

Part V

Troubleshoot and Master Your iPhone



Chapter 13

Tweak Your iPhone Settings to Fit Your Needs



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How to...

- Tweak iPhone connectivity settings
- View your usage information
- Adjust volume and sound notifications
- Get a better view by adjusting brightness
- Customize your iPhone with wallpapers
- Modify General settings
- Modify Mail settings
- Modify Phone settings
- Modify Safari settings
- Modify iPod settings
- Modify Photos settings

Apple thought of just about everything when they created the iPhone, but what they couldn't account for is each person's personal preferences (they haven't perfected mind-reading just yet). The iPhone is a great mobile device out of the box, but we've all got our own way of doing things, and your iPhone has consolidated all of those options into the Settings application. Everything in this chapter will take place in Settings, so from the Home screen, tap Settings, load up the screen shown in Figure 13-1, and let's get started.

Did you
know?

You Can Use Your iPhone on an Airplane

We've all heard that you need to shut off your cell phones when you're flying, but what you actually need to turn off is the wireless communication going on inside your phone. That's why your iPhone makes it simple to switch into Airplane mode, a mode that turns off all of the wireless communication and lets you use your phones other functions—like the iPod—while you're in a plane.

To switch your iPhone to Airplane mode, tap the On/Off switch next to Airplane mode in the first screen of the Settings app. Turning on airplane mode will completely shut down all your iPhone's wireless connectivity—including phone calls, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and EDGE downloads. To break it down into what you can't do: this means you can't make or take calls, use your Bluetooth headset, browse the Internet with Safari, check your email, download weather and stock updates, connect to Google Maps, or watch YouTube videos. All applications that don't rely on a wireless connection will work the same as always.



FIGURE 13-1 The main Settings screen

Tweak iPhone Connectivity Settings

Although you own an iPhone because you want to be connected all the time, there are some occasions where you need to unplug completely—for example, on an airplane.

Set Up Wi-Fi

When you want to get connected, we recommend that you use Wi-Fi rather than EDGE whenever possible. It's faster, and as we've mentioned before, you won't miss any calls when you're actively downloading data over Wi-Fi (as opposed to EDGE). Tap Wi-Fi from the first screen in Settings, and your iPhone will scan the local area for wireless access points (see Figure 13-2).

You want to make sure the switch to the right of the Wi-Fi setting says ON. A list of those local Wi-Fi access points will show up below, allowing you to connect to the one you want. Choose a network, and if it's a secure network (a lock will appear to the left of the signal strength meter if it is), you'll be prompted to enter a WEP, WPA, or WPA2 key. If you don't know the password, ask your network administrator or the person responsible for the Wi-Fi hotspot.

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FIGURE 13-2 The Wi-Fi settings screen

TIP

Your iPhone can only use 802.11b and 802.11g. If you have a wireless access point that uses 802.11b/g, then you'll be fine. However, if you have one that supports 802.11a or 802.11n, you need to make sure it's configured to allow 802.11b/g access. If this is not on, your iPhone won't be able to connect.

Once you've connected to a wireless access point, you can change its connection details. Tap the blue arrow to the right of the access point entry to see its details page.

There are three options at the top: DHCP, BootP, and Static. These options determine the way you obtain an IP address, which is how the router and other computers on the network locate your iPhone. Unless you have a specific reason to change these settings, we recommend leaving them alone. The same goes for the HTTP Proxy options on the bottom, which should not need to be changed unless your network or your network administrator require it.

The last option, Ask to Join Networks, allows you to disable the prompts your iPhone gives you when it can't find any preferred networks and wants to join an unprotected network. By turning this off, you won't be able to automatically join open networks when you're on the go, but you also won't be bugged by prompts when you're walking down the street and checking email. If you do want to be notified of networks you can join, set this to On.

View Your Usage Information

The very cool and very useful Usage section of the Settings application displays just how much you've used the iPhone, both as an Internet device and as a phone. Here's what the numbers in the Usage section shown in Figure 13-3 all mean:

- **Time since last full charge** The two numbers under this entry show you how much time has elapsed since you last fully charged the iPhone. You have to add up both Usage and Standby to get the exact time of use, but if there is a note that says iPhone has been plugged in since the last full charge underneath the two entries, then the measurement is fairly useless in terms of knowing just how long you can go without charging. These numbers go back to 0 the next time you fully charge your phone.
- **Usage** This measures how much time you've spent with the iPhone actively being used. Active is a relative term, since talking on the phone, playing the iPod, and leaving your iPhone idle at the Home screen all count toward increasing the Usage number.
- **Standby** This is the amount of time your iPhone has been on, but in the locked position and not doing anything.



