I'm not a bot

Best Games Looking to play some retro games on your iPhone? Updated on December 12, 2024 - re-checked games and updated text. Whether a game is inspired by an older game, a remake of an older game allowing it to be playable on newer devices or a straight port of a classic onto new technology, retro games have a strong community behind them. They also retain the fun and character that they had around when they previously launched, and serve as a great reminder of how technology was previously. When it comes to the number of retro games out there, so many classics have been revamped for iOS and so many new titles have come out of the ashes of older games, inspiring generation after generation of games for us to play now. Weve compiled some of the best iOS retro games and retro-inspired game on iPad and iPhone to bring some nostalgia to your mobile gaming life. Click Here To View The List Doom is a household name - a retro game held above many others. On Dooms 25th anniversary, Bethesda bundled up the 1993 version of Doom to include the Thy Flesh Consumed expansion, and placed it on iOS. This first-person shooter is challenging, fast-paced, and truly a classic of the genre. If youve not tried Doom before, nows really your chance. Bringing this blue hedgehog to your phone, Sonic the Hedgehog 2 looks exactly like the original Sonic games, featuring the same protagonist, enemies, and environments you might have previously seen in its other games. There is additional content in the form of leaderboards, Time-Attack mode and Boss-Attack mode - which adds extra depth and worth to the mobile version. It is an old-school retro beat 'em up with many beloved characters from the TMNT universe. You will find 16 awesome levels, each with its cool boss at the end, seven playable characters, and co-op mode. We've got a review with more details about this game. Also, we have a guide on all unlockable characters in TMNT: Shredder's Revenge. Cowabunga! We continue the list of best retro games for iPhone with this masterpiece from Sega. Crazy Taxi is the famous car arcade game about the most reckless taxi driver in San Francisco. You need to be a real taxi and give a ride to passengers while playing unusual mini-games in between. Retro Racing is a modern remake by the original programmer of the racing game Nitro, taking all of the concepts of Nitro and bringing it to modern technology. Racing around the track is as simple as tapping the controls on the screen, grabbing power-ups and drifting as you move, hoping to make it to the end of the finish line first. Retro Racing is minimalist in the way that its made, with a steep learning curve that can be rewarding once you have the movements and timings down! San Andreas is one of Rockstar Games' most ambitious and action-packed titles. In this game, the player has access to a whole state with three huge cities, a desert, mountains, and forests. In this game, it is interesting even just to ride around the world. And you can also participate in the story campaign, which lasts more than a dozen hours, work as an ambulance driver or a fireman, change hairstyles, get tattoos, go to the gym, meet girls, and take part in gang fights. Williams Pinball is a retro-style desktop pinball game back from the old days. If you still love pinball games, you should definitely try this one. Williams pinball machines have been around for decades, and in this game, you will find both original and updated versions of the pinball machines. You can play classic pinball games like Junk Yard and Black Rose. Moreover, you can play against other players from all over the world for real money and prizes. Also, there are many daily activities. Williams Pinball is a game that will bring you back to the old retro days. Final Fantasy Dimensions re-visits the 2D look that Final Fantasy use to have, bringing you into a very nostalgic version of the Final Fantasy world. This game is meant to take the best of all Final Fantasy games and bring them together to a new game, which contains a battling system, the ability to grow and change your character, and a story that will probably feel very familiar. Final Fantasy Dimensions is meant to feel fresh, along with feeling quite retro, so it's an interesting addition! Also read: Best iOS roguelike gamesBest iOS point-and-click adventure games Mario, Luigi, Princess Peach, and Bowser are characters well-known by any gamer. While there are many various Mario games, Super Mario Run is one of the best for mobile devices. The game has a lot of content. You will have to complete 24 levels, and once you rescue Princess Peach, you'll be able to play nine unique World Star levels. The gameplay is extremely addictive but, at the same time, simple enough so you can play using only one hand. Super Mario Run is an old-school game with an incredible retro atmosphere. Manny Calavera is a Department of Death agent who sells newly arrived souls tickets to the underworld. Due to the actions of some actions, he has to go on a four-year journey in the company of several colorful characters. Such is the plot of Grim Fandango, a quest known for its impeccable design and dark humor. In 1998, the game was nicely rated by critics and players. And 17 years later, a version for mobile devices was released with high-resolution textures, improved lighting, and a re-recorded orchestral soundtrack. Did you know you can play Pac-Man on your phone? I didnt. Updated with more mazes and a better UI, Pac-Man seems to have regular updates while keeping its original look and feel as a simplistic game where you play a wheel of cheese trying to eat pills and fruit, while avoiding ghosts. Along with the classic mode, there are daily challenges and online tournaments added to the game! Another game inspired by the GameBoy era, 2-bit Cowboy is a Castlevania and Metroid inspired game where you can shoot down the town, ride horses or minecarts, and track down people who are WANTED dead or alive! There is a lot to do in this world, from drinking at salons and gambling in casinos to collecting rewards for the quests youve completed. Double Dragon Trilogy is known as the game that started the golden age of beat-em up styled games in the late 90s, providing a challenging, street fighting game with co-op gameplay. The iOS version of the game does include new features only on mobile devices, including new characters, combo attacks and updated graphics! TheVideoKid is an 80s inspired game dripping with references and nostalgia. Playing a version of Paper Boy - you find yourself skateboarding down a busy road, throwing cassette tapes at mailboxes while avoiding characters from older movies and TV shows, grabbing power-ups and avoiding traffic. Its a simple game, but quite well done. In a huge bullet frenzy of destruction, Kick Ass Commandos is a top down shooter where you can use machine guns, flamethrowers, rocket launchers and more to destroy enemy bases - and well, basically everything you see. Everyone has been turned into mindless zombies, so there is no real reason to not kill everyone apart from your team. If you love the retro-style atmosphere and dynamic air combat gameplay, you should definitely try 1942 Classic Arcade. You will have to become a brave pilot in World War II, and your goal is to go to Tokyo to destroy the Japanese army. Along the way, you will encounter dangerous enemies and bosses. The graphics of the game complements the perfect retro atmosphere. You will have to complete 20 different levels with a huge boss at the end of each. If you want to have a challenge, 1942 Classic Arcade won't disappoint you. Stardew Valley is a game where you have to create and develop your farm. The gameplay is simple, and you won't find any dangerous enemies or complex tasks in the game. However, there are many different things that you can do. One of those things is creating relationships with your neighbors and taking part in different events in their life. Mortal Kombat is a game basically everyone remembers. You can create a team of Mortal Kombat warriors, and use them to fight against others in 3 by 3 battles or in multiplayer faction wars, where you can play against other players' entire teams. There are tons of characters from the older games, as well as new characters that you can discover and master. It's a mix of old and a mix of new, but a really fun game to play - especially when it comes to mastering epic knockouts! In case you decide to try it out, we are suggesting to take a look at the Mortal Kombat tier list of characters, as it will give you a better insight into who you should choose. I remember playing McPixel on my first mobile phone, as a kid. Its a point and click game full of wacky humor where you will probably die more times than you expect, as its trial and error if you click the right place and end up advancing the story. With that said, there is something simply hilarious about the different paths you can go down in this random game! Super Hexagon is a game that youll end up playing from muscle memory, trying to move a triangle through a small gap thats slowly moving down the screen, then adjusting for the next gap, and continuing as the world changes around you. Its a really addictive game that youll end up playing for quite some time, getting just a little further as you go. I feel like card games like Solitaire are so retro, they go beyond devices! But, not to worry, Flipflop Solitaire isn't as boring as playing with a deck of cards on your own. If you are a fan of Spider, Klondike or any solitaire, you