BILL'S HOME TECH
Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

BILL'S COMPLETE MANUALS · NO. 24

Switching iPhone & Android

Moving your contacts, photos, and apps between an iPhone and an Android — without losing a thing

A smooth move, either direction

Take your time — nothing gets lost

Written for you by Bill — Bill's Home Tech

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For switching phones in 2026 · both directions · facts current November 2026

What's Inside

This is your guide to switching between an iPhone and an Android phone — in *either* direction. Read it in any order. It covers moving your contacts, photos, and calendar; the free apps that do the heavy lifting; the one 'iMessage' trap that catches people leaving an iPhone; and getting comfortable on your new phone. Take your time — done in the right order, nothing important gets left behind.

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PART 1

Before You Switch

What switching really involves, what moves easily and what doesn't, and the short list to do before you begin. A little preparation makes it painless.

CHAPTER 1

A Note from Bill

Hello, and welcome. Whoever is holding this book — this is for **you**. Maybe you've always had an iPhone and a good deal on an Android tempted you. Maybe the family all switched to one kind and you'd like to match. Or maybe you just got a new phone of the other sort as a gift and are worried sick about losing your contacts and photos. Wherever you are, breathe easy — you've come to the right place.

I'm Bill. For more than 30 years I've helped folks feel at home with their technology, and moving someone to a new phone — safely, with every photo and phone number intact — is something I do all the time. I wrote this guide the way I'd do it sitting beside you: calmly, in order, with nothing left to chance.

The good news, up front

Switching phones used to be a genuine ordeal. It isn't anymore. Both Apple and Google make **free apps** whose only job is to carry your contacts, photos, calendar and more from the old phone to the new one — often wirelessly, in one sitting. Done in the right order, the switch is smooth, and your precious things come right along with you.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this guide does for you

By the end you'll know exactly what moves over and what you'll set up fresh, how to carry your contacts and photos safely, the step-by-step for both directions, and the one tripwire (iMessage) to disarm when leaving an iPhone. No lost numbers, no lost memories, no panic.

The big promise: your things are safe

Here's the reassurance to carry through this whole book: **moving to a new phone does not erase your old one.** Everything stays on the old phone until you're sure it all arrived on the new one. So there's no cliff-edge, no moment where your photos vanish into thin air. We keep the old phone as a safety net until the new one is happily set up. You genuinely cannot lose your data by taking this slowly.

And you're never stuck alone. If you'd rather have a hand with the move, call me at **(330) 200-8042** — I'll make sure nothing's left behind.

— Bill

CHAPTER 2

What Moves, and What You'll Set Up Fresh

Setting honest expectations is half of a calm switch. Here's what comes across easily, and what you'll simply set up again on the new phone.

Your stuff	What happens to it
Contacts	Move over easily — your whole address book comes with you.
Photos & videos	Move over easily, especially if they're already backed up (to iCloud or Google Photos).
Calendar & reminders	Move over easily.
Text message history	Mostly moves with the transfer apps, though old iMessage conversations may not carry perfectly — screenshot any you truly want to keep.
Apps	The *list* of apps can transfer, but each app re-downloads its own version on the new phone, and you'll sign in to each again. Paid apps must be bought again on the other store.
Music, subscriptions, logins	You'll sign in fresh to your accounts (streaming, banking, email). Have your passwords handy.

HEADS UP

Paid apps don't carry across the fence

One thing worth knowing so it's not a surprise: an app you *paid for* on an iPhone must be purchased again on Android (and vice versa) — the two stores are separate, and your purchase doesn't cross between them. Most everyday apps are free and simply re-download, so this affects only the handful you paid for. Make a note of any paid apps you rely on before you switch.

CHAPTER 3

Your Pre-Switch Checklist

Do these few things before you begin, and the switch itself goes like clockwork.

1. **Charge both phones** well, or keep them plugged in — the transfer can take a while, and you don't want either dying mid-move.
2. **Connect to Wi-Fi** — a solid home Wi-Fi makes the transfer faster and smoother.
3. **Back up the old phone first** (iCloud for an iPhone, Google for an Android) — your safety net, in case anything hiccups.
4. **Know your account passwords** — your Apple Account, your Google account, and the logins for your important apps (email, bank). You'll sign in to these on the new phone.
5. **Gather the right transfer app** — covered in Parts 3 and 4, depending on your direction.
6. **Keep the old phone handy** until the new one is fully set up and you've checked everything arrived.