FIGURE 13-3 Usage information

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- **Call Time** This shows how many minutes you've used of your AT&T call plan.
 - **Current Period** This shows the number of minutes you've used in this current period. That may sound like it's your current AT&T billing month, but it's not. It just means how many minutes you've used since you last hit the Reset Statistics button at the bottom of this screen. If you manually reset stats every month at billing time, this can be a great tool to keep track of how many minutes you've used in order to keep from going over.
 - **Lifetime** The amount of time you've talked on the phone for the lifetime of your iPhone. This stat doesn't get reset when you hit Reset Statistics, so you don't have to worry about losing your lifetime data.
- **EDGE Network Data** Sent and Received measure how much data you've sent over the EDGE network. This really doesn't usually affect anything, since AT&T gives you unlimited data, but if you take your iPhone to another country and start roaming on their network, you'll find this *very* useful in keeping your bill low.
- **Reset Statistics** Hitting this button will reset the Current Call Time Period and the EDGE Network Data to 0. Your Lifetime call time and the time since the last full charge will be untouched.

Adjust Volume and Sound Notifications

The Sounds settings pane shown in Figure 13-4 is where you can adjust all the sound-related options on your iPhone. If you're sick of the noises your phone makes when a new text message or voicemail comes in, this is where you go to shut them off.

- **Silent Vibrate** This option lets you choose whether you want your phone to vibrate when you get a call or alert when the phone's on silent mode.
- **Ring Vibrate** This is similar to the silent vibrate, but Ring Vibrate also lets you choose whether you want the phone to both ring and vibrate when the phone is in standard mode (ring active).
- **Volume Slider** Adjusting your ring volume here is the same as adjusting it using the side volume keys, but this allows you to quickly pull it to either the loudest or softest setting.
- **Ringtone** Tapping this option will take you into the sub-menu, where you can choose a universal ringtone for all your calls. After you've chosen one, tap the Sounds button on the top left to go back to the main Sounds menu.
- **New Voicemail** This is the alert sound that plays when someone has left you a new voicemail.
- **New Text Message** This is the new text message alert sound. Although the iPhone actually plays back two different sounds—one when the phone is locked and one when you're in the actual SMS conversation screen with the recipient—this switch enables and disables both.
- **New Mail** The alert that plays when you receive a new mail message. Unless you use Yahoo Mail or have your email set to automatically check for new mail, you won't hear this sound unless you launch the Mail application to manually check for new email.

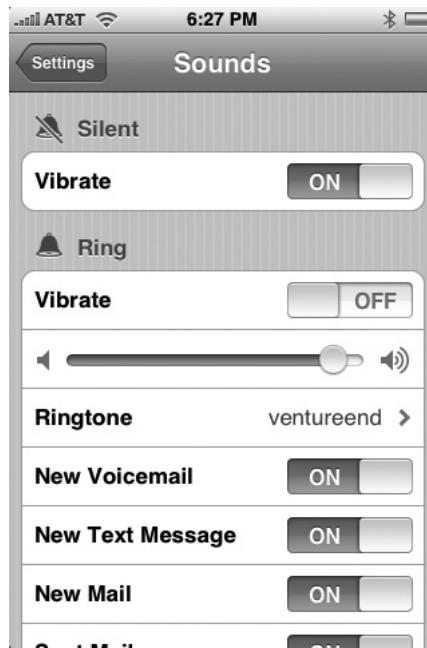


FIGURE 13-4 Sound settings

- **Sent Mail** This is the whoosh sound that plays whenever you successfully send an email.
- **Calendar Alerts** This is the sound that accompanies Calendar alerts when they go off. Shutting this off will just shut off the sound, but the alert will still pop up.
- **Lock Sounds** This is both the Click noise that goes off when you press the On/Off button to lock your iPhone, and the click noise that goes off when you slide the unlock bar to unlock your iPhone.
- **Keyboard Clicks** These are the click noises you hear when you type on the keyboard in any application. They're useful when you want to know if you hit a key correctly, but the keyboard sounds can get annoying once your typing speed goes up.