can find some fun in this mobile game. Here, you can stack up and down, as long as you are only moving stacks of a single suit. It's quite simple to follow, and the card designs are cute too! Micro Breaker brings me back to Big Fish Games, and using their free trial coins to play through a bunch of 3D brick breaking worlds. This game is pretty straight forward, and if you like Brick Breakers, it's one you'll likely be able to pick up and play quickly. You can move a paddle across the bottom of the screen, knocking a ball upwards to destroy bricks. However, there are some needed improvements on the genre. You can also purchase power ups and upgrades, that can help you keep your ball in the air. There is over 130 different stages and a bunch of zones to categorize them, along with daily quests and prizes for making it through stages. It's just got a lot more going on! This side-scrolling classic from the SEGA era has made its way onto mobile, following Axel, Blaze, Skate and Max to get revenge for the kidnapping of Adam Hunter. You can fight your way through the streets, taking out enemies as you past, and finally defeating Mr. Xs crime syndicate. For the fans of sports titles, we have a solid one for you. Retro Bowl puts you in the shoes of the NFL manager that had just taken a team of half-witted players and he needs to set them on to the winner's path. You know, like some of those cheesy movies. You'll have to sort out the finances, fine your players whenever they cause a drunken accident and maintain a good relationship with fans, as well as the owner of the club. That's not all, you'll have to play the games yourself, and although the controls may seem simple, gameplay will hook you up right from the start. On the offensive, you'll lead the team, while the defence actions are automatic, and you can only impact them by having a good setup of defensive players. Chrono Trigger is a retro game, however, the mobile version of the game has been updated to work better on mobile devices and include some small changes to the game, while still giving you that retro feel and nostalgia if you have played the previous version. This is an RPG game, made by the developers of Final Fantasy, where you travel through different time periods, to take on an epic quest as time unravels. A lot of people are wondering whether Chrono Trigger will be released on Switch, and what's the best version of Chrono Trigger at the moment. Well, we can help you with both! Connect some bubbles so that they pop in Bust-A-Move, a classic game where you just tap to throw out bubbles and then if you connect enough of them, they will pop. I am sure youve seen this game in some form or another, as its a classic genre that has been adapted again and again. If you sit on your phone, Bust-A-Move works great. In the classic RPG Baldur's Gate, the player has to save the world by controlling a group of several heroes. The game is deep and thoughtful: you can talk to almost every NPC you meet in it, and the actions of the characters affect the results of the quests and even the ending. There is also an extensive role-playing system, an excellent scenario, several companions, and unique combat. Understanding Baldur's Gate systems takes time, but the game can make you play it for more than a dozen hours. You can also play Tetris on your phone - and I am sure youve played some form of Tetris before. Its nearly impossible to not have. The mobile version of this game benefits from different control options and online leaderboards, if you want to take on the challenge of pros. Pacific Wings is essentially a re-titled game called 1941, which allows you to play as a fighter pilot - moving your plan around the screen, shooting down enemies as you go. There isn't any difference between this mobile adaptation and the original game - the graphics even look nearly identical. You can easily move your plane around by using your finger, and can find power-ups as you make it further. There have been loads of newer games, following the same format, but Pacific Wings feels like a replicate of 1941, exactly. If you had one of the old Nokia phones, you are in for a flash from the past. Everyone knows the classic game of Snake, but if you'd like to play this game - for whatever reason - on your smartphone, you can find it! This version of Snake comes with the look of an old phone - giving you a digital phone screen to interact with, in order to control your snake. It's a simple game, but quite quirky in it's visuals. Next Up : Top 5 best card games for Android Sign up! Get Pocket Gamer tips, news & features in your inbox Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. Ever since Apple has allowed retro game emulators on the App Store a bunch of awesome emulator apps have made their way onto the iPhone and iPad. In this roundup, we have featured the best retro game emulators that you can download on your iOS device right now and play your favorite classic games from Nintendo, SEGA, PlayStation 1, Atari, Commodore, and more. Looking to play retro games on the Mac? Then check out these Mac retro game emulators. From the Nintendo Entertainment System, Super Nintendo Entertainment System, Nintendo 64, Game Boy (Color), Game Boy Advance, and Nintendo DS, you can relive the classics right from your iPhone now. Delta builds upon the strengths of its predecessor, GBA4iOS, supporting a wide array of game systems making it one of the best retro game emulators for iPhone. The best part is that it offers comprehensive controller support, accommodating Nintendo, PlayStation, Xbox controllers, MFi game controllers, and even Bluetooth & wired keyboards. As for the gaming experience, it features robust save states, automatic backup, cheat code support, and Delta Sync for syncing games and progress across devices. You can also import and create custom controller skins and share your own creations with the world. However, Delta wins the game thanks to the Hold Button feature, where you can designate buttons for the emulator to hold down on your behalf, freeing up your thumbs for other actions. Pair that with Fast Forward functionality and you can breeze through slower game sections by speeding up the gameplay. Download Delta Game Emulator Unlike other free retro game emulators, RetroArch is completely free and ad-free, which means you can enjoy uninterrupted gaming sessions without annoying pop-ups. Since its an open-source and cross-platform frontend, it brings a host of emulators, game engines, and even media players under one roof, offering a versatile and all-encompassing gaming experience. However, it gets really impressive when it comes to its compatibility. RetroArch supports an impressive range of systems, from classics like the NES and Sega Genesis to more niche systems like Commodore 64 and the Atari 2600 through its libretro cores. Youll love features like netplay for online multiplayer, save states, MFi controller support, and customizable controls. While soft patching and cheats make gameplay more fun, the fast-forward and rewind features help you navigate tricky spots. On top of that, RetroAchievements provides a modern twist to your classic games by adding achievement support. Moreover, game artwork integration and AI translations further add to the immersive experience by displaying beautiful game covers and translating text for non-native language games. Download RetroArch When we say Gamma is a portal to the golden era of gaming, were not kidding. If youre a fellow PS 1 enthusiast, this is the winning game emulator for iPhone youve been looking for. Sure, free retro game emulators are plentiful, but Gamma stands out for its exceptional features and user-friendly interface. More specifically, it beats its competition with its unparalleled graphical superiority. Whether youre exploring vast landscapes or engaging in intense battles, it renders games at the highest resolution, ensuring that every pixel pops with vivid detail. Moving past visuals, Gamma doesnt lack in the compatibility department either as it supports various file formats including CUE+BIN, CHD, PBP, ISO, and MDS. As for the hardware controller support, it encompasses console and PC Bluetooth controllers, MFi game controllers, and Bluetooth and wired keyboards. Moreover, syncing your game data is a breeze, importing games is a snap too, and save states are a game-changer. As for customization, it wont leave you disappointed. Download Gamma PS 1 Game Emulator Relive the glory days of PSP gaming on your iOS device in high definition with enhanced performance and some extra features to level up the experience. The graphics are crisp, and you can even upscale the resolution for a better visual experience. More importantly, you wont have to pick and choose as PPSSPP is compatible with nearly all PSP games. Whether youre into action-packed adventures, immersive RPGs, or adrenaline-fueled racing games, PPSSPP has got you covered. This iPad retro game emulator ensures smooth gameplay, allowing you to experience your favorite titles just like you did back in the day. The best part is that it doesnt come with any preloaded games. Instead, you have the freedom to use your own real PSP games and convert them into .ISO or .CSO files. This means you can dust off your old PSP collection and bring those classics back to life on your iOS device. And if youre looking for something new to play, the built-in Homebrew Store offers a selection of free homemade games to dive into. Download PPSSPP PSP Emulator XGBA focuses on Game Boy (Color) and Game Boy