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Mode of operation

If you love staring at the bright, white backgrounds in your various devices' operating systems, this article is not for you. I can't stand it, personally. I stare at enough screens during the day that switching over to dark mode is an almost indescribable relief on my eyes. Plus, it's super goth. Here's how to set up dark mode—the official mode of Evil Week—in all of your apps.How to enable "Dark Mode" in Windows 10When you're ready to make the switch to the dark side, pull up Windows 10's Settings and click on Personalization. From there, click on Colors on the left-hand sidebar. Look for the "Choose your color" drop-down menu on the right side of the window, and switch from Light to Dark.How to enable "Dark Mode" in macOS Mojave, Catalina, or Big SurThis one's easy. Pull up System Preferences in macOS Mojave (or later), click on General, and select Light, Dark, or Auto to change your operating system's appearance. (The third option switches between the two modes based on the time of day.)Of course, if you're impatient, or want to control your appearance manually without having to visit your System Preferences all the time, you can also create a keyboard shortcut that lets you hop between the two instantly.How to enable "Dark Mode" on Android 9 or laterMake sure you're running Android 9 (Pie), at minimum. Pull up your Settings app, and then:"Tap on Display, and you should either see an option for "Dark theme," "Night mode," or something to that effect. If you don't, tap on the Advanced section, and you'll undoubtedly find it there. It's also super-easy to add a shortcut to your Quick Settings menu that you can then use to flip between your phone's dark and light modes as needed.How to enable "Dark Mode" on iOS / iPadOS 13 or laterAssuming you're running at least iOS 13 or iPadOS 13, enabling your device's dark mode is easy:"Tap on Settings > Display & Brightness, and then pick Light or Dark.If you want to get fancy, you can also use the "Automatic" setting to shift your device from its Light theme to its Dark theme at sunrise or sunset (or on whatever custom schedule you prefer). And if you find that some of your favorite apps don't have a dark mode they can use, you can force that, too."How to enable "Dark Mode" in Chrome OSThe good news: Chrome OS has a dark mode. The bad news: You'll need to run the Canary (experimental) version of the operating system to access it. That might lead to some system instability, unexpected bugs, or who-knows-what on your Chromebook. Still, if you demand the dark, here's how you get it:Open your Chromebook's Settings and click on "About Chrome OS"Click on "Detailed Build Information"Change the "Channel" to "Developer" and confirm your decisionClick on the "Restart" button on the "About Chrome OS" pageOnce your Chromebook reboots, fire up Chrome, type these two flags into your browser's address bar, and enable them: chrome://flags/#enable-force-dark and chrome://flags/#enable-webui-dark-modeHow to enable "Dark Mode" in your Chrome desktop browserChrome should follow your system settings by default, so as long as you've set up dark mode on your operating system, you'll have dark mode in Chrome. To change Chrome's appearance manually you'll need to:Pull up Chrome's SettingsClick on AppearanceChange the "Default theme" to DarkYou can also force a dark theme for web content:It's not gorgeous, but it gets the job done if you despise being surprised by bright websites. (Rhymes unintentional.) To turn on Force Dark Mode, simply enter chrome://flags/#enable-force-dark in your address bar, hit Enter, and turn the feature on.How to enable "Dark Mode" in your Edge Chromium desktop browserSecond verse, same as the first; Edge Chromium should also follow your system's settings by default. If not, or you want to mix a dark browser on a light operating system UI, simply:Pull up Edge Chromium's SettingsClick on AppearanceChange the "Default theme" to "Dark"The same "force a dark theme" trick in Chrome also works in Edge Chromium.How to enable "Dark Mode" in your Firefox desktop browserLike Google Chrome and Edge Chromium, Firefox should respect your system settings for a light or dark theme. To adjust this:Pull up Firefox's Add-Ons menuClick on ThemesSwitch from "Default" to "Dark" or "Light"How to enable "Dark Mode" on Twitter / Instagram / Facebook / YouTube / WhatsApp / Google Docs / Slack / Discord / TwitchThat's quite a list, I know. There are plenty of services out there that come with their own dark modes on the web—or, potentially, in their apps. I'll focus on the former, whenever possible, since odds are good that any decently coded app will simply follow the theme you picked for Android or iOS. A website, though, needs a little coaxing:Twitter (web)Simply go here and select "Dim" or "Lights Out."Instagram (app)Instagram follows your Android or iOS preference; if you're dark in your operating system, you'll be dark in Instagram, too. There's no web-based dark mode (yet), but I have faith it'll arrive someday.Facebook (web)In Facebook's latest UI, simply click on the down-arrow in the upper-right corner. Click on Display Preferences, and enable "Dark mode."YouTube (web)Click on your face in the upper-right corner, click on Appearance, and pick "Dark theme." WhatsApp (web)Log into WhatsApp on the web, and then:"...click on the triple-dot icon above your message list and select Settings. Click on Theme and then switch it to Dark. You'll now have this much more pleasing interface to work with." Google Docs (app)There's no web-based dark mode (yet), but there is one for various Google productivity apps (Docs, Sheets, and Slides) on iOS and Android. To activate it, if it's not already enabled on your device by default:Open up the Settings menu in each appTap on Choose Theme or ThemeTap on "Dark"Slack (desktop app)Use the dark side as you bother your coworkers. To activate Slack's dark mode if it's not already following your operating system's preferences, simply:Launch Slack's Preferences (shortcut: CTRL+Comma)Click on ThemesClick on "Dark"Discord (desktop app)Chat with all your gamer friends—or whatever else you do on Discord—without being blinded by the light. To activate dark mode:Click on the gear icon in the lower-left corner to pull up Discord's settingsClick on AppearanceSelect "Dark" for Discord's themeTwitch (website)This one couldn't be any easier: Simply log into Twitch, click on your profile image in the upper-right corner, and enable the "Dark theme" slider. Source: Android Central Best Samsung Phones Android Central 2021 Samsung is the biggest phone manufacturer in the world, and with good reason — it makes incredible phones, combining outstanding hardware design with handy features that differentiate its phones. The Galaxy S21 is the best Samsung phone you can buy right now for its value and hardware, but plenty of other devices hit different sizes and price points. It may not be very compact, but the Galaxy S21 brings plenty to the table, and the highlight is that it is debuting for $200 less than its predecessor. Samsung achieved this by reducing the screen's resolution to FHD+ — last year's Galaxy S20 had a QHD+ panel — and ditching the glass back for a plastic option. The 6.2-inch AMOLED screen still has 120Hz refresh rate, so you still get velvety smooth interactions for everything from browsing, scrolling through social media, and gaming. You also get the latest internal hardware in the form of a Snapdragon 888 chipset, and this time there's Sub-6 and mmWave 5G connectivity as standard. There's no microSD slot or a charger in the box, but the base version comes with 8GB of RAM and 128GB of storage. You also get reliable cameras, all-day battery life, and all the extras you care about: IP68 water resistance, 15W wireless charging, and reverse wireless charging. The best part about the Galaxy S21 is the software; Samsung will deliver monthly security updates, three guaranteed Android version updates, and four years of patches. That alone makes the S21 stand out from its rivals, and the fact that it costs less than its predecessor is just the icing on the cake. Gorgeous 120Hz AMOLED panel More affordable Snapdragon 888 with Sub-6 and mmWave Reliable cameras Great battery life Plastic body No microSD No bundled charger Pocketable design, great price The Galaxy S21 delivers a bold new design and exciting performance upgrades while offering better value. If you are looking to upgrade to a flagship with all the bells and whistles, the obvious choice would be the Galaxy S21 Ultra. Samsung reserved its best innovations for the S21 Ultra this year, with the phone featuring a 6.8-inch QHD+ AMOLED screen with a dynamic refresh that scales from 11Hz to 120Hz. It also gets the latest cameras, including a 108MP primary lens and two zoom lenses that deliver 10x optical zoom and a wide-angle shooter. In short, the S21 Ultra delivers considerable camera upgrades over the S20 series, and just like the regular S21, it starts at $200 less than its predecessor. Also, this year's interesting addition is compatibility with the S Pen, allowing you to use Samsung's stylus with the phone. The device comes with the latest Snapdragon 888 chipset and delivers outstanding performance gains across the board. The 5,000mAh battery lasts more than a day, and the new design is striking — particularly with the matte finish. There isn't a charger in the box, and you are missing out on a microSD slot this generation, but with 128GB of storage for the base version, you don't have to worry about running out of space. With the S21 Ultra, you are getting a flagship that's worthy of the name. If you're in the market for a Samsung flagship, you cannot go wrong here. Sublime QHD+ AMOLED panel Snapdragon 888 with global 5G Compatible with S Pen Stellar battery life Outstanding cameras With 10x optical zoom Heavy No microSD slot No bundled charger The standard for 2021 flagships The S21 Ultra delivers everything you're looking for in a flagship and looks good while doing it. The Galaxy S20 FE fundamentally changes the value equation for Samsung and