Get a Better View by Adjusting Brightness

The iPhone's screen can be really bright, but using it at full brightness all the time will drain your battery faster than usual. We recommend moving the brightness slider to a level where you can easily see all the details on your screen, but not too high that it hurts your eyes when you stare at it for a long time.

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The Auto-Brightness option is fantastic as well. The iPhone actually has a light sensor on board that detects how much light is in its surrounding environment. This allows it to automatically get brighter when you're outside in the sun, as well as dim itself when you're in the dark. We recommend leaving this On unless you have a need to manually set the iPhone to a really bright or really dim mode.

Customize Your iPhone with Wallpapers

Apple included fifteen photos with your iPhone that you can set to be the wallpaper in your standby screen. The only place you'll see this wallpaper is in that screen (which you probably won't see much of) and when you get a call from someone who doesn't have a contact picture (which you probably will see a lot of unless you've already set up everyone's picture).

If the Apple-provided wallpapers under Wallpaper don't suit you, you can also set your wallpaper using any picture from your Photo library. All the albums in your photo library, including the Camera Roll, are present under the Wallpaper option. Choose an album, select a picture, move and scale the photo, and then tap Set Wallpaper. Moving and scaling the photo will let you make sure the most interesting part of the picture is in the frame, and it can help you make the shot big enough to fill the iPhone's frame—useful if this is a picture you shot in landscape mode.

Modify General Settings

Apple placed all of the configuration options that don't belong to a specific application into the General settings. Let's start from the top of Figure 13-5.

See Your iPhone's Information in About

The About screen lets you quickly glance at your iPhone's statistics. The only ones that are generally useful to you are the Songs, Videos, Photos, Capacity, Available, and Version. The first three show you how many songs, videos, and photos you have on your iPhone. Capacity displays how much storage your iPhone has in total (the 4GB model will say 3.3GB and the 8GB model will say 7.3GB because the iPhone's operating system takes up 700MB of space). Available shows you how much space you have left on your iPhone for new songs, photos, and videos. If this number is running low, you might think about deleting some videos in order to make sure you have enough space for new emails to come in. You can always re-sync these videos to your iPhone the next time you dock with your computer.

Tapping the Legal button on the bottom brings up the Legal Notices associated with the iPhone. This screen is very long and very dry, so unless you're an insomniac, a lawyer, or very curious, there's not much reason to go here.

Adjust the Date & Time

The Date & Time option allows you to change options that relate to your iPhone's internal clock.

- **24-Hour Time** This switches the display on the top of your iPhone screen from, for example, 7:01PM to 19:01. If you're using 24-hour time in your work, this can be a handy way to quickly use your phone to get military time.



FIGURE 13-5 The General settings screen

- **Set Automatically** Turning this on will automatically update your iPhone's internal clock using the cellular network. This means that if you travel from San Francisco to New York, your iPhone will automatically change its clock to Eastern time when you land and connect to a cell tower. Turning this off will bring up two more options.
 - **Time Zone (Optional)** This is only active when Set Automatically is turned off. This lets you manually set the time zone you want your iPhone's clock to use.
 - **Set Date & Time (Optional)** This is only active when Set Automatically is turned off. You choose the date and time using a set of dials.

You can also adjust time zone settings for your Calendar as well. If your calendar on the desktop (like iCal) supports multiple time zones, you may have set some events to one time zone and some events to another. By turning on Time Zone support, your iPhone Calendar will show the event times for the time zone that's selected. If you turn the option off, the time zone for your calendar will default to your current time zone, which you set (or automatically fetched) under Date & Time options.

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Set a Time to Auto-Lock Your iPhone

Auto-Lock lets you choose how long you have to wait before the phone automatically shifts to Locked mode when not in use. You can choose between 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 minutes, or you can choose to avoid Auto-Lock altogether if you want to, say, always keep the iPod display active when listening to music. This last option is especially useful if you've got the iPhone plugged into an iPod dock, so you don't have to wake the phone up every time you want to change a track.

Set a Passcode Lock

When you set a passcode, the iPhone will prompt you for a four-digit code every time you wake the phone. After you set a passcode, you'll see new options in the Passcode Lock screen. You can set the phone to prompt for a passcode immediately, or after anywhere between 1 to 60 minutes of usage. By setting a longer interval, you can use your phone and not have to worry about putting your password in all the time, but still protect your phone from being used when stolen. If you set it to prompt immediately, you can protect it from unauthorized use altogether.