Advance games and does an excellent job at it. With its 3D simulation touch, this emulator ensures that every pixel, every sound, feels just like it did on the original console. And lets not forget the attention to detail XGBAs original console skin design adds an extra layer of authenticity to your gaming experience. Plus, it runs smoothly, with no noticeable lag or glitches. As you navigate through your favorite games, XGBAs landscape mode enlarges the game interface for more comfortable gameplay. And remember those slow-paced sections that you just want to fly through? Well, the fast-forward function comes to the rescue, letting you speed up the action without missing a beat. Plus, your progress isnt lost when you shut down the game, done for the day. With its game-saving feature, you can rest easy knowing that your progress is safe and sound, ready for you to pick up right where you left off. Download XGBA Game Emulator RePlay is considered one of the best iPhone retro game emulators because the performance is stable, and the games run smoothly without any lag. More than that, the real star of the show are the games. Were not just talking a handful here but a whole library of classics. From the iconic *.nds to the legendary *.gba, and even the beloved *.gbc and *.gb formats, this emulators got you covered. As for the experience, let us tell you, this emulator nails it. Thanks to some seriously impressive emulation tech, each game plays just like you remember it. From the pixel-perfect graphics to the spot-on sound effects, its like youre playing on the original console, only better, because now its on your phone. Speaking of speed, it follows suit to its rivals on the list and allows you to fly through those dialogues happily. Moreover, the clean and clear organization of the interface makes it super easy to use just scroll, tap, and play. Download Game Emulator RePlay If you have a soft spot for MSX and MSX2 gaming, iMSX2 is the emulator for you. In our humble opinion, free retro game emulators dont get much better than this. The controls are customizable, and the emulator runs smoothly on the iPhone. Plus, it supports a wide range of MSX games, whether its the thrill of Metal Gear or the challenge of Maze of Galious, it offers provides a faithful emulation experience. iMSX2 may be a niche emulator but its perfect for those who want to relive the MSX era. You can enjoy your entire library of MSX and MSX2 games on the go without the need for physical cartridges as it can run cartridges from ROM, MX1, and MX2 files. Moreover, Bluetooth compatibility adds another layer of convenience as you can connect either a keyboard or a game controller. Best of all, its ad-free, doesnt require an internet connection, and wont store your data. Plus, it takes up minimal space on your device, so you can focus on what matters the games. Download iMSX2 ($1.99) There you have it, these are some of the best retro gaming emulators on iOS that you need to try right now. Did we miss any? Share your favorite in the comments below.Disclosure: iOSHacker may receive a commission if you purchase products through our affiliate links. For more visit our privacy policy page. Emulators are finally allowed on the App Store and that opens a whole world of possibilities for playing retro games on iPhone. The world of emulation can feel a little overwhelming at times, but this guide to the best gaming emulators for iPhone and iPad should give you a good idea of where to start.With recent changes to Apple's App Store rules, new emulators are starting to appear daily, so keep an eye on this list to make sure you've got the best ones available.If you're in the EU, the ability to download emulators via third-party app stores like AltStore means you have more software options to choose from. But fret not, those of us outside the EU, have direct access to some of the best options out there at the moment and more emulators will follow.Here are the best gaming emulators for iPhone and iPad in 2024.(Image credit: iMore)An emulator is a device or program that imitates another computer or program. For example, a PSP emulator mimics the PSP and can play compatible PSP games on whatever device it is on. The second half of an emulator is the ROMs. A ROM is the downloadable version of the game necessary for playing said game. So, you can think of the emulator as a digital console while the ROM is a digital game.Users often need to jailbreak their iOS device in order to run emulators and ROMs, which can open the device to some security risks. Only do so if you know what you are doing and are ok with the possible consequences. Emulators can be very helpful for game preservation and allow you to run apps you usually couldn't on the device that hosts them. However, they also tend to run slower than the device they're mimicking since they're reproducing a behavior rather than having been built for it.Users need to be careful when downloading emulators and ROMs since it is possible for a virus or malware to pretend to be either one of these things. Only download from sources you've researched and trust. Additionally, while emulators are mostly legal, the ROMs or programs you download to use on said emulators are often illegal copies making you party to pirating. You should look into any ROM you plan on downloading along with regulations in your area before downloading anything. Because of this uncertain background, Apple does not allow many emulators on the App Store. So you'll need to download many of them from their own sites.DeltaDelta is a very popular emulator designed to emulate retro gaming systems like Nintendo 64, NES, SNES, Game Boy Advance, Game Boy Color, DS, and more. It also offers support for PS4, PS5, Xbox One S, and Xbox Series X controllers for more comfortable play. You'll just want to choose the best iPhone or iPad controller that works with these emulators. Among its many convenient features, it automatically saves as you progress and supports quick saves if you're using a controller. What's more, even cheat codes are made accessible through various Game Genie and Game Shark programs.DolphiniOS EmulatorThis emulator is "based on an open-source Dolphin emulator for Desktop." It's specifically designed to be able to run Nintendo Wii and GameCube ROMs on compatible iOS devices. Users must first jailbreak the iOS device and then download the emulator. Once it's running, players can access their ROM library from within DolphiniOS or can easily add more to the library by pressing the plus button in the upper right-hand corner.ProvenanceThe Provenance emulator works incredibly well on iOS and mimics programs for Nintendo, Sony, Sega, and more. The program allows you to save whenever you'd like so you can pick up wherever you left off. Plus, it's compatible with the iCade, MFi, or Steam controllers if you happen to have any of those. You will need to go to the Provenance Wiki to download and install it.EclipseEclipse is built for ROMs from NES, SNES, Game Boy Color, Sega Genesis, and Sega Game Gear. It's a relatively new multi-emulator and totes itself as being unrevokable. The interface is smooth, allowing you to simply tap on an icon to open any given ROM you've previously downloaded. You can save or fast forward through long cutscenes whenever you'd like. Users can also get access to a large library of games by downloading them from Game Hub.Happy ChickHappy Chick is built to run 18 gaming systems, including PlayStation 1-3, Nintendo 64, DS, Game Boy, PSP, and more. It is compatible with a large list of ROMS and even supports online multiplayer for compatible ROMs. Players can use the GameSire G3s or the GameSir G4s controllers to play more comfortably. Instructions for downloading and installing the emulator on iPhone and iPad are available on the official website.Retro ArchRetro Arch is yet another multi-emulator that is compatible with several older platforms. Downloading it on your iPhone or iPad can allow you to access ROMs for several gaming systems like Sega Genesis, Atari, DOS, Neo Geo Pocket, and more. Save when you want, rewind to play through a section better, and much more with its convenience features.Where to find ROMsSimply performing a Google Search for ROMs isn't the best way to go about it since you're never quite sure if you're landing on a safe downloading link or not. Instead, you should only download from trusted locations. Archive.org is a great choice. Just remember that you should only download ROMS from files and games you own. Doing otherwise is considered pirating and violates intellectual property laws.To better keep track of your ROMs, we suggest making a new folder and keeping them all within it. It can also make it easier to access them from the emulator if they're all in one place.Best controllers for iPad and iPhone(Image credit: Rebecca Spear / iMore)Many emulators also offer gaming controller support on iPhone and iPad to make playing more convenient. However, you'll need to check with each emulator to see which controllers are compatible with both the emulator and your device. Some of the most common controllers to support are the Xbox controller or a PlayStation controller.Plenty to choose fromYou can always trust iMore.Our team of Apple experts have years of experience testing all kinds of tech and gadgets, so you can be sure our recommendations and criticisms are accurate and helpful. Find out more about how we test.There must be hundreds of gaming emulators out there, but not all of them are created equally. To get the best experiences and avoid malicious viruses we recommend sticking to the ones we've listed. If you're only going to do one, we recommend Delta. It works with a number of different controllers and ROMs and has several convenience features.Another popular choice is the DolphiniOS. Before being able to use it, users will need to jailbreak their iPhone or iPad. However, it has a good interface and works very well. Lastly, the Eclipse emulator offers an intuitive interface and is easy to use. It allows players to fast forward through slow bits of games and save whenever they want to.iMore offers spot-on advice and guidance from our team of experts, with decades of Apple device experience to lean on. Learn more with iMore!