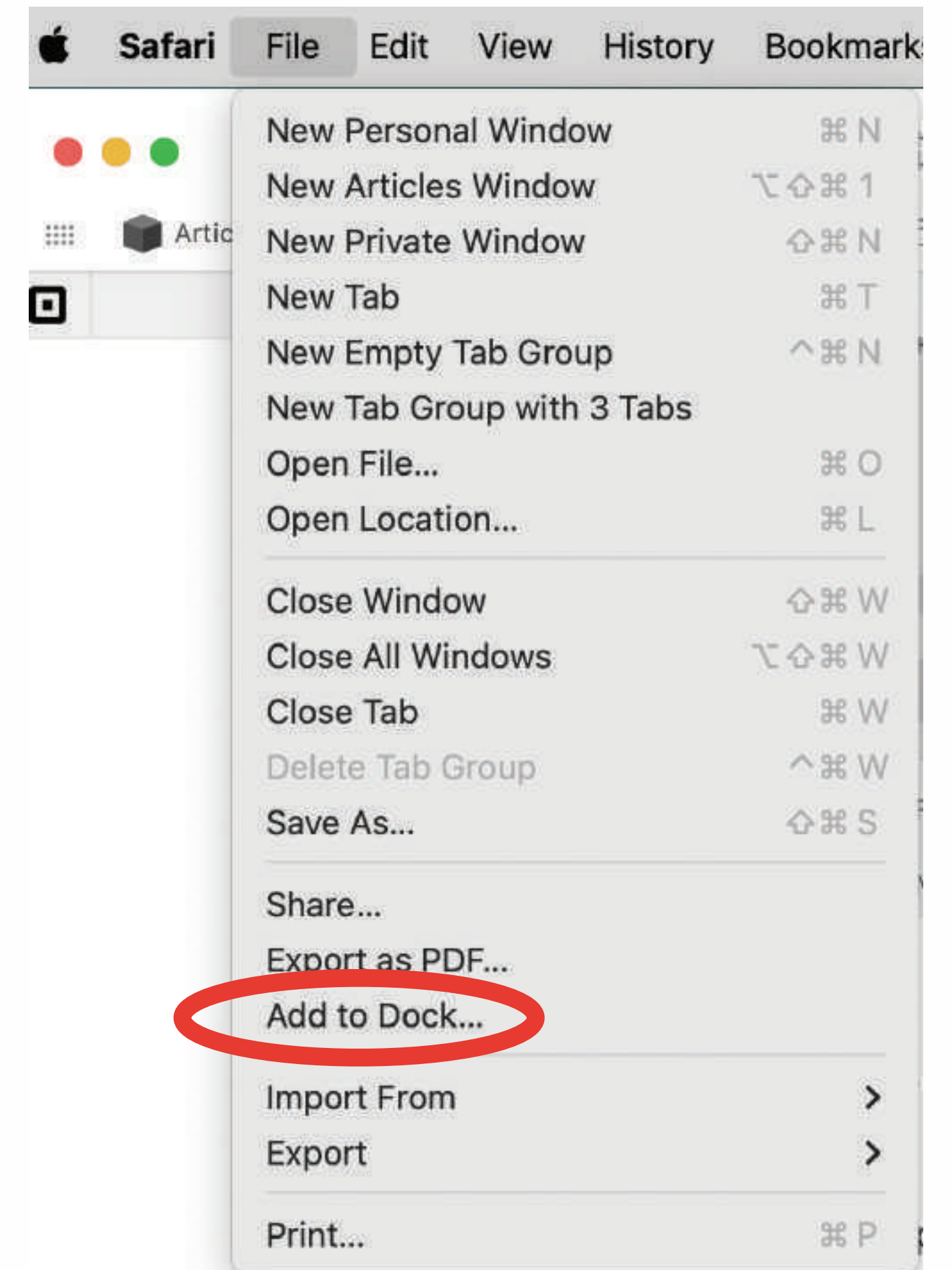
## Undo Sent Email



## Safari: Dock Web Apps

Thanks to a new option in Safari, you can now create standalone web apps and add them to your Dock, alongside your regular apps.

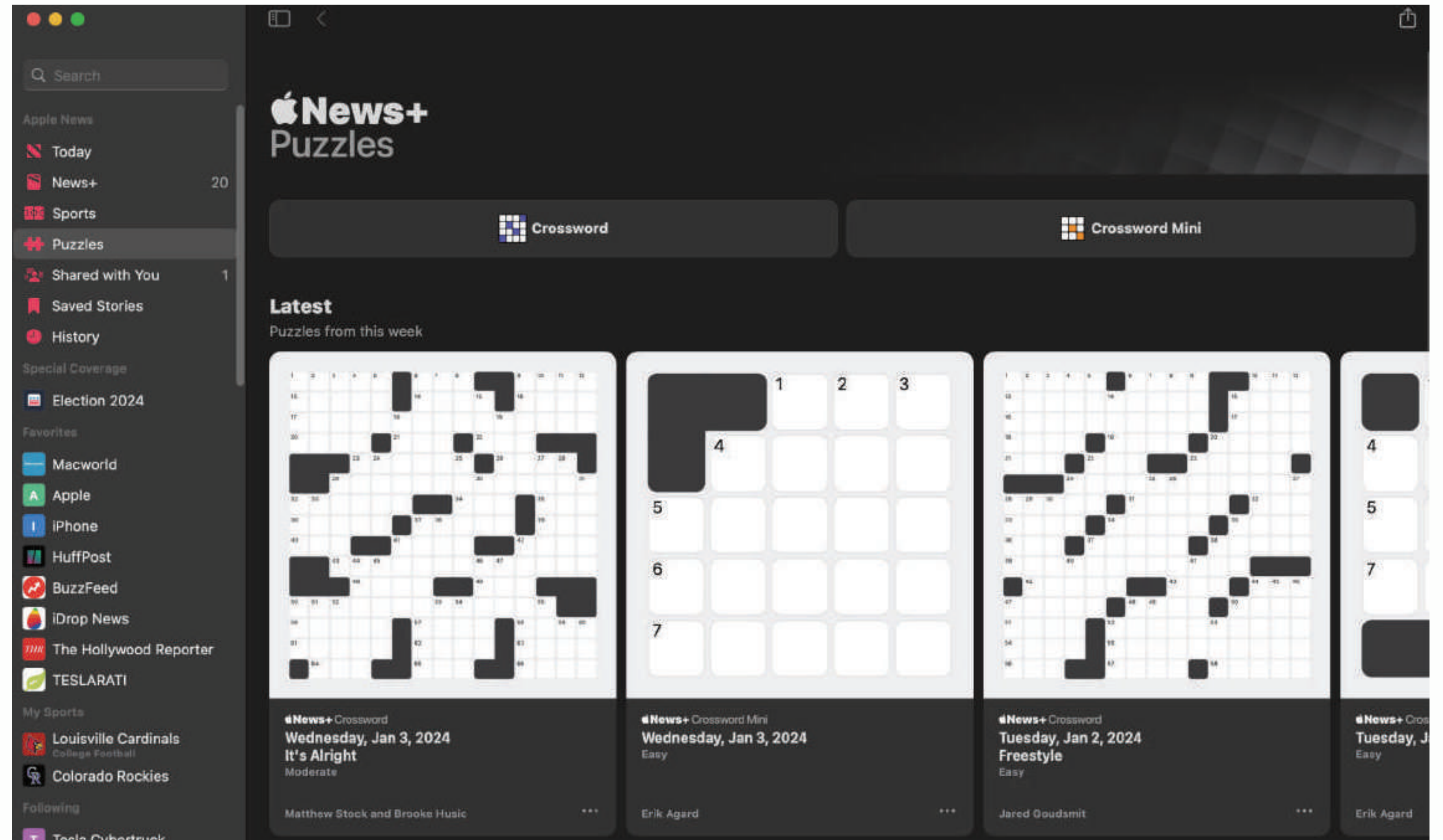
All you have to do is visit a website in Safari and select File -> Add to Dock.... You can then give the web app a name and even change its icon. When you open a docked web app, it will open in its own separate window that includes back and forward buttons for simple navigation.



# macOS Sonoma

## Get a mini crossword every day

Apple News+ Now contains Puzzles! If you want to challenge yourself, Open News+ and give it a try, they have a full crossword and mini crossword to test your mental skills!



## Use Nearby iPhone as Microphone Input

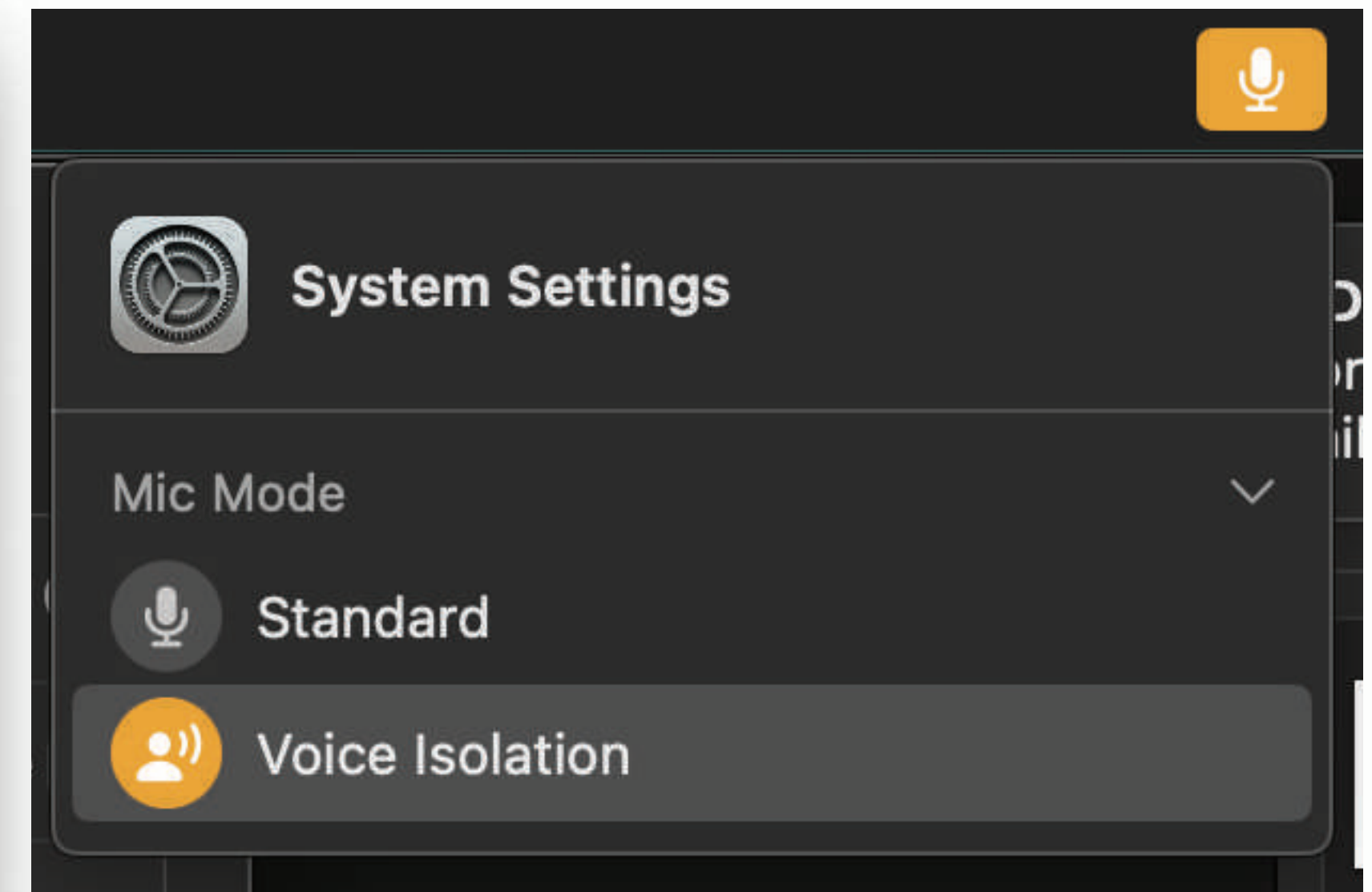
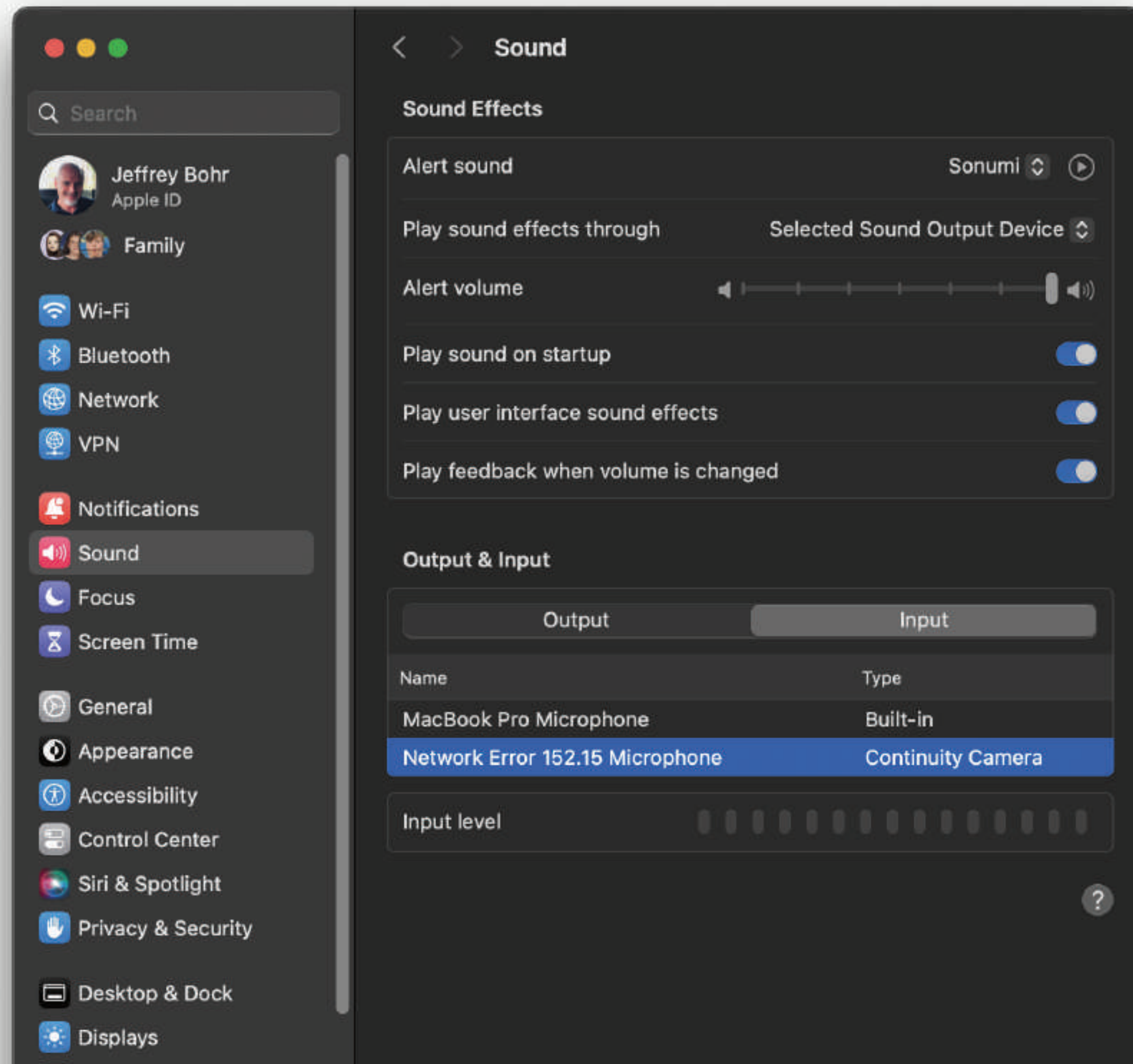
Another function of Continuity Camera is the ability to use a nearby iPhone as the microphone input for your Mac. As long as the iPhone is running iOS 16 or later and signed into the same Apple ID, you can speak into it and the audio will be seamlessly delivered to your Mac, sans video.

The following steps show you how to set it up in macOS Sonoma.

1. On your Mac, click the Apple (🍏) symbol in the menu bar and select System Settings....
2. Click Sound in the sidebar.
3. Under "Output & Input," click the Input tab.
4. Select the name of your nearby iPhone, listed as Type "Continuity Camera."

# macOS Sonoma

## Use Nearby iPhone as Microphone Input



*When using Phone as microphone, you can control sound mode via menu bar panel.*



# macOS Sonoma

## Show/Hide Desktop

By default, macOS Sonoma hides all windows when you click on your wallpaper. This is handy if you tend to have a bunch of files on the screen that you need access to. But if you find this behavior maddening, you can limit it to happen only when Stage Manager is enabled.

Go to System Settings -> Desktop & Dock. In the Desktop & Stage Manager section, look for the option Click wallpaper to reveal desktop, then click Always and choose Only in Stage Manager instead.

### Desktop & Stage Manager

Show Items



On Desktop



In Stage Manager

Click wallpaper to reveal desktop

Clicking your wallpaper will move all windows out of the way to allow access to your desktop items and widgets.

