

All about the new HEIC photo format

Introduction

iOS 11 introduced a new photo format called HEIC. This file type creates smaller files than the JPG format. Most things we do with our photos will not be impacted such as email or texting photos. However, HEICs are not yet supported by Microsoft Windows and can cause compatibility issues.

The reason for the new format is that HEIC take up less space on your devices and have a higher quality. This setting can be changed back and forth as you wish but I'd pick a format and stick with it. For devices that already had photos on them prior to iOS 11, these will remain as JPGs. Only new photos are affected.

To change this format for new photos back to JPG on your iPhone or iPad, open Settings, Camera and tap Formats. The High Efficiency format uses HEICs and the Most Compatible format uses JPGs. Why couldn't Apple just say JPG instead of Most Compatible?

Dealing with HEICs

There is a free program that you can download for free for your Windows 10 PC that can batch convert HEICs to JPGs. It's available at <https://imazing.com/heic>. Another solution is to transfer the HEIC photos to your PC with an app that converts them to JPGs during the transfer process. Here's several methods.

1. Use Windows 10
 - a. Connect your device to a Windows 10 PC
 - b. Open the Photos app
 - c. Follow the instructions [here](#).
2. Use a free program called Syncios available [here](#).
 - a. This will transfer all photos as JPGs and the HEIC versions also.
 - b. Photo edits will not be transferred

If you want to convert HEICs to JPGs online, go to this web site at <https://heictojpg.com/>

There are apps that will convert JPGs on your iPhone or iPad to HEICs and allow you to delete the JPGs, thus saving close to 50% of the storage. I have not tried these yet.

For more information on transferring photos to your PC see the information [here](#).