(Image credit: Future)Over the last couple of weeks, iPhone-wielding retro gamers have been inundated with good news, as one console emulator after another has made it onto Apples iOS platform. Now, another has joined the ranks, and it offers potentially the largest selection of console options yet.The emulator app RetroArch is now available on both iPhone and iPad, and it brings with it a library of 38 different consoles whose titles it can play. That includes well-loved names like the Commodore 64, the Nintendo Game Boy, the original Sony PlayStation, and more, with the complete list being available on the apps App Store page.RetroArch is open source, free to use and does not contain any ads. Its App Store page notes that it supports save states, official MFi controllers, cheats, game artwork and a whole lot more, making it a full-featured emulator for a wide range of platforms.You may like However, it only comes bundled with one title (the puzzle game 2048). Apple has warned that emulator apps must comply with all applicable laws, and youll need to source your games (known as ROMs) legally if you want to play them on RetroArch.A game being played using the RetroArch emulator in iOS. (Image credit: RetroArch)Console emulators have been a hot topic among Apple fans in recent weeks. The first emulators started appearing in mid-April 2024, with PlayStation emulators following about a month later. Thats given retro gamers plenty of choice when it comes to playing their favorite old-school games on iPhone or iPad.This state of affairs was ultimately spurred on by the regulatory pressure Apple has faced to open up its systems to a broader selection of apps. In April, the company clarified the situation by stating that emulators on the App Store are permitted to load ROMs downloaded from the web, so long as the app is emulating retro console games only. Despite the long-standing opposition of firms like Nintendo, Apple has forged ahead, which has cleared the way for apps like RetroArch to make an appearance.In the past, the only way you could install RetroArch on iOS was through jailbreaking your iPhone or iPad, or by using enterprise distribution methods. But with Apple giving the go-ahead to retro console emulators, none of that is necessary, which significantly simplifies the process. In the case of RetroArch, all you need now is to be running iOS 14.2 or later.Sign up for breaking news, reviews, opinion, top tech deals, and more.Its a swift turnaround in the status quo, and it remains to be seen how companies like Nintendo and Sony will receive the news. But for now, its a pretty good time to be a retro gamer on iOS.You might also like Retro games on the App Store inspire nostalgia, melancholy and other mixed feelings The iPhone and iPad App Store is absolutely packed with a selection of amazing games that give us hours of pure and simple entertainment. We recently shared a list of the best puzzle games for iPhone and iPad, and a compilation of the most interesting fighting games for iOS. This time we will focus on the subject. retro games for iPhone and iPad. retro games classic titles or titles inspired by old games and re-adapted to our time. Retro games are often inspired by PC games, arcade games or arcade games of the 1990s and are designed with pixelated graphics. In this selection for iPhone and iPad you will find the best retro games from the App Store.The best retro games on the App StoreWeve created a diverse selection of top recommended retro games from the iOS and iPadOS App Store. Many of them are compatible with iPhone and iPad. Additionally, weve included the occasional classic ones, so youll definitely love a lot of these retro games.Monkey Island TalesGolden Ax ClassicsswordTMNT: Shredders RevengeHorizon TrackingApple KnightGoblin Swordstreets of angerhuntingsonic the hedgehogSuper Mario Rungalaxygaretro goalMonkey Island TalesFor many, Monkey Island is the most epic adventure series of all time. about one retro game style point and click with a fascinating story and a deep narrative of the pirate world full of jokes and teasing. An epic developed by LucasArts where you have to replace Guybrush Threepwood, who is trying to become the most important pirate in the Caribbean. Golden Ax Classics Golden Ax a beat it 16-bit developed by SEGA Defeat all kinds of enemies with axes, shields and magic potions. Classic retro arcade game where you always toss 100 peseta coins to avoid. game over. The bundle includes the Golden Ax, Golden Ax II and Golden Ax III as well as the entire saga. sword We continue our retro game collection with Swordigo, one of the iPhone and iPad platform games. owner amazing story, immersive music and very simple controls to use. There are all. Without a doubt, one of the best in the App Store. TMNT: Shredders Revenge Believe it or not, Ninja Turtles had their own retro game for the NES in the 90s, and it was absolutely fantastic. Now theyre back with a modern adaptation of the classic in a game beat it with some excellent graphics and very well done game mechanics. Cowabunga, friends! Horizon Tracking If we talk about retro games, we cannot forget Horizon Chase, which is a game. car racing Inspired by the big hits of the 90s like Out Run and Top Gear. This 16-bit arcade game will let you participate in exciting races on multiple tracks and with all types of cars. Follow the horizon at full speed with this fantastic retro racing game on the App Store. Apple Knight Apple Knight is the typical retro arcade platform game in the world. side scrolling inspired by the middle ages. Chests, spells, potions, weapons, dragons and fireballs. Its one of those retro games that will undoubtedly have you glued to the iPhone or iPad screen for hours. It also has some RPG components to improve your armor and weapons. Goblin Sword From the same cut as the previous game, Goblin Sword presents us with a world of monsters and dungeons that we must collect. loot, defeat enemies, overcome obstacles and hone our skills to finish off an evil wizard. there is so much 89 levels, 13 final bosses, 30 different weapons, 14 skins and some graphics that dont stop being retro are very well defined. iPadzates retro tip, we loved it! streets of anger Streets of Rage a beat it From SEGA with 90s pixelated graphics and great gameplay. The controls of this mobile refresh are very intuitive, four main characters and 8 levels side scrolling full of all kinds of enemies ready to kill you. hunting Huntdown is an amazing retro game where you control a bounty hunter who must eliminate his targets in a dark metropolis filled with violence and crime. Until 20 levels and final bosses with three main characters to choose from. A very immersive game with depth that is hard to find these days. Of course, we recommend playing Huntdown on iPad to enjoy all the details and nuances of this great retro game on the App Store. sonic the hedgehog But what about the most charismatic and funniest hedgehog of all time? Fast levels, loops, jumps, epic boss fights and very, very speed. This retro game 7 classic regions of legend Dr. A game where you must score the best possible score and collect the most rings while trying to put an end to Eggmans Machiavellian plans. Super Mario Run Since we dont have such a classic Super Mario game on the App Store, we recommend this modern adaptation of the beautiful Nintendo plumbers retro games. This style header endless runner Available for iPhone and iPad 24 levels, multiplayer mode and loads of iconic playable characters of the series galaxyga Galaxy is a retro type game Shoot them all The theme is typical of shooting Martians in a spaceship. One of many games inspired by Space InvadersA famous game developed by Tomohiro Nishikado in 1978. If youve never tried one of these games before, we suggest you try it, you wont regret it. retro goal Our retro game collection football game. This 16-bit title will allow you to choose a team from the best leagues in the world (no name and club licenses) and manage every aspect. you can even make decisions that affect your season at press conferences. And yes, most football games back then had pixelated graphics like this and it was great! that was all Retro games on the iPhone and iPad App Store. As you may have seen, we have included all kinds of retro games: spaceships, medieval knights, racing cars, sports and the most famous classics. But unfortunately not all of them are there. What are the best retro games on the App Store that you think we should add to this list? Source: i PadizateI am Bret Jackson, a professional journalist and author for Gadget Onus, where I specialize in writing about the gaming industry. With over 6 years of experience in my field, I have built up an extensive portfolio that ranges from reviews to interviews with top figures within the industry. My work has