

Transfer photos between your mobile device & PC

Introduction

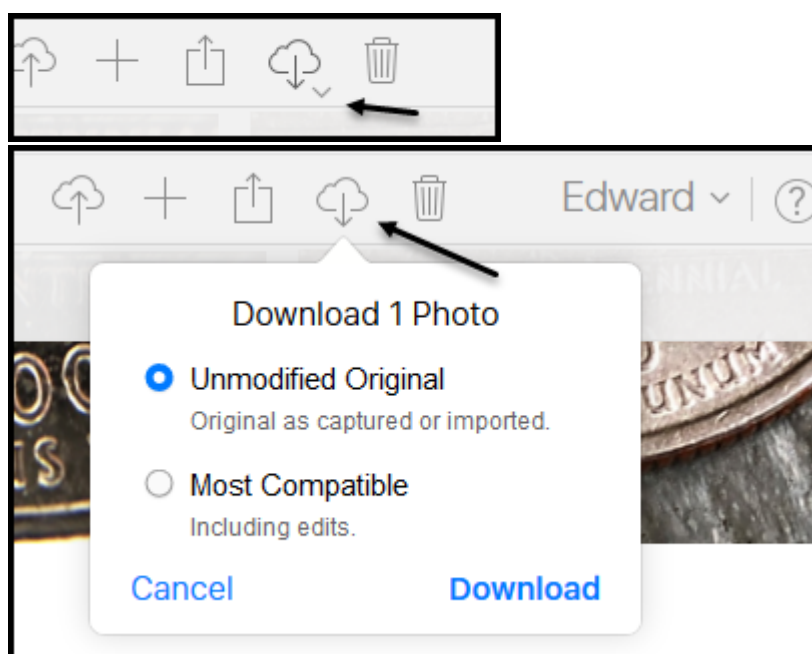
First of all, iOS makes it possible to revert any edited photo to its original. This complicates transferring edited photos to your PC from your mobile device. For example, using Syncios to transfer photos to your PC does not include any edits but only transfers the originals. This could be a good thing if that's what you want. Fortunately, you have other choices.

Note – there's a lot of information here. For a quick recommendation, jump to the summary at the end.

Transfer photos from your mobile device to your PC

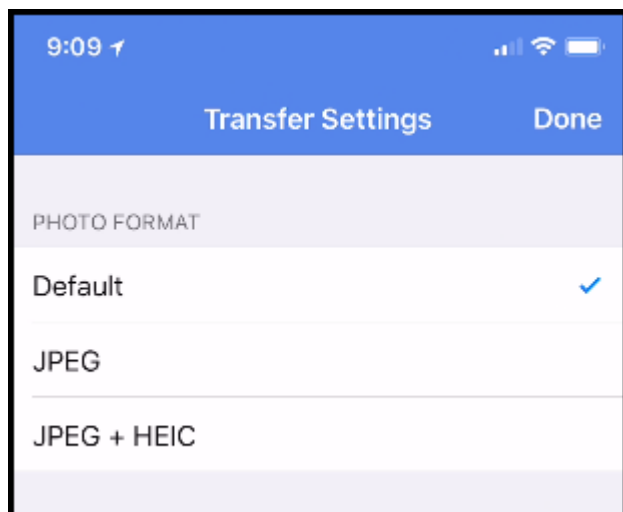
See the table further down for a summary of features.

- Windows 10 Photos – use the Import feature. When you use this method, you might see files that were downloaded with an extension of AAE – these can be ignored and safely deleted. Windows also transfers Raw (DNG) photos and Live photos as MOV files.
- Email – this is not convenient for multiple photos, but it works.
- Windows File Explorer – this is not convenient, but it works. See more information [here](#).
- You can also go to your iCloud account online to download photos. When you click the dropdown arrow under the cloud icon as shown in the figure below, you will get a choice of downloading the original (either an HEIC or Raw format) or Most Compatible (JPG format). You can download both if you choose. This is by far the best way to get photos from your mobile device to your PC.



- If you have the Google Photos app on your mobile device, all your photos including edits will show up there. You can then go to Google Photos on line and retrieve them.
- Share to Google Drive - open the photos App and select one or more photos and share to Google Drive. You can choose which folder to upload them to. The edits are preserved, and the photos will appear on your Google Drive online and on your desktop if you have installed Google Backup and Sync. Just remember, any photos stored in Google Drive count towards your 15-gigabyte limit, so you should transfer your photos out of here periodically.
- OneDrive works the same as Google Drive.
- Snapseed is a special case. If you tap Export and tap Export again, this will create a copy of the photo. In this case, Syncios or any of the methods discussed above will work. However, the edits that were made cannot be reverted since Snapseed “flattens” the photo – but you still have the original.
- If you install the iCloud Control Panel for Windows, each phot you take will show up on your PC as a JPG. No Live or Raw photos.
- An app called Simple Transfer will transfer photos with edits. See the app [here](#). Go to the app Settings and tap Transfer Settings and select JPEG which is the most compatible format. Be sure to select more than 1 photo for this setting to work. If you open Settings on this app you have the following choices as seen below. Default will transfer original photos such as DNG and HEIC. The JPG

choice will convert all photos to JPG. JPEG + HEIC will transfer both and convert DNG to JPG. If you transfer HEIC photos, you can convert them at this site for free <https://www.apowersoft.com/heic-to-jpg> .