is one of the best Android phones you can buy right now. The phone offers most of the same features as the regular Galaxy S20, but the fact that it is available unlocked for just $600 makes it a standout value. The Galaxy S20 FE is powered by the same Snapdragon 865 chipset in the Galaxy S20 series, and you also get 5G connectivity. It offers the same excellent AMOLED screen as the S20 and has 120Hz refresh rate, making everyday interactions buttery smooth. However, the best part is that it has the same 12MP primary sensor as the regular S20, ensuring you get the same great caliber of photos in any lighting condition. Samsung hasn't removed any of the extras either. The Galaxy S20 FE has IP68 dust and water resistance, 15W wireless charging, and even 5W reverse wireless charging. The 4,500mAh battery lasts all day without any issues, and there's 25W wireless charging as well. The Galaxy S20 FE has picked up the One UI 3.0 update, ensuring you get all the new features in Android 11. The only downside with the phone (if you can call it that) is that it has a polycarbonate back instead of glass, but the matte texture masks the fact that it has a plastic build. If you're looking to save some cash, you can pick up the S20 FE instead of the regular Galaxy S21. Incredible 120Hz display Top-end specs Incredible cameras 5G connectivity 4,500mAh battery with 25W fast charging No headphone jack Polycarbonate build The best value yet from Samsung The S20 FE has outstanding internal hardware, amazing cameras and costs several hundred dollars less than the S20 series. Source: Apoorva Bhardwaj / Android Central The Galaxy Note 20 Ultra is Samsung's gigantic flagship. The phone has a massive 6.9-inch Dynamic AMOLED panel, and it is powered by the Snapdragon 865+ chipset. You also get 12GB of RAM as standard, with storage options from 128GB to 512GB. The Note 20 Ultra is the phone you get if you want the largest phone in the market today. The large screen is ideally suited for games and consuming videos. The 120Hz AMOLED panel has outstanding colors, delivers HDR10 content in Netflix and other streaming services, and you get stereo sound. Then there's the stylus. If you're used to a stylus on earlier Note devices, there's plenty to like on the Note 20 Ultra. Samsung made it easier to take notes thanks to lower latency, and there are better handwriting recognition features that make the device an ultimate tool for productivity. You also get a 108MP camera at the back and a 12MP zoom lens that goes up to 50x hybrid zoom, 12MP wide-angle lens, and a 10MP camera at the front. There's the ability to shoot 8K video, Wi-Fi 6 and global 5G connectivity, IP68 water resistance, wireless charging, and that bold new design looks outstanding. Look, there's nothing really missing here, and if you're looking at the best Samsung phone for productivity, the Galaxy Note 20 Ultra is the device to get. Best stylus experience on any phone Outstanding performance Large AMOLED screen Excellent battery life and fast charging Expandable storage No headphone jack Costly Might be too big for some The ultimate phone for stylus fans If you want a large phone with a stylus and the latest hardware with 5G, the Note 20 Ultra is the obvious option. With the Galaxy Z Fold 2, Samsung ironed out all the kinks from its first generation of foldables. The result is a futuristic device that holds up to the rigors of everyday use without any issues. The Z Fold 2 has an outer 6.2-inch screen with a 60Hz refresh, but it's the inner 7.6-inch panel that is of particular interest. The inner screen has a 120Hz refresh rate — just like the Galaxy S20 and S21 series — and Samsung made a lot of changes to the panel itself to bring it on par with its regular flagships. The foldable also has great cameras, stellar internal hardware in the form of the Snapdragon 865+ and 12GB of RAM, a 4,500mAh battery with 25W fast charging, and will get three years of Android platform updates. While Samsung nailed the fundamentals and introduced a new hinge that is more durable, there is the question of long-term reliability and how the device will fare after a few years' worth of use. That said, if you're interested in trying out a foldable right now, the Z Fold 2 is the obvious choice. Unique foldable design Reinforced hinge for better durability Outstanding hardware Great cameras Decent battery life Costly Unknown long-term reliability The future is already here The Z Fold 2 offers cutting-edge design with robust hardware and a unique foldable screen. Source: Apoorva Bhardwaj / Android Central With the Galaxy A52 and A52 5G, Samsung offers the mid-range phones to beat in 2021. The Galaxy A52 5G is the default option in the U.S., and it is packed with the latest innovations that Samsung has to offer. The phone has a 120Hz AMOLED display — just like the Galaxy S21 — and it has a gorgeous design at the back with a matte finish that makes it easy to hold and use. Qualcomm's Snapdragon 750G platform powers the phone, and it comes with Sub-6 5G connectivity as standard. You also get a 64MP camera