been featured on various news sites, providing readers with insightful analysis regarding the current state of gaming culture. Apple has sold more than 500 million iPad tablets since its launch in 2010. Needless to say, the COVID-19 pandemic also boosted the sale and use of tablets, and it was reported that Apple shipped over 14 million during the main lockdown period in Q2 2020.If you are both an iPad user and a retro game enthusiast, then surely you are wondering what emulation options are out there for you. We are here to share the good news that there are in fact some pretty awesome programs available for the iPad to play some of your favorite retro consoles.1. DeltaFans of Pokemon looking for a stellar emulator for the iPad should definitely check out Delta. It also boasts some incredible skins to turn your iPad into your favourite consoles temporarily!Delta is known for emulating some of Nintendos best consoles. Were talking all three original Gameboys, the SNES and the N64. Think of all the Pokemon games you can play on there! Make save states and add cheats into the mix too. And, you dont need to jailbreak your iPad either as Delta is officially available to download on the App Store!2. EclipseEclipse emulator is a great program for the iPad because it is a totally web-based program that you play right on your web browser. That means you can play your favorite retro games on nearly any modern device with a web browsing application.With console support focused on NES, GB, GBC, and GBA games the Eclipse emulator is going to be perfect for people like me who are obsessed with Nintendo. Its perfect for people who want a no-nonsense emulator that works straight away without any messing around, and you can us it offline while playing local files saved to your device!3. PPSSPPPPSSPP is an amazing emulation program developed specifically for the Sony Playstation Portable. And with its many features for HD gameplay, there has never been a better time to jump back into some of your favorite PSP games.And of course, if you play on your iPad, you are going to get absolutely beautiful upscaling at twice the original resolution. Weve had news that PPSSPP is heading to the App Store, meaning you wont need to use a third-party App Store like Alt Store to get your hands on it.4. RetroArchWith an absolutely giant list of supported retro consoles including NES, SNES, GB, GBA, Sega Genesis, Nintendo 64, Atari 2600, Nintendo DS, Sega Dreamcast, Sony Playstation just to name a few, RetroArch has always and will always be a great emulation choice on every device.And yes, it has a port for the iOS that you can acquire through BuildStore! RetroArch is pretty much the best multi-emulator program out there, and we highly recommend it for anybody who wants a single solution for all of their retro game emulation.5. DolphiniOSFancy playing GameCube and Wii titles on your iPad? DolphiniOS has you covered!This is a pretty hefty task for any iOS device, so make sure that youre rocking a newer iPad that has at least an A9 processor. Otherwise, the games are going to be so laggy youll be throwing your table through the window!Dolphin has always served us well in the past, and the iPad offering has impressed us so far. Lets hope it keeps receiving regular updates and goes from strength to strength! We never thought that we would see the day when you could just download an emulator from the App Store and fire up your favorite games. Not to mention that were not limited to just one or two consoles, thanks to the introduction of RetroArch on iPhone and iPad.This popular emulator can be used on pretty much any device and is well-known across the retro handheld space. It arrived shortly after the Delta emulator landed on the App Store, which is fantastic in its own right. But with RetroArch on iPhone and iPad, you can play even more of your favorite retro games. If youre wondering where to start and how to get everything set up, youve come to the right place.First Things to Do With RetroArch on iPhone and iPadObviously, the very first thing that youll need to do is actually download and install RetroArch on iPhone and iPad. The app is free to download and can be found just by searching the App Store. Or, if youre reading this from your device, you can grab it via the button below:Download RetroArchThere are a few things that youll first need to do in order to use RetroArch on iPhone and iPad. The next step is making sure that all of the necessary files are updated. Thankfully, its mostly handled from within the RetroArch app.Open the RetroArch app on your iPhone or iPad.TapOnline Updater.Scroll down and tap each of the following:Update Core Info FilesUpdate AssetsUpdate Controller ProfilesUpdate CheatsUpdate DatabasesUpdate OverlaysUpdate Slang ShadersWhen tapping each of the aforementioned options, a progress bar appears in the bottom left corner. Once the bar reaches 100%, the update is complete as all of the necessary files will be downloaded to the RetroArch app.How to Add Games to RetroArchWith everything appropriately updated, the next step youll want to take is to actually get your ROM files and games added to RetroArch. The process can feel a bit messy considering the software limitations of both the iPhone and iPad. However, well walk you through each step of the process to get things up and running.Transfer Games to Your iPhone or iPadNaturally, you wont be able to play games with RetroArch on iPhone or iPad without transferring them over. There are a few different ways for you to actually transfer the files, but before that, youll want to gather all of the pertinent games and put them into one folder.On the bright side, RetroArch isnt very picky when it comes to recognizing ROMs. So we recommend creating a folder named ROMs, and then adding sub-folders for each console that you want to play. Then, copy the appropriate files into the newly-created folder, and then youll be ready for the next step.Its worth mentioning that there are a few different ways that you could actually use to transfer files between your iPhone or iPad and computer. One such example is using AirDrop, but that only applies if youre using a Mac.Transfer Games to iPhone or iPad Using WindowsDownload and install the Apple Devices app onto your Windows PC.Apple Devices on Microsoft StoreUnlock your iPhone or iPad.Plug your iPhone or iPad into your Windows PC.When prompted, tap theTrust button.Enter your devices passcode.With the Apple Devices app open, select your iPhone or iPad.Under theSettings section, selectFiles.Scroll through your list of installed apps and selectRetroArch.Open File Explorer and navigate to where your ROMs folder is.Drag and drop the folder from File Explorer to the RetroArch folder in the Apple Devices app.After the files are finished transferring, disconnect your iPhone or iPad from your computer.Transfer Games to iPhone or iPad Using MacUnlock your iPhone or iPad.Plug your iPhone or iPad into your Mac.When prompted, tap theTrust button.Enter your devices passcode.Open the Finder app.Select your iPhone or iPad in the sidebar under the Locations section.In the toolbar, clickFiles.Open another Finder window and navigate to where your ROMs folder is.Drag and drop the folder from the new window to the first Finder window you opened.After the files are finished transferring, disconnect your iPhone or iPad from your computer.Import Games to RetroArchNow that all of your games are locally stored on your iPhone or iPad, youll want to import them into RetroArch. Youcould skip this section if you wanted to and just selectLoad Content then pick your game from the main screen. By importing the games, RetroArch automatically creates playlists for each console that has a game youve imported.With the RetroArch app open, tap thePlaylist button in the middle of the bottom toolbar.SelectImport Content.TapScan Directory.From the built-in File Manager, navigate to the folder location for your ROMs.Tap.Depending on the size of the folder (or directory) that you are scanning, this might take a bit of time. Just make sure your iPhone or iPad doesnt automatically go to sleepAdd Your PS1 BIOSOne thing that separates RetroArch from the pack is its ability to also emulate PS1 games. However, unlike the other retro consoles, youll need to provide your own BIOS files. We cant tell you where to find them, but if you have an old PS1 hidden in a closet, you can dump the files yourself. Then, follow these steps to add the BIOS to RetroArch.Copy and transfer your PS1 BIOS files to your iPhone or iPad.Open the Files app.Under theLocations section, tapOn My iPhoneorOn My iPad.Locate the PS1 BIOS folder or file that you added.Long-press on the file.From the drop-down menu, tap Move.In the window that appears, navigate to thesystem folder within RetroArch.Locations > On My iPhone / On My iPadRetroArchRetroArchsystemOnce you are in thesystem folder, tap theMove button in the top right corner.After just a moment or two, the BIOS files will be moved into the appropriate folder. In doing so, you can now fire up RetroArch and enjoy your favorite PS1 games on an iPhone or iPad.Set RetroArch Core AssociationsWhat makes RetroArch so special is that it relies on various Cores to provide an all-in-one solution. You can think of Cores as individual emulators with RetroArch operating as the brains of the operation.However, there are different Cores for each console, with some working better than others. Because of this, we recommend setting a specific Core Association for the games youre going to play. It can be a rather tedious process, but itll definitely pay dividends in the long run.With RetroArch open, tap thePlaylist button.Select the console and game that you want to play.Before starting the game, tapSet Core Association.Select the core that you want to use.TapRun to start the game.If you try to play a game and something isnt working correctly, you can go through the steps again, picking a different core.RetroArch Core SuggestionsNESSNESNintendo 64Nintendo DSGame Boy & Game Boy ColorGame Boy AdvanceSega MS/GG/MD/CDSega SaturnSony PlayStationSony PlayStation PortableGet RetroAchievements in RetroArchAnother fun aspect of playing retro games is being able to use RetroAchievements. For the uninitiated, this is a service that l