Turning Show SMS Preview to On will allow you to see the preview of a new SMS message in your standby screen without having to go unlock your phone (and therefore enter the passcode). This saves you from having to enter in the code for messages that you don't need to respond to.

Change Connectivity Options with Network

Network has two options: VPN and Wi-Fi. Wi-Fi just points you to the same screen you reach from the Wi-Fi option under the Settings main screen, which we've already described. VPN allows you to securely connect to a network at work. Your office may require you to use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection before you can access your work email, or before you can access internal web pages. To configure your VPN, just tap the option and switch it to On.

Once the VPN is set to on, the account information pane will pop up. The iPhone supports both L2TP and PPTP protocols, which both have their upsides and downsides in network security. Ask your network administrator for information on how your iPhone will connect to the VPN network and enter the details in the appropriate fields. When you're finished, hit Save.

Set Up a Bluetooth Device

The Bluetooth option, when turned on, allows you to hook your iPhone up with a Bluetooth headset for hands-free conversations. Turn this on and the iPhone will start searching for nearby Bluetooth devices. You may need to consult your Bluetooth headset's instructions on how to set it on Discoverable mode. Once the device has been discovered, an entry will show up under Devices. Tap the entry, and the iPhone will prompt you to enter in a password. Search your Bluetooth headset instructions again for its passcode and enter it in here.

Once your headset is paired (it will show the word Paired on the right side of its entry under Devices), the Bluetooth icon on the top right of the phone will turn Blue. If it's not currently paired, the icon will be grey. It's a good idea to make sure this icon is blue before you make a call—in other words, make sure your headset is paired if you want to use it to have a conversation. Consult your headset's instruction manual again to see which button you need to press to activate or answer a call. For more on answering and making calls with a headset, see Chapter 3.

Adjust Keyboard Settings

The two options under Keyboard let you choose whether you want to enable auto-capitalization of words and whether you want to enable caps lock. Once enabled, Auto-Capitalization is transparent, but to activate caps lock you have to tap the Shift key twice. The key will turn blue and all the subsequent letters you type will be capitalized.

Reset Content and Settings

The options under Reset should generally be left alone unless you have a specific reason to use them, such as if you want to delete all of your settings before you give or sell your iPhone to someone else (which we would recommend). Here's what the options in Figure 13-6 do:

- **Reset All Settings** This erases all preferences from your iPhone and reverts it to just about the way it was when you purchased it. The only difference is that your photos, videos, and songs will still be on board. This is because they are considered content, as opposed to settings. To delete content as well, see the next option.
- **Erase All Content and Settings** This will delete both your settings and your content, so your phone will be erased of all knowledge that you were ever there. This is super useful if you're going to sell your phone or give it to a family member when you upgrade to the second generation iPhone.

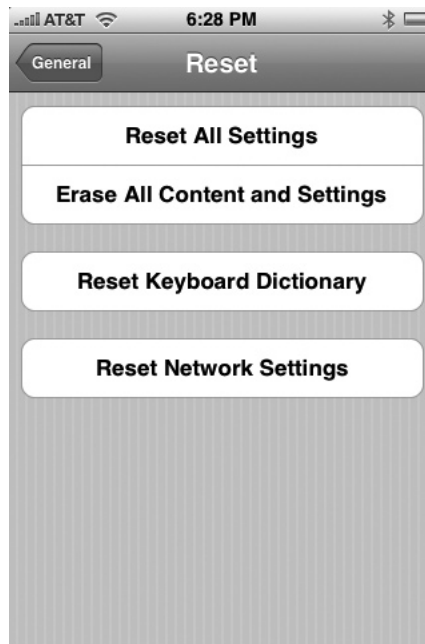


FIGURE 13-6 Reset screen

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How to ... **Start from Scratch with Your Settings**

If you went on a tweaking binge and now your iPhone is behaving abnormally and you don't know how to fix it, you can reset all of your settings and start from scratch rather than digging through your settings looking for where you went wrong. To do so, open the Settings application from the Home screen, tap General, Reset, and then Reset All Settings. Confirm the reset by tapping the Reset All Settings button. Your iPhone, settings, are now as fresh as the day you bought it.

- **Reset Keyboard Dictionary** When you're typing in the iPhone keyboard you actually train the internal dictionary every time you type in a word or name that's not already inside—for example, when you type in a word and the iPhone auto-suggests another word and you reject that word by tapping the little x to tell it that you want to use your word. If you do this twice, the iPhone will place this word into the internal dictionary. If you accidentally do this too many times with words you didn't intend to add to the dictionary, just reset.
- **Reset Network Settings** This will erase all the Wi-Fi network settings you've programmed in—handy if you've just traveled and connected to a bunch of Wi-Fi hotspots on the road that you will never use again.

