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The Sunset of 3G

If your mobile phone is more than a few years old, you may need to upgrade your device before your mobile provider (wireless carrier) shuts down its 3G network, to avoid losing service.



What is happening?

For the availability of more advanced network services, such as 5G, mobile providers (wireless carriers) are shutting down their 3G networks which rely on outdated technology.



When is it happening?

Timing to phase out 3G services will vary by mobile provider (wireless carrier) and may change at their discretion. Consult your mobile provider's website or contact your mobile provider directly for current information.



What do I need to do?

Consult your mobile provider's website or contact your mobile provider directly for more information about their 3G retirement plan.



Does this change impact phones only?

No. In addition to mobile phones and wireless devices, other electronics, such as certain medical devices, tablets, smart watches, vehicle automatic crash response (ACR)/SOS services, home security systems, and other wirelessly connected products which may be using 3G network services.



Why are 3G networks being phased out?

As mobile providers (wireless carriers) seek to upgrade their networks to take advantage of the latest technologies, they periodically shut down outdated services to free up spectrum and infrastructure to support new services, such as 5G.

For the FCC's 5G strategy, please visit America's 5G Future.

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