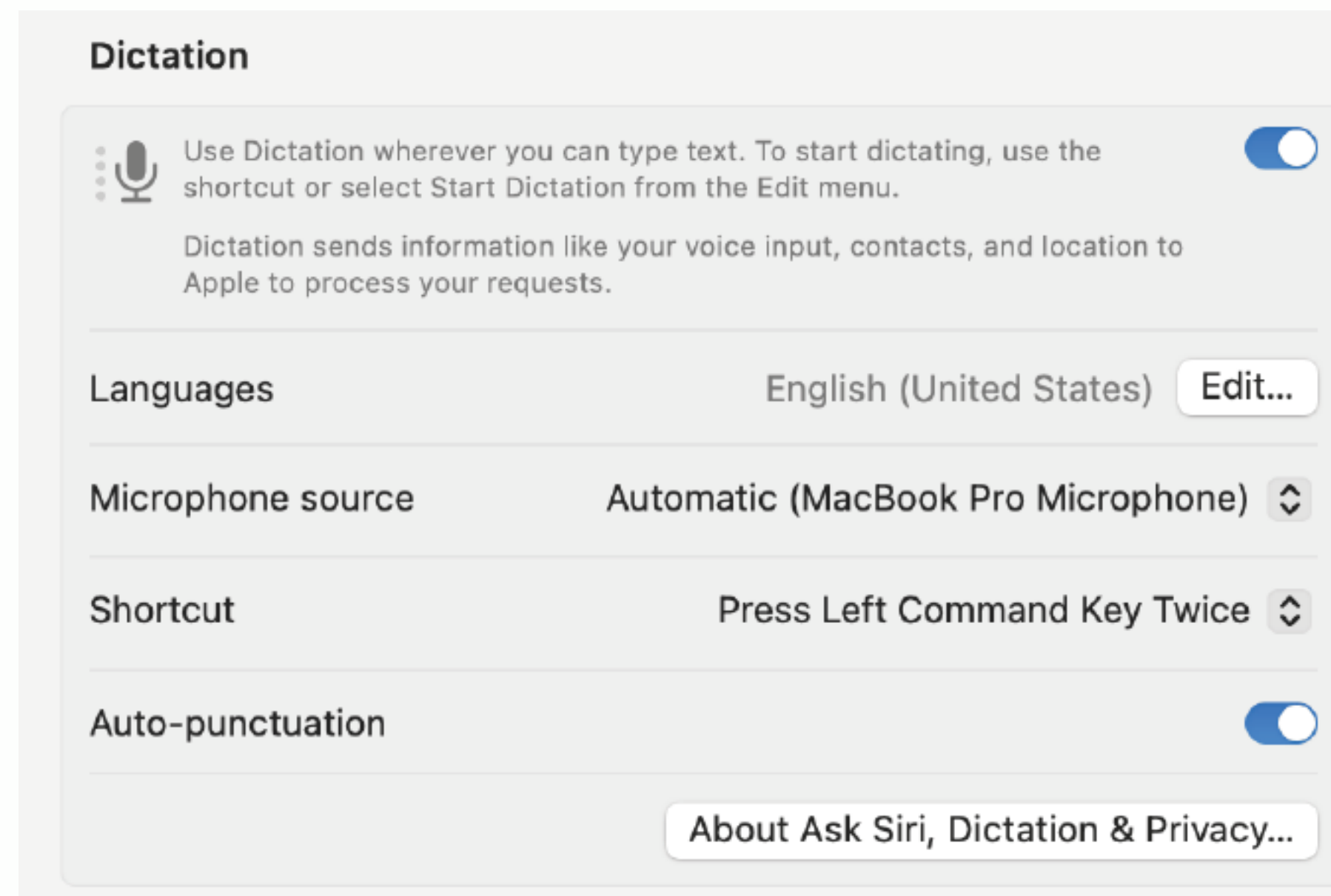
Always

Only in Stage Manager

# macOS Sonoma

## Seamless Keyboard Input and Dictation

- macOS Sonoma supports simultaneous use of keyboard input and Dictation, without any disruption in your flow of thought.
- In other words, you can keep typing after hitting the Dictation shortcut (assignable in System Settings -> Keyboard). So whenever your fingers need a rest, you can complete the sentence you were just typing by saying it out loud



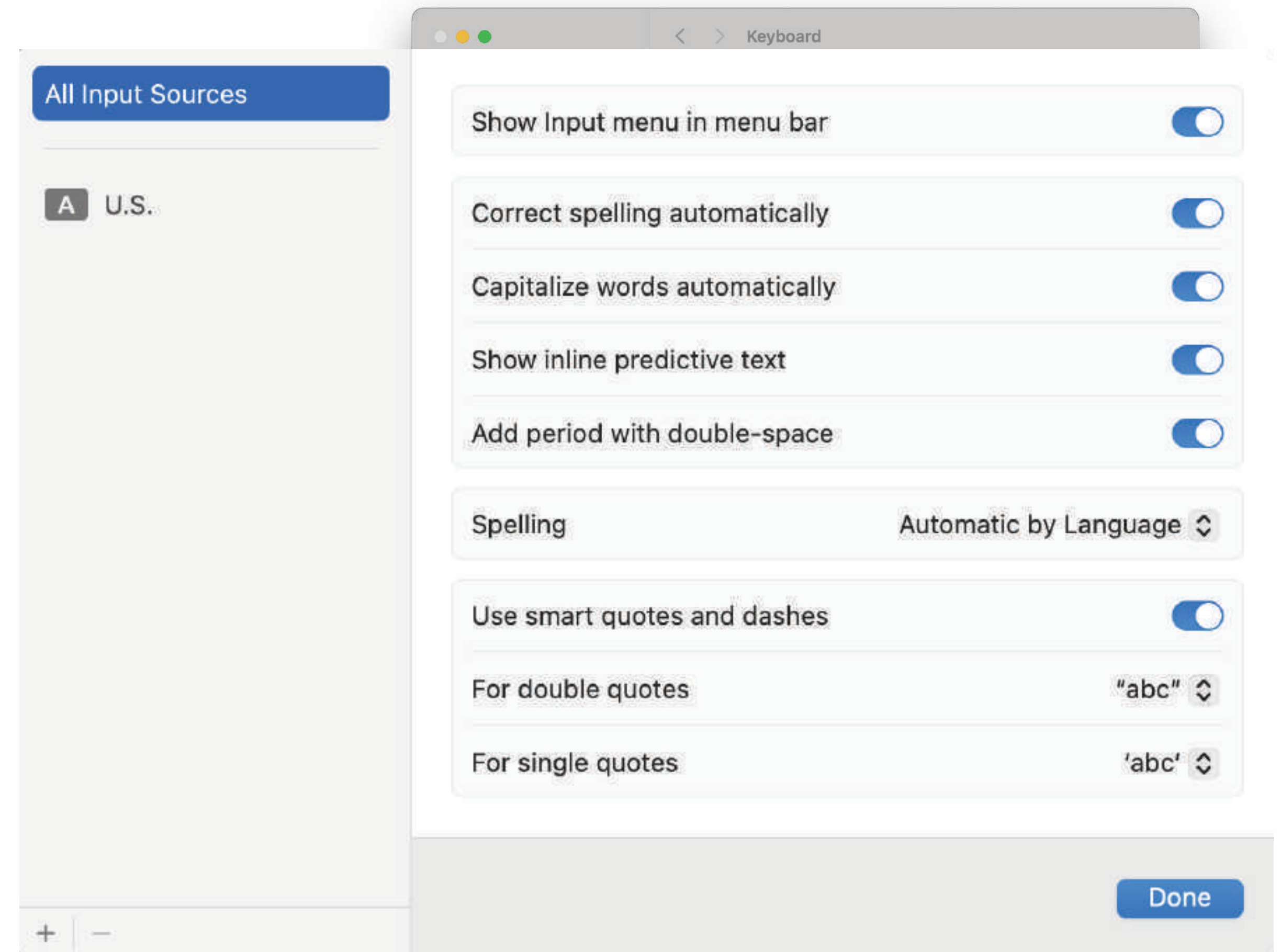
## Text Prediction

Thanks to improved machine learning technology, Apple has made macOS a lot more helpful, because it can better predict what you're going to type next. Apple says it has adopted a "transformer language model" that can even personalize prediction for individual users, learning your personal preferences and word choices to be more useful when typing.

As you type, the predicted text appears ahead of the cursor. If it has accurately predicted what you want to type, press the spacebar and macOS will fill it in for you. After using macOS Sonoma for a few weeks, you should notice that the suggestions are much better at predicting what you want to say and presenting words for you to autofill.

## Text Prediction

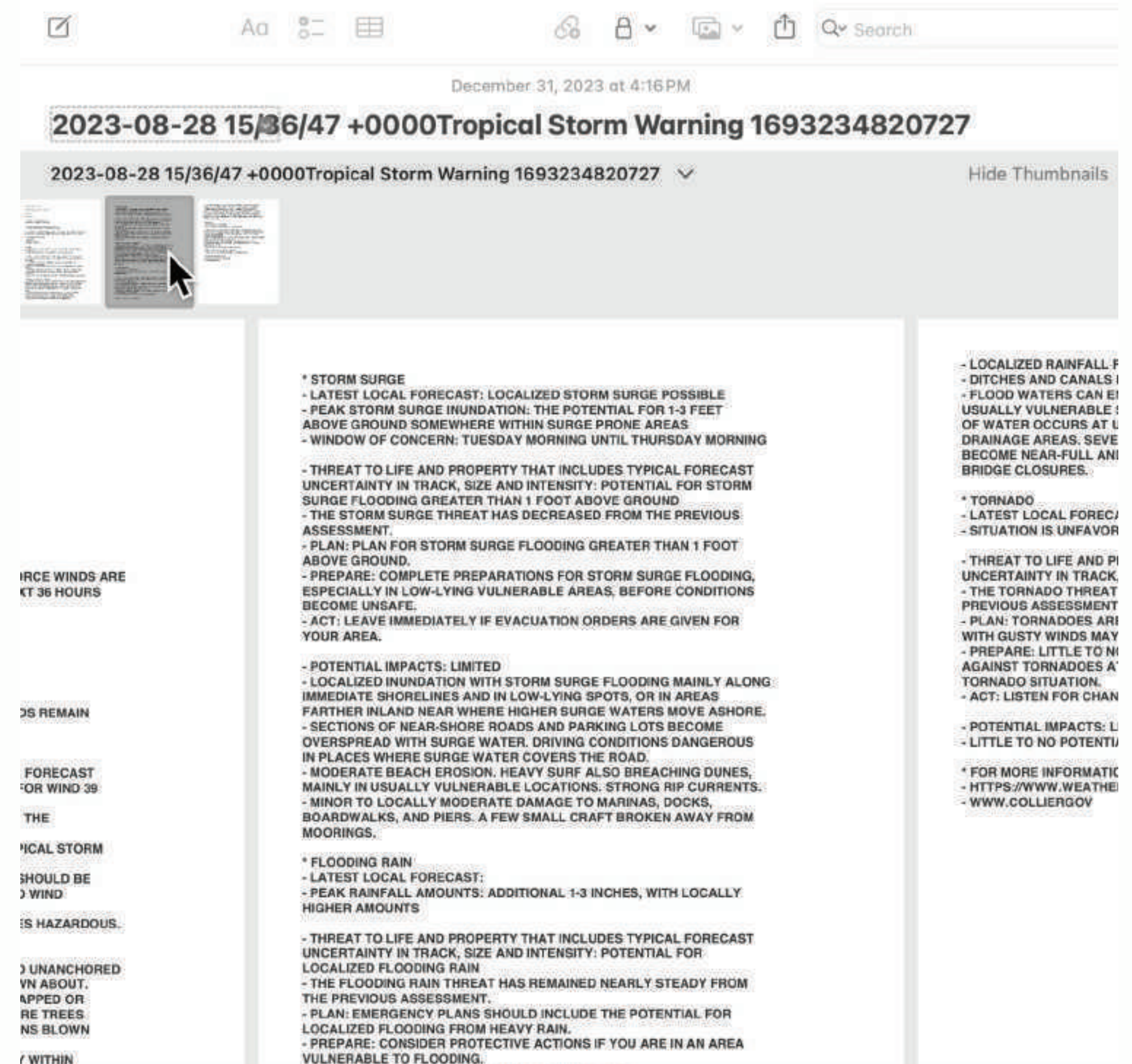
If you find all of this distracting, you can turn it off. Go to System Settings -> Keyboard. Next to Input Sources, click Edit.... In the next window, toggle off the switch next to Show inline predictive text.



## Managing PDFs in Notes

When you drag PDFs into Notes, they are now presented full-width in the note, making it easier to view and interact with them.

Notes is no longer restricted to rendering the first page of a PDF. You can now view the individual pages of a document you're reviewing right inside the note, which is really handy for previewing multiple PDFs in the same note. You also get a row of thumbnails across the top of the PDF that you can click to navigate to a specific page more quickly.



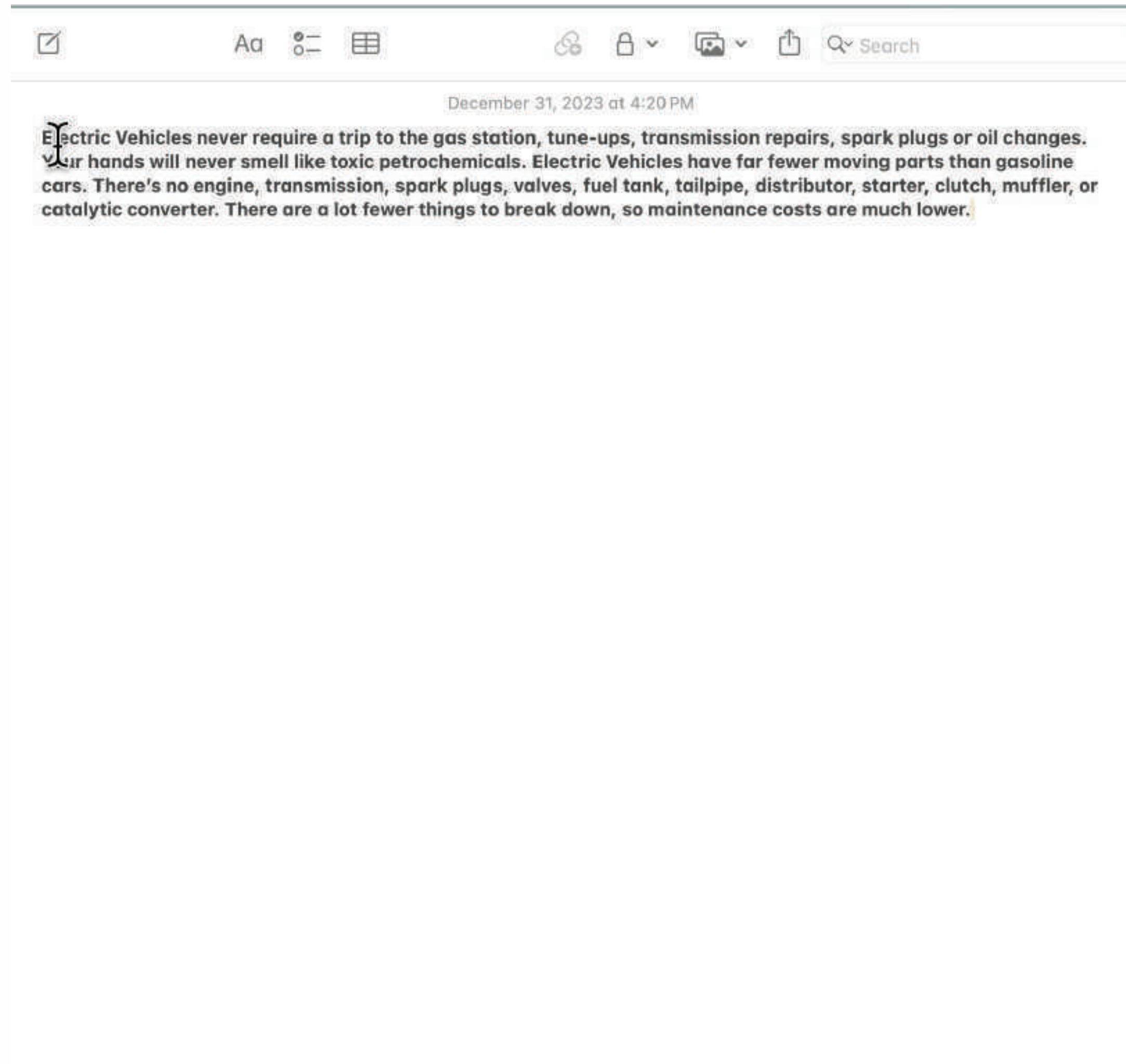
## Link Notes Together

Apple has made its stock Notes app significantly more useful by adding the simple yet powerful ability to link notes and connect related notes together. With just a few clicks, you can create links between notes in macOS Sonoma, making it easy to jump from one idea to another.

One way of adding a new link is by right-clicking on a space, word or phrase in any note and selecting Add Link from the contextual menu. You can also use the Command-K shortcut. This will let you link to another note by typing in its title. Using the "Name" field, you can create an optional alternative title for the link, or just stick with the original title for clarity. Once you're done, the link appears as hyperlink-style underlined text in your note, and clicking it snaps you straight into the note you linked to.

# macOS Sonoma

## Link Notes Together



## Link From a List of Notes

The Notes app also offers an additional, quicker way to add links: Typing two greater-than symbols (>>) into a note invokes a list containing your six most recently modified notes, and tapping one instantly adds a link to that note.

The same feature can be found in iOS, meaning you can now create wiki-style collections of interlinked notes, allowing you to organize your thoughts or discover new connections and associations between ideas.



## Studio Light and Background Blur, Choose Center Stage Camera

Studio Light is now available in macOS when using video conferencing apps, on Studio Display and Mac models with Apple silicon, without the need for Continuity Camera. In the FaceTime menu bar UI, you can darken the background and illuminate your face using the Studio Light intensity slider.

With the Portrait slider, you can also control the amount of background blur, adding more or less blur to the depth-of-field effect.

In macOS Sonoma, Continuity Camera automatically detects your face and frames you in the center, without you having to enable Center Stage. Still, turning on Center Stage keeps you centered in the camera frame as you move around.

Choose Center Stage from the Video menu in the menu bar. To switch between the rear cameras on your iPhone, click the arrow next to Center Stage, then choose Main or Ultra Wide.

# macOS Sonoma

## Caps Lock Is On

If the Caps Lock key on your keyboard is enabled in macOS Sonoma, a handy indicator appears right near the cursor, so you're less likely to TYPE LIKE THIS BY ACCIDENT and get your passwords wrong.

Apple has also made the text cursor a little thicker, and its color now changes relative to the active application, so you'll have a better idea of which window your text is going to appear in when you start typing.



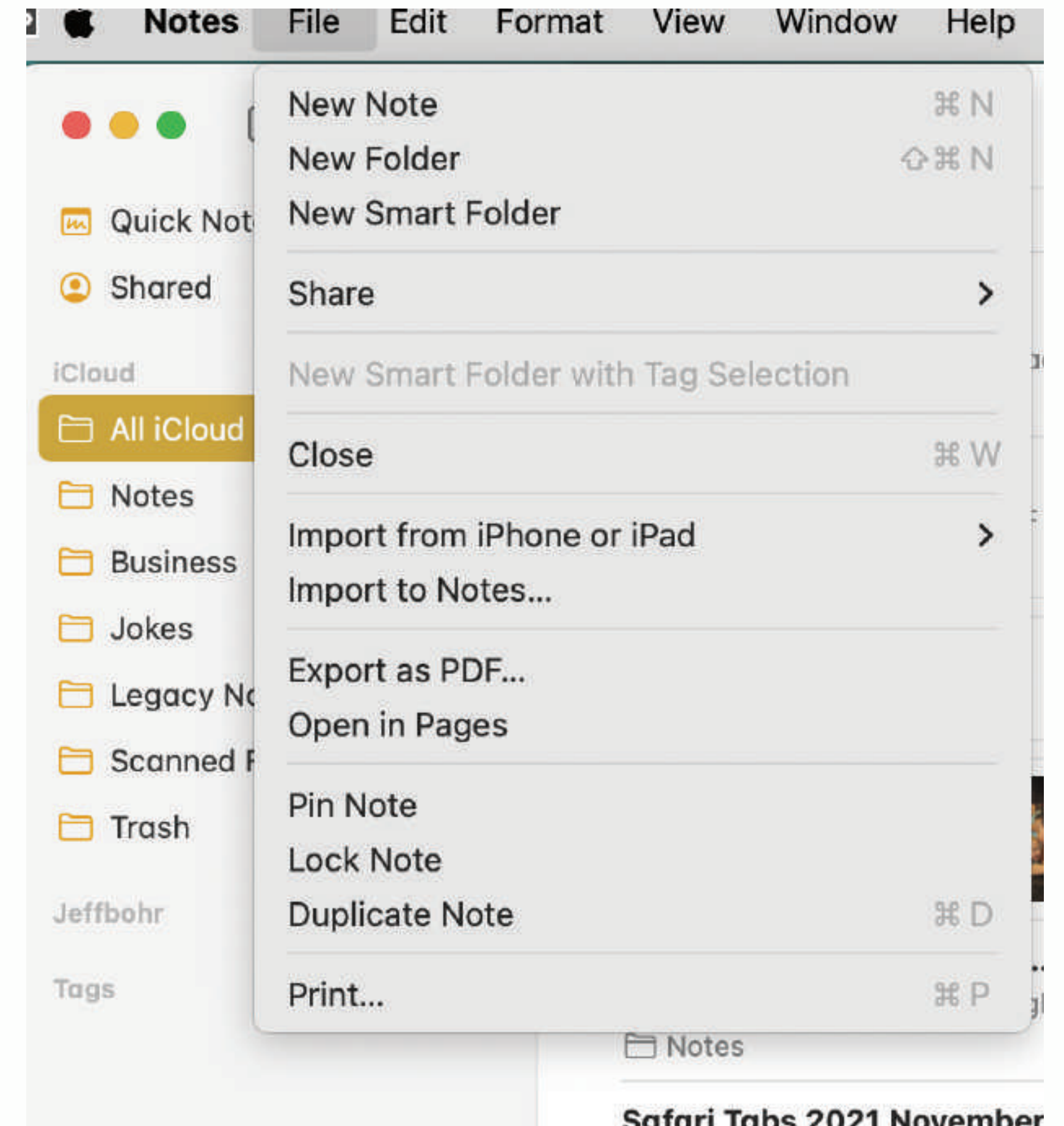
THIS IS ALL CAPS



## Open Notes in Pages

You can now send notes from the Notes app directly to Pages. Simply open the note, click the Share button, then choose Open in Pages from the share sheet.

