



*Tia MacGillivray*

# Home sick?

How Apple eliminated the iPhones iconic home button over a decade.

# Home sick?

Tia MacGillivray



Apple has finally taken the wraps off the highly anticipated iPhone X with a bezel-less edge-to-edge screen with the sacrifice of the iconic home button from their latest launch of iPhones which caused a conversation for Apple users worldwide.

When the original iPhone was unveiled in January **2007**, Steve Jobs introduced its signature home button: "It takes you home from wherever you are, and that's it." Not only would the home button evolve into a Swiss Army Knife of functions, but it would become the iconic face of the iPhone itself, making it instantly recognizable even from a distance. Ten years later, the home button has been put through various places. The old, bloated features to rapidly shrinking bezels.

The first launch of the **iPhone X** features a 5.8" **Super Retina HD** display which the glass spans across the whole front of the phone. But easily the most innovative new technology introduced in the iPhone X would be not only the elimination of

the home button and Touch ID, but the replacement of the latter with Face ID.

In planning the iPhones X development, Senior Vice President of Apple, Philip Schiller told **T3** in an interview. "At the time, at the beginning, it seemed almost impossible. Not just almost. It seemed impossible."

In the **T3** interview he talks about the gamble the company took in dropping the Home button. "The boldest thing Apple has done, is removing the home button and replacing it with **Face ID** was a colossal decision that the teams knew they couldn't turn back from."

While the loss of the home button is a large changed, it's not the first time it's been altered, as Apple's devices had the iconic home button.

From the first iPhone being released in **2007**, the home button design was its iconic rounded rectangle icon, which had two main purposes.

In **2010**, the iPhone 4 was released, and the functionality of the button had changed slightly but the design remained the same.

**2013** was the first change the home button seen, **Touch ID** included a fingerprint sensor allowing users to quickly unlock the phone.

In **2016** features a glass panel in place of the home button which wasn't something you press but was pressure-sensitive.

Now in **2017**, the iPhone X showcases the complete removal of the home button and Apple introduces Face ID.

Your thumb will get a workout now that the home button is no longer around. Phil Schiller says that it doesn't take users very long to become accustomed to the iPhone X. Most people are comfortable with it within minutes. It's not the kind of thing you must live with for a week or two to get used to. We used the Home button to navigate to the home screen, invokes Siri, screenshots, activation of **Apple Pay** and helps you force the phone to reset.

The iPhone X main navigation are now with combinations of gestures as well as the use side buttons: swiping up from the bottom edge of the screen takes you to the home menu, saying "Hey Siri." or press and hold the side button, pressing the volume up and side buttons simultaneously to capture your screen, double tapping the new side button to activate Apple Pay which also uses Face ID and forcing the iPhone X to reset is a difficult gesture, quickly tap the volume up button then tap the volume down and press and hold the side button. iPhone users will have to relearn these key gestures to navigate on the iPhone X.

The iPhone X arguably represented the biggest design change ever seen in the evolution of Apple's smartphone. The removal of the button is almost revolutionary and only further pushing boundaries, will the notch disappear also? This could only be the beginning for what's to come for iPhone design.



#### References:

