BILL'S HOME TECH

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Keep Your Logins When You Switch From Android to iPhone (or Back)

Carry your passwords, codes, and accounts across the Apple–Android divide

Plain-English account help from:

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What's Inside

Everything in this guide, with page numbers. Skip to whichever chapter answers your question right now.

The 60-Second Version 3

The Short Version 3

What Actually Needs to Move 4

Before You Start: Prepare 4

Moving Your Saved Passwords 5

The Tricky Part: Your Two-Factor Codes 6

Re-Establish Your Codes Step by Step 6

Signing In to Your Main Accounts 7

Your Banking and Secure Apps 7

What About Passkeys? 8

Don't Retire the Old Phone Too Soon 9

Wiping the Old Phone Safely 9

A Reassuring Word: Nothing Is Really Lost 10

Reconnect Your Watch, Earbuds, and Gear 10

When to Call Bill 11

Everyday Cheat Sheet 12

A Note From Bill 13

Your Visit — and My Promise 14

SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

Switching between Android and iPhone is a bigger leap than upgrading within one family, because the automatic transfer does less — but nothing is lost with a little planning. Carry three things deliberately: your saved passwords (which live in your Google or Apple account, or move effortlessly in a cross-platform manager like Bitwarden), your two-factor codes (which usually do NOT cross automatically — re-add each account to an authenticator on the new phone, or bridge in with backup codes), and your account sign-ins (add both your Apple and Google accounts to keep email and contacts).

Keep the old phone working until every account, especially banking, is confirmed on the new one — then sign it out and erase it fully.

1 The Short Version

Crossing between Android and iPhone means the automatic transfers do less than they would within one family, so you carry your logins across a bit more deliberately. The three things to move are your saved passwords, your two-factor codes, and your sign-ins to the big accounts.

None of it is lost in the move — your passwords live in your Google or Apple account and can follow you, and your codes can be re-established with care. The golden rule, as with any phone switch, is to keep the old phone working until the new one is fully set up and tested.

- Crossing Apple–Android is doable; the transfer just does less automatically.
- Carry three things: saved passwords, two-factor codes, and your account sign-ins.
- Keep the OLD phone working until the new one is fully set up and tested.
- Your passwords are not trapped — they live in your Google or Apple account.

WATCH OUT

Do not trade in or wipe the old phone until the new one has run happily for several days. Across the Apple–Android divide especially, the old phone is your safety net for any code or login that needs re-establishing — keep it in a drawer a while.

2 What Actually Needs to Move

It helps to separate the three kinds of login so you can handle each deliberately. They move in different ways.

- Saved passwords — the ones your browser or phone filled in for you.
- Two-factor codes — from your authenticator app or texts.
- Account sign-ins — your Google, Apple, email, and app logins.
- Passkeys — the newer fingerprint/face sign-ins, which follow your main account.

GOOD TO KNOW

The reason crossing platforms takes more care is that Apple and Google each prefer to keep your data in their own house. Your passwords and codes are not stuck — they just need a deliberate hand-off rather than the one-tap transfer you get staying in one family.

3 Before You Start: Prepare

A few minutes of preparation on the old phone makes the whole crossing smooth. Gather these before you begin.

- Know your Google Account password (for Android) and your Apple Account password (for iPhone).
- Make sure your old phone is backed up and its passwords are saved to your account.
- Have your Wi-Fi password handy and both phones well charged.

- List the apps you most need — especially banking — so you can confirm each works after.

> **TIP**
> Whichever way you are switching, make sure you know BOTH your Google and Apple account passwords before you start, because you will likely use both — one to pull your data off the old phone, the other to set up the new one.

4 Moving Your Saved Passwords

Your saved passwords are the easiest part, because they live in your account, not just on the phone. You reach them from either platform.

1. Make sure your passwords are saved to your account on the old phone (Google or iCloud).
2. On the new phone, sign in to that same account.
3. Install the matching app if needed — Google has a passwords app for iPhone; Apple has iCloud passwords for Android via a browser extension on computers.
4. Alternatively, use a cross-platform password manager, which works identically on both.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> The single tidiest solution to the Apple–Android divide is a cross-platform password manager like Bitwarden or 1Password. Because it works the same on both, your passwords simply appear on the new phone when you sign in — no export, no fuss, and no platform lock-in ever again.

