ANDROID 13

RELEASE

Android 13 was released August 15, 2022.

Named Tiramisu, Android 13 follows Snow Cone (Android 12) and Red Velvet (Android 11) in Google's dessert naming scheme for the OS. (Google temporarily ditched dessert naming when it called Android 10's brand redesign Android Q.)

BETA

- Android Beta 1 : April 26, 2022
- Android Beta 2: May 11, 2022
- Android Beta 3: June 8, 2022

FORUMS

Overall, Android 13 looks and feels just like Android 12, with few improvements visible on the surface.

With tons of new quality-of-life features, it improves the winning formula of Android for Pixel phones. Most of these features and functionalities will trickle down to the custom skins that every Android manufacturer develops.
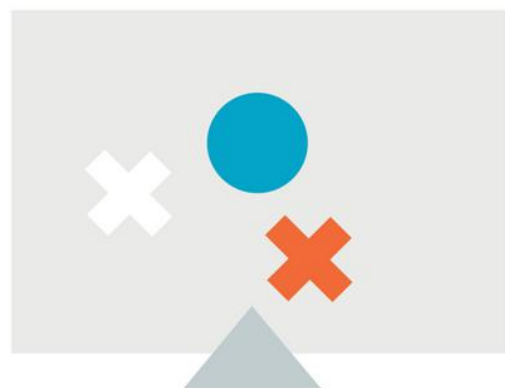
There isn't a particular feature that stands out from the rest, but that's to be expected. Android reached platform maturity a long time ago, so it makes sense that few, if any, groundbreaking new features get revealed with every annual refresh of the platform.

FEATURES

New features include more theming options and privacy features, new language preferences, and several under-the-hood upgrades.

CURRENT COMPATIBLE DEVICES

- Google Pixel 6/6 Pro
- Google Pixel 5/5a
- Google Pixel 4/4 XL
- Google Pixel 4a/4a 5G
- ASUS ZenFone 8
- Vivo X80 Pro
- Lenovo P12 Pro
- OnePlus 10 Pro
- Xiaomi 12
- Xiaomi 12 Pro
- Xiaomi Pad 5
- Oppo Find X5 Pro
- Oppo Find N (China only)
- ZTE Axon 40 Ultra
- Realme GT2 Pro
- AQUOS sense6
- Camon 19 Pro 5G
- Nokia X20
- Samsung Galaxy S22 series (S22, S22 Plus, S22 Ultra)
- Samsung Galaxy S21 series (S21, S21 Plus, S21 Ultra, S21 FE)
- Samsung Galaxy Z Fold series (Z Fold 4, Z Fold 3)
- Samsung Galaxy Z Flip series (Z Flip 4, Z Flip 3)
- OnePlus 10-series (OnePlus 10 Pro, OnePlus 10T)
- Motorola (Moto Edge+ 2022, Edge 2022, Edge 30 Pro, Edge 30, Moto G Stylus 5G 2022, Moto G 5G 2022, Moto G82 5G, G62 5G, G42, G32)

DESIGN CHANGES

AUTO THEMING ICONS

After Android 12 gave you the ability to theme your operating system, the 2022 version allows you to auto-theme your icons in a similar way.

MORE MATERIAL YOU THEMING OPTIONS

Android 13 extends the available color-theming options by offering six new palettes relating to specific shades or complementary hues:

- TONAL_SPOT (default) VIBRANT
- EXPRESSIVE
- SPRITZ
- RAINBOW
- FRUITSALAD

ALTERNATIVE LOCK SCREEN CLOCK SETUP

This feature lets you toggle between two clock styles on the lock screen: a single-line layout or the current double-line layout. You can easily access this toggle by heading to Settings > Display > Lock Screen.

NOW PLAYING WIDGET UPDATED

The media player that appears in your notification area has a new look. Album art now takes up the entire background of the widget and the controls have been moved around a bit.

FUNCTIONALITY IMPROVEMENTS

NATIVE BLUETOOTH LE AUDIO SUPPORT

Wireless audio gets a boost in the newest version of Android. Tiramasu has baked-in support for Bluetooth LE Audio and offers the Low Complexity Communications Codec (LC3).

The codec is a pretty big deal, delivering lower power usage and improved audio quality across supported devices.

REWORKED AUDIO OUTPUT SELECTOR

A reconfigured audio output selector is mostly an aesthetic redesign to better fit the Material You scheme, but it will make switching to a new output system much easier.

MORE INTUITIVE QR SCANNER SUPPORT

Now you can quick toggle to launch a simple QR scanner right from your notification tray. The function is simple, but at least you won't need a separate app for it anymore.

'PANLINGUAL' PER-APP LANGUAGE SETTINGS

Android 13 allows users to set specific languages for specific apps, separate from the system setting.

REVAMPED CLIPBOARD FEATURES

You'll see a new alert box in the lower left corner when you cut or copy text. This gives you a visual representation of what you have on the clipboard, but you can tap the pencil icon to edit that text. When you choose to paste the text, you'll get the recent version. The feature will also auto clear the clipboard of any item that's more than an hour old to provide safety and privacy.

SMART HOME CONTROLS IN AN UNLOCKED STATE

To control an aspect of your smart home, unlock the phone even if you have a toggle right on the lock screen. This can be bypassed by heading to Lock Screen and flipping the appropriate toggle.

PRIVACY & SECURITY ADDITIONS

PRIVATE PHOTO PICKER

A private photo picker allows the app to only gain access to the documents/photos you select.

INTEGRATED FAST PAIR

An integrated fast pair feature allows you to quickly pair your phone to accessories, such as Bluetooth headphones. This functionality is built right into the Android OS, which should make it easier to use.

NOTIFICATIONS PERMISSIONS

You will now need to give permission for each type of stored media:

- READ_MEDIA_IMAGE — For images and photos
- READ_MEDIA_VIDEO — For video files
- READ_MEDIA_AUDIO — For audio files

The benefit here is users not needing to worry that an app has too much access to their media. It's another move in the right direction toward more privacy and security on Android.

For convenience, when an app requests READ_MEDIA_IMAGE and READ_MEDIA_VIDEO at the same time, you'll see one dialog box for both permissions.

UNDER-THE-HOOD UPGRADES

LANGUAGE UPGRADES

It's now easier to format Japanese text to be more readable and polished.

Non-Latin scripts look better with adaptive line height. This prevents the bottom sections of these characters from getting cut off. Non-Latin scripts include:

- Tamil
- Burmese
- Telugu
- Tibetan
- And more

AUTO-COMPLETION & EMOJIS

With new text conversation API incorporated into the OS, you'll have an easier time using phonetic lettering to conduct searches and use text autocomplete.

Fonts and emojis have rendering support from COLRv1. This helps them render quickly and to look great at virtually any size.

ANDROID 13 EASTER EGG INTRODUCED

What is an Android Easter egg? A hidden feature in all Android operating systems, accessible by performing specific steps in the settings menu. To check, go to Android Settings > About phone and then tap on the Android version number until you see a clock. You'll then need to adjust the clock's hands to 1:00 PM. This will summon a variety of bubbles, matching your wallpaper color scheme. Tap and hold on one of these bubbles and watch them change into various emojis.