From there you can continue to edit the note in Pages, then save it or export it as a PDF, Word file, EPUB, and more.



# macOS Sonoma

## Find Messages Faster

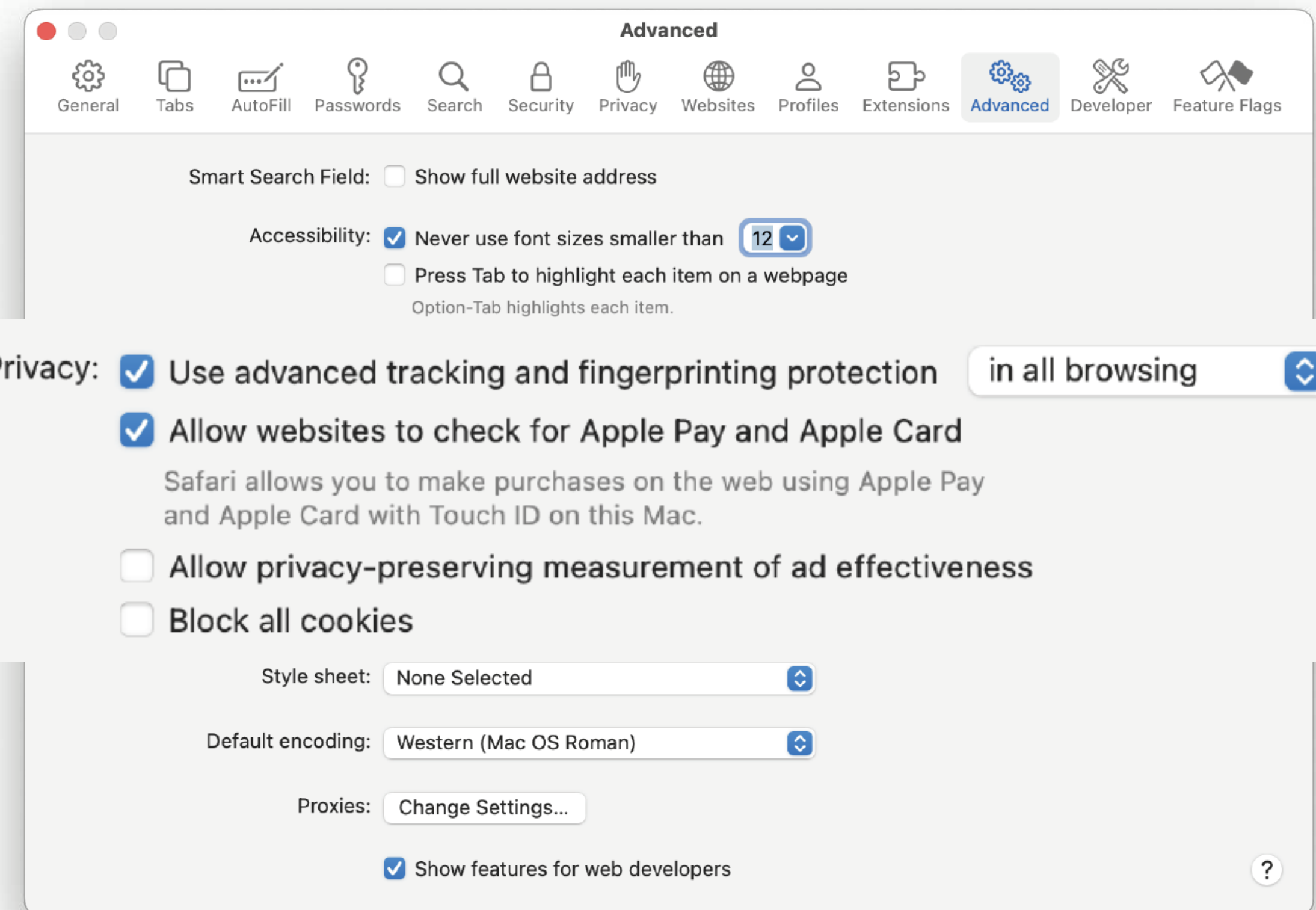
Previously in macOS, you could type a word or phrase in the search field of Apple's Messages app and it would return matching results, but there was no way to filter messages to more easily find what you were looking for.

That's changed in macOS Sonoma, and now you can combine multiple filters. If you're looking for images from a certain person, for example, you can type in "photos" and then the person's name, clicking each search filter to narrow down your search results.

## Remove All URL Tracking

Safari can remove tracking parameters from URLs in order to prevent cross-website tracking. When a tracking parameter is detected while browsing or copying a link, Safari strips the identifying components of the URL, while leaving the rest intact. The links still work as expected, but no longer have unique identifiers.

To enable the feature for all browsing, open Safari -> Settings..., click the Advanced tab, make sure the box is checked next to Use advanced tracking and fingerprint protection, then choose "in all browsing" in the dropdown.

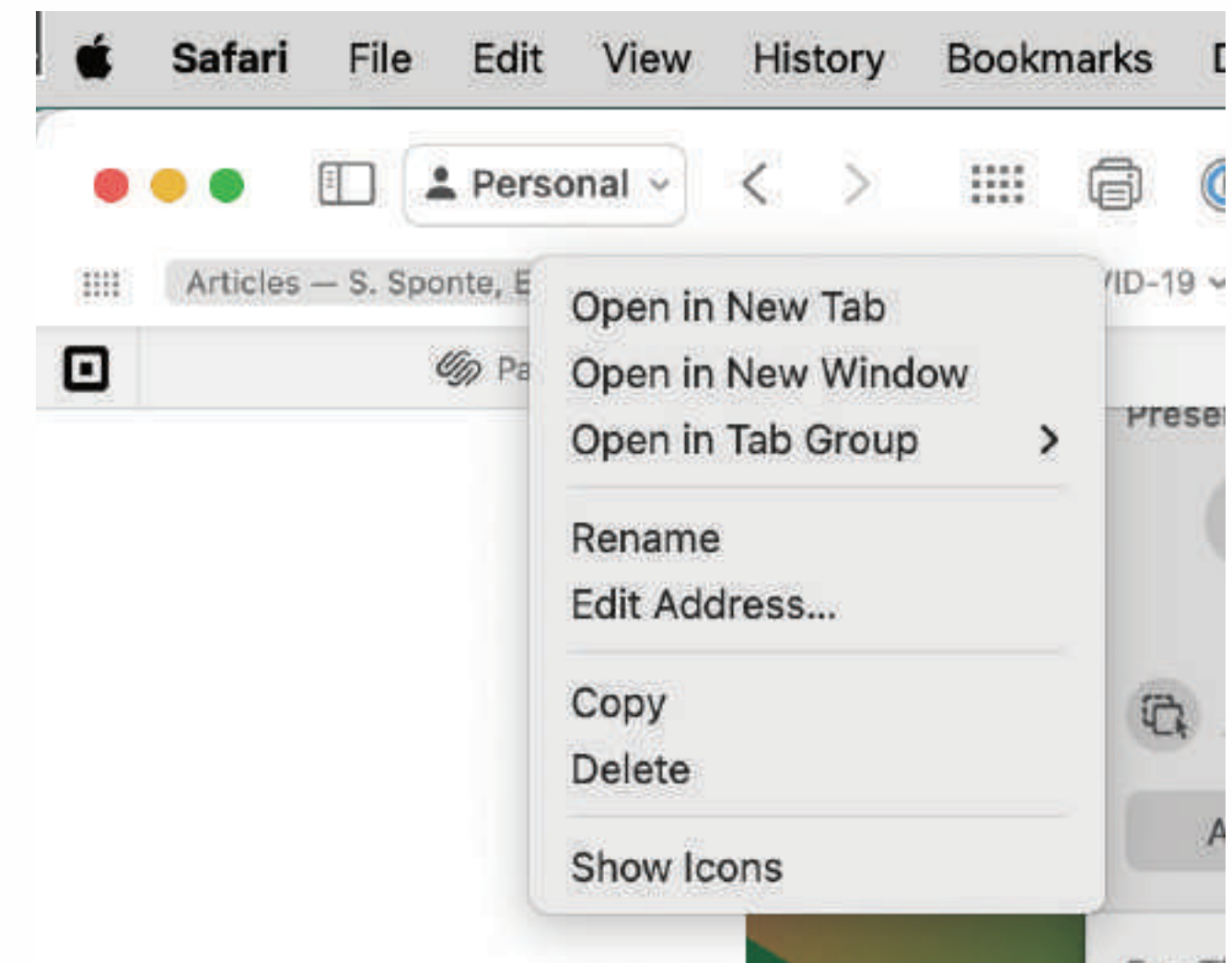


## Safari Favicons

In Safari 17, if you have the Favorites Bar enabled (View -> Show Favorites Bar in Safari's menu bar) the favicon for each site will appear beside its title, allowing you to more easily spot it in the bar.

Favicons can certainly be handy, but they can make your browser interface look too busy and cluttered. Another possible issue with the space they take up is that if you have a full row of websites in your Favorites Bar, some of them will be lopped off the viewable area, and you may have to click the double chevron icon at the far right to reveal them.

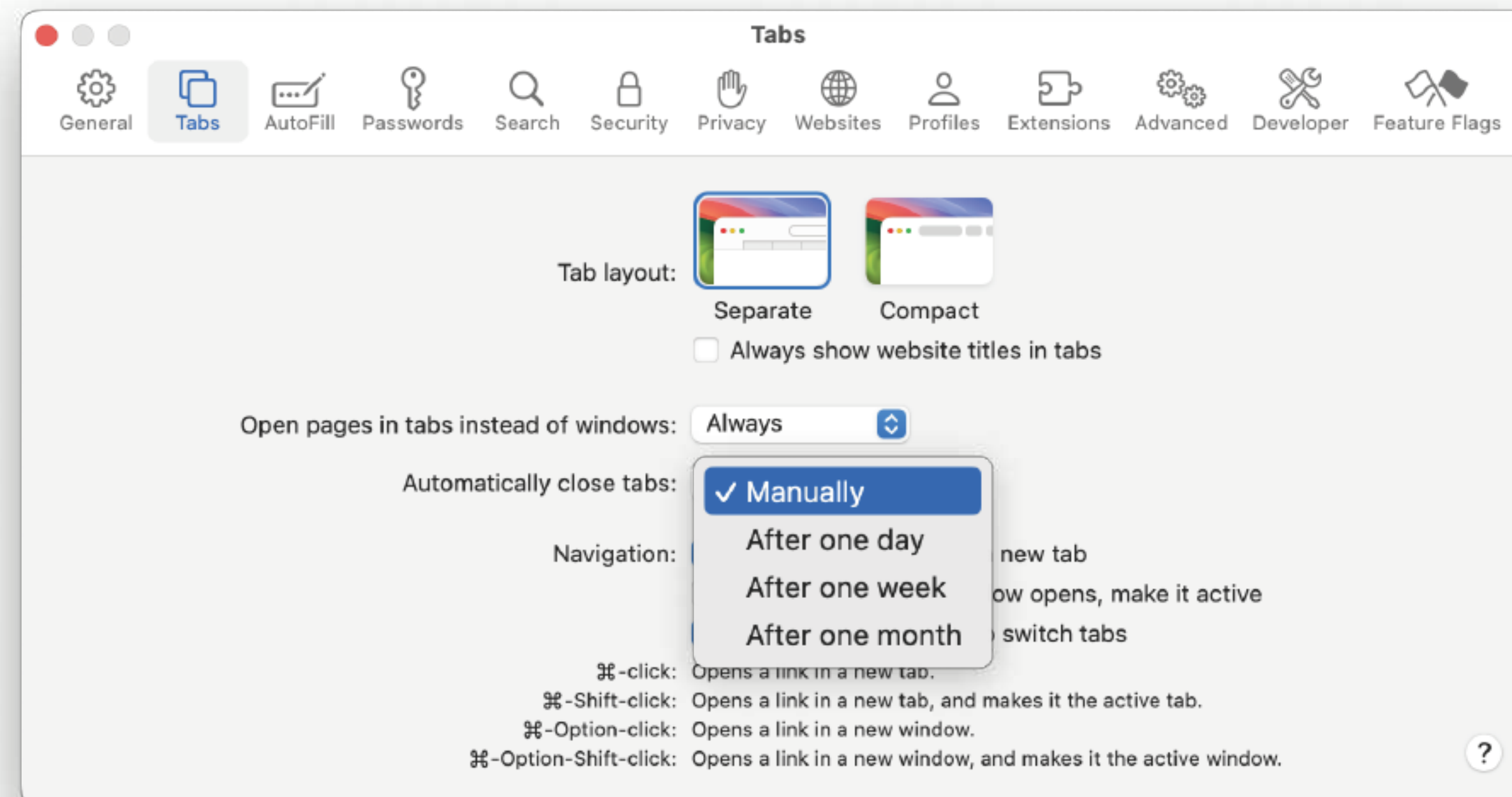
If this happens in your case, don't worry. It's not obvious, but you can easily prevent favicons from appearing in the Favorites Bar. Simply right-click anywhere on the bar and uncheck Show Icons in the pop-up menu.



## Automatically Close Safari Tabs

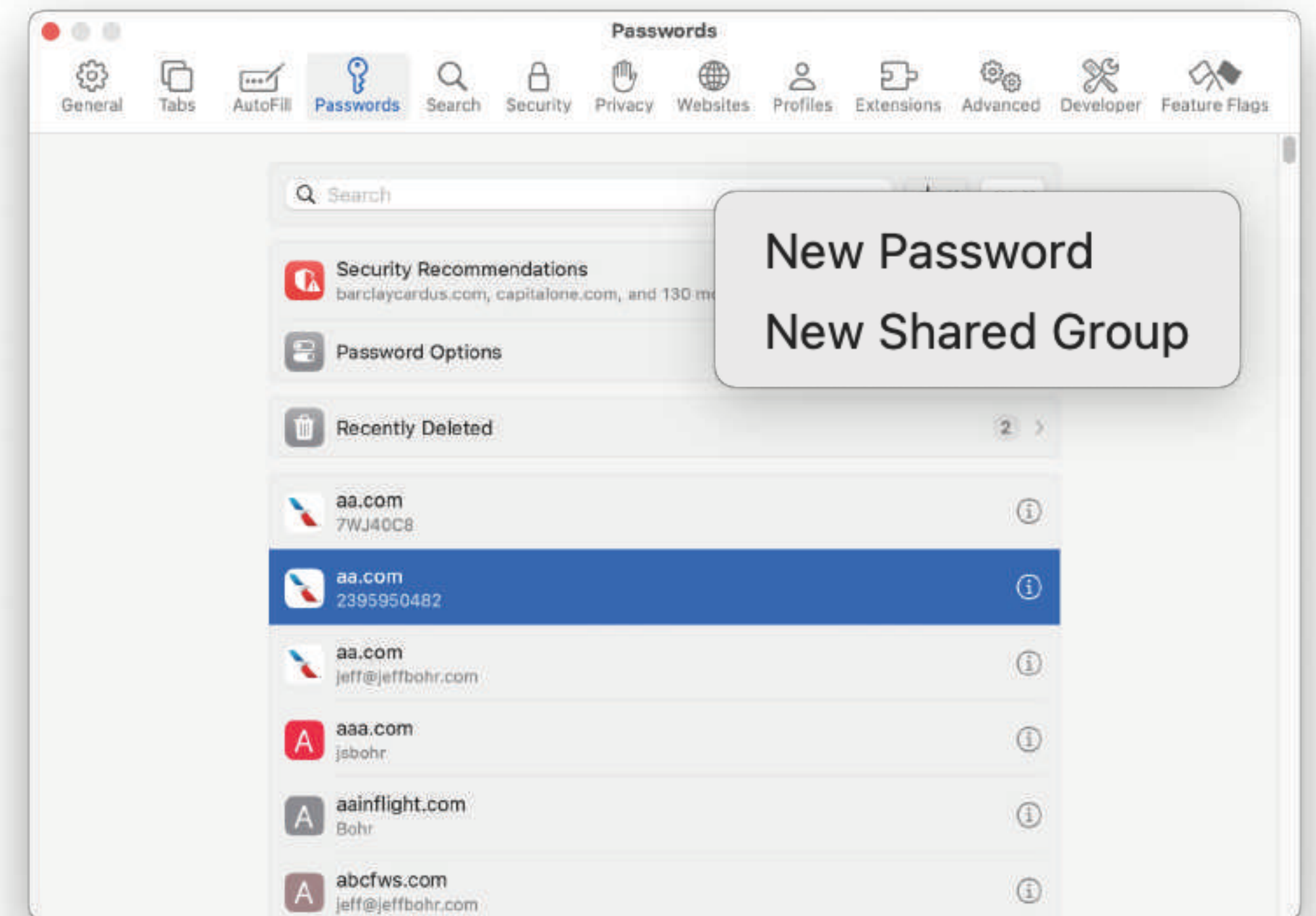
macOS can now close Safari's browser tabs on your behalf, based on when you last viewed them. Select Safari -> Settings... in the menu bar, then click the Tabs section.

Next to "Automatically close tabs" you'll find options to make the browser auto-close tabs that have not been viewed After One Day, After One Week, or After One Month.



## Share Passwords With Family

- Staying in Safari Settings, the Passwords menu now has a Share Passwords with Family option. This allows you to create a group of trusted contacts that you can share passwords and passkeys with across devices. (Passkeys let users sign in to apps and sites the same way they unlock their devices: With a fingerprint, a face scan, or a screen lock PIN.)
- Using the new feature, passwords and passkeys for shared media accounts, utilities, bills, and more can be provided to multiple people, and each person in the group can access, add to, and change passwords that are shared.

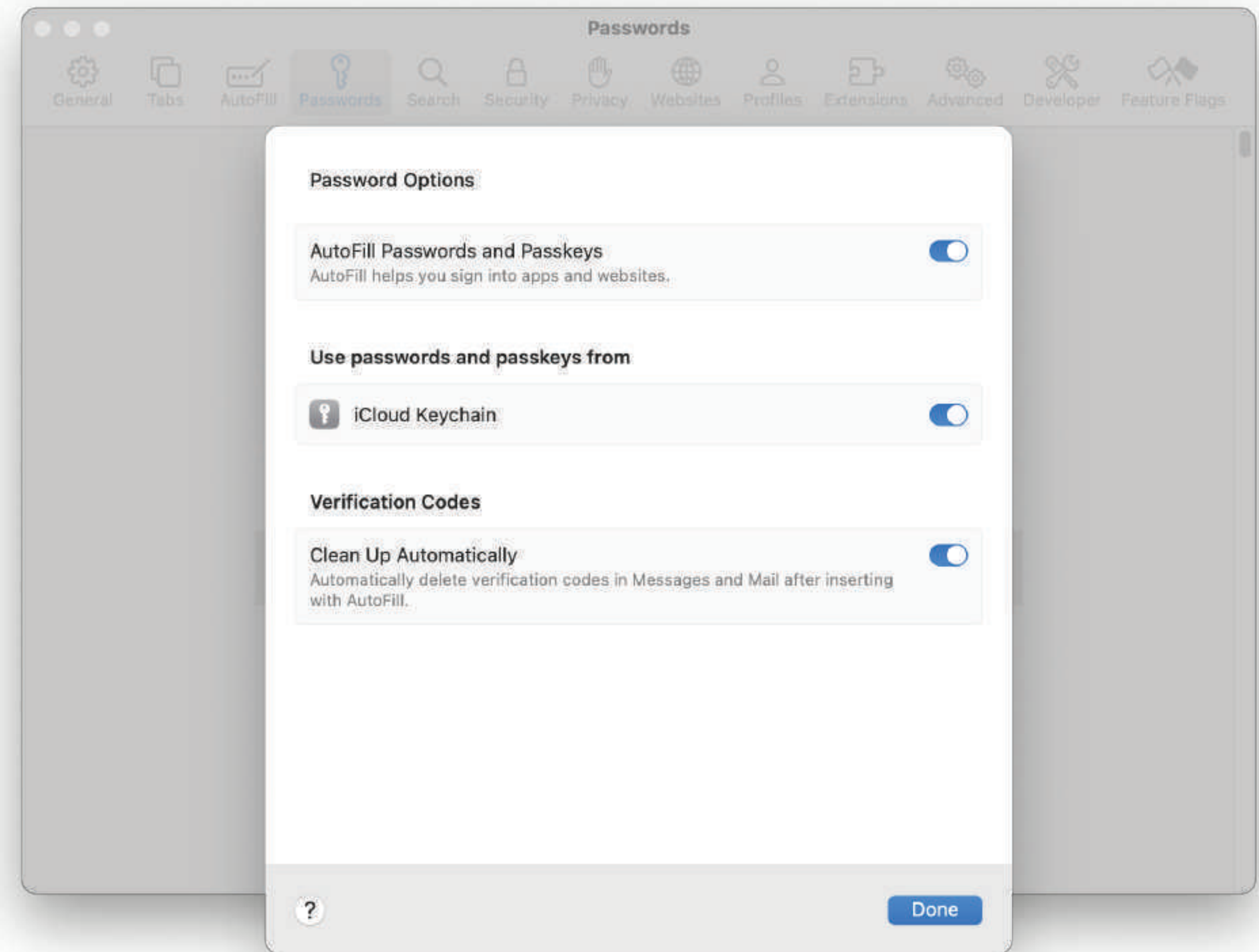




## Clean Up Verification Codes

These days, many websites and services use one-time passcodes sent via SMS or over email for verification purposes, but these one-time codes can soon clog up your Mail inbox and Messages app.