Modify Mail Settings

If you're not happy with the default Mail settings, you can change them to fit your needs. First, we'll touch on accounts. By going into each account, you can change your displayed name, the outgoing server address, or even disable the account entirely. Here are some of the more advanced features:

- **Outgoing Server** You can change the outgoing server of an account to the outgoing server of another account, if you want to make it seem like you're sending messages from the other account. This could be useful in situations like Hosted Gmail, or where you're forwarding messages from one account to another and trying to make it seem like messages are coming from the first.
- **Removing deleted messages** Under Advanced, you can set messages to never delete, or delete after a day, a week, or a month. This frees up space on your iPhone, especially if you get a lot of messages with large attachments.
- **Deleting messages from the server** Another Advanced option, this allows you to set your iPhone to remove an email from your email server never, after seven days, or after you remove the message from the inbox.

- **Mailbox Behavior** Again under Advanced for certain mail accounts (like .Mac), you can assign the location to store drafts or sent messages—either on your iPhone or on the server.

It's best not to fiddle with your mail account's settings unless you or your network administrator have a reason to, but you should feel free to change other mail settings to customize your experience however you like.

- **Auto-Check** Change the interval for your iPhone to automatically check your accounts to see if there are any new messages.
- **Show** This lets you decide if you want to display the 25, 50, 75, 100, or 200 most recent messages in your Inbox.
- **Preview** Changing this option will change the amount of lines displayed from each message in your Inbox list view. Setting it higher means that sometimes you won't even have to open up a message to read the contents, but it makes scrolling through large lists take slightly longer.
- **Minimum Font Size** If the default font size for messages is too small, you can increase it here to make text easier to read.
- **Show To/Cc Label** Turning this on will show a To or Cc icon next to messages that are actually addressed to you. This helps if you're on a lot of mailing lists or you get bulk email by letting you discern important messages right away.
- **Always Bcc Myself** This lets you send a Bcc of your messages to yourself whenever you send mail. Bcc stands for blind carbon copy, which means the person you're sending the message to will have no idea you're sending a copy to yourself.
- **Signature** By default, your signature is "Sent from my iPhone," and will be attached at the bottom of every message you send. Feel free to change this to anything that suits you.
- **Default account** Choose the default account you want your messages to send from. This is used when you click the Share button from Photos and YouTube, for example.

Modify Phone Settings

You can make a number of simple yet very useful tweaks to the Phone application through the Settings. In addition, the Phone Settings gives you quick access to AT&T services, so you can check your balance and pay your bill with the touch of a button. Inside the Phone settings in Figure 13-7, you'll see:

- **International Assist** Normally, when you're traveling abroad, you'd need to dial an international calling code in front of your US numbers to reach your contacts. With the International Assist option turned on, the iPhone will recognize when you're dialing from outside the country and automatically add the appropriate prefix to your US numbers.
- **Sort Order** You can sort your contact list alphabetically by last name or first name. The iPhone defaults to the Last, First sort order.

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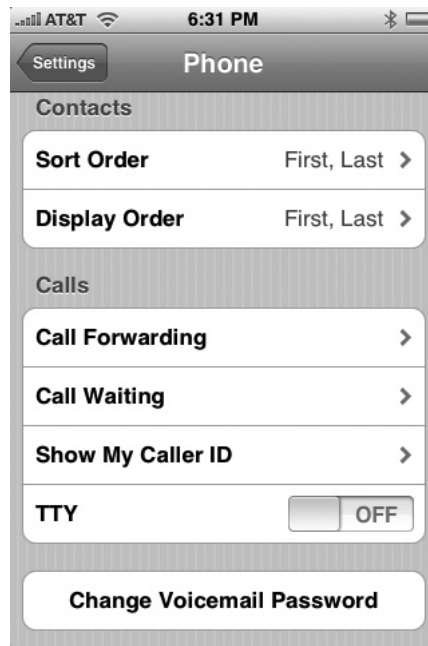


