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Download Article Bypass the iCloud activation lock even if the device's previous owner isn't around Download Article Contact Apple Support [DNS Bypass ]Avoid Scams If you've bought an iPhone or iPad second-hand, you may have come across the activation lock during setup. Activation lock is a security measure put in place by Apple to keep devices safe if they're stolen and can't be removed even with a factory reset. Sometimes sellers forget to deactivate the activation lock on their old devices, leaving the buyer with a device they can't use. If you cannot contact the original owner, you can try several methods to bypass this lock, and we'll go over them in this article. The safest way to remove the activation lock is to contact Apple Support, though this method is not 100% foolproof as Apple can deny your request. You can use DNS bypass to get past the activation lock, though it may not work on every device. Many services online say they can help remove activation locks, but most of these are scams that don't really work. 1 Visit Apple's Activation Lock support page. If you can't contact the original owner of your device, Apple Support may help. Apple Support has a dedicated contact page for Activation Lock issues.[1] Navigate to the Apple Support Activation Lock additional support page. 2 Follow the on-screen prompts. You must provide your email address as well as your phone's serial number, IMEI, or MEID. Apple will also need proof of purchase of your device. You can find the serial number, IMEI, or MEID when you're setting up your device. Press the power button until you see the Apple logo, then tap the "i" button in the bottom right corner to see the number. Advertisement 3 Be aware that Apple may deny your request. Apple reserves the right to not approve any activation lock removal requests that it deems suspicious or untrustworthy. Advertisement 1 Restart your device. If you're stuck at the activation lock screen, restarting your device will allow you to begin the device set-up again. Note: This method may not work for all users depending on what iOS or iPadOS version was installed on the device when it was reset. 2 Set up the device until you get the Wi-Fi settings page. This should be the section after choosing your country and language. 3 Tap the i button next to your desired network. 4 Modify the DNS settings. Scroll towards the bottom of the screen, then click Configure DNS and select the Manual option. 5 Input the new DNS. There are different DNS addresses depending on your location. North America - 104.154.51.7 South America - 35.199.88.219 Europe - 104.155.28.90 Asia - 104.155.220.58 Australia and Oceania - 35.189.47.23 6 Tap the Back button and connect to your desired network. Select the Wi-Fi network you just edited and enter the password when prompted. 7 Tap the Back button when the device tries to activate. If you were successful you should be able to bypass the activation lock. This method will not unlock your phone fully, and many of your phone's features will not be available. The activation lock will also reappear after you restart your phone. This method may not work for every device, especially newer versions of iOS. If you are unable to bypass the activation lock this way you may want to try contacting Apple Support for help. Advertisement 1 Some activation lock removal apps require you to jailbreak the device. These apps have generally poor reviews online. Users state they have paid for the service only for it to not work in the end. These apps also usually require you to jailbreak your device, which can leave your device open to security threats. 2 Activation lock removal services have generally poor reviews. Many users state that services that claim to unlock your phone are a scam, many reporting that they paid for a service and their device was never unlocked. 3 If it seems too good to be true, it likely is. Anyone that offers to unlock your device for free is likely attempting to scam you. Only accept help for this issue from a person or business that you trust. Advertisement Ask a Question Advertisement 1 Written by: wikiHow Technology Writer This article was co-authored by wikiHow staff writer, Hannah Dillon. Hannah Dillon is a Technology Writer and Editor at wikiHow. She graduated with a B.A. in Journalism from North Dakota State University in 2013 and has since worked in the video game industry as well as a few newspapers. From a young age Hannah has cultivated a love for writing and technology, and hopes to use these passions in tandem to help others in the articles she writes for wikiHow. This article has been viewed 199,500 times. Co-authors: 5 Updated: April 10, 2025 Views: 199,500 Categories: iPhone Print Send fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 199,500 times. Bypassing the Activation Lock on your Apple device is simple — if you have the password. Kwanchai Lerttanapunyaporn/EyeEm/Getty Images This story is available exclusively to Business Insider subscribers. Become an Insider and start reading now. Activation Lock is a feature on Apple devices that's meant to prevent theft. To disable the Activation Lock on your device, you need to log into the device's Apple ID account. If you don't have access to the Apple ID account, you'll need to ask Apple for help. Activation Lock is a feature that has probably done more to prevent iPhone, iPad, Mac, and Apple Watch theft than any other security measure. Once locked, it's nearly impossible to use the device without knowing the right Apple ID password. You can't even erase its data — it's totally locked down. But while this is great for protecting your data if the device gets stolen, it's a problem if you legally own a device that's still got an Activation Lock. There are only two ways to disable the Activation Lock on your own, and you'll need the Apple ID password for both. Here's how it works. Important: There are a variety of websites that claim they can unlock your device without the Apple ID password if you pay them. These sites are scams — don't waste your money. How to bypass the Activation Lock with an Apple ID or passcode To do this, you need the Apple ID email and password for whatever account is associated with your iPhone, iPad, Mac, or Apple Watch. If you don't have it, contact the seller or former owner to get it. The screenshots below show how to do this on an iPad, but the steps are about the same on all devices. 1. Turn on the iPhone, iPad, Mac, or Apple Watch and go through setup. When you see the Activation Lock screen, enter the Apple ID email and password. Quick tip: If the original owner had two-factor authentication set up, you'll also need to enter a code that gets sent to their devices. Enter the correct Apple ID email and password. William Antonelli/Insider 2. Alternatively, if you're given the option, tap Unlock with Passcode and enter the passcode that the device used to use. This lets you set up the iPad without connecting to any Apple ID. If asked, you can enter the device's passcode too. William Antonelli/Insider Once you get past the Lock and have your device set up, you can disable the Activation Lock by heading to your device's Apple ID menu and signing out of the account you're logged into. Create a new Apple ID for yourself and log into that instead. And if you ever plan to sell your device in the future, be sure to sign out of your Apple ID again so the next owner doesn't face an Activation Lock of their own. How to bypass the Activation Lock remotely using Find My If the person who knows the password isn't nearby, they can unlock it remotely through the iCloud website. 1. Have the password owner log into their Apple ID account on the iCloud website, and then select Find iPhone. 2. Click All Devices at the top of the screen and select the device that needs to be unlocked. Select the device you need to unlock. Apple; William Antonelli/Insider 3. Click Erase iPad or Erase iPhone and confirm by clicking Erase again. The owner might have to enter their Apple ID password again. You'll need to erase the device to remove the Lock. Apple; William Antonelli/Insider 4. When asked if you want to enter a phone number and message for people who find the iPad, just click Next without entering anything. 5. Click Remove from Account. Disconnect the device from your account. Apple; William Antonelli/Insider This will reset the device to factory conditions, without the Lock. You can set it up for yourself now. Quick tip: If the password owner still owns another Apple device, they can do this through the Find My app too. Ask Apple to bypass the Activation Lock If you simply can't get access to the Apple ID password, then unfortunately you don't have a lot of other options. It's possible that Apple will help erase the device and unlock it for you. You'll need to have some proof that you're the legal owner of the device, and that proof needs to include the device's serial number, IMEI or MEID. If you've got the documentation and are ready to erase the device, head to their Activation Lock support page and fill out the forms. Just note that there's no guarantee that they'll help you, even if you fill everything out correctly. You'll need to know some information about your device to unlock it. Apple Dave Johnson contributed to a previous version of this article. A white circle with a black border surrounding a chevron pointing up. It indicates 'click here to go back to the top of the page.' Penny Warren Published on August 14, 2024Unlock iOS3-min reading Dealing with an activation lock on a used iOS device can be troublesome, especially if you need access to the previous owner of it. However, a few options can help you regain access to your device. You can use third-party tools, get support