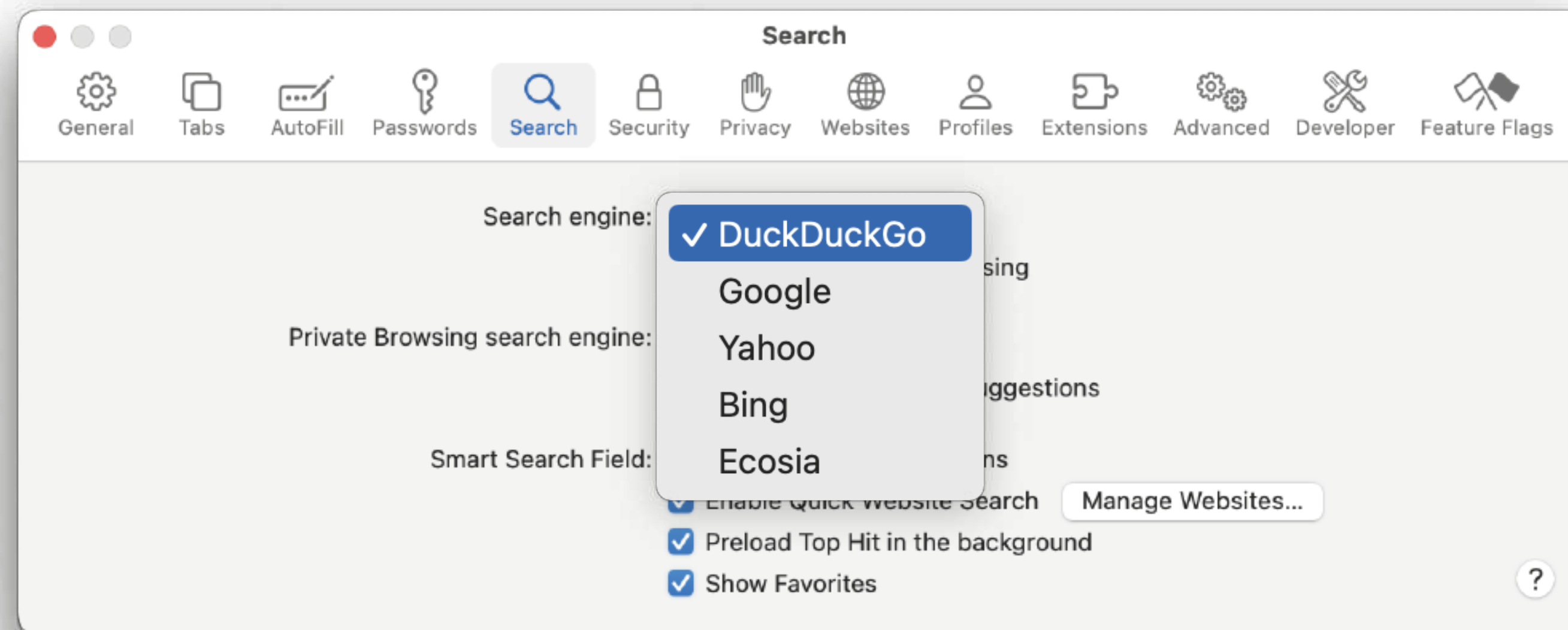
In macOS Sonoma, there's a new option to have those messages auto-delete after the code is autofilled and used to authenticate a login. Go to Safari -> Settings... and click the Password option menu. Toggle on "Clean Up Automatically."



## Set Private Browsing Search Engine

In Safari, you can set different search engines for normal and Private Browsing modes. For example, you may want to set Google as the default search engine in regular browsing mode and a different search engine such as DuckDuckGo in Private Browsing mode for privacy reasons.

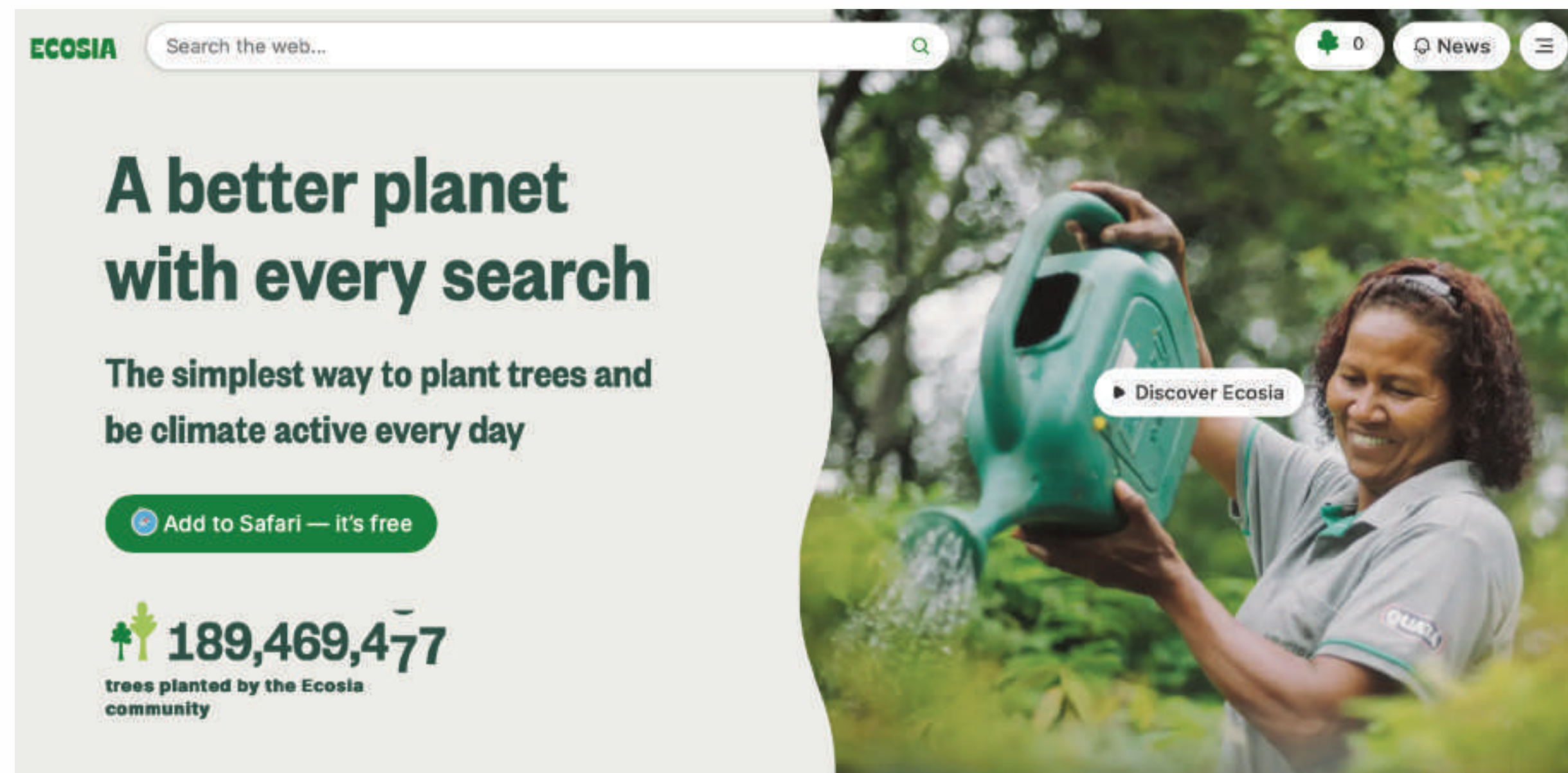
Go to Safari -> Settings..., click the Search section, then select a browser from the Private Browsing search engine dropdown.



# macOS Sonoma

## Set Private Browsing Search Engine

What is Ecosia? Ecosia uses the ad revenue from your searches to plant trees where they are needed the most. By searching with Ecosia, you're not only reforesting our planet, but you're also empowering the communities around our planting projects to build a better future for themselves. Give it a try!



✓ DuckDuckGo

Google

Yahoo

Bing

Ecosia

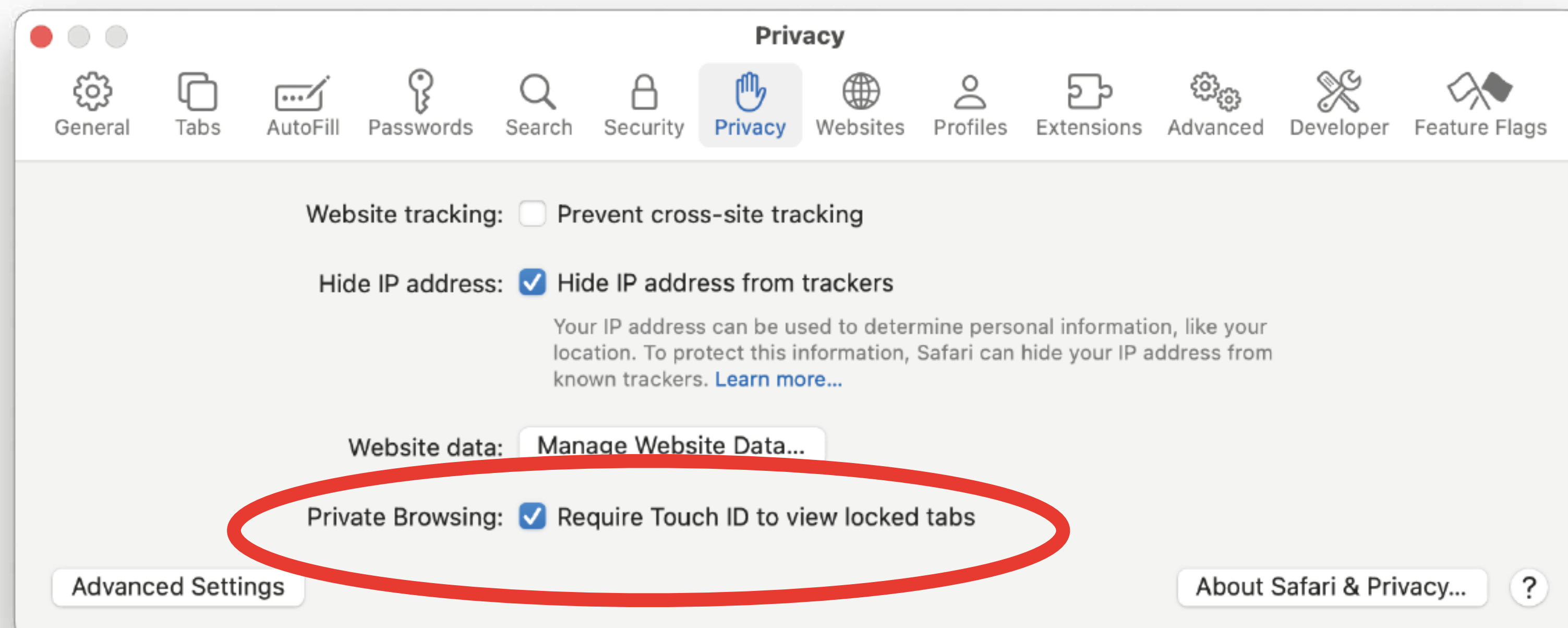
*Ecosia uses the Bing search engine*

# macOS Sonoma

## Private Browsing Authentication

If you have any Private Browsing tabs open in Safari and then leave your computer, Apple's browser now requires Touch ID authentication or your Mac password to access them again.

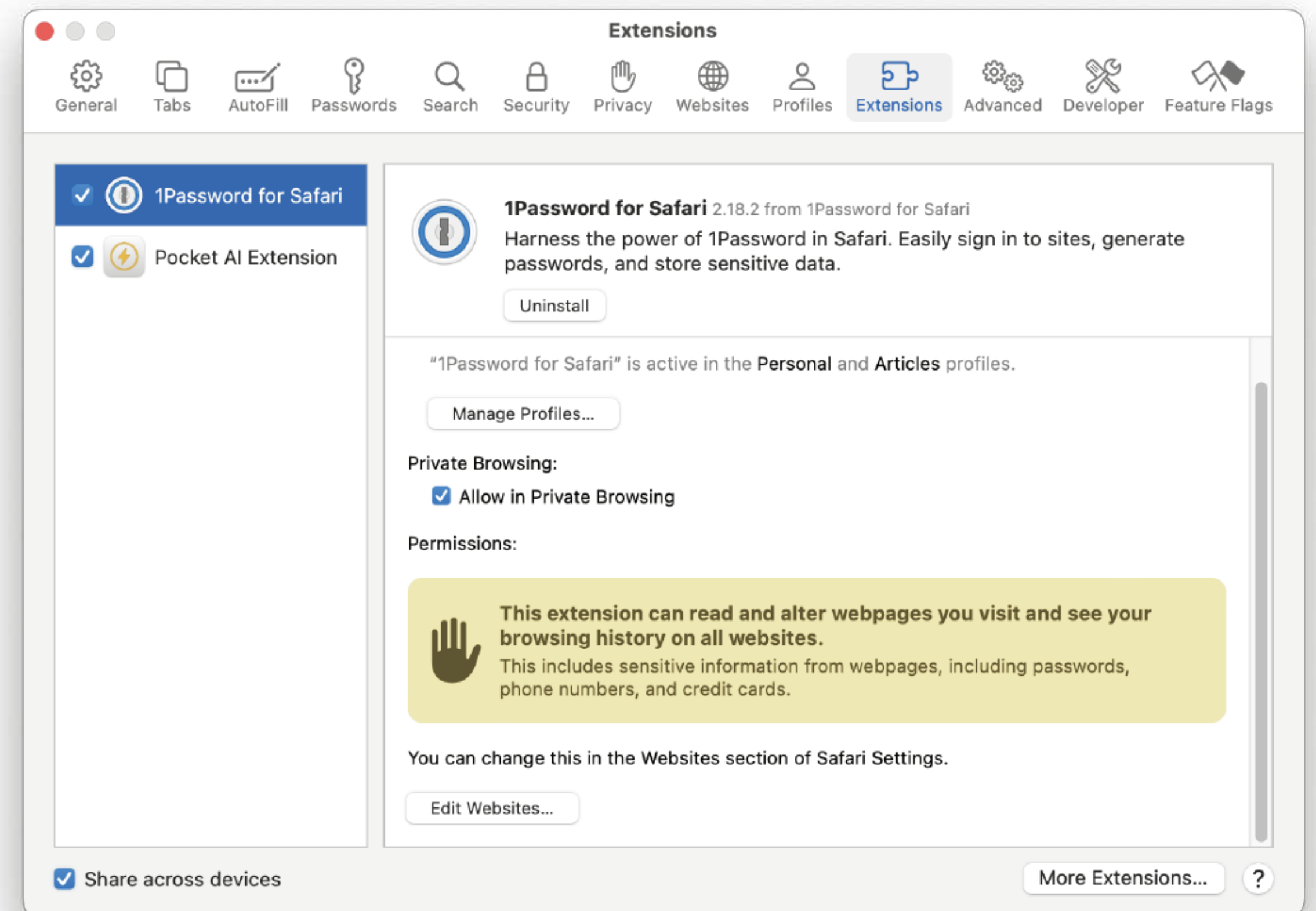
If you don't tend to leave your Mac unlocked or find the authentication requirement annoying, you can turn it off pretty easily: Go to Safari -> Settings..., click the Privacy section, then uncheck the box next to Require Touch ID to view locked tabs



## Per-Website App Extension Settings

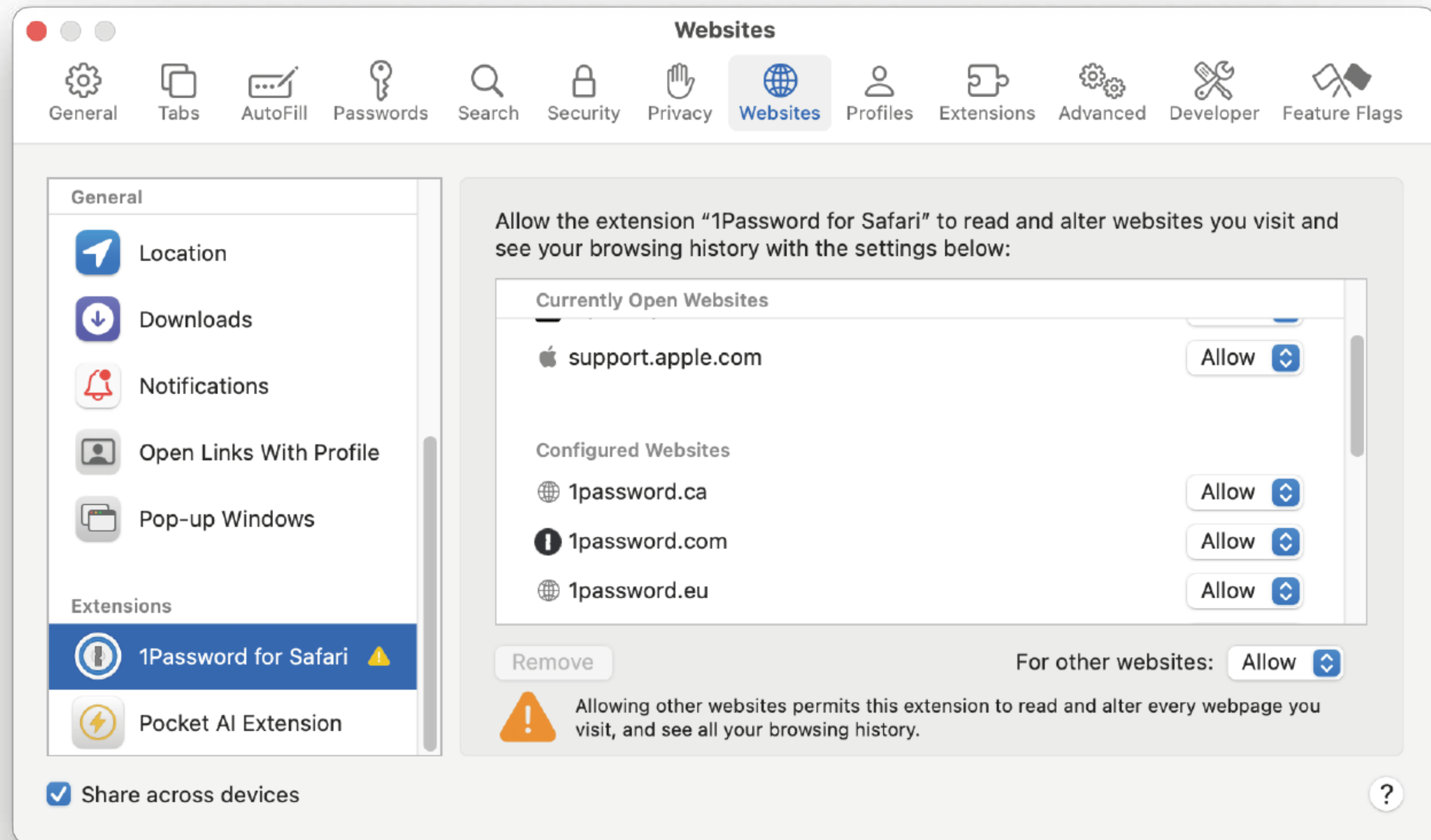
In Safari, third-party app extensions have gained per-website privacy settings where relevant, allowing you to control access for all extensions with access to user data.

