fairphone

Fairphone to release Android 16; Upgrades the Bloatware-Free User Experience on Its Gen. 6

Amsterdam, March 4th, 2026 – European leader in sustainable electronics Fairphone today announced that the Fairphone (Gen. 6) will begin receiving the Android 16 update through a staged rollout in April. As the company's first device to support the latest operating system, the update is designed to elevate the daily user experience through meaningful improvements to usability, accessibility, and system-level security.

Focusing on stability and practical refinements rather than experimental features, Android 16 on the Fairphone (Gen. 6) maintains Fairphone's signature bloatware-free approach. This ensures a clean, powerful, and intuitive interface that allows users to get the most out of their device without unnecessary software clutter.

> "We're incredibly excited to bring Android 16 to our Fairphone (Gen. 6) users, focusing on making their daily interaction with technology more joyful and fluid," says **Chandler Hatton, CTO of Fairphone**. "This update is all about the user experience, providing a fast, clean, and intuitive interface that feels modern and personal. We've worked hard to ensure that these new features, from the smart notification management to the enhanced privacy tools, feel like a natural and positive evolution of what it means to use a Fairphone."

A Streamlined Daily Experience

Android 16 introduces several key features specifically designed to improve efficiency and reduce digital distractions:

- **Smart Notification Management:** New "Force Group Notifications" automatically bundle alerts from the same app, which can be expanded or collapsed with a single tap. To further minimize disruptions, "Notification Cooldown" gradually reduces alert volume when multiple notifications arrive in rapid succession.
- **Faster Access:** Users can now customize their interaction by setting a double-press of the power button as a shortcut to open Google Wallet, streamlining digital payments and public transit access.
- **Personalized System Settings:** The update enables users to select alternative measurement systems directly in settings and adds support for seven new Unicode 16.0 emojis.

Enhanced Protection and Accessibility

The update also brings critical security enhancements and visual aids to ensure the Fairphone (Gen. 6) remains a secure and inclusive tool for all users:

- **Anti-Scam Safeguards:** To protect against social engineering, the system now prevents users from enabling sideloading or granting sensitive permissions, such as Accessibility access, while a phone call is active.
- **Improved Legibility:** For users requiring high visual contrast, the new "Outline Text" feature adds a contrasting border around characters, significantly improving readability across the entire operating system.

Availability

The rollout for existing Fairphone (Gen. 6) users will begin in April. By delivering this major OS upgrade, Fairphone ensures the Gen. 6 remains a modern, high-performing device that aligns with the highest standards of software quality and user safety.

About Fairphone

Fairphone is the global benchmark for great, long-lasting sustainable electronics, delivering high-quality devices crafted with ethical materials and responsible production in mind. Our mission is to revolutionize the electronics industry by proving that superior design, a great human-centered experience, social responsibility, and environmental care can and should coexist.

Photos, videos, fact sheets, and other materials are available on Fairphone's [press page](#).

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