from Apple, or even bypass the lock through DNS or iCloud. This article will explore removing the activation lock without the previous owner to determine the best choice. Part 1. Remove Activation Lock Without Previous Owner [iOS 18 Supported] myPass iPassBye is an innovative iOS tool that helps users bypass the Activation Lock without needing the previous owner's login details. This app supports the latest iOS 18, providing a simple way for users to unlock their devices and regain full access to their iPhones or iPads. Step 1 Install the latest version of myPass iPassBye and ensure you have the most up-to-date version of myPass iPassBye installed on your computer. Launch the application to initiate the unlocking process. Step 2 Link your iPhone or iPad to the computer where you've installed myPass iPassBye. If prompted, click on Trust This Computer on your iOS device to establish a connection. Step 3 Take a moment to carefully review any warnings the application provides, as they contain important information. When ready, tick on the Start button to begin the verification process. Note: Before proceeding, ensure that your iOS device is jailbroken. myPass iPassBye does not offer jailbreaking services. Refer to the iOS Jailbreak Tutorial provided within the guidance application. Step 4 Once you've confirmed the device information and completed the jailbreaking process, click the Start Bypass Activation button within the application. Please be patient as the bypass process is initiated and completed. Following the steps, you can successfully remove the Activation Lock from your iOS device using myPass iPassBye. Part 2. Remove Activation Lock Without Computer With the steps below, you can easily learn how to remove the Activation Lock without previous owner details and without a computer: 1st Way. Remove the Activation Lock on the Device On your iOS, copy the onscreen instructions to access the Apple ID and password, or enter your device passcode if prompted. If you can't recall your Apple ID, try signing in with an email address or phone number associated with your Apple services. 2nd Way. Remove Activation Lock on Device Is Offline or Can't Access It You can still remove Activation Lock via the web if your device is inaccessible or offline. There's a free iCloud unlock service from Apple. Simply visit www.iCloud.com/find and sign in using your Apple ID, email address, phone number, and password. Pick the device you wish to remove from iCloud and click on Remove from Account. This process allows you to bypass the Activation Lock even when you cannot access the device directly, providing a convenient solution for managing iCloud settings remotely. Part 3. Bypass Activation Lock via DNS How to remove activation lock without previous owner? In the same way you can remove the iPhone lock, you can also rely on the steps we added here about the DNS. Uncover how to remove the activation lock without the previous owner on the iPad via the DNS method. Step 1 Go back to the Quick Start screen and navigate to Wi-Fi settings. Tap the i symbol beside your connected network to forget your current Wi-Fi. Step 2 Tap the i symbol again, select Configure DNS, and input a DNS server IP address from the index below based on your location. ♦ USA: 104.154.51.7 ♦ South America: 35.199.88.219 ♦ Europe: 104.155.28.90 ♦ Asia: 104.155.220.58 ♦ Australia and Oceania: 35.189.47.23 ♦ Other continents: 78.100.17.60 Step 3 Then, tap Save and Join the Network. Input your Wi-Fi password. Tap Join and Done in the top right corner. Step 4 Enter the DNS portal and tap Menu. On the next screen, scroll down and tap Applications and then iHaxDNS. Now, you can temporarily access some basic applications. Note: 1. If tapping Menu doesn't lead you to the Application selection, try to tap the area of the Menu pattern instead of the Menu letters. 2. This method won't support every iOS device, especially new iOS versions. Therefore, if you have your purchase proof, you can contact Apple support. They will remove the activation lock directly if they are satisfied with your documents. Part 4. Remove Activation Lock via iCloud Can Apple remove the Activation Lock without the previous owner? Absolutely. Here are the steps you can copy and take to remove the activation lock with the help of iCloud. Step 1 Visit iCloud.com and log in using the Apple ID credentials of the locked device. Then, click on Find iPhone. Once you're in iCloud's Find My iPhone section, click on All Devices. Step 2 Select the specific iPhone or iPad you want to bypass from the list of devices. Choose to Erase the iPhone or Erase the iPad and confirm the action. It will remove the device from the associated Apple ID. Step 3 After completing these steps, the device should be successfully removed from the Apple ID, and the Activation Lock should be bypassed. FAQs. Why is the iPhone locked to the owner? The iPhone