



Welcome!

AOL® Instant Messenger™ (AIM®) allows you to send instant messages to other people who use AOL, AIM, ICQ, or certain mobile phones. AIM also provides many additional features.

We are very pleased to present this newest version of our AIM client software for Mac OS® X and Mac OS 9. It reflects the strong commitment of America Online, Inc. to our loyal Mac® users.

System Requirements

This version of AIM requires a Macintosh® computer running Mac OS X version 10.1 or newer, or Mac OS 9 with CarbonLib 1.3.1 or newer. The newest version of Mac OS X is recommended.

What features does this version of AIM have?

In version 4.7, we have added friendly names for Mobile and ICQ buddies. We have improved buddy icon support, rewritten the online help, and improved stability over version 4.6.

In version 4.6, we added the ability to send SMS messages to mobile phones, and to communicate with ICQ users. We also improved file sharing. For Mac OS 9 users, the AIM Menu returned, although currently only the “Sign On” menu command is supported.

Version 4.5.x was a complete rewrite to support Mac OS X.

We continue to support these features of earlier versions:

- Buddy List®, Instant Messaging and Chat
- Direct IM support for sending images to other AIM users
- File Sharing and File Transfer, even when both users are behind firewalls
- Logging of IM and Chat sessions, with optional encryption
- News & Stock Tickers
- Smileys
- Buddy Icons
- Buddy Information window
- Buddy Alerts
- Idle messages
- Automatic detection of hyperlinks
- Auto-reconnect
- Auto-upgrade
- Contextual Menus
- Event Actions
- AppleScript support
- POP3 Mail Status
- aim: URL support
- Secure passwords
- Preferences Sets
- Account Settings
- Online Help
- Aqua® user interface on Mac OS X

How do I know if this is the newest version of AIM?

You may be alerted that a newer version is available when you run an old version of AIM. If you download a new version of AIM from this alert, you must still run the installer of the new version!

You can always download the latest version from:

<http://www.aim.com/get_aim/mac/latest_macosx.adp>

What issues may I encounter when using this version of AIM?

- This version of AIM does not include the Talk feature present in some other versions. We plan to reintroduce Talk in a future version of AIM for Mac OS X.
- This version of AIM does not support sending movies or sounds by Direct IM. (Use File Transfer.)
- The method of File Sharing used by this version of AIM is much faster than its predecessor. When sharing a very large set of files, such as your entire hard drive, listings are displayed much more quickly. Older versions of AIM may not support this and the result is that you'll only see a partial list of files instead of the complete list. If your buddy upgrades, then you'll see complete, fast listings.
- If you experience problems establishing direct connections (File Transfer, File Sharing, and Direct IM), you may need to change your Firewall preferences in AIM and/or your Firewall settings in "Sharing" System Preferences.
- The scrolling tickers (news and stock) consume a fair amount of CPU time. Lowering the scroll speed, turning off scrolling, or turning off the tickers altogether will reduce the amount of CPU time used by AIM.
- Buddy Capabilities may not be updated until you or your buddy signs off and back on. For example, if you turn on File Sharing your buddies may not be able to access your shared files until you or they sign on again.
- AIM is currently incompatible with *Silk* from Unsanity LLC. If you use *Silk*, be sure that AIM is included in *Silk's* list of excluded applications.
- The receiver of a file transfer may not be notified if the sender loses his or her connection during the file transfer. This is especially likely if the sender is using Mac OS X version 10.1.5.
- Resuming a file transfer does not work if the file is sent from a version of AIM older than 4.5.
- Sometimes the "My Account Settings" menu item can become disabled.
- When a modem connection is very busy (*e.g.*, during a file transfer), POP3 mailbox connections may fail.
- If you're running Mac OS X, you can improve the appearance of the button labels in the buddy list and other places by opening your System Preferences, selecting General, and choosing "Turn off text smoothing for font sizes 8 and smaller."
- If you're running Mac OS 9 with CarbonLib 1.5, you may hear a thumping or drumming sound when scrolling the File List window. This is a "feature" of that version of CarbonLib.

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