submission, this time using ROMs specifically created by the team itself, to try and get the emulator accepted by App Store Review. Eventually, the project succeeded in getting through the App Store. ArcadeMania became available to download on April 11 as a free emulator, with it running version 0.269 of MAME as its emulation core. uoYabauseuoYabuse is a port of the Yaba Sanshiro Sega Saturn Emulator. It has historically been targeted at Android, but it also has iOS builds available. A tweet by the Yaba Sanshiro emulator developer on April 6, 2024 mentions that the emulator was submitted to the App Store for review. On July 9, 2024, a tweet said it was in review. By August 3, 2024, the developer confirmed that Yaba Sanshiro 2 was available in the App Store. It is priced at $4.99. In an October 2024 update, the emulator added support for iOS 18's Game Mode. In February, there were updates to backup save data, Action Replay codes, and sharing options. PPSSPPAs the name suggests, PPSSPP is an emulator specializing in Sony PlayStation Portable games. It is already available on PC and Android, with an "unofficial" installation guide available to get it working without App Store access. Subscribe to AppleInsider on YouTubeSubscribe to AppleInsider on YouTubeA project blog post from April 6, 2024, discussed Apple's emulator rule changes, but there was confusion over lines where links "must be provided to all downloadable software." On May 15, 2024, PPSSPP arrived in the App Store. A free download, it requires iOS 12.0 or iPadOS 12.0, or an Apple Vision Pro. In a 1.8 update, PPSSPP is gaining many fixes and improvements for iOS and macOS, including Game Mode. However, while the update is out for macOS, Android, and Windows, the iOS update is still going through App Store review. On November 26, 2024, an update said that PPSSPP Gold for iOS is "still stuck in review" and unable to be updated. The Gold version is a paid edition of the emulator, but the developer has repeatedly encountered issues updating the Gold version while updates for the free model go through fine. The developer recommends the use of the free edition, even by those who have paid for the Gold version, until the situation is rectified. As of April 27th, 2025, the PPSSPP Gold situation hasn't changed. ProvenanceAnother multi-emulator frontend, Provenance offers extensive support for a wide variety of game platforms. The list includes many from Nintendo, including the NES, Famicom Disk System, Game Boy, SNES, Game Boy Color, Virtual Boy, Nintendo 64, Game Boy Advance, and Pokemon mini. There is also support for Sega consoles including the Genesis, Mega-CD, and Saturn, the Sony PlayStation, Bandai WonderSwan, NEC TurboGraphix systems, and others from Atari, Bandai, and SNK. Provenance EMUThe emulator is already available as a side-load but it is planning to launch onto the App Store soon. On April 19, 2024, the team confirmed that it was working on a release. In a Patreon update on April 23, 2024, the team discussed the use of TestFlight for betas, but also that there was no "exact ETA" due to needing to stay within the App Store's rules for the review process. The team also planned to remove anything that could trigger a reaction from Nintendo, such as logos and system branding. In a May 28 2024 update, the team discussed the progression of converting C-based cores to Swift, as well as Metal and OpenGL view controllers. On X, it is explained that the coding for the App Store release is ongoing, but that it's intended to maintain the "same standard" as previously created commercial work, hence the legacy code rewrite. "The release will be delayed longer than I originally hoped," they added. On the official X account, the emulator was still in development and testing for iOS as of July 27, 2024. Updates on August 14 and 15 that year show that Mac Catalyst builds are working, along with a tvOS version. By November 2024, Provenance had been submitted for App Store review, and rejected. The notes included the removal of some menu items and needing a demo video, with a resubmission expected soon. The project continued to be rejected for various reasons, with the developer submitting an appeal on December 17 "on the grounds of unfair treatment and bias." They also declared that unless the appeal works out, it may be the end of Provenance development for the moment. "I've officially run out of money, Apple has bankrupted me" they claimed. After that declaration, the developer had an influx of social support, including from Tim Sweeney of Epic Games, and work continued. After more complaints, from Apple and testing of a new tvOS build, the developer finally got to speak to the Apple Review Board over the phone, with the Patreon links apparently being an issue. On January 6, 2025, Provenance finally made its appearance on the App Store. Available for iPhone and iPad, it's free with in-app purchases for "Provenance Plus." With the main battle to get it in the store over, the attention now turns to bug fixes. The most recent updates were not included in the initially approved build. Updates since then have included iOS 16 support, improved stability, new home screen styling and layouts, and the addition of more RetroArch cores for wider game support. RetroArchA frontend for emulators and game engines, RetroArch handles emulation for a large number of platforms. Both what it can emulate and what it can run on. For iOS and Apple TV, there are already downloads available to run games via sideloading, but not an App Store-compatible version yet. Developer hizzlekizzle confirmed on Reddit on May 7, 2024 that the emulator has been submitted for App Store Review. However, they had yet to hear back from Apple about it passing at the time. On May 15, 2024, Retroarch appeared on the App Store as a free emulator. RetromanPublished by Konstantinos Papadakis, Retroman is an 8-bit game emulator for playing NES games. It is a free download from the App Store on iPhone and iPad, with a Pro tier available for $1.99. Including full NES emulation mapper support, it includes support for gamepads, customizable video and audio settings, and iCloud game save synchronization. SameBoySameBoy by Lior Halphon is an emulator for the Game Boy and Game Boy Color from Nintendo. It claims to be user-friendly and open source, and it's free in the App Store. The emulator description says it uses the "world's most accurate Game Boy emulation core," with it having Rumble support, save states with gesture support, a wide range of scaling filters, and MFi hardware support. It even emulates a Game Boy Camera when required. ScummVMScummVM from Eugene Sandulenko is a very niche emulator, in that it is intended to play classic point-and-click adventure games. For example, "Day of the Tentacle" or the "Monkey Island" series. It is available on the App Store, for free. In December, an update added support for the Apple Pencil. MAMEOne of the best-known names in emulation, MAME is not going to be available on iOS anytime soon, at least as its own app. In a confirmation on Reddit, it is said that the team has been getting rejections "due to spam after multiple submissions," and that appeals have not worked so far. The best guess for the rejection is the "binary similarity" of arcade "drivers" used by the software. For example, if a game producer like Capcom submitted a game of theirs and used the MAME driver in their own iOS app, MAME's submission could be flagged for the same piece of software. This hasn't deterred the team, who say "We're trying to figure out the best way forward." For the moment, ArcadeMania, mentioned earlier in this post, is the nearest analog, with it running MAME as its emulator core. UTM SEUTM SE differs from many other emulators in that it is a retro PC emulator. While others that can emulate some PC games are game or engine-specific, UTM SE instead emulates the computer, and then the software is run on top of it. There is the ability to run pre-built "machines" for Windows XP, Mac OS 9.2.1, FreeDos, Debian 11, and ArchLinux. The emulator also supports both VGA and terminal-based modes, and can emulate x86, PPC, and RISC-V architectures. The emulator is notable because it was previously rejected by Apple over its banning of Just In Time (JIT) compilation rules. Turing Software, behind UTM SE, implemented the QEMU TCTI emulator to work around the JIT restrictions, with it landing in the App Store on July 14, 2024. UTM SE is free to download from the App Store, requiring iOS 14 or later for iPhone or iPad, or an Apple Vision Pro. VirtualFriendNintendo's Virtual Boy was an unusual headset-based game console, and one that is extremely rare to find due to being a commercial failure. However, there are communities of gamers who are enthused about the headset, which played games in red and