is locked to the owner as a safety measure to stop unauthorized access and protect the user's data. Activation Lock is activated when Find My iPhone is enabled on the device, and it requires the owner's Apple ID and password to unlock and use the device. Can I remove the owner Activation Lock for iPad without a passcode? Removing the owner activation lock for an iPad without the passcode can be challenging. However, if you can access the previous owner's Apple ID and password, employ iCloud or other bypass methods to remove the activation lock. If you don't have this information, contacting Apple Support or the previous owner may be necessary for assistance. How do I remove the Activation Lock if I don't remember my Apple ID password? For forgetting your Apple ID password, try account recovery through the Forgot Apple ID or Forgot Password options on the Apple ID login page. Utilize devices where you're signed in to access Settings, Your Name, Password & Security for password retrieval or resetting, or seek assistance from Apple Support for additional help recovering your Apple ID. Will removing the Activation Lock erase data on the device? Removing the iCloud Activation Lock involves resetting the device and erasing all data and settings. Therefore, backing up important data before proceeding with the activation lock removal process is required. Conclusion In conclusion, iPhone locked to the owner Activation Lock isn't troublesome, especially if you have reliable methods such as utilizing a third-party app, the myPass iPassBye, seeking assistance from Apple Support, or bypassing the lock through DNS or iCloud. Remember, while these methods provide solutions, it's crucial to prioritize security and legality throughout the process. With the right approach and guidance, you can overcome the activation lock barrier and regain control of your iPhone or iPad. Download Article Bypass the iCloud activation lock even if the device's previous owner isn't around Download Article Contact Apple Support [DNS Bypass ]Avoid Scams If you've bought an iPhone or iPad second-hand, you may have come across the activation lock during setup. Activation lock is a security measure put in place by Apple to keep devices safe if they're stolen and can't be removed even with a factory reset. Sometimes sellers forget to deactivate the activation lock on their old devices, leaving the buyer with a device they can't use. If you cannot contact the original owner, you can try several methods to bypass this lock, and we'll go over them in this article. The safest way to remove the activation lock is to contact Apple Support, though this method is not 100% foolproof as Apple can deny your request. You can use DNS bypass to get past the activation lock, though it may not work on every device. Many services online say they can help remove activation locks, but most of these are scams that don't really work. 1 Visit Apple's Activation Lock support page. If you can't contact the original owner of your device, Apple Support may help. Apple Support has a dedicated contact page for Activation Lock issues.[1] Navigate to the Apple Support Activation Lock additional support page. 2 Follow the on-screen prompts. You must provide your email address as well as your phone's serial number, IMEI, or MEID. Apple will also need proof of purchase of your device. You can find the serial number, IMEI, or MEID when you're setting up your device. Press the power button until you see the Apple logo, then tap the "i" button in the bottom right corner to see the number. Advertisement 3 Be aware that Apple may deny your request. Apple reserves the right to not approve any activation lock removal requests that it deems suspicious or untrustworthy. Advertisement 1 Restart your device. If you're stuck at the activation lock screen, restarting your device will allow you to begin the device set-up again. Note: This method may not work for all users depending on what iOS or iPadOS version was installed on the device when it was reset. 2 Set up the device until you get the Wi-Fi settings page. This should be the section after choosing your country and language. 3 Tap the i button next to your desired network. 4 Modify the DNS settings. Scroll towards the bottom of the screen, then click Configure DNS and select the Manual option. 5 Input the new DNS. There are different DNS addresses depending on your location. North America - 104.154.51.7 South America - 35.199.88.219 Europe - 104.155.28.90 Asia - 104.155.220.58 Australia and Oceania - 35.189.47.23 6 Tap the Back button and connect to your desired network. Select the Wi-Fi network you just edited and enter the password when prompted. 