iPhone X Updates Abound at 2018 Apple Event

Written by Marco Attard
 13 September 2018

The September 2018 Apple event is all about the iPhone X, as the company reveals not one, not two, but three versions of the smartphone-- the "standard" iPhone XS, ultra-large iPhone XS Max and the more affordable iPhone XR.

While more iterative than revolutionary, the three iPhone X models run on the A12 Bionic, the first Apple SoC built using a 7nm processor. It promises a 15% increase in speed when running CPU tasks over the A11 Bionic, a 50% boost in GPU tasks and 50% less power consumption. Also seeing an increase is the number of cores (from 2 to 8), with a "Neural Engine" allowing features such as smart HDR, expressive Memoji and front/rear camera AR experiences.

Moving to the actual handsets, the main difference between the iPhone XS and XS Max is the size and resolution of the OLED display-- the XS has 5.8-inch 2436 x 1125 resolution display, while the XS is 6.5-inch and 2688 x 1242. Otherwise all other features are essentially identical, including the aforementioned internals, dual-12 MP rear-facing camera array (with 6-element lenses, quad-tone flash and sapphire lens covers), IP68-rated water resistance and dual-SIM capability.

Customers wanting a (relatively) more affordable iPhone option get the iPhone XR-- a 6.1-inch model offering a "True Tone" 1792 x 828 resolution LCD display and a single rear-facing 12MP camera. The body is IP67-rated against water and dust and comes in a variety of colours, including white, black, blue, coral, yellow and Product RED. In comparison, the iPhone XS and XS Max come only in the traditional space gray, silver and gold finishes.

The iPhone XS and XS Max ship from September 2018. The XR follows on October.

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