

## iTunes 11

So have you updated your iTunes yet? or are you avoiding the bouncing icon in your dock,

I had heard some dislikes about it so I have waited until now. But after watching a video about the new features, there is little to not like

This is the biggest update in awhile. For the most part it looks the same, but with some new tweaks. The difference you will see is the speed of it's operation especially if you have a larger iTunes library.

First, you will notice there is no sidebar. I will show you how to put that back later.

There are new menus at the top. On the left, is your music, movies, apps, books, etc. Things you used to see in the sidebar. Also is any shared libraries.

What you don't see are devices that are attached to your computer: ipod, iphone, ipad, etc.

On the top right, if you have a device attached, you will see a drop down menu with all the devices attached. if you click on it it will go to the familiar view of device info and backup, sync instructions. There is a much more extensive selections here than before. At the bottom is the capacity bar of what is on your device.

Hit done to exit this screen.

So in music, you would choose music from the dropdown menu on the left, and then you see several different view options along the top. Choosing album view, you can click on an album cover and the songs will show in a pane below. you can hover over any song and play it, rate it, etc. You can play entire album or shuffle it and you click on the "x" to close the pane.

The song view will look like the old track view you were used to. you can sort by any column along the top. double click the column name and it will sort in the opposite direction. Control click, or right click on the column name and a whole list of options are listed for you to show.

You can choose artist and it will show the album and the songs included. if you click all artists, it kind of looks like the old album view is previous versions. And again. Hovering over the track will allow you to play or rate the song.

Genres will look similar, but you will choose by the genre set for each album. We can look at how to change genres also if you like.

Playlist are the same, listed on the left and as you choose them, the songs show in the list.

Now a big difference is the way iTunes will play your songs. You can choose a song and while it is playing, you can choose the next song you want to play. before, this would stop the song you were playing and start the new choice. Now it will add it to a play next list.

After you have started playing a song, you can click on the arrow next to another one and choose play next or add to up next. This will create a list at the top. the icon that looks like a list will change to blue and when you click on it, the list of chosen songs will drop down. you can delete from the list by clicking the x, or you can reorder the list by dragging the songs up or down. You can click on the clock icon to see the songs you already played and you can clear the list by clicking clear. This is just a list, you are not doing anything to the original songs in iTunes.

Another change is the mini player. you can replace the whole window with the mini player with the icon at the top right, or you can choose to have the mini player in addition to the whole window, click window at the top of your screen and choose mini player.

You can access your play next list and many other features from the mini player

Some of the other things in the list that you see when you click on the arrow next to the song is the option to go to the album, artist or song that you are listening to. You also can to to iTunes store. You can add that song to a playlist by choosing add to.

You can turn Genius on from the store menu at he top and when it has finished loading, it will list suggestions from the menu next to each song or album, clicking the little arrow.

If you have an album or song or anything you have purchased in the iTunes store and have not downloaded, there will be a cloud by the item and when you click on it, it will then download and start playing. in the song view, you will notice a cloud column to show the same thing.

The search box has new features. When you search, the results will show up in a list and right from the list, you can play the item, or add it to lists. Clicking the plus will add it to the play next list. Also you can narrow the search down by clicking the hour glass and choosing one of the items in the list. If you don't like this format, click on the hourglass and unclick search entire library. Now the results will show up in the window like before.

So with all the customization available in iTunes 11 you can have what you like. Going to the view menu, you can choose show side bar and have that familiarity back. There is a column browser option that will drop down the columns on the top to narrow down your search. You can add the status bar at the bottom to show what is in your library.

So what is not included?

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iTunes DJ, which I never used before, but if you did, the replacement is the upnext listing. The other thing is coverflow. This is gone, but with album view, you can get the same thing. The feature to find duplicates in your library is gone, but from comments on the internet, it looks like it will come back in the next update.

So it looks like iTunes 11 will be a great update and I will enjoy finding more features in the other parts, like books, podcasts and such. which I didn't cover today.

Thanks,  
Jean Amico, VP