FIGURE 13-7 Phone settings screen

- **Display Order** You can change the order in which individual contacts are listed by adjusting the Display Order. A Display order of First, Last would display a contact as Jason Chen, while an order of Last, First would display a contact as Pash, Adam. Most likely you'll want your Display Order to match your Sort Order.
- **Call Forwarding** Forward your calls to another phone number. This is useful when you don't have cell coverage or your phone's running out of batteries. Note that call forwarding still uses up your anytime minutes. To turn it on, tap the On/Off toggle and enter the number you want to forward calls to.
- **Call Waiting** If turned off, any call you receive while you're already on the phone will go directly to voicemail instead of notifying you with the standard call waiting beep.
- **Show My Caller ID** This displays your name and phone number to the people you call when turned on. Most of the time you'll want your contacts to know you're calling—in fact, a lot of people don't answer their phone when they can't see who's calling. However, you can turn your Caller ID off if you want some privacy.
- **TTY** Turn this on to enable teletype machine compatibility, a technology used by the hearing impaired to communicate textually.

- **SIM PIN** If you turn this on, your SIM chip (the small, removable card inside your iPhone) can't be taken out and used in another phone without the password. This is a useful setting to enable if you're worried about your phone being stolen.
- **AT&T Services** Check the status of your AT&T account right on your phone with the tap of a button. Check Bill Balance will send an SMS message to your phone with the balance of your current bill; Directory Assistance dials the familiar 411; Pay My Bill calls AT&T's express pay line phone number; View My Minutes will send an SMS message to your phone displaying your remaining anytime, nights and weekends, and mobile-to-mobile minutes; and Voice Connect lets you access and set up AT&T's voice-activated information service, Voice Connect. Tapping AT&T My Account loads your AT&T account page in Safari, but you need to have signed up for an online account and enter your phone number and password.

Modify Safari Settings

Just like in a regular desktop browser, there are some settings in Safari you can tweak to enhance or speed up your browsing session. Here's a quick look at what they are and what they do (Figure 13-8):

- **Search Engine** You can switch your search engine from the default Google to Yahoo if you favor it.
- **JavaScript** Many websites, including sites that host the web applications for your iPhone that we covered previously in the book, use JavaScript. Disabling this will speed up browsing slightly, but make some pages behave oddly and other pages completely unreadable. We recommend leaving this on unless you have a specific reason to turn it off.
- **Plug-Ins** This allows you to play Quicktime movies and various audio files inside your browser. You should leave this on unless a specific movie or audio file is crashing Safari, which will happen very rarely.
- **Block Pop-ups** This prevents web pages from opening up new windows uninvited, which are usually the pop-up ads that you're already familiar with. Imagine how fun those could be on the iPhone! Make sure to leave this on.
- **Accept Cookies** Cookies are little pieces of data that websites use as storage bins for information. This info can be your login (to automatically log you in to a site when you visit), so we recommend leaving it set to From Visited. This lets sites you're actually viewing leave cookies, but blocks cookies from the ad sites that you're not directly visiting.
- **Clear History** If you're like Jason and you're ashamed of the sites you've been browsing, click Clear History. This will prevent any wandering eyes from accidentally seeing your surfing habits. The downside is that you won't be able to go into your history to find a page you viewed a few days ago but forgot to bookmark.

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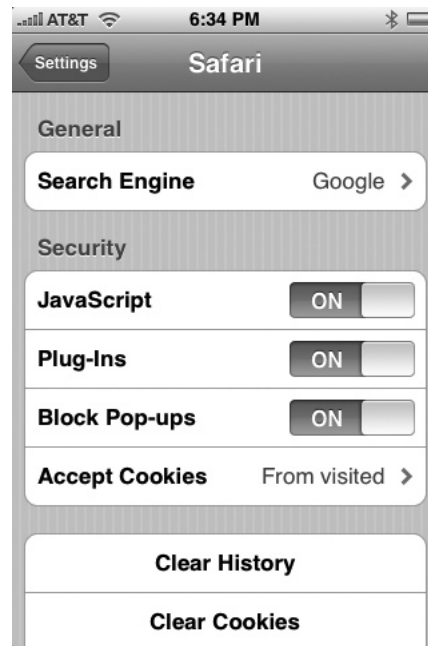


FIGURE 13-8 Safari settings screen

- **Clear Cookies** Not a huge deal if you've been accepting cookies by default, but if you want to clear your login info from certain websites, you can do so here.
- **Clear Cache** The iPhone stores web page data, such as images, in its internal memory to speed up subsequent visits to the same website. If you're running low on space, you can clear the cache here to free up some more room to take pictures or receive emails.