Rather not do this yourself? I'll come to your home and set it up for you — a flat $99 first visit across Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities. Outside the area? I also help remotely by phone or screen-share. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042.

5 The Tricky Part: Your Two-Factor Codes

Just as in any phone switch, the two-factor codes are where people get caught — and crossing platforms makes it a little more hands-on. Give this its own careful attention.

- Authenticator codes usually do NOT transfer automatically across platforms.
- Microsoft Authenticator can restore your codes when you sign in to it on the new phone.
- For other authenticators, you re-add each account on the new phone by hand.
- Texted codes simply resume once your phone number is active on the new phone.

> **WATCH OUT**
>
> Do not wipe or trade in the old phone until you have confirmed your authenticator codes work on the new one. Crossing platforms, codes rarely come across on their own — so the old phone, still showing them, is what saves you while you re-establish each account.

6 Re-Establish Your Codes Step by Step

Moving your codes across the divide is methodical but not hard. Work through your important accounts one at a time, with both phones in front of you.

1. Install an authenticator app on the new phone.
2. On each important account, open its security settings (on a computer or the new phone).
3. Choose to set up the authenticator again, and scan the new barcode with the new phone's app.
4. Confirm a code works, then the old phone's entry for that account can be retired.
5. Repeat for each important account before letting go of the old phone.

TIP

Use your saved backup codes as a bridge if re-establishing an authenticator is awkward: sign in to the account on the new phone with a backup code, then set up the authenticator fresh there. It is a reliable fallback across platforms.

7 Signing In to Your Main Accounts

Your big accounts — Google, Apple, email — anchor everything else, so sign in to them first on the new phone and the rest follows more easily.

1. On a new iPhone, sign in with your Apple Account; also add your Google account for Gmail and contacts.
2. On a new Android phone, sign in with your Google Account; add other email accounts too.
3. Signing in brings across contacts, calendar, and saved passwords tied to that account.
4. Then sign in to each app as you open it.

GOOD TO KNOW

You can use Google services on an iPhone and keep your Gmail, contacts, and photos exactly as before — and likewise you are not forced to abandon anything by switching. Adding both your Apple and Google accounts to the new phone keeps the best of both.

8 Your Banking and Secure Apps

Banking and other secure apps deliberately make you sign in fresh on a new device — and crossing platforms, you will definitely re-download and re-login. This is normal and a sign they take security seriously.

- Re-download each banking and secure app from the new phone's app store.
- Sign in fresh, with your password and a code method ready.

- Do these while the old phone is still handy to receive any verification.
- Re-enable fingerprint or face unlock for each once you are in.

> **TIP**
> Tackle your bank apps while the old phone is still beside you and active. If one sends a verification code or approval prompt to confirm the new device, the old phone can receive it — a convenience you lose the moment you give that phone up.

9 What About Passkeys?

If you have started using passkeys, crossing platforms needs a little thought, since passkeys tend to live within one family. They are not lost, but they may need re-creating or a manager to carry them.

- Passkeys saved to your Apple Account stay with Apple; those saved to Google stay with Google.
- A cross-platform password manager that supports passkeys carries them across the divide.
- Otherwise, you may simply create a fresh passkey on the new phone for each account.
- Your password still works as a fallback while you sort passkeys out.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> If passkeys matter to you and you switch platforms often, keeping them in a cross-platform password manager rather than tied to Apple or Google is the way to keep them with you. Otherwise, re-creating a passkey on the new phone is quick and painless.

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10 Don't Retire the Old Phone Too Soon

This bears repeating because it is the single biggest mistake in a platform switch. The old phone is your lifeline until every account is confirmed on the new one.

- Keep it charged and in a drawer for at least several days.
- Use it to retrieve any code, password, or app that did not come across.
- Only wipe it once every important account works on the new phone.
- When you do, sign it out of your accounts first, then erase it fully.

> *Across the Apple–Android divide, the old phone in your drawer is worth its weight in gold.*

11 Wiping the Old Phone Safely

Once the new phone is fully settled, erase the old one properly so none of your logins or data leave with it. Signing out first is essential.