You can find the "Edit websites..." for each app extension in the Extensions section of Safari's Settings window.



# macOS Sonoma

## Per-Website App Extension Settings



## Disable Pointer Acceleration

Gamers rejoice – you can now disable pointer acceleration in macOS Sonoma. By default in macOS, the pointer moves more quickly for fast mouse movements and more precisely for slow mouse movements. Previously there was no way to prevent this natively, but that's changed.

Go to System Settings -> Mouse -> Advanced..., then toggle off the switch next to Pointer acceleration.

## Audio Message Improvements

When recording an audio message in Messages, you're now able to pause and then continue recording the same message before sending.

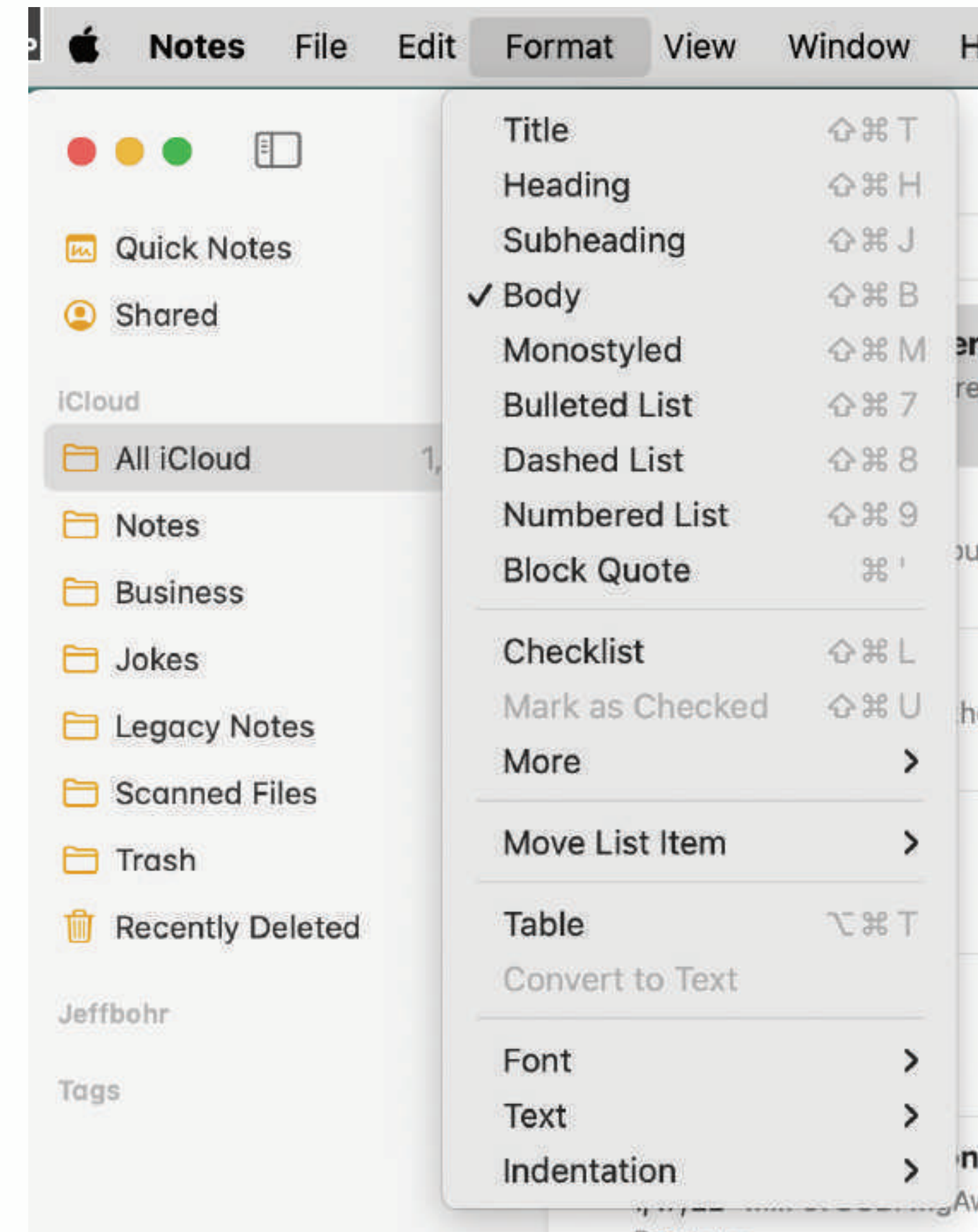
Additionally, when listening to audio messages you received, a long click on the play button lets you opt to play back at up to 2x speed. Received audio messages are automatically transcribed, too.



## Notes Formatting Additions

Block Quote formatting makes it easy to visually offset a section of writing with a quote bar, while Monospaced formatting has been updated to Monostyled, for inset text with a distinct background.

You can find these in the Notes menu bar under Format, or by clicking the text style icon when a note is open.



## Easier Autocorrect Editing

Autocorrection now briefly underlines autocorrected words, and you can right-click an underlined word to reveal and choose the original word that you typed.

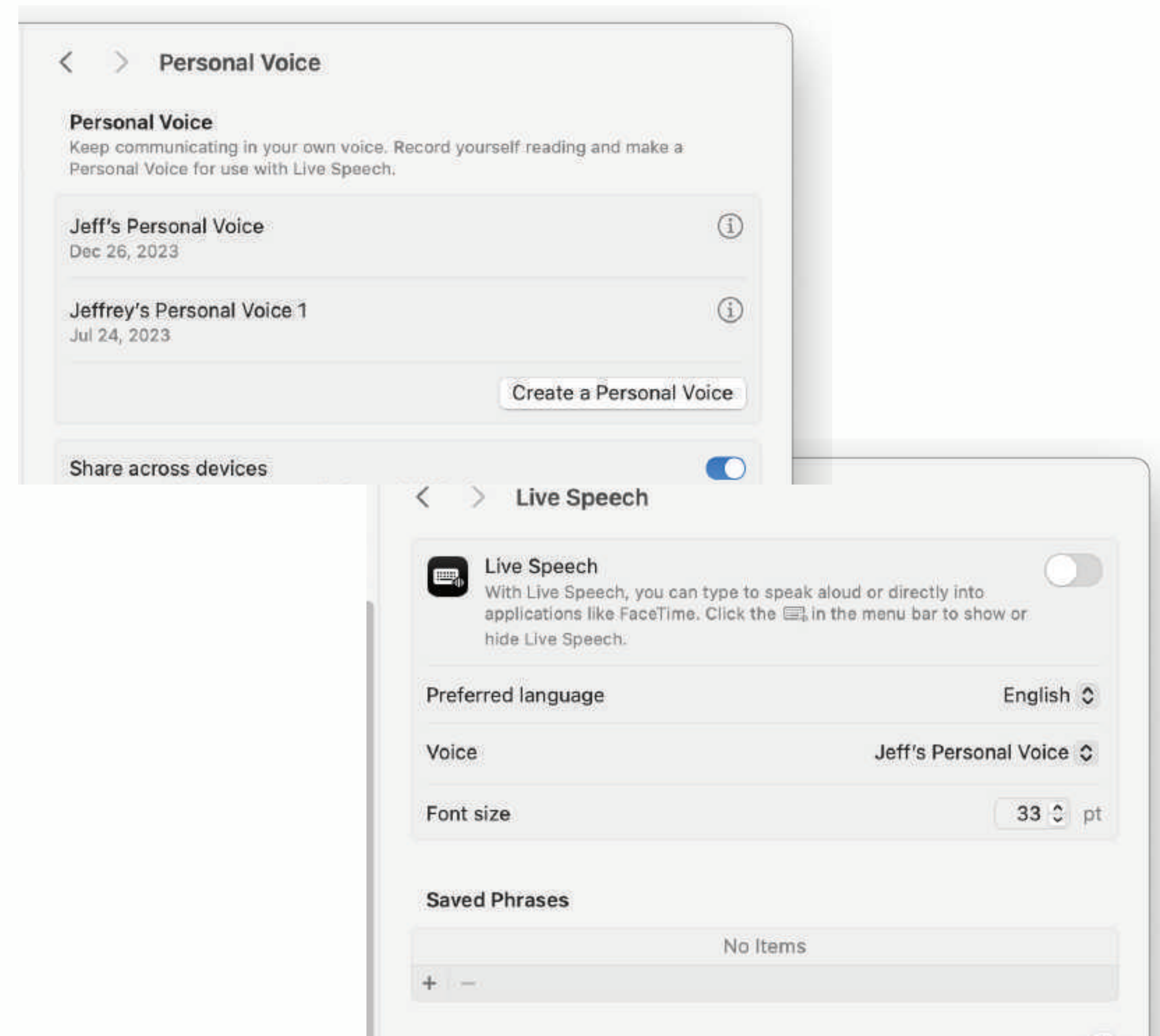
macOS will also learn your typing habits over time for each app, and avoid corrections that you revert. This also applies to explicit language, which will be added to your personal vocabulary list.



## Live Speech

Using the new Live Speech accessibility feature, you can type on your Mac and have your words spoken aloud, or directly into apps like FaceTime audio. Live Speech can be set up in macOS Sonoma by going to Settings -> Accessibility -> Live Speech, where you can choose a voice to use, and save commonly used phrases.

Alternatively, you can record yourself reading and make a Personal Voice for use with Live Speech. Go to System Settings -> Accessibility -> Personal Voice, then tap Create a Personal Voice.



# macOS Sonoma

## Game Mode



## Activate Game Mode

Game Mode gives games the highest priority access to your CPU and GPU, lowering usage for background tasks. It turns on automatically when you fullscreen any game via the green button in the top-left corner of the game's window. When you enter full screen in this way, a Game Mode menu appears in the menu bar. You can use this menu to confirm that Game Mode is turned on for your game.

Game Mode also turns off automatically when you stop viewing your game in full screen. You can also turn it off while your game is still in full screen mode: From the Game Mode menu in the menu bar, choose Turn Game Mode Off

## Copy iCloud Link

You can now share photos and videos stored in iCloud Photos by generating an iCloud link.

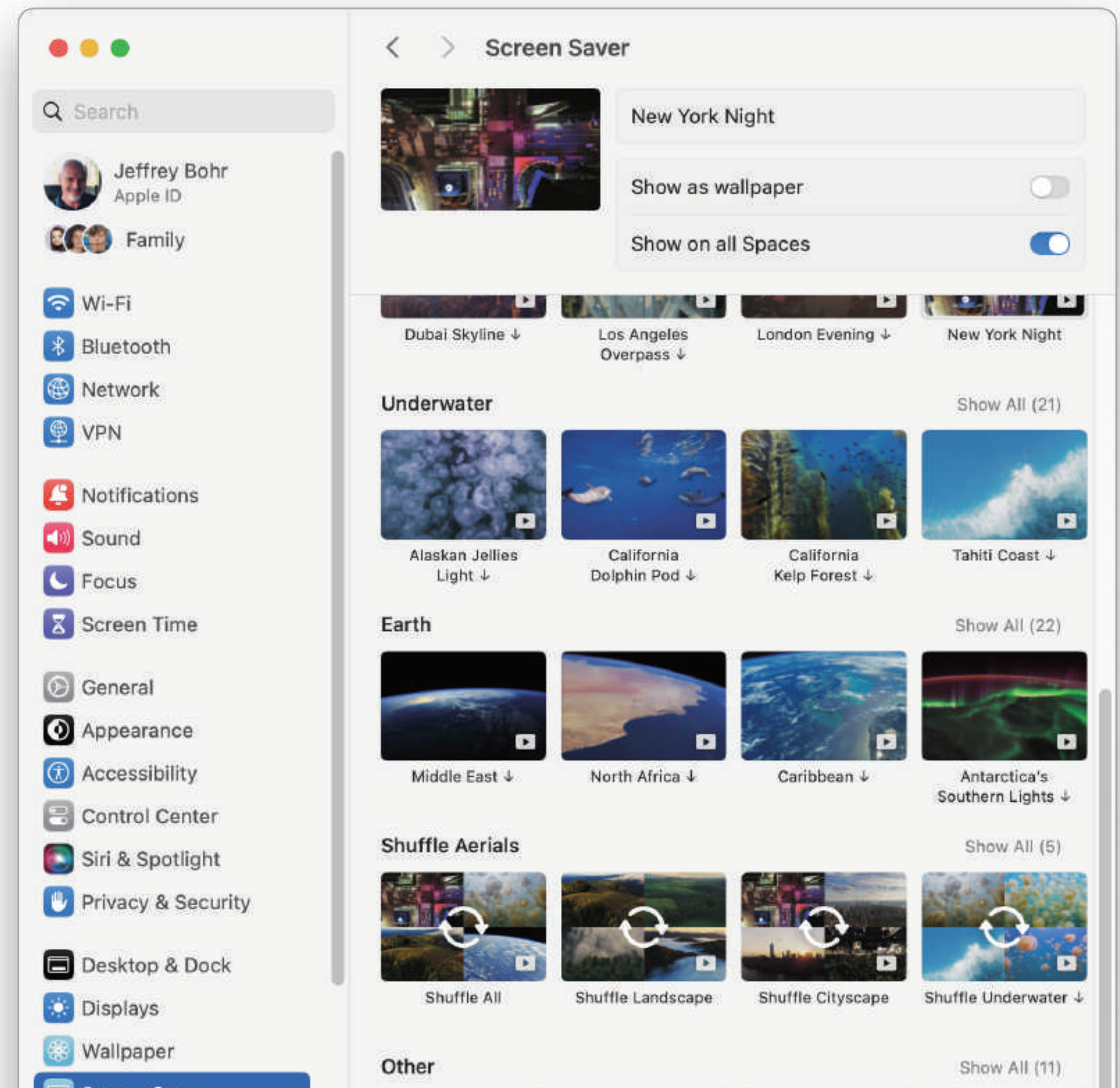
Simply select a photo or drag a selection box over several photos, click the Share button, then select Copy iCloud Link, and it will be copied to your clipboard ready for pasting in an email or message.



## Wallpaper to Screen Saver

Sonoma brings all the Apple TV screensavers to your Mac - they download on demand to save on storage, and they look great. The way to get the best out of them though, is to use the same video for your wallpaper and screensaver. You can do this using the Show as screen saver / wallpaper toggle in System Settings -> Wallpaper, and Screen Saver.

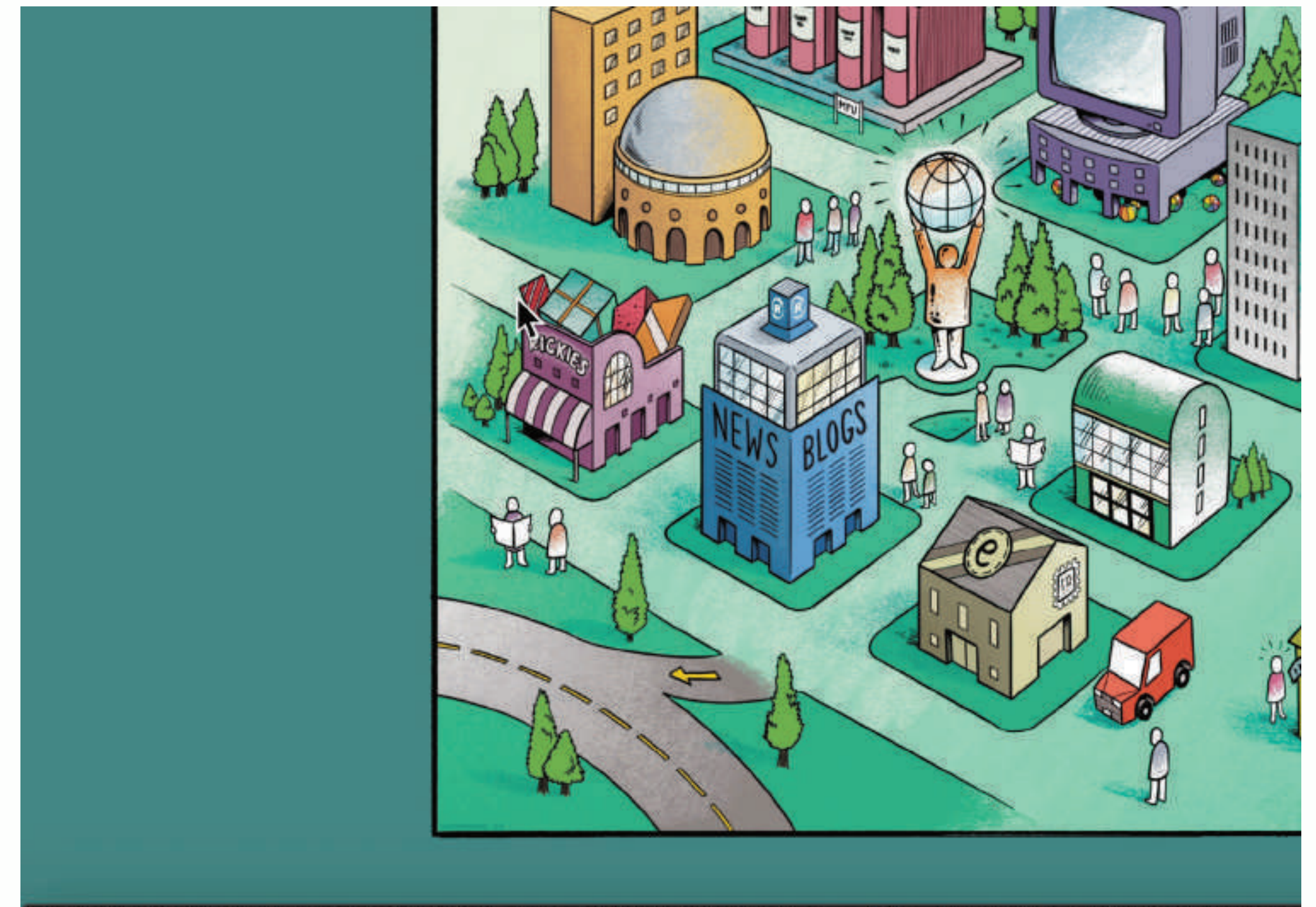
With the toggle enabled, your icons and app windows fade out and the desktop wallpaper starts to move when the screen saver comes on.



## System Settings in Spotlight

Sonoma lets you toggle system settings like Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, Dark Mode, Focus Modes, and more directly in Spotlight search.

You can still access these settings in Control Center and the System Settings app, but some users will find this method a little quicker. It's the same small yet welcome quality of life improvement that users have seen in iOS 17 on iPhone.





