

Tech Tips for Seniors

Transferring Photos Between Devices

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Photos are precious. And protecting them is an important task to perform on your phone, tablet and computer.

Protecting your photos (your memories of family gatherings and vacations) involves transferring them to or from another device ... a computer, a mobile phone or tablet, an external storage device, or “the cloud”.

You can also send photos to yourself from one device to another (or to another person) via E-mail and text message attachments. See the

related article titled “Taking and Sending Photos” on this website for a presentation on that approach.

Transferring other files, such as text documents and accounting spreadsheets, is done the same way as transferring photos.

Photos normally are stored on four types of equipment: Apple devices (iPhones and iPads), Android devices (phones and tablets), Apple Macintosh computers and Windows computers (usually referred to as PCs).

You can move photos directly from your mobile device to a computer with the charging cable that came with your device. One end of that cable plugs into the charging port on your mobile device and the other end plugs into the USB port on your computer. The best way to do this kind of transfer is to have compatible file-transfer software (an app) stored on BOTH the

sending and receiving devices. File-transfer apps and procedures are recommended in some of the scenarios presented in the list below.

If you have access to Wi-Fi, you can also move photos between your device and a computer without a cable. If you are connecting your devices using Wi-Fi, both devices must be linked to the same Wi-Fi router. As with using a cable to transfer photos, you still would need to have compatible file-transfer software (an app) stored on BOTH the sending and receiving devices. File-transfer apps and procedures are recommended in some of the scenarios presented in the list below.

A third way you can move a photo or data file from a mobile device to a computer would be to use an external storage device such as a flash drive, often called a thumb drive. To do that, you can purchase a dual-purpose external

storage device that will have a plug at each end.

If you have an Apple iPhone or iPad, the iDiskk flash drive is one example of a dual-purpose external storage device. One plug attaches to the charging port of your mobile phone or tablet and the other plug attaches to the USB port on a computer. The iDiskk flash drive operates in conjunction with the iDiskk Pro app available on Apple's App Store.

See the following list of transfer scenarios as you endeavor to “back up” your photos or other data files. *Some of the following choices haven't been tested.*

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If you have questions about any of this, feel free to make a “Technology Tips” appointment

on Tuesday mornings at Generations, when the center opens. Just call the main number: 215-723-5841.

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