black. VirtualFriend is a free emulator for the iPhone, iPad, and the Apple Vision Pro. That last one is quite apt considering the Virtual Boy was a playable headset and the Apple Vision Pro lets you use it in full 3D. Users can explore the entire library of Virtual Boy titles and homebrew games, complete with 3D title screens. While the original was a red and black color scheme, users can change to use different preset colors, or select their own. Not all emulatorsWhile the rule changes did open up the possibility of more emulators arriving in the App Store in the future, it doesn't allow every type to appear. One of the problem areas is Apple's prohibition of Just In Time (JIT) compilation on iPad and iOS. This is the compilation of code while a program is running, rather than before the software is run in the first place. Apple considers this a security issue, despite using it for Safari itself and it being fine on Mac. Due to Apple's imposed limitation, some emulators cannot be submitted to the App Store for review, since they will fail automatically. For example, the DolphiniOS emulator for emulating Nintendo Wii and Nintendo Gamecube games requires JIT, due to having to translate PowerPC code to run on Apple's ARM-based chips. That said, there have been some developments that could help creators of some emulators. StikDebug is an on-device debugger for iPhone, but the key thing about it was that it can help enable JIT functionality in other apps. This could be considered a workaround to Apple's restrictions, however it is very limited. According to the description in the App Store, it is "designed specifically for self-installed apps." That means it should only be used with apps in Testflight or if they're sideloaded, rather than sourced from the App Store. This doesn't mean that you can put an app on the App Store that can use StikDebug to enable JIT, but it's a hopeful change for some emulator developers. The existence of StikDebug in the App Store was considered a potential indicator that Apple is changing its mind about JIT compilation on its mobile devices. A view that could eventually result in Apple permitting the once-blocked JIT-based emulators to finally exist on iPhone. However, the initial developer beta of iOS 26 has broken JIT tools like StikDebug. Since at the time of writing Apple's only on the first developer beta for iOS 26, there is a chance that it is only a temporary issue for developers, and could be repaired in a later beta release. At the same time, this could also be Apple reaffirming that JIT is not allowed on its platform. However, without Apple providing an official declaration on the matter, no-one knows if the break is only temporary or a sign of things to come. Ever since Apple has allowed retro game emulators on the App Store a bunch of awesome emulator apps have made their way onto the iPhone and iPad. In this roundup, we have featured the best retro game emulators that you can download on your iOS device right now and play your favorite classic games from Nintendo, SEGA, PlayStation 1, Atari, Commodore, and more. Looking to play retro games on the Mac? Then check out these Mac retro game emulators. From the Nintendo Entertainment System, Super Nintendo Entertainment System, Nintendo 64, Game Boy (Color), Game Boy Advance, and Nintendo DS, you can relive the classics right from your iPhone now. Delta builds upon the strengths of its predecessor, GBA4iOS, supporting a wide array of game systems making it one of the best retro game emulators for iPhone. The best part is that it offers comprehensive controller support, accommodating Nintendo, PlayStation, Xbox controllers, MFi game controllers, and even Bluetooth & wired keyboards. As for the gaming experience, it features robust save states, automatic backup, cheat code support, and Delta Sync for syncing games and progress across devices. You can also import and create custom controller skins and share your own creations with the world. However, Delta wins the game thanks to the Hold Button feature, where you can designate buttons for the emulator to hold down on your behalf, freeing up your thumbs for other actions. Pair that with Fast Forward functionality and you can breeze through slower game sections by speeding up the gameplay. Download Delta Game Emulator Unlike other free retro game emulators, RetroArch is completely free and ad-free, which means you can enjoy uninterrupted gaming sessions without annoying pop-ups. Since its an open-source and cross-platform frontend, it brings a host of emulators, game engines, and even media players under one roof, offering a versatile and all-encompassing gaming experience. However, it gets really impressive when it comes to its compatibility. RetroArch supports an impressive range of systems, from classics like the NES and Sega Genesis to more niche systems like Commodore 64 and the Atari 2600 through its libretro cores. Youll love features like netplay for online multiplayer, save states, MFi controller support, and customizable controls. While soft patching and cheats make gameplay more fun, the fast-forward and rewind features help you navigate tricky spots. On top of that, RetroAchievements provides a modern twist to your classic games by adding achievement support. Moreover, game artwork integration and AI translations further add to the immersive experience by displaying beautiful game covers and translating text for non-native language games. Download RetroArch When we say Gamma is a portal to the golden era of gaming, were not kidding. If youre a fellow PS 1 enthusiast, this is the winning game emulator for iPhone youve been looking for. Sure, free retro game emulators are plentiful, but Gamma stands out for its exceptional features and user-friendly interface. More specifically, it beats its competition with its unparalleled graphical superiority. Whether youre exploring vast landscapes or engaging in intense battles, it renders games at the highest resolution, ensuring that every pixel pops with vivid detail. Moving past visuals, Gamma doesnt lack in the compatibility department either as it supports various file formats including CUE+BIN, CHD, PBP, ISO, and MDS. As for the hardware controller support, it encompasses console and PC Bluetooth controllers, MFi game controllers, and Bluetooth and wired keyboards. Moreover, syncing your game data is a breeze, importing games is a snap too, and save states are a game-changer. As for customization, it wont leave you disappointed. Download Gamma PS 1 Game Emulator Relive the glory days of PSP gaming on your iOS device in high definition with enhanced performance and some extra features to level up the experience. The graphics are crisp, and you can even upscale the resolution for a better visual experience. More importantly, you wont have to pick and choose as PPSSPP is compatible with nearly all PSP games. Whether youre into action-packed adventures, immersive RPGs, or adrenaline-fueled racing games, PPSSPP has got you covered. This iPad retro game emulator ensures smooth gameplay, allowing you to experience your favorite titles just like you did back in the day. The best part is that it doesnt come with any preloaded games. Instead, you have the freedom to use your own real PSP games and convert them into .ISO or .CSO files. This means you can dust off your old PSP collection and bring those classics back to life on your iOS device. And if youre looking for something new to play, the built-in Homebrew Store offers a selection of free homemade games to dive into. Download PPSSPP PSP Emulator XGBA focuses on Game Boy (Color) and Game Boy Advance games and does an excellent job at it. With its 3D simulation touch, this emulator ensures that every pixel, every sound, feels just like it did on the original console. And lets not forget the attention to detail XGBAs original console skin design adds an extra layer of authenticity to your gaming experience. Plus, it runs smoothly, with no noticeable lag or glitches. As you navigate through your favorite games, XGBAs landscape mode enlarges the game interface for more comfortable gameplay. And remember those slow-paced sections that you just want to fly through? Well, the fast-forward function comes to the rescue, letting you speed up the action without missing a beat. Plus, your progress isnt lost when you shut down the game, done for the day. With its game-saving feature, you can rest easy knowing that your progress is safe and sound, ready for you to pick up right where you left off. Download XGBA Game Emulator RePlay is considered one of the best iPhone retro game emulators because the performance is stable, and the games run smoothly without any lag. More than that, the real star of the show are the games. Were not just talking a handful here but a whole library of classics. From the iconic *.nds to the legendary *.gba, and even the beloved *.gbc and *.gb formats, this emulators got you covered. As for the experience, let us tell you, this emulator nails it. Thanks to some seriously impressive emulation tech, each game plays just like you remember it. From the pixel-perfect graphics to the spot-on sound effects, its like youre playing on the original console, only better, because now its on your phone. Speaking of speed, it follows suit to its rivals on the list and allows you to fly through those dialogues happily. Moreover, the clean and clear organization of the interface makes it super easy to use just scroll, tap, and play. Download Game Emulator RePlay If you have a soft spot for MSX and MSX2 gaming, iMSX2 