# macOS Sonoma

## iCloud Passwords Extension

Apple's iCloud password manager can now be used in Chrome for Mac, Microsoft Edge, and other Chromium-based browsers, thanks to an updated iCloud Passwords extension that works in macOS Sonoma.

In other words, you don't need to open Safari or migrate your iCloud passwords to another password manager. The Chrome extension can also AutoFill passwords and one-time codes, save new passwords, and lets you right-click QR codes to set up code generators

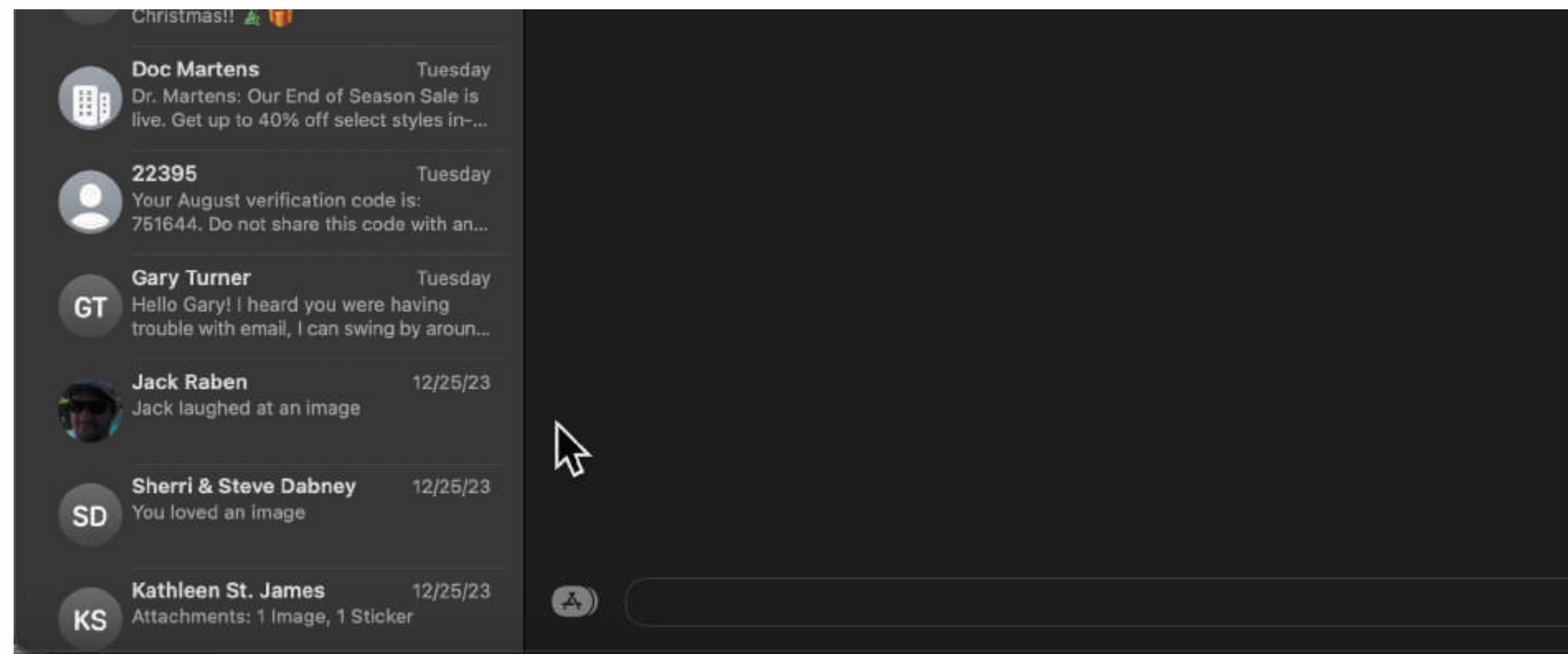


The screenshot shows a notification bar at the top with an information icon, the text "Switch to Chrome to install extensions and themes", and a blue "Install Chrome" button. Below this is the extension card for "iCloud Passwords", which includes a key icon, the extension name, a "2.1 ★ (1.1K ratings)" rating, a "Workflow & Planning" category tag, and "1,000,000 users". A grey "Add to Chrome" button is located to the right of the extension name.

*I don't use Chrome, but here is the installation page*

## More with Messages

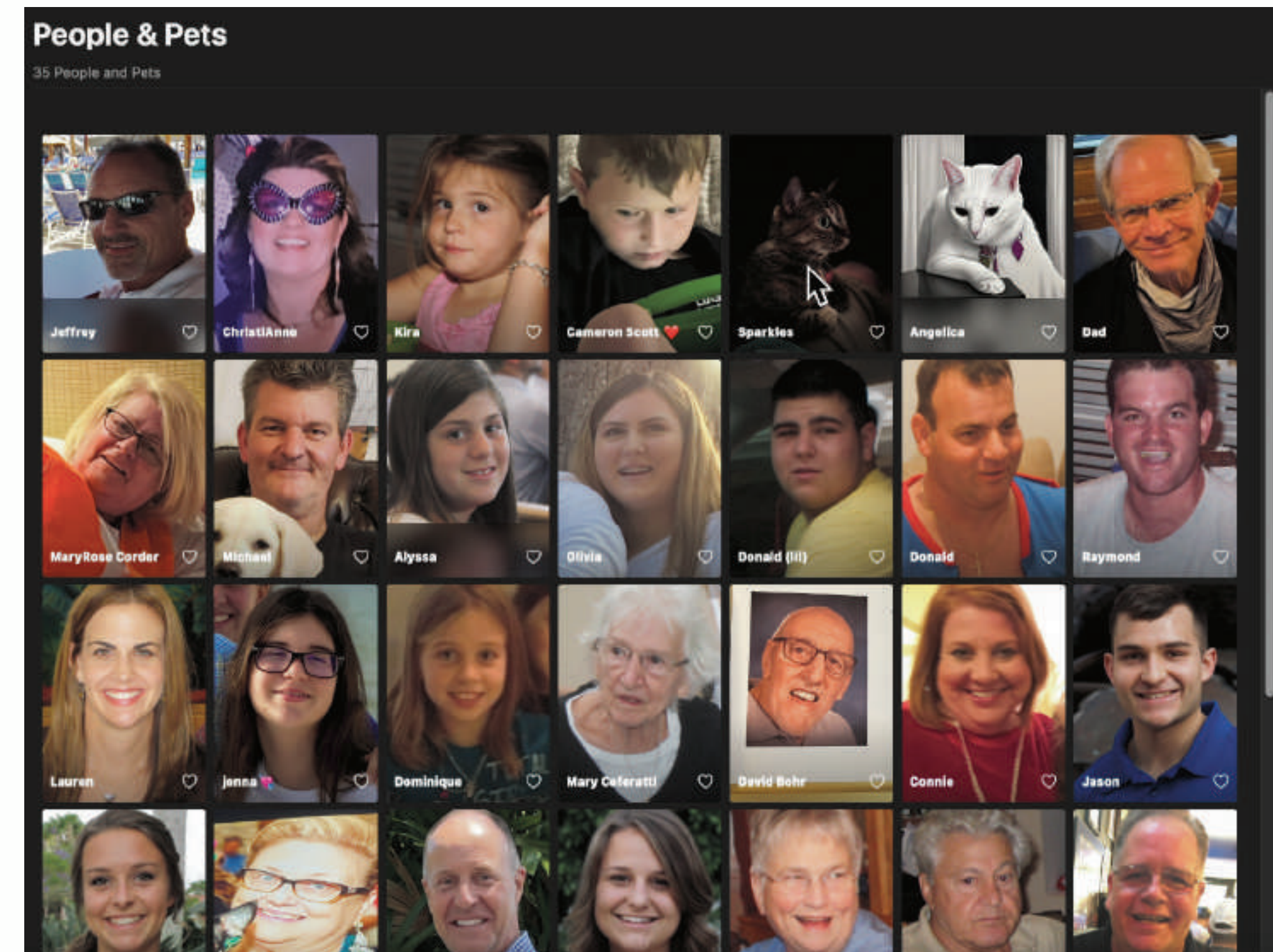
Improvements have also been made to search within Messages. Whenever you search for something, results are now divided into categories like people, keywords, photos, and links, making them easier to find. There's also a one-time passcode cleanup feature that automatically deletes one-time passcodes through Autofill—which helps clean up your list of conversations. The company is also making a big push for Stickers. Any stickers you create with iOS or iPadOS (including Live Stickers made using Live Photos) are now accessible on your Mac too.



## Photos: People & Pets

Regular users of Apple's Photos app will be undoubtedly familiar with the People album, which tries to identify faces in your pictures so that you can label people with their proper names and use that label as an organizing element in your library or as a discoverable tag.

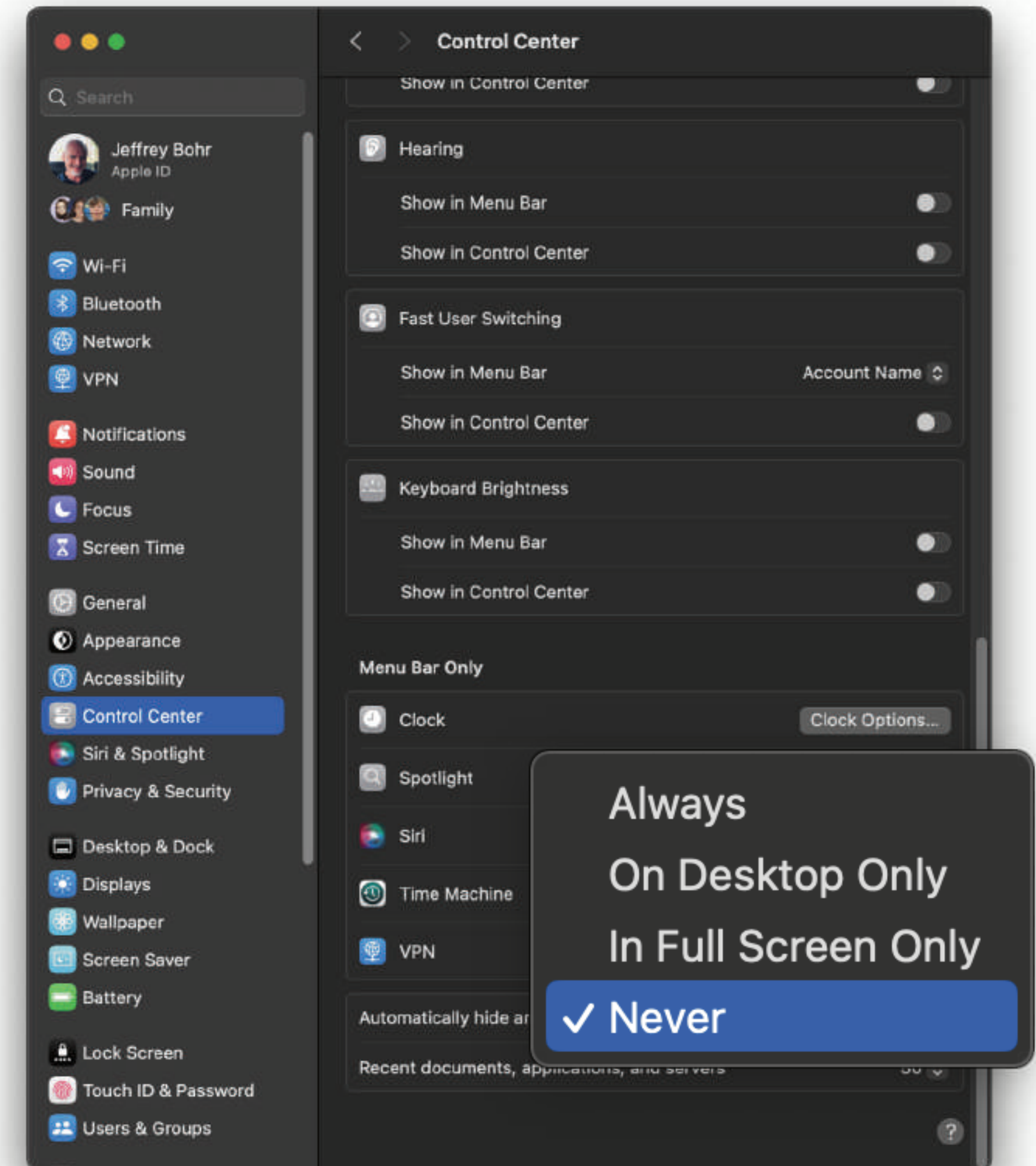
In addition to people, the Photos app in macOS Sonoma can recognize cats and dogs, so you can have your pets automatically sorted into albums. Accordingly, the People album has been renamed the "People & Pets" album. To manually assign your furry friends, type "pets" into the search field in your library, and you can go about identifying any unnamed pets.



## Auto-Hide Menu Bar Options

In System Settings -> Control Center, there are new options to control when the menu bar automatically hides.

Scroll down to the "Menu Bar Only" section and click the dropdown next to Automatically hide and show the menu bar, and you'll be able to choose from Always, On Desktop Only, On Full Screen Only, and Never.



## Weather Units

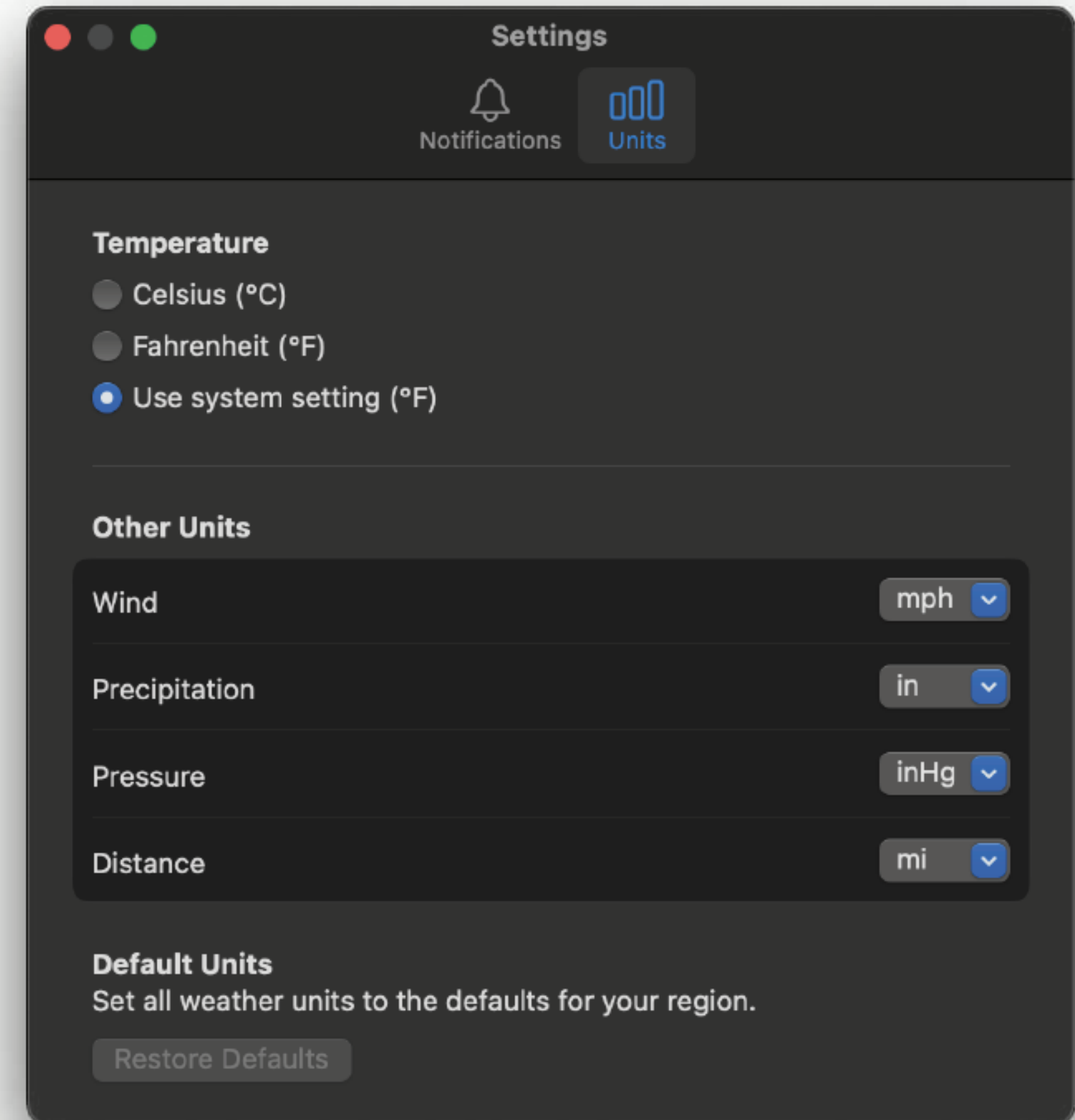
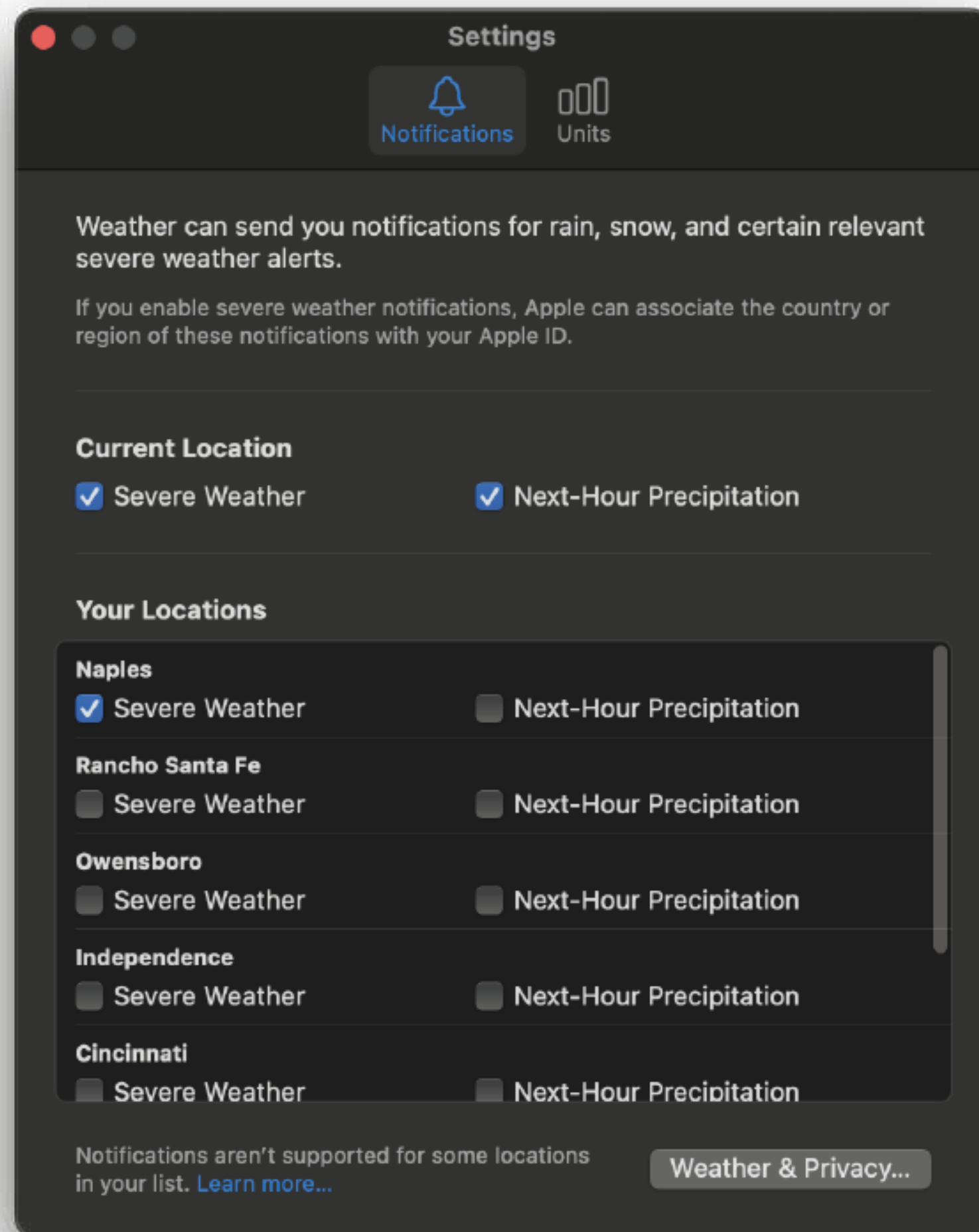
In macOS Sonoma, the Weather app has received an overhaul, and now includes new features like the ability to view the previous day's weather, and a new moon module that tells you the phases of the moon.

