

# **Game Mode**

**MacOS**

## Game Mode

### What is Game Mode?

Game Mode introduced in macOS Sonoma, is Apple's effort to make the Mac a more viable and user-friendly platform for gaming by automatically optimizing system resources to enhance gaming performance.



### How Game Mode Works

Game Mode is designed to automatically activate when you're playing a game. However, it's not as simple as just launching any game.

For macOS Sonoma to turn on Game Mode, you must run the game in full screen. Until you do so, Game Mode will not activate, and there are no controls or options available.

Once you have the game running full screen, a game controller icon appears in the Mac's menu bar. This icon appears whether or not you have an actual game controller connected.

The menu for the game controller icon in the menu bar will display the name of the game being played full screen and provide only one available control "Turn Game Mode Off."

### What Game Mode Does

Game Mode prioritizes the game's performance by allocating more CPU and GPU resources to ensure smoother and more consistent frame rates. It also manages background tasks to utilize lower system resources, ensuring that the game gets the highest priority on the CPU and GPU.

Game Mode lowers audio latency with AirPods and reduces input latency with Xbox and PlayStation controllers by doubling the Bluetooth sampling rate, aiming to provide a more responsive and immersive gaming experience.

While Game Mode works with any game, Apple encourages developers to create native Mac versions of games using Apple's new Game Porting Toolkit for optimal performance on macOS Sonoma.

### User Interaction

There is very minimal user interaction with Game Mode. It activates automatically under the specified conditions (playing a game in full screen), and the only user control provided is the ability to turn it off via the menu bar icon.

There are no configuration options for Game Mode. It operates automatically, and user adjustments or customizations are not available.

### User Experience

Some users may not notice a significant difference in the gameplay experience when Game Mode is on versus when it is off. However, it's possible that further optimizations and enhancements will come in the future.

As macOS Sonoma and Game Mode are adopted by more users and developers, further optimizations and enhancements might be introduced in future updates.

Game Mode in macOS Sonoma represents a step towards enhancing the Mac gaming experience by optimizing system resources and providing certain benefits like reduced latency. However, the real-world impact might vary, and future updates and developer adoption will likely shape its evolution.