is the emulator for you. In our humble opinion, free retro game emulators dont get much better than this. The controls are customizable, and the emulator runs smoothly on the iPhone. Plus, it supports a wide range of MSX games, whether its the thrill of Metal Gear or the challenge of Maze of Galious, it offers provides a faithful emulation experience. iMSX2 may be a niche emulator but its perfect for those who want to relive the MSX era. You can enjoy your entire library of MSX and MSX2 games on the go without the need for physical cartridges as it can run cartridges from ROM, MX1, and MX2 files. Moreover, Bluetooth compatibility adds another layer of convenience as you can connect either a keyboard or a game controller. Best of all, its ad-free, doesnt require an internet connection, and wont store your data. Plus, it takes up minimal space on your device, so you can focus on what matters the games. Download iMSX2 ($1.99) There you have it, these are some of the best retro gaming emulators on iOS that you need to try right now. Did we miss any? Share your favorite in the comments below.Disclosure: iOSHacker may receive a commission if you purchase products through our affiliate links. For more visit our privacy policy page. In early April, Apple made a surprise decision to allow retro game emulators in the App Store. With them, you can now play old classic games from early game consoles and arcades, but the legalities around doing so are a little complicated. Heres what you need to know about retro game emulation on iPhone and iPad, including some of the top apps, how they work, and what to do about ROMs. The processor in your iPhone (or laptop or home PC) is many times more powerful than the processors used in old classic arcade games or home consoles like the NES, SNES, Genesis, GameBoy, etc. That means todays devices are capable of playing older games without breaking a sweatwhich is where game emulators come in. Game emulators have been around for a very long time on PCs, where enthusiasts have used the power of modern processors to made software versions of the processors and systems used in old game machines. Modern iPhones have been capable of this for a long time, but Apple has forbidden them for years due to its App Store terms. Now, emulators are allowed, but they have to follow all applicable laws regarding copyright and game distribution. That means that the emulator you download is kind of like getting a virtual GameBoy or NES, without any games. ROM stands for read-only memory. Old game cartridges, like old arcade games, stored all the actual game code and art in banks of ROM memory. (These days, whether game data is stored in ROM chips on a cartridge or CD, retro game enthusiasts have taken to calling all old games ROMs.) ROMs are basically packages of all the game data, without the game system. Its the equivalent of dumping all the data from your old Super Mario Bros. or Metroid cartridge into a ZIP file. Without the game system to play them, theyre more or less useless. There are lots of sites out there where you can download ROMs, and some legal but many are not. A lot of ROM distribution lies somewhere in a grey area. The legality of downloading ROMs is complicated. In most cases, it is a copyright violation to make available the data from a game, and usually to download it as well. So the site youre downloading Pokemon from is probably breaking the law, and you may be breaking the law to grab it as well. There are totally legal and free ROMs, though. Romhacking.net is a site where enthusiasts hack together new custom ROMs for retro game systems, and release them for free. It has a list of free and legal ROMs. But these are new games, not the popular games you played 30 years ago. A common legal grey area is whether or not you can download the ROM of a game you already own. For example, if you own an old Legend of Zelda NES cartridge, can you find a site that has a copy of it and download it? Legally, you would be well within your rights to take a special piece of hardware that reads all the data off the cartridge and makes a personal copy of it, not for distribution (a process called ROM dumping). Any site you download a ROM from, even if you own it, is probably breaking copyright law by distributing it. But downloading the game you own is a bit of a legal grey area. Most enthusiasts acquire ROMs that fall off a truck, so to speak. It doesnt take a lot of searching to find ROMs to download, legal or not. Be careful: ROM packages and sites are a common vector for viruses and malware. One legal and safe way to get ROMs legally is to buy retro game collections, most of which are actually emulators wrapped in a package with a set of ROMs. For example, the SEGA Mega Drive and Genesis Classics collection on Steam has about 50 of the best Sega classic games available for around a dollar each, or in a deeply discounted bundle. If you install them and look at the game directory, youll see a directory called uncompressed ROMs that has all the games you bought. Theyre yours, legally purchased, so you can use them in any emulator you want. To use ROMs with game emulators on iPhone or iPad, youll have to either download them into the Files app on your iPhone or put them in a cloud storage location (like iCloud Drive) that can be accessed by the app. The apps dont provide direct access to ROMs themselves, however, you have to load your own. Just after Apple changed the App Store guidelines to allow emulators, a few were quickly released and pulled. But since then, several more projects have landed and they provide a good experience. More are on the way. Here are the key projects to be aware of. The Delta game emulator has been around for years, even on iPhone. It wasnt allowed in the App Store, so they built their own project called AltStore to distribute it via sideloading. Popularity has obviously surged since appearing in the App Store. Delta has great Nintendo support and fantastic controller skins.Delta Delta currently supports the following systems: Nintendo Entertainment System Super Nintendo Entertainment System Nintendo 64 Game Boy (Color) Game Boy Advance Nintendo DS Sega Genesis (beta) Its an incredibly full-featured product. It supports fast-forward speeds, save states, cloud sync of save states to other devices, and even downloads box artwork for the games you load. In addition to virtual on-screen controllers it supports all kinds of physical controllers, including Xbox and PlayStation controllers, MFi controllers, Nintendo Switch joycons and Pro controllers, and even Bluetooth or wired keyboards. You can even AirPlay your games to your TV! Just start screen mirroring in Control Center and the game will be on the TV while the virtual controller will be on your iPhone. If you want to emulate Nintendo games, Delta is the place to start. A dedicated iPad version is on the way too. Its just a matter of making all the system and controller skins and squashing a few more bugs. The interface and controller skins could use a little work, but RetroArch is a very capable emulator. In fact, its a front-end for a lot of open source emulator projects (called cores), and includes too many to mention here. RetroArchs interface is a little rough but it supports lots of systems and has an Apple TV app.RetroArch RetroArch includes cores to play games from too many systems to list them all here. Theres support for old Atari and Intellivision systems, Commodore 64 and Amiga, PC Engine, Neo Geo, lots of Nintendo systems, multiple Sega systems, and even PlayStation and PlayStation Portable. There are sometimes multiple different cores for an individual system, and loading up your ROMs isnt as seamless as it could be, but RetroArch will play a lot more than most other emulators in the App Store. Oh, and theres even a native Apple TV version! The core for this one is included in RetroArch, but if you want to just play PlayStation Portable (PSP) games you might have a better experience with the PPSSPP app. It has a built-in Homebrew store where you can download and play homemade PSP games, and the PPSSPP site has some help with how to dump PSP games on your own or prepare dumps by turning them into .ISO or .CSO files. PPSSPP has a HomeBrew Store to play homemade games, and an easier interface than RetroArch.PPSSPP Provenance is not yet on the App Store, but it has been available for some time on AltStore. Like RetroArch, its a front end for multiple emulation cores. The App Store release will support nearly as many console systems as RetroArch, but not the older computers like Amiga and Commodore 64: Atari 2600 Atari 5200 Atari 7800 Atari Jaguar Atari Lynx Bandai WonderSwan Mattel Electronics Intellivision NEC PC Engine/TurboGrafx 16 (CD) NEC PC-FX NEC SuperGrafx Neo Geo Pocket (Color) Nintendo GameBoy (Color) Nintendo GameBoy Advance Nintendo N64 Nintendo NES/Famicom + FDS Nintendo PokeMini Nintendo SNES Nintendo Virtual Boy Sega 32X Sega Game Gear Sega Genesis/MegeDrive (CD) Sega MasterSystem Sega Saturn Sega SG1000 Sony PSX Sony PSP Its generally very well regarded, with lots of features to customize the cores and performance, automatic downloading of metadata and art for games in your library, support for MFi and iCade controllers, and supposedly very good performance. Theres a Test Flight beta for Patreon supporters, but the full App Store release should be coming soon, and with an Apple TV app as well. Provenance is well-regarded on AltStore, and will debut on the App Store very soon.Provenance

**Retro game ipad. Retro ios game.**