TIP

Don't trade in or wipe the old phone too soon

The single best safety habit: keep your old phone, untouched and un-wiped, until you've spent a few days on the new one and confirmed your contacts, photos, and important apps all made it. Only then trade it in or erase it. That patience means that if anything was missed, the original is still right there to pull it from. There's no rush to let go of the old one.

PART 2

The Things You Most Want to Keep

Contacts and photos are what folks fear losing most. Here's how both travel safely — and why, if they're backed up, they're never really at risk at all.

CHAPTER 4

Your Contacts

Your address book — a lifetime of phone numbers — is the thing people most dread losing. The good news: it's one of the easiest things to carry across, and if it's backed up, it's never truly in danger.

How contacts travel

- **The transfer apps** (Parts 3 and 4) copy your contacts across automatically — the simplest route.
- **Through your account:** if your contacts are saved to your Google account or iCloud, signing in on the new phone brings them right back, no transfer needed.

TIP

Save contacts to your account, not just the phone

A habit that makes every future switch effortless: keep your contacts saved to your **Google account** (on Android) or **iCloud** (on iPhone), not just locally on the device. When they live in your account, they're backed up automatically and flow to any new phone the moment you sign in. If you're not sure where yours are saved, that's a good thing to check — or to have me check — before you switch.

CHAPTER 5

Your Photos & Videos

Your photos are the irreplaceable treasure — the grandchildren, the trips, the faces of people dear to you. Let's make sure every one makes the journey.

The safest approach: back them up first

Before you even think about the switch, make sure your photos are **backed up online** — to **iCloud** on an iPhone or **Google Photos** on an Android. Once they're safely in the cloud, they're not tied to any one phone at all: you simply sign in to that same account (or install that same app) on the new phone, and every photo appears. The phone becomes just a window to pictures that live safely online.

Google Photos: the great equalizer

Here's a tip that makes switching — in either direction — wonderfully simple: **Google Photos is a free app that works on both iPhone and Android.** If you back your photos up to Google Photos on your old phone, then install Google Photos and sign in on the new phone, all your pictures are simply there — no transfer, no fuss, whichever kind of phone you're moving to or from. Many folks use it as their photo home for exactly this reason.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Backed-up photos can't be lost in a switch

The deepest reassurance in this whole guide: once your photos are backed up online, a phone switch — or a lost, dropped, or stolen phone — can't touch them. They're safe in your account, viewable anywhere you sign in. If you do just one thing before switching, make it confirming your photos are backed up. Our companion *iCloud* and *Google Photos* manuals walk through it, and I'm glad to make sure before you move.

PART 3

Moving from iPhone to Android

The step-by-step for leaving an iPhone for an Android phone — the free app that does it, and the one setting you must switch off on the way out.

CHAPTER 6

Turn Off iMessage First

If you're leaving an iPhone, there's **one step you must do before anything else**, or you'll run into a maddening problem where texts from iPhone friends simply never arrive on your new Android. Please don't skip this chapter.

Why it matters

iPhones send texts between each other as **iMessages** over the internet. If you leave your iPhone with iMessage still switched on, Apple keeps trying to deliver your friends' texts the old way — to a phone you no longer use — and they *never reach* your new Android. It's the single most common and frustrating switching problem, and it's completely preventable.

Turn it off — before or after

Best: while you still have the iPhone, turn iMessage (and FaceTime) off:

1. On the iPhone, open **Settings**.
2. Tap **Messages** and switch **iMessage** off.
3. Go back, tap **FaceTime**, and switch it off too.

If you've already switched and gave up the iPhone, you can still fix it: from any web browser, go to Apple's deregister page at **selfsolve.apple.com/deregister-imessage**, enter your phone number, and follow the steps to unhook your number from iMessage. After that, iPhone friends' texts start arriving on your Android normally.

HEADS UP

This is THE switching gotcha — don't skip it

If there's one thing that goes wrong when leaving an iPhone, it's forgetting to turn off iMessage — and then wondering for weeks why half your family's texts never show up. Do this step and you sail right past the problem. If you've already switched and texts are going missing, this is almost certainly why — and the deregister page (or a quick call to me) fixes it.

CHAPTER 7

Moving Everything Across

With iMessage handled, the move itself is straightforward. Google makes a free app called **Switch to Android** that carries your contacts, photos, calendar and more from the iPhone to your new Android.