In addition to the ability to view temperature in Celsius and Fahrenheit, you can also now change the unit measurements for wind speed, precipitation, pressure, and distance: You can find these options in Weather -> Settings, under the Units section.



# macOS Sonoma

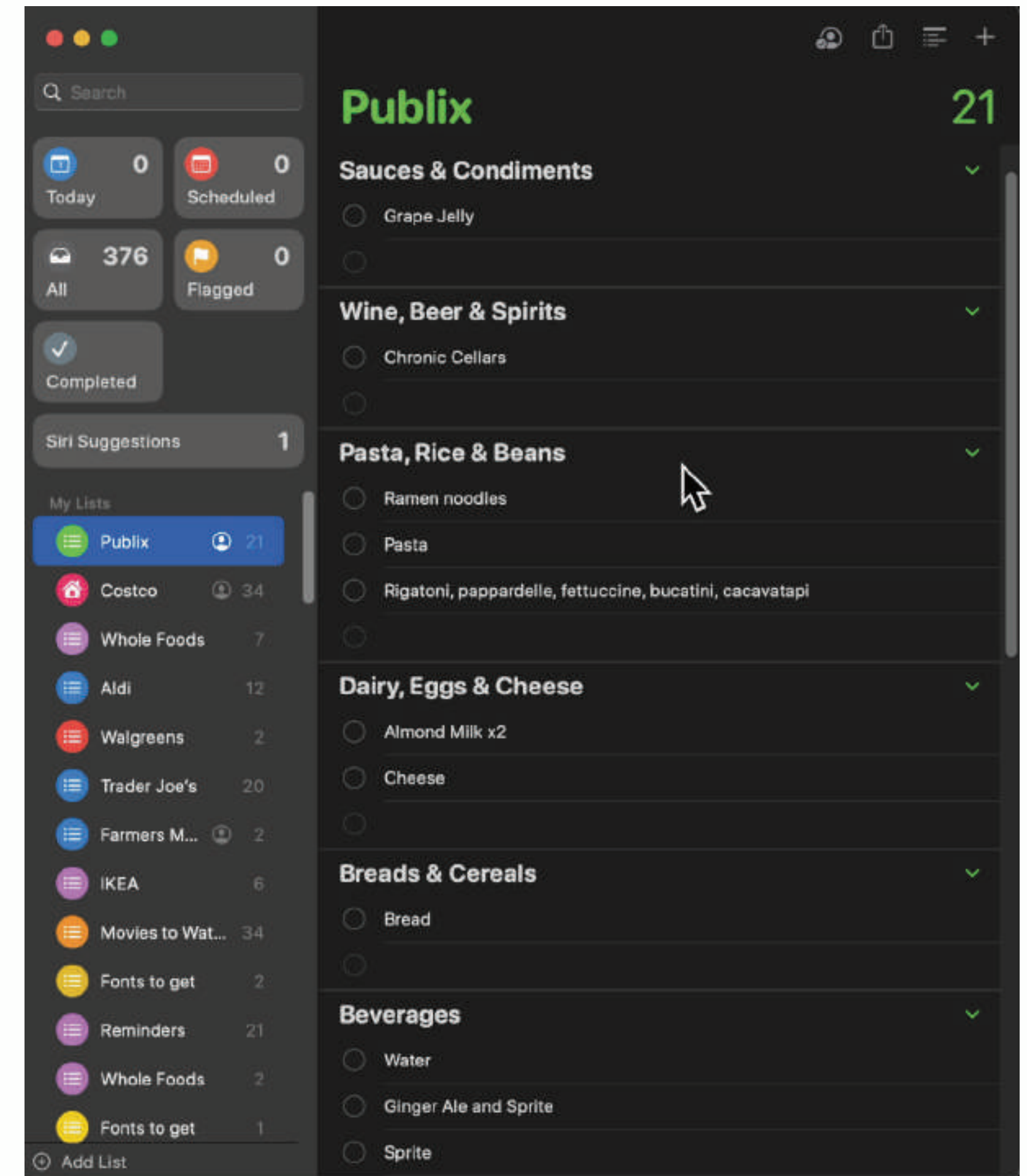
## Weather Settings



## Reminder Grocery Lists

Apple has added a handy little list function to the Reminders app (like in iOS 17) to help you when you're out to pick up some groceries. When you create a list with the new "Groceries" list type (named "Shopping" outside the U.S), you can input various foods and sundries and have them organized automatically by category. The organization makes it easier to find what you need when you're at the grocery store, or out shopping.

The available category types in Reminders include Produce, Breads & Cereals, Frozen Foods, Snacks & Candy, Meat, Dairy, Eggs & Cheese, Bakery, Baking Items, Household Items, Personal Care & Health, and Wine, Beer & Spirits.

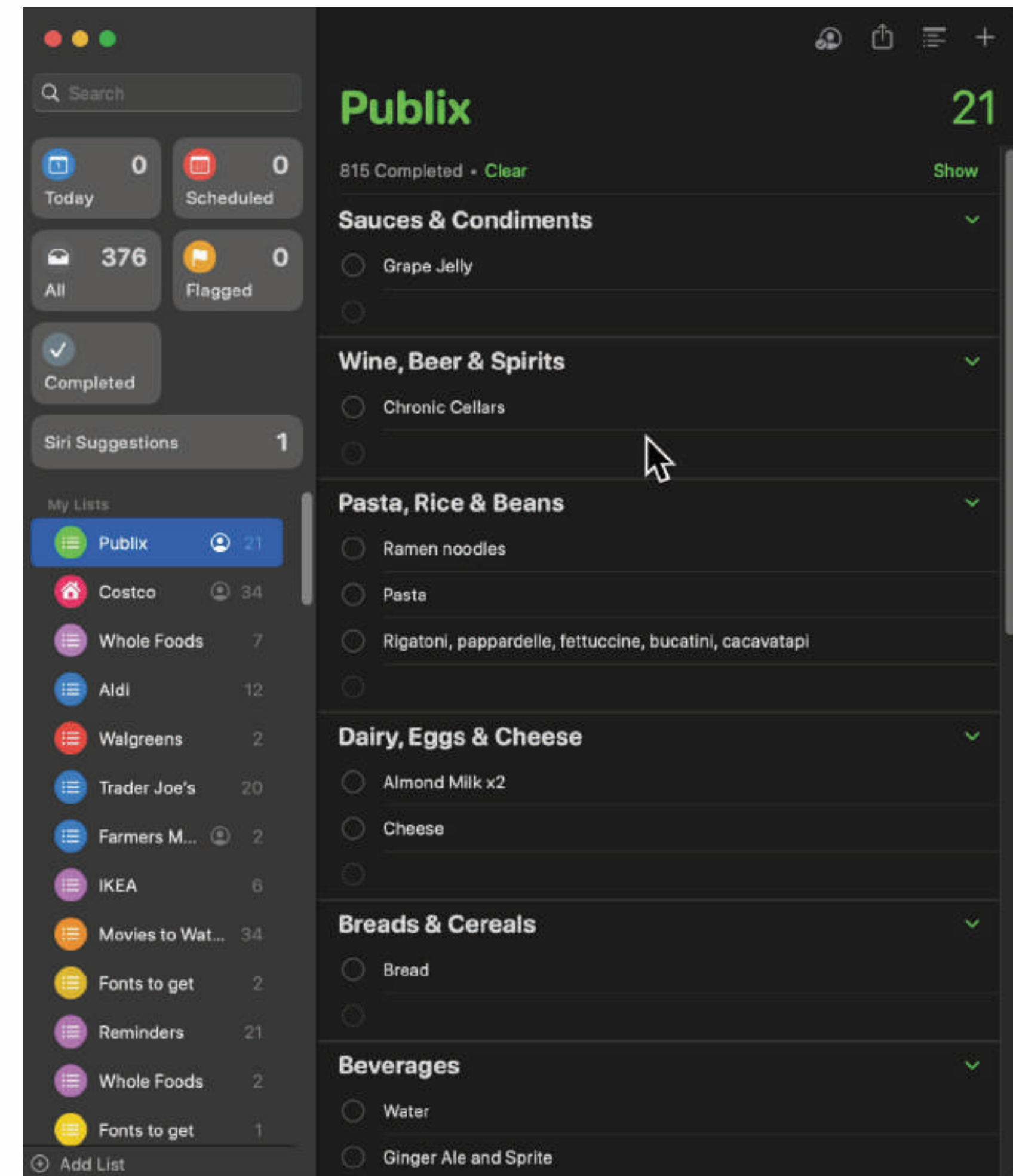


## Reminder List Column View

The Reminders app also features a new scrollable Column view, making it easy to visualize your tasks.

You can find it in the Reminders menu bar, under View -> as Columns.

Each reminder can be set as list or column individually, does not apply to all!

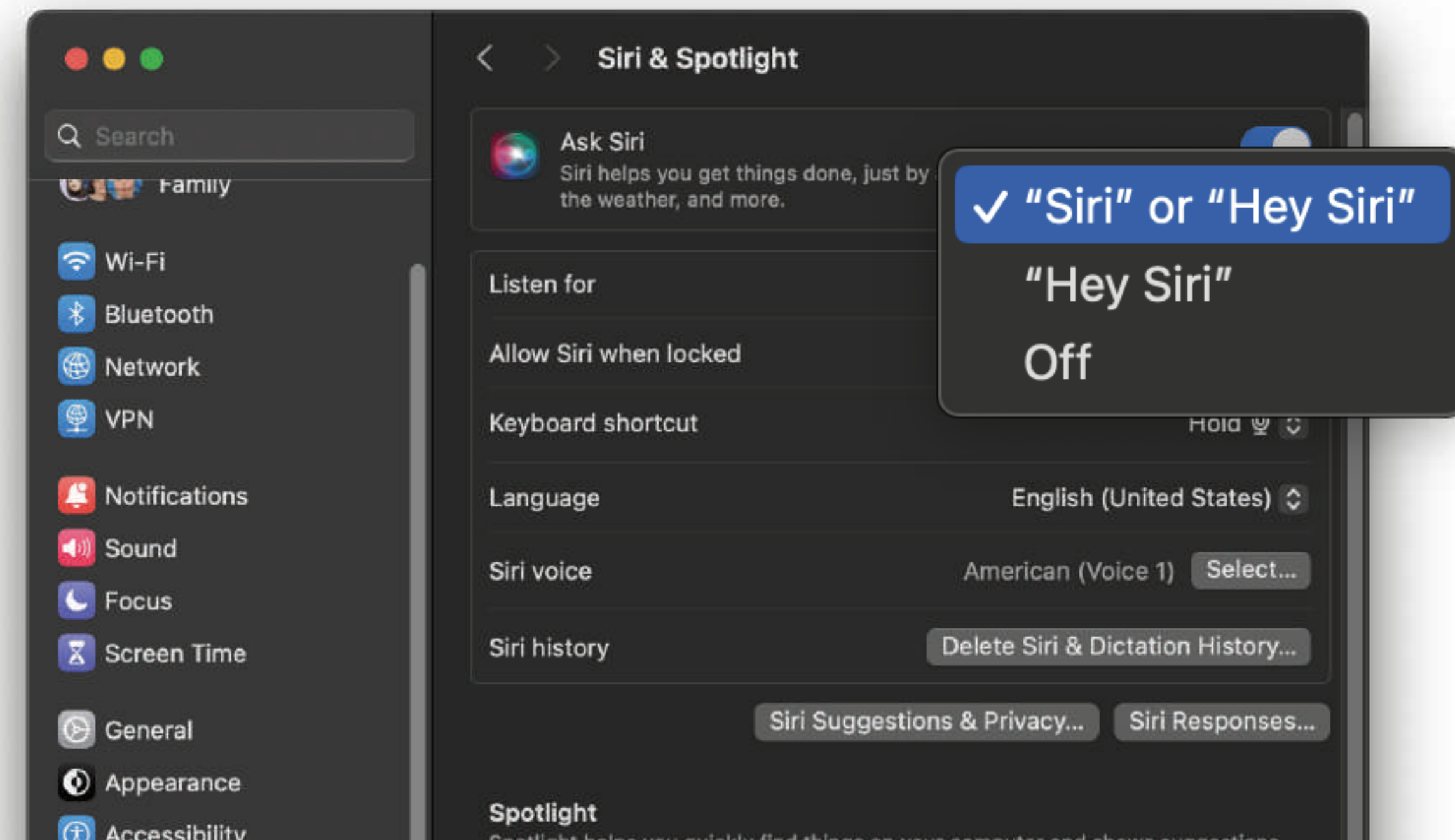




## Hey Siri

In macOS on machines with Apple silicon, you can just say "Siri" to activate Siri, dropping the "Hey" that's been used as a wake word for years. Siri will activate when you say the Siri word, so you can speak more naturally.

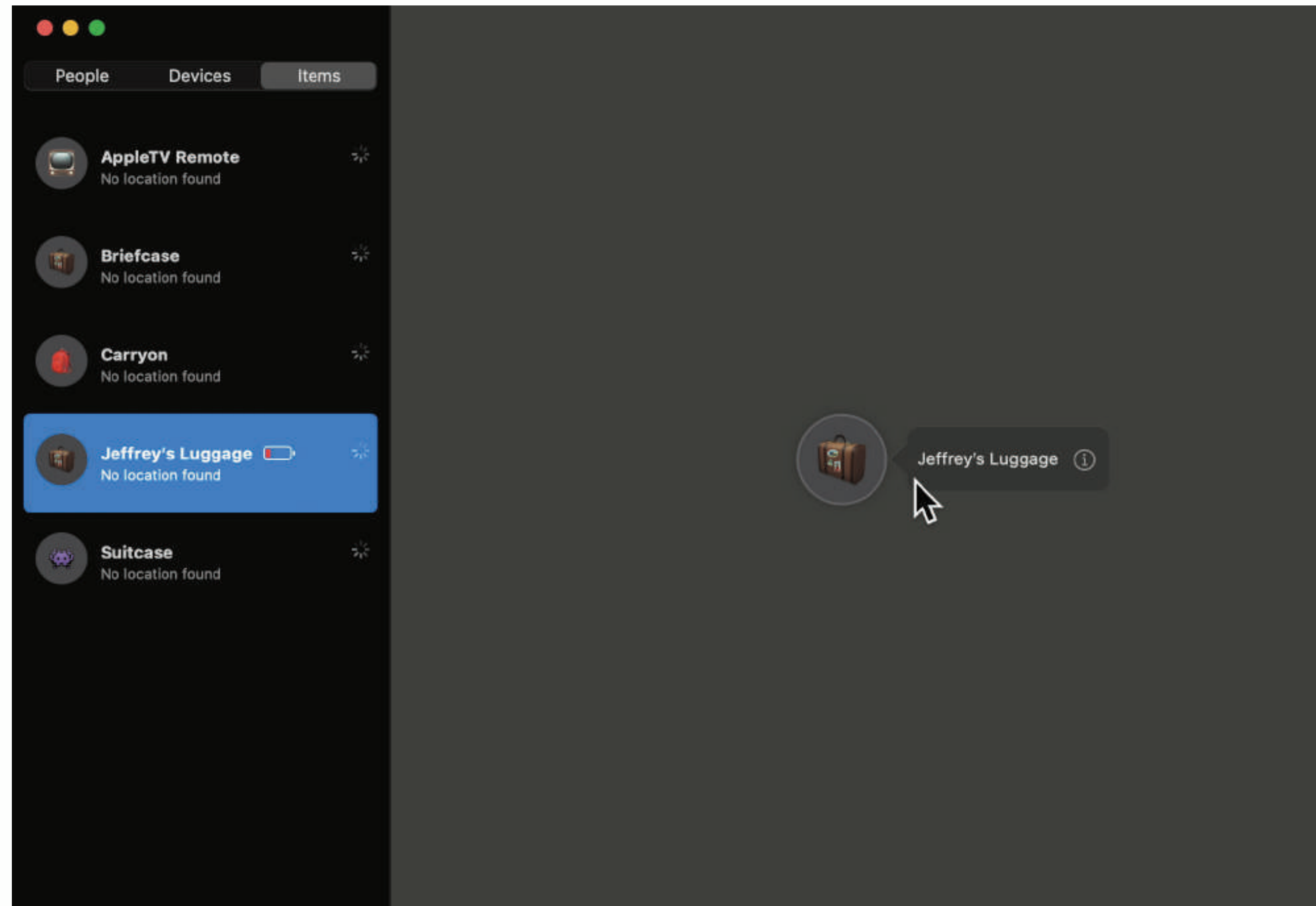
If the change is causing you to unintentionally wake Siri, you can revert it by going to System Settings -> Siri & Spotlight, then select Listen for -> Hey Siri.



## Share an AirTag

The Find My app now includes the ability to share Find My accessories with multiple people. Up to five other people can share an AirTag or Find My network accessory. Simply select the AirTag, then click Add Person under "Share This AirTag" to get started.

Everyone in the sharing group is able to see the item's location, get directions to the item, and play a sound to help pinpoint a shared item's location when nearby.

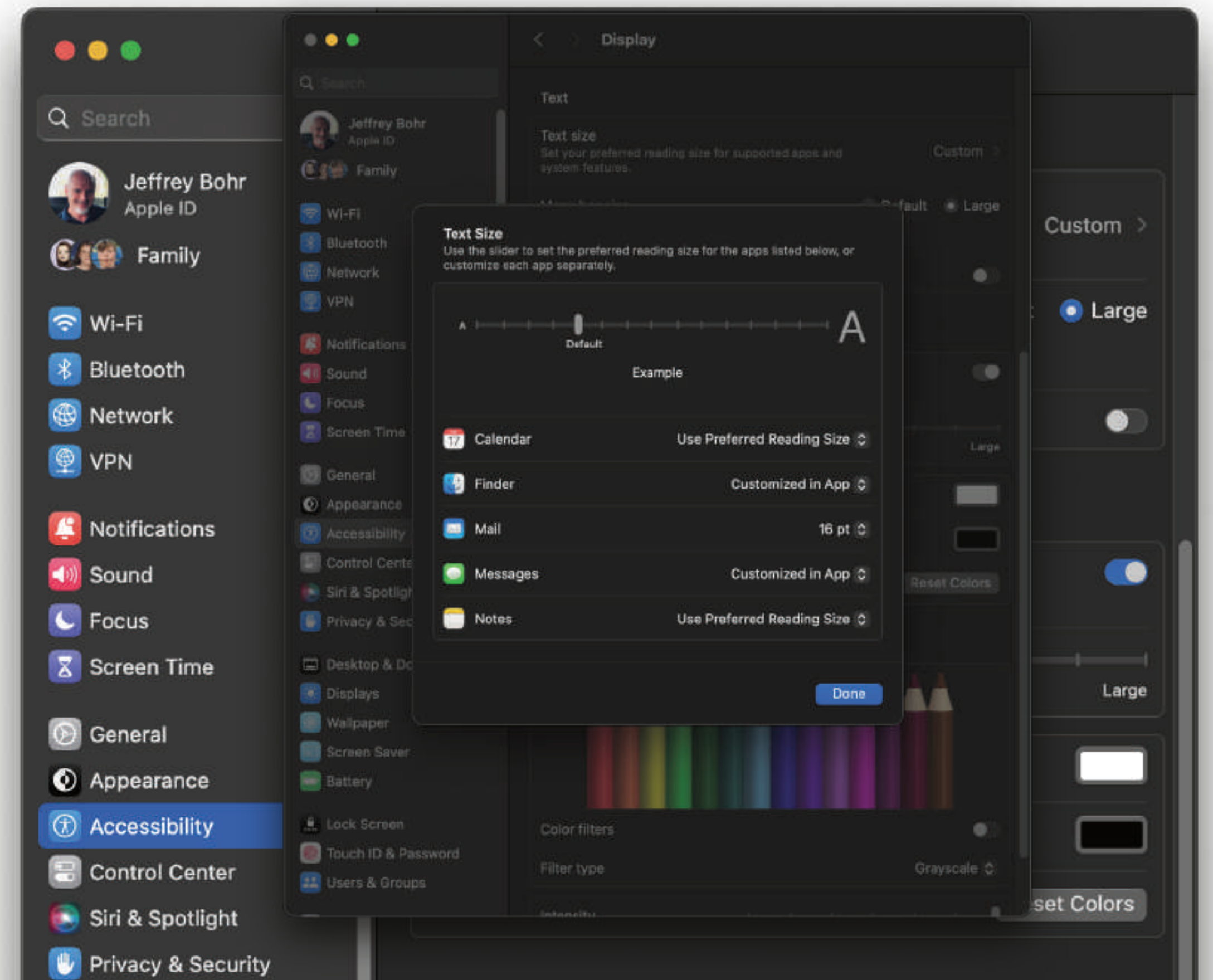


## Customize Text Size Per App

You can now set your preferred text size on a per-app basis, thanks to Sonoma's expanded Accessibility settings.