7 Tap the Back button when the device tries to activate. If you were successful you should be able to bypass the activation lock. This method will not unlock your phone fully, and many of your phone's features will not be available. The activation lock will also reappear after you restart your phone. This method may not work for every device, especially newer versions of iOS. If you are unable to bypass the activation lock this way you may want to try contacting Apple Support for help. Advertisement 1 Some activation lock removal apps require you to jailbreak the device. These apps have generally poor reviews online. Users state they have paid for the service only for it to not work in the end. These apps also usually require you to jailbreak your device, which can leave your device open to security threats. 2 Activation lock removal services have generally poor reviews. Many users state that services that claim to unlock your phone are a scam, many reporting that they paid for a service and their device was never unlocked. 3 If it seems too good to be true, it likely is. Anyone that offers to unlock your device for free is likely attempting to scam you. Only accept help for this issue from a person or business that you trust. Advertisement Ask a Question Advertisement 1 Written by: wikiHow Technology Writer This article was co-authored by wikiHow staff writer, Hannah Dillon. Hannah Dillon is a Technology Writer and Editor at wikiHow. She graduated with a B.A. in Journalism from North Dakota State University in 2013 and has since worked in the video game industry as well as a few newspapers. From a young age Hannah has cultivated a love for writing and technology, and hopes to use these passions in tandem to help others in the articles she writes for wikiHow. This article has been viewed 199,500 times. Co-authors: 5 Updated: April 10, 2025 Views: 199,500 Categories: iPhone Print Send fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 199,500 times. The iPhone 14 was just released, which means that the second-hand market is brimming with older iPhone models, much as it happens after every new Apple release. Well, if you end up buying one of these iPhones and find out that it's stuck in iCloud Activation Lock, you need to figure out a way to use the phone. Thankfully, there are ways to remove the activation lock without the previous owner's help. Removing the iCloud Activation Lock so you can start using your new (for you) phone isn't the easiest thing to do, but it's thankfully possible. Using DNS Bypass This method can help you get control of your new phone in just a few minutes. Here's what you need to do: Power up your iPhone and choose the language and country from the menu. Tap on the Proceed button and enter the Wi-Fi settings page. You'll find an i in a circle near the Wi-Fi tab, so click on that one. Enter a DNS server IP address to bypass the iCloud activation lock. You'll have to choose one based on your location: USA: 104.154.51.7 Europe: 104.155.28.90 Asia: 104.155.220.58 Australia and Oceania: 35.189.47.23 South America: 35.199.88.219 Other areas: 78.100.17.60 Go back to the previous screen, turn on the Wi-Fi, and choose your network. Enter your passcode. Do not click on the Next page option. Instead, press Back to return to the iCloud Bypass screen. Scroll all the way down to the Menu and set up your apps and everything else you need on your iPhone. This method only works with devices running iOS 8 through 10. Plus, not everyone everywhere the world can use this method. Alternatively, you can use AnyUnlock to have a more streamlined experience. Using AnyUnlock - iPhone Password Unlocker Unlike the previous method, this one is a lot more user-friendly. While less tech-savvy users may have issues with the first method, AnyUnlock should raise no issues. Plus, this iCloud Activation lock bypass tool has a high success rate guaranteed, so you won't be left struggling to figure out how to unlock your new phone. Here's what you have to do to make this one work: Get AnyUnlock for your Windows or Mac computer. Install the tool and check out all the options. Then, you need to plug in your iPhone and connect it to your computer. Choose the Bypass iCloud Activation Lock from the grid. Click on Start Now to kick off the unlocking process. Done! Any traces of the previous owner have been removed. The whole process feels like it takes a blink of an eye, which is a lot easier than any other DIY solution you may use. Plus, it's a lot faster than contacting Apple support, reaching out to the seller again, and so on. We do have to mention that AnyUnlock is a complete iOS unlocking toolkit and it works to resolve so many other issues. For instance, it can unlock the screen passcode, Apple ID, and bypass the mobile device management. The tool can also remove SIM lock, the iTunes backup encryption, and you can even unlock the phone without a screen time passcode. Unlocking your new iPhone can be a job that takes a few minutes if you use the right tools like the iCloud Activation lock bypass tool we've shown you here resulting in fewer headaches.