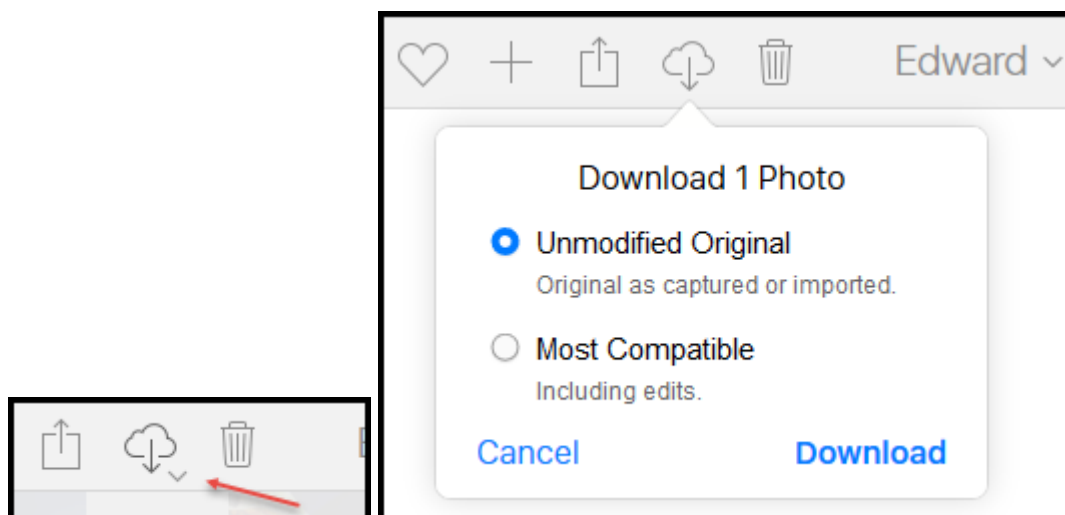


Here's a table of features by application

Feature and formats	Converts HEIC to JPG	Choice of HEIC & JPG	RAW (DNG)	Live Photos as videos	Edited version	Choice of Edited or original	Album names
Application							
Windows 10	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Simple Transfer, see note 1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Syncios	Yes	Both	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Email	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Text	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
iCloud online, see note 2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
iCloud Control Panel, see note 3	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Google Photos	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Google Drive	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No

Notes:

1. If you go to Settings in the App and choose Default under Transfer settings, you will get all original, unedited photos. HEICs will not be converted and you also get Raw (DNG) photos. If you choose JPEG + HEIC you will get both JPGs and HEICs with edits but no Raw photos. Also, Simple Transfer will label downloaded folders with the album name.
2. To have a choice of what to download from iCloud online, click the tiny dropdown arrow under the download icon as shown below on the left. On the right are the choices you get.



If you choose Unmodified originals, you will get HEICs and JPGs depending on your camera settings when you took the photos. You will also get LIVE photos as movies and Raw photos. If you choose most compatible, you will get all JPGs and no LIVE photos nor Raw photos.

3. I don't recommend the iCloud Control Panel. It's just one more program running on your PC and you can go online to [iCloud.com](https://www.icloud.com) and have more options and download full resolution photos, Live Photos and Raw photos.

Misc. info

- If you use a photo editing app on your mobile device such as Enlight, all saved edited photos will transfer to your PC with edits using any method. These will also show up in Google Photos on your mobile device.
- You can edit a photo on a mobile device and transfer it to your PC and later revert it to its original state and re-edit if you choose. Just tap the photo in the Photos app, tap Edit, then tap Revert.
- In either Simple Transfer or Photo Transfer review the options. For example, Photo Transfer has an option to convert HEIC to JPG during the transfer and Photo Transfer has an option to transfer Live Photos. These are transferred as MOV or videos. If Windows Media Player won't play these, use the free VLC Media Player available [here](#).

Transfer photos from your PC to your mobile devices

- You can upload photos to your iCloud account and they will show up on your mobile devices. It's best to create an album on your device first. You can only upload the JPG format.

- You can also use the app called Simple Transfer. It lets you create an album during the upload. This app will let you transfer HEIC photos as JPGs. Just go to Settings on the app and choose.
- Even though you can use Syncios for this, I don't recommend it.

Things to watch out for

- When you view photos on your device in the Albums view (All Photos), the photos are not necessarily displayed in the same order as viewed on iCloud.com. The photos at iCloud.com are listed by the date taken. On your device, switch to the photos view and now the view at iCloud.com will match exactly.
- The photo view when using Simple Transfer matches the device Photos view but not when using Albums, All Photos view.

Summary of transfer choices

App	Upload	Download
iCloud	JPG	JPG, HEIC, Raw
Simple Transfer	JPG	JPG, HEIC, Raw

If you work with only JPGs, you have more choices.

Summary

- My number 1 recommendation is to have your camera take JPGs for maximum compatibility if you have enough storage on your device. Go to Settings, Camera, Formats and select Most Compatible.
- To transfer photos from your mobile device to your PC without the edits (originals) use Syncios.
- To transfer photos from your mobile device to your PC with the edits use the Simple Transfer app.
- It's challenging to preserve albums when transferring photos to your PC unless you use Simple Transfer.
- The best way to transfer photos from your PC to your mobile devices is to upload them to your iCloud online account or use Simple Transfer.