The two routes

- **During the new Android's setup:** when you first turn on the Android, it offers to copy from another phone. Follow its prompts — it'll have you install the **Switch to Android** app on the iPhone and scan a **QR code** (a square pattern) to pair them, then move your things wirelessly.
- **After setup, or to top up:** you can also just **back up to Google** — install Google Drive or Google Photos on the iPhone, back up contacts and photos to your Google account, then sign in with that same account on the Android, and they appear.

What to expect

The transfer can take a while — anywhere from a few minutes to over an hour for lots of photos — so keep both phones plugged in and on Wi-Fi, and let it work. When it's done, check the Android for your contacts, photos, and calendar before you set the iPhone aside.

TIP

Sign in to Google, and much just appears

The real key to an Android is your **Google account**. Once you sign in to it on the new phone, a great deal flows in automatically — contacts, calendar, and (if you backed them up) your Google Photos. Our *Android Phones* manual explains the Google account in full. If you're setting up the Android for the first time, having that account's email and password ready makes everything smoother.

PART 4

Moving from Android to iPhone

The step-by-step for the other direction — leaving an Android for an iPhone — with Apple's free 'Move to iOS' app doing the carrying.

CHAPTER 8

Using 'Move to iOS'

Switching from an Android to an iPhone is just as doable, with Apple's free **Move to iOS** app (which you install on your *Android* phone) doing the work.

The steps

1. On your **Android** phone, install the **Move to iOS** app from the Play Store (it's made by Apple).
2. Begin setting up the new **iPhone**. On its setup screen, choose the option to move data **from Android**.
3. The iPhone shows a **code**; enter it in the Move to iOS app on the Android to pair the two.
4. Choose what to move — contacts, photos, messages, calendar — and let it transfer. Keep both phones plugged in and on Wi-Fi.
5. When it finishes, continue setting up the iPhone, and check that everything arrived.

> **TIP**
>
> **Do this during the iPhone's first setup**
>
> The Move to iOS transfer works best **while you're first setting up the new iPhone** (before you've started using it). If you've already finished setting up the iPhone, the cleanest way to use Move to iOS is to reset the iPhone to start fresh — which is worth doing for a smooth transfer, but is a step where many folks like a hand. Don't hesitate to call me if your iPhone's already set up and you want to move Android data over.

CHAPTER 9

Settling in on the iPhone

On an iPhone, your hub is an **Apple Account** (you may hear it called an Apple ID) rather than a Google account. A little setup gets you comfortable.

- **Sign in to (or create) your Apple Account** — it unlocks the App Store, iCloud backup, FaceTime, and iMessage.
- **Your Google things still work:** install Gmail, Google Photos, Google Maps and the like from Apple's App Store and sign in — you don't lose your Google world by moving to an iPhone.
- **Re-download your apps** from the App Store and sign in to each. Remember, paid Android apps must be bought again here.
- **Turn on iCloud backup and iCloud Photos** so your new iPhone keeps your things safe going forward.

GOOD TO KNOW

You can keep using Google apps on an iPhone

A common worry when moving to an iPhone: "will I lose my Gmail and Google Photos?" Not at all. Google makes its apps for the iPhone too — install Gmail, Google Photos, Google Maps, Chrome and the rest from the App Store, sign in, and your whole Google world is right there. You're not forced to abandon anything; you just gain Apple's apps alongside. Our *iPhone* and *iPad* manuals cover settling in.

PART 5

Finishing Up

Re-getting your apps, checking nothing was missed, and the handful of little chores that make the new phone truly yours.

CHAPTER 10

Re-Getting Your Apps & Logins

The transfer apps move your contacts and photos beautifully, but your apps mostly need a fresh download and a sign-in on the new phone. It's the most tedious part — and the most reassuring to do methodically.

The routine

1. **Make a list** of the apps you actually use — your bank, email, pharmacy, favorite games, social apps. Glance at your old phone's screens to jog your memory.
2. **Download each** from the new phone's store (App Store on iPhone, Play Store on Android).
3. **Sign in to each** with your username and password. This is why having your passwords handy matters — a password manager, or your written list, earns its keep now.
4. **Set up any extra verification** again (the texted codes some apps use), now pointing at your new phone.