1. Sign the old phone out of its Google Account (Android) or Apple Account (iPhone).
2. On Android: Settings System Reset Erase all data (factory reset).
3. On iPhone: Settings General Transfer or Reset Erase All Content and Settings.
4. Confirm it is signed out so it is not left locked to your account.

WATCH OUT

Signing the old phone OUT of its account before wiping matters especially across platforms — an iPhone left signed in stays locked by Activation Lock, and an Android stays tied to your Google Account. Sign out first, then erase, so the phone is clean for its next owner.

12 A Reassuring Word: Nothing Is Really Lost

The deepest worry about switching platforms is usually unspoken: 'will I lose my photos, my contacts, my accounts?' The honest answer is no — with a careful switch, everything important comes across, and the things that live in the cloud were never tied to the phone at all.

Your email, your contacts, your calendar, and your photos live in your Google or Apple account, not inside the handset, so signing in to that account on the new phone brings them with you. Your passwords follow the same way or through a manager. Even your two-factor codes, the fussiest part, are re-established rather than lost.

The switch is a hand-off, not a leap into the void — which is exactly why keeping the old phone until the new one is confirmed makes it feel as safe as it actually is.

- Email, contacts, calendar, and photos live in your account, not the phone.
- Passwords follow your account or your password manager.
- Two-factor codes are re-established on the new phone, not lost.
- The old phone stays as a safety net until everything is confirmed.

> *Switching phones is a hand-off, not a leap — your digital life lives in your accounts, not the handset.*

13 Reconnect Your Watch, Earbuds, and Gear

Crossing platforms often means your accessories need reconnecting too, and some are fussier across the divide than others. A short sweep gets everything working with the new phone.

- A smartwatch frequently must be reset and re-paired — an Apple Watch needs an iPhone, so switching away from iPhone means a different watch.

- Wireless earbuds and speakers reconnect via Bluetooth in the new phone's settings.
- Your car's hands-free and music may need the new phone added.
- Smart-home apps simply need you signed in on the new phone to work again.

> **WATCH OUT**
>
> One thing to know before switching away from iPhone: an Apple Watch only works with an iPhone. If you are moving to Android and rely on an Apple Watch, plan for a different watch — it is the one accessory that cannot make the crossing.

14 When to Call Bill

Switching between Android and iPhone is very doable, but it is the one phone change where the most can go sideways — passwords in the wrong house, codes that did not cross, a banking app that will not re-login — and doing it with the old phone half-retired is stressful. This is a visit people are genuinely glad they booked.

I come to you and handle the whole crossing: move your passwords, re-establish your two-factor codes safely, sign you back into your email and banking apps, sort out your passkeys, and only then help you wipe the old phone cleanly. You end up settled on the new phone, with every login working and nothing left behind.

- You are switching between Android and iPhone and worried about losing access.
- Your two-factor codes did not come across and apps now want them.
- You want your passwords moved cleanly across the divide.
- You want the old phone wiped safely once everything is confirmed.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this beside both phones during the switch.

I want to...	Do this...
Protect myself	Keep the OLD phone working until the new one is fully set up and tested
Move passwords	Sign in to the same Google/Apple account, or use a cross-platform manager
Carry my codes	Re-add each account to an authenticator on the new phone; confirm before retiring the old
Keep email & contacts	Add BOTH your Apple and Google accounts to the new phone
Handle bank apps	Re-download and sign in fresh while the old phone is still handy
Retire the old phone	Sign it OUT of its account, then erase it fully
Get help	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.

HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

You don't have to remember all of it — just that a friendly, patient person is one call away, whenever you'd rather have a hand.

KEY SPECS

In your home — $99 flat for the first visit, no contracts and no surprises, with a 30-day come-back-free follow-up. In-home visits cover Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities.
Outside the area? Remotely — $49 for a screen-share session (free for Support Plan members, $39/mo), refundable if I can't fix it — and credited toward a visit if you'd rather have me in person. Book either at billshometech.com/book.

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full $99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Whenever you're ready, I'll come to your home anywhere in Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities, at your pace. Too far for a house call? I also help remotely. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042. — Bill

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