Go to System Settings -> Accessibility -> Display, then simply choose the app you want to customize text size for and make your point selection.

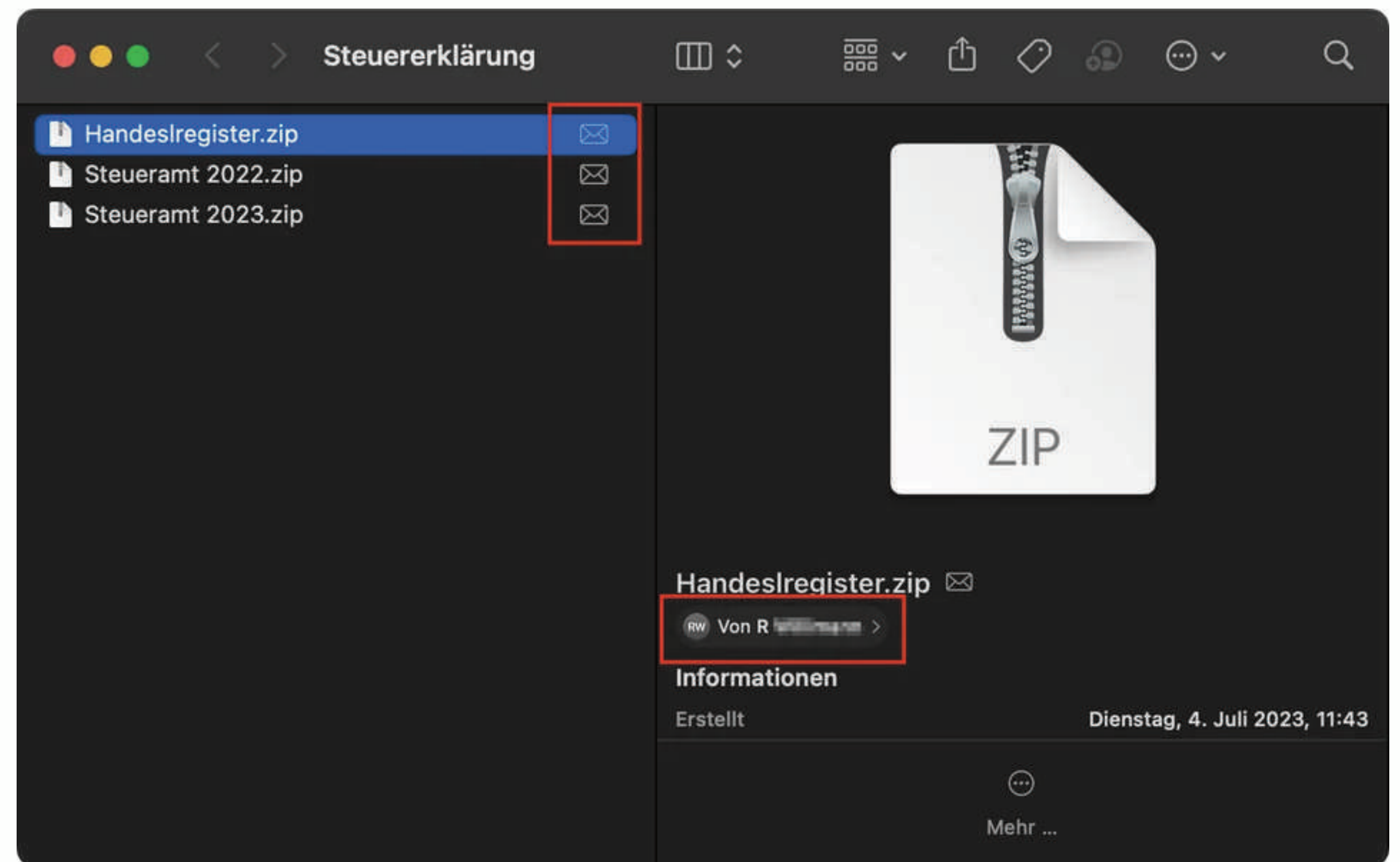
As of today, you can only set custom font sizes for 5 native Apple Apps: Calendar, Finder, Mail, Messages and Notes.



## Identify Mail Attachment Downloads

When you download an email attachment from Mail and view it in Finder, the file includes a new mail symbol next to it to let you know it's an email attachment.

If you right-click the attachment, there's even a "Reply to [name of sender]" option in the contextual menu that when selected will open the Mail compose window, ready for you to type up your reply message.

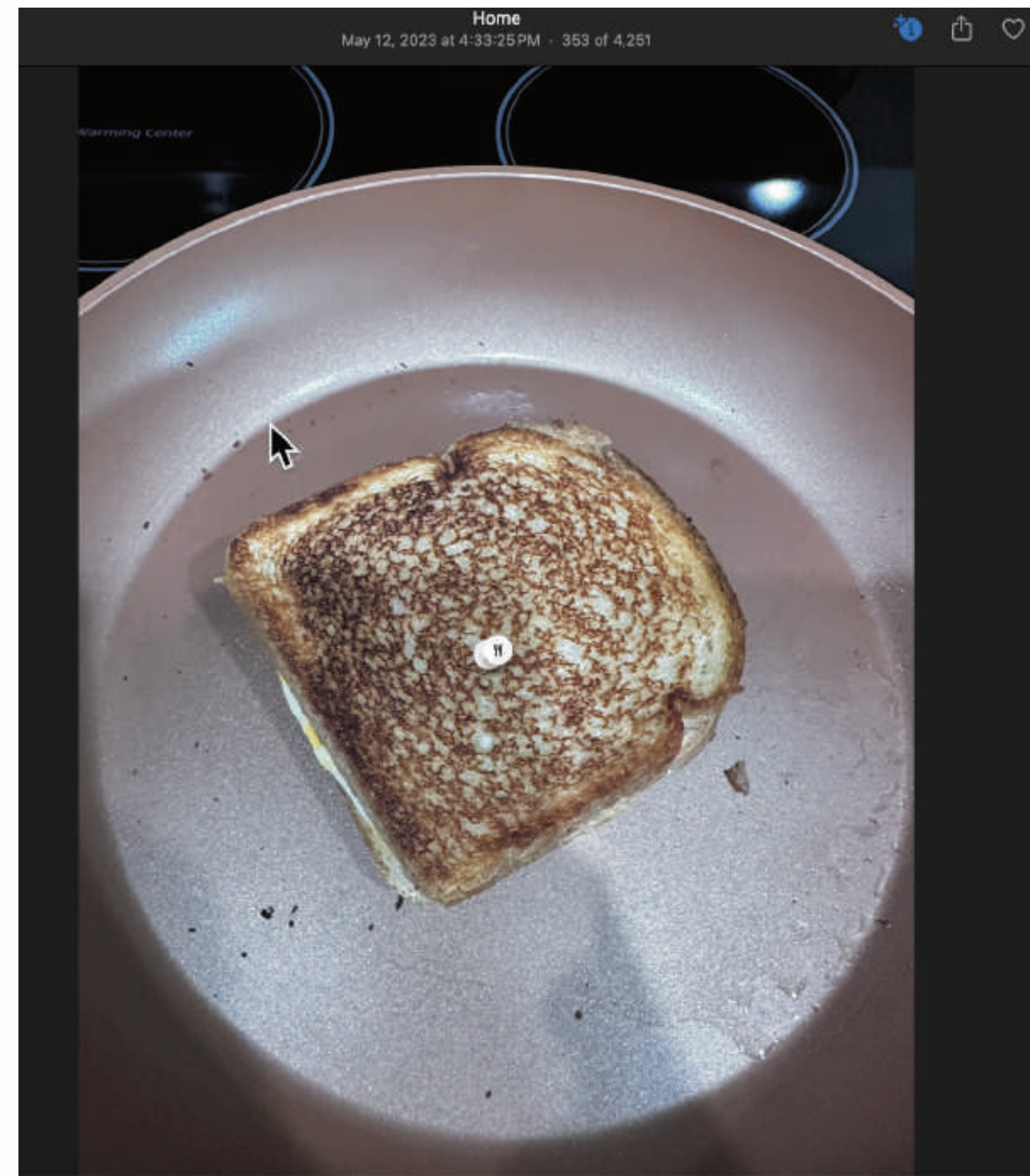


*I could not get this to work but here is what it looks like when it does!*

## Visual Look Up Enhancements

Visual Look Up in Photos has been vastly improved, so you can now find similar recipes from photos of food, map routes to stores identified in photos, and identify the meaning of signs and symbols on things like laundry tags.

You can also find out information about things that appear in paused video frames.



## Visual Look Up Enhancements

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**1211 Avenue of the Americas**  
Skyscraper in Midtown Manhattan, New York City

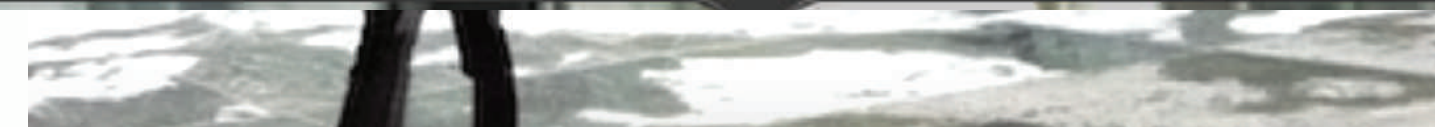


1211 Avenue of the Americas, also known as the News Corp. Building, is an International Style skyscraper on Sixth Avenue in the Midtown Manhattan neighborhood of New York City. Formerly called the Celanese Building, it was completed in 1973 as part of the later Rockefeller Center expansion dubbed the "XYZ Buildings". Celanese, its primary tenant, later moved to Dallas, Texas. The building is owned by Ivanhoé Cambridge as of 2023.

Wikipedia

Established	1973
Architect	Wallace Harrison

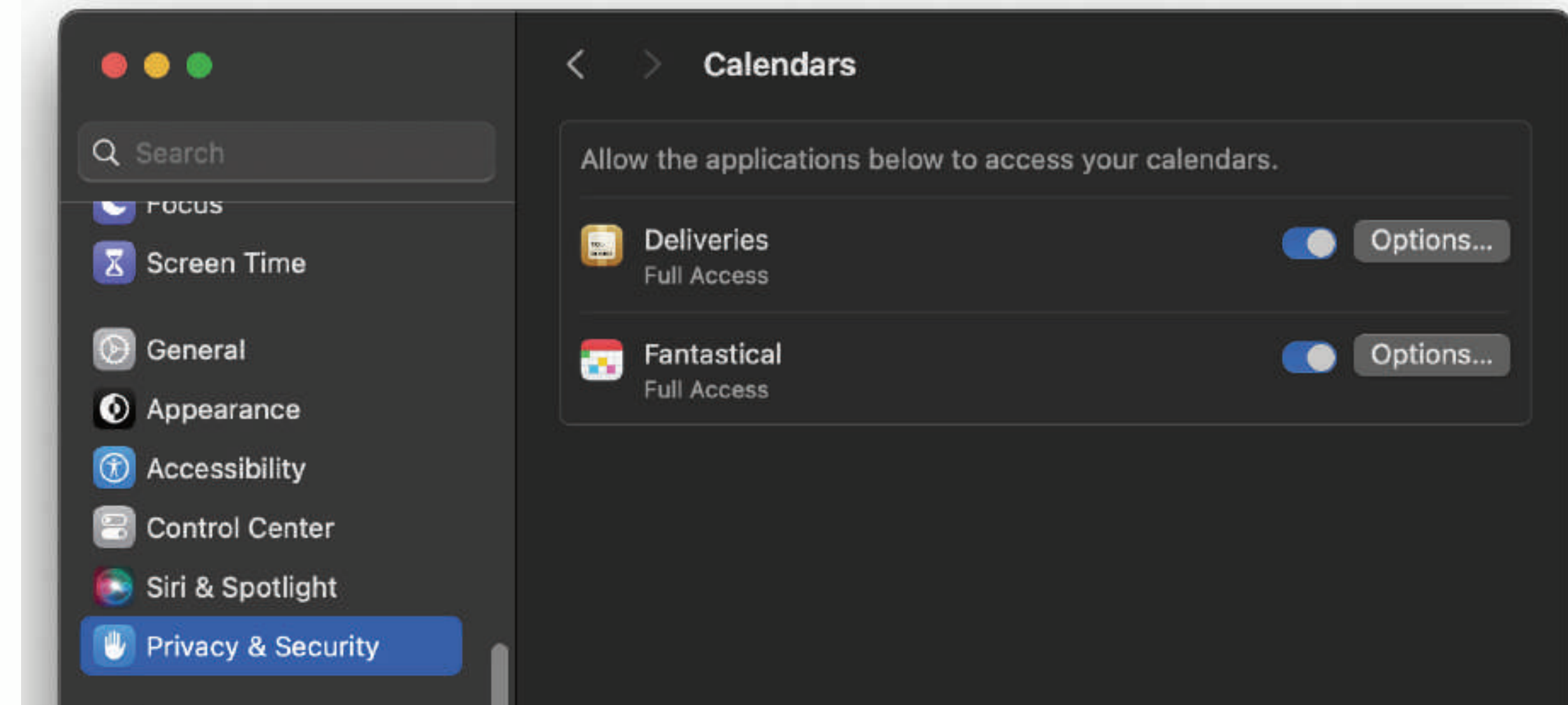
1211 Avenue of the Americas   Maps   Similar Web Images



## Add-Only Calendar Access

In System Settings, a new Privacy & Security -> Calendar setting allows you to give third-party apps write-only access to your calendars.

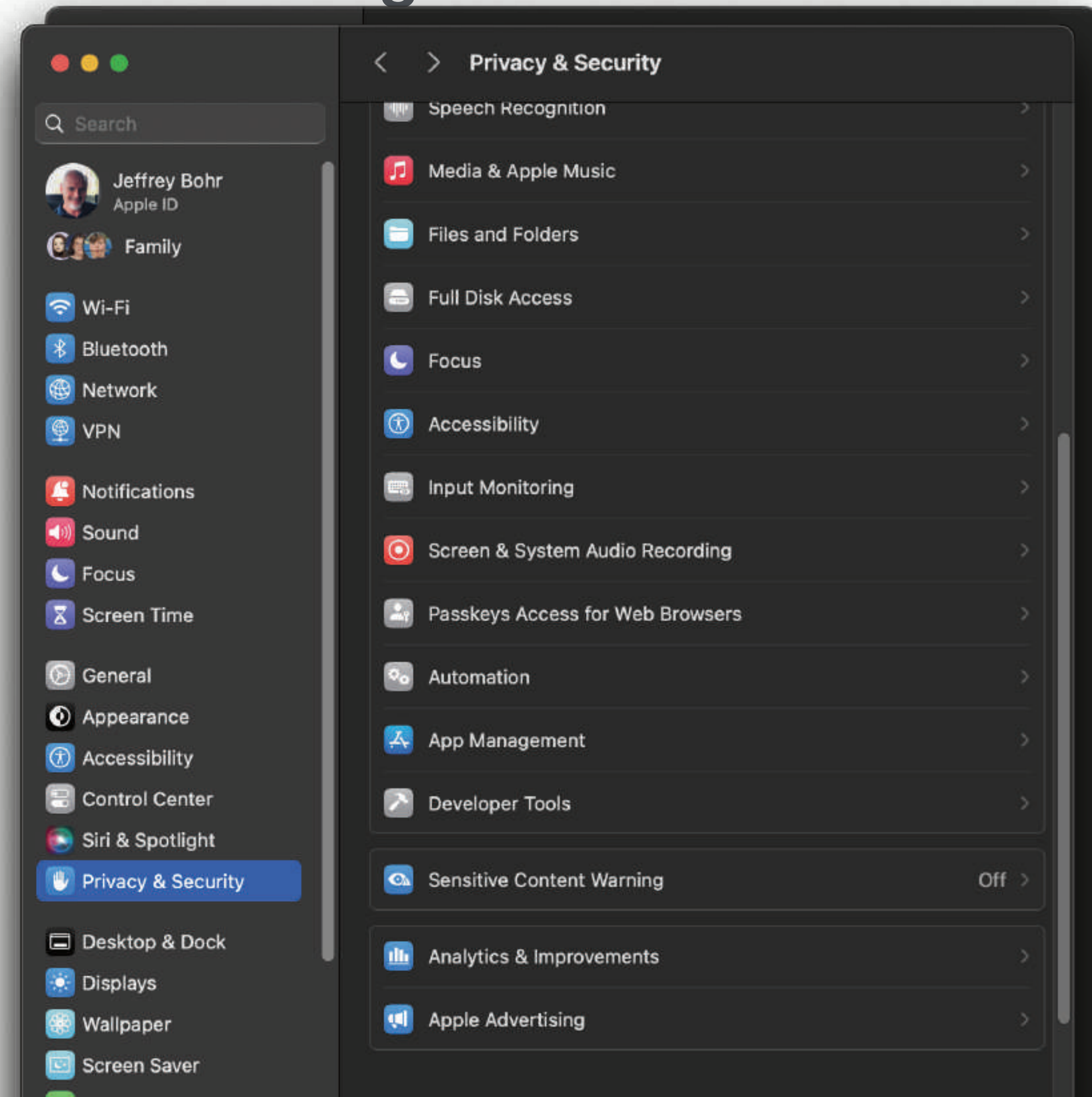
Selecting this means apps are limited to writing new events to your calendars, without being able to see your information.



## Sensitive Content Warnings

With Sensitive Content Warnings enabled in iOS 17, incoming files, videos, and images are scanned on-device and blocked if they contain nudity. The opt-in blurring can be applied to images in Messages, AirDrop, Contact Posters for the Phone app, FaceTime messages, and third-party apps.

Note that this is separate from the Communication Safety features the Apple has implemented for children, and is designed for people of all ages. You can enable Sensitive Content Warnings by going to System Settings -> Privacy & Security -> Sensitive Content Warning and turning on the requisite toggle.





# macOS Sonoma

Questions? Comments? Observations?

These have been the 50 new features introduced with macOS Sonoma.

Hope you enjoyed the information and presentation!

# macOS Sonoma

Instructor: Jeff Bohr, Naples Mac Help