at the back that takes great photos in just about any lighting scenario, and the phone works with all 5G carriers in the U.S. Another big change this year is IP67 dust and water resistance, making the A52 5G immune to the elements. The phone will also get three guaranteed Android updates along with monthly security updates, and in this regard, it is identical to the flagship S21 series. You will find much bloatware out of the box, but you can uninstall it easily. For what you're ultimately paying for the Galaxy A52 5G, you are getting a brilliant phone. Gorgeous design 120Hz AMOLED screen Robust hardware with 5G Stellar battery life Three years of updates Lot of bloatware No 4K video at 60fps The best mid-ranger from Samsung yet The Galaxy A52 5G has powerful hardware with 5G, a sublime 120Hz display, standout cameras, and IP67 water resistance. Source: Apoorva Bhardwaj / Android Central If you're looking for a more budget-focused option, the Galaxy A42 5G may just be the ideal phone for you. The phone is powered by the same Snapdragon 750G platform as the A52 5G, and that means you get incredible hardware that's designed to last for a few years with ease. You also get Sub-6 5G connectivity, and if you're looking to make the switch to 5G, the Galaxy A42 5G lets you do so on a budget. The phone has an alluring design at the back, and it comes with a 48MP camera that takes great photos — as well as a 20MP selfie camera that's decent in its own right. You also get an AMOLED screen, and while the 720p resolution isn't ideal, it has vibrant colors. The standout feature on the Galaxy A42 5G is the battery life. With a 5000mAh battery under the hood, you'll easily get two-day battery life out of the phone. Samsung will deliver three Android updates to the phone, making it a great overall choice if you're looking for a 5G-enabled budget phone. 5G on a budget Amazing battery life Striking design Powerful hardware Three years of updates Lowering the barrier for 5G The Galaxy A42 5G combines outstanding battery life with powerful hardware and 5G connectivity — all on a budget. Source: Samsung Want a Samsung phone for less than $200? Then you should take a look at the Galaxy A12. The phone has a massive 5000mAh battery that easily lasts over two days on a full charge, and you get a 48MP camera at the back, decent hardware that's reliable in daily use, and a modern design that belies the A12's budget roots. The phone has a 6.5-inch 720p display, and while it isn't as vibrant as the AMOLED panels that Samsung uses on the rest of its portfolio, it gets bright and doesn't have too many issues. The software will also be familiar if you've used a Samsung phone in the past, and overall the Galaxy A12 has the basics covered if you're in the market for an entry-level phone. Two-day battery life Modern design aesthetic 48MP camera 3.5mm jack Stellar value Older chipset Screen limited to 720p A reliable budget pick The Galaxy A12 isn't the most powerful phone around, but it nails the basics and delivers a great experience in day-to-day use. Source: Hayato Huseman / Android Central The Galaxy S21 is Samsung's best phone in 2021 and the default choice for people who want to upgrade to a flagship. The 120Hz AMOLED display is sublime, the internal hardware is the fastest of any phone today, and you get Sub-6 and mmWave 5G connectivity as standard. The camera at the back takes great photos. You get wireless charging and IP68 water resistance, and all-day battery life. There isn't anything missing here, and the fact that the Galaxy S21 now starts at $700 makes it a truly outstanding option in 2021. Then there's the Galaxy S20 FE. The phone absolutely destroys its rivals when it comes to value, and it is great to see Samsung offer such an attractive option for considerably less than its regular flagships. The 12MP camera takes gorgeous photos. The 120Hz AMOLED screen is fantastic to use. It has wireless charging, IP68 water resistance, and a large 4,500mAh battery. If you want a value flagship right now, this is the phone to get. But if you are interested in a true flagship with all the latest tech, you will want to look at what the Galaxy S21 Ultra has to offer. The phone is the only one in the Galaxy S21 series to feature a QHD+ AMOLED screen, and it has the latest Snapdragon 888 silicon along with massive camera upgrades and all the extras you'll need. On the lower end, Samsung offers the Galaxy A52 5G with hints of the flagship Galaxy S models trickled down to a mid-range price that can be incredibly appealing if you can't push your budget as high as the S20 FE. The Galaxy A52 5G has a 120Hz AMOLED screen, 5G connectivity, and powerful hardware designed to last several years. Credits — The team that worked on this guide Harish Jonnalagadda is the Asia Editor at Android Central. A reformed hardware modder, he now spends his time writing about India's burgeoning phone market. Previously, he used to ponder the meaning of life at IBM. Contact him on Twitter at @chunkynerd. We may earn a commission for purchases using our links. Learn more.