> TIP
>
> **A good moment to tidy up**
>
> Switching phones is a natural time to *not* re-download the apps you never used on the old one. Bring over the handful you truly use and leave the clutter behind — your new phone will feel cleaner and less overwhelming for it. You can always add any app later if you find you miss it.

CHAPTER 11

Checking Nothing Was Missed

Before you let go of the old phone, spend a few minutes confirming the important things all made it. This is the step that turns a switch from nerve-wracking to settled.

The check-over

- **Open Contacts** on the new phone — is everyone there? Call or text one person to be sure it works.
- **Open your photos** — scroll back a long way; are your oldest and most precious pictures there?
- **Check your calendar** for upcoming appointments.
- **Send and receive a text** with an iPhone friend and an Android friend, to confirm messaging works both ways (this is where a missed iMessage step shows up).
- **Open your key apps** — bank, email — and confirm you're signed in.

HEADS UP

Only wipe the old phone once you're sure

Keep the old phone — not wiped, not traded in — until this check-over is done and you've lived with the new phone for a few days. If something was missed, the old phone still has it. When everything's confirmed, *then* erase the old phone (there's a 'reset/erase all content' option in its settings) before trading it in or passing it on, so none of your personal information goes with it.

FROM BILL

I'll make sure nothing's left behind

If the idea of checking it all over — or wiping the old phone safely — makes you nervous, that's exactly the sort of thing I'm glad to do with you. I'll confirm every contact and photo came across, get your apps signed in, and securely erase the old phone before it leaves your hands. Call (330) 200-8042.

PART 6

When to Call Bill & Your Cheat-Sheet

How I can help, and a one-page summary of the whole switch.

CHAPTER 12

When to Call Bill

A phone switch is very doable on your own with this guide. But part of being truly helpful is being honest about when a hand saves you time or worry — here's my straight advice, no pressure.

Times it's well worth a call

- **The whole switch, done with you** — I'll move your contacts and photos, handle iMessage, re-get your apps, and confirm nothing's missed, all in one calm visit.
- **Missing texts after a switch** — the classic iMessage problem, fixed in minutes.
- **Your iPhone's already set up** and you need Android data moved onto it (or the reverse).
- **Confirming your photos are backed up** safely before you switch.
- **Securely wiping the old phone** before you trade it in or give it away.

What working with me is like

I come to your home, here in Portage County, and I work at your pace — in order, with nothing left to chance, explaining as I go. I'll always make sure your contacts and memories are safe before anything else. That's been my way for more than 30 years.

FROM BILL

How to reach me

Call or text **(330) 200-8042**, or book a visit at **billshometech.com/book**. Bill's Home Tech serves Portage County, Ohio. No question is too small — and a switch is a great thing to do together.

Thank you for letting me help you make the move. Take your time, keep the old phone until you're sure, and remember I'm only a phone call away.

— Bill

CHAPTER 13

Your Switching Cheat-Sheet

Keep this handy through the switch. The whole guide, boiled down.

Before you start

1. Charge both phones; connect to Wi-Fi.
2. Back up the old phone (iCloud or Google).
3. Confirm your photos are backed up (iCloud or Google Photos).
4. Gather your passwords — Apple Account, Google account, and app logins.
5. Note any paid apps (they must be re-bought on the other store).

Leaving an iPhone? Do this FIRST

- Turn off **iMessage** and **FaceTime** (Settings > Messages, and Settings > FaceTime).
- Already gave up the iPhone? Deregister at **selfsolve.apple.com/deregister-imessage**.
- Skip this and iPhone friends' texts won't reach your Android — the #1 switching problem.

The transfer app for your direction

Direction	App to use
iPhone → Android	Use Google's **Switch to Android** app (scan the QR code during Android setup), or back up to Google and sign in.
Android → iPhone	Use Apple's **Move to iOS** app (install on the Android; transfer during the iPhone's first setup).

After the move

1. Re-download and sign in to your apps.
2. Check contacts, photos, calendar, and messaging all work.
3. Live with the new phone a few days.
4. Only then erase the old phone and trade it in.
5. Stuck? Call Bill at (330) 200-8042.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

You've got this

You now know what moves, how to carry your contacts and photos safely, the step-by-step for both directions, and the iMessage trap to disarm. Done in order — and keeping the old phone until you're sure — a switch is smooth and nothing precious is lost. Keep this guide handy, and remember I'm only a phone call away.