Modify iPod Settings

There are a couple tweaks you can make your iPod experience even more enjoyable, including setting a maximum volume limit and adjusting the equalizer to optimize sound. This is what the options in Figure 13-9 do:

- **Sound Check** This option allows songs recorded at different volume levels to be played back at the same volume. If you have a playlist with two albums, one recorded really loudly and the other softly, you may find yourself fiddling with the volume every time the track changes. Sound Check equalizes the volume between tracks so you don't have to. To turn it on, open up iTunes preferences on your computer (Mac or PC), go to Playback and select Sound Check. Then, in your iPod Settings, make sure Sound Check is switched on.

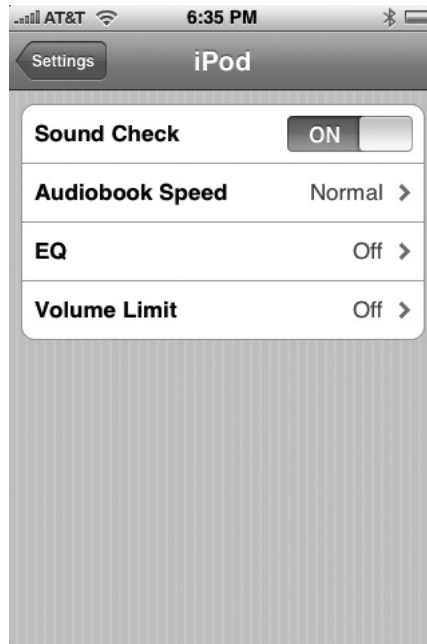


FIGURE 13-9 iPod settings screen

- **Audiobook Speed** You can speed up audiobooks to play back faster, if you want to save time, or slower, if you want to make out words more clearly.
- **EQ** The EQ customizes the sound output to accommodate a certain music style or speaker type. For example, Small Speakers is a good option to choose if you're playing back music through the iPhone's built-in speakers, and Spoken Word is a good option for audiobooks.
- **Volume Limit** To prevent music and videos from being accidentally played back at a really loud volume when you have your headphones on, drag the volume slider under Volume Limit. To prevent anyone else from changing this volume limit, click Lock Volume Limit and type in a four-digit code.

Modify Photos Settings

You can adjust slideshow playback for the Photos application through the Photos settings, as shown in Figure 13-10. You have four options for adjusting Slideshow settings:

- **Play Each Slide For** Adjust how long the slideshow displays one photo before advancing to the next. You can set playback times at 2, 3, 5, 10, or 20 seconds.

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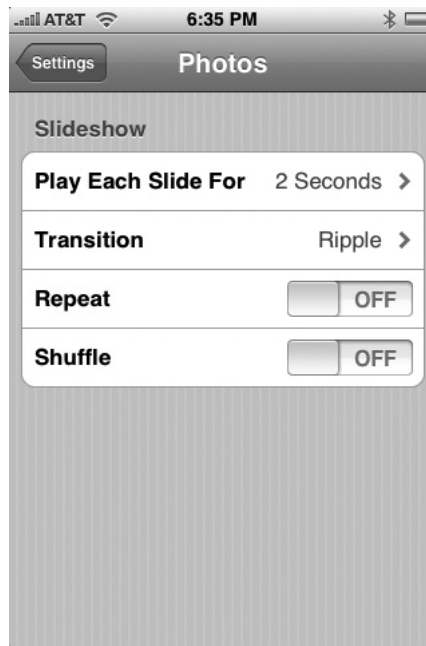


FIGURE 13-10 Photos settings screen

- **Transition** The slideshow moves between photos using one of several transition effects. The Cube effect rotates from one picture to the next as though your images are displayed on a rotating cube. Dissolve slowly fades from one photo to the next; Ripple uses a water-ripple effect to move between photos; and Wipe Across and Wipe Down slide the new picture over the top of the previous one.
- **Repeat** When Repeat is off, your slideshow will stop playing back once it reaches the last picture. If repeat is on, the slideshow will continue playing until you manually stop it by tapping the screen, sleeping the phone, or pressing the Home button.
- **Shuffle** When shuffle is on, your slideshows will play back randomly rather than sequentially.

Customizing the settings of your iPhone to fit your needs is a great way to improve your iPhone's functionality, but in Chapter 14, we'll cover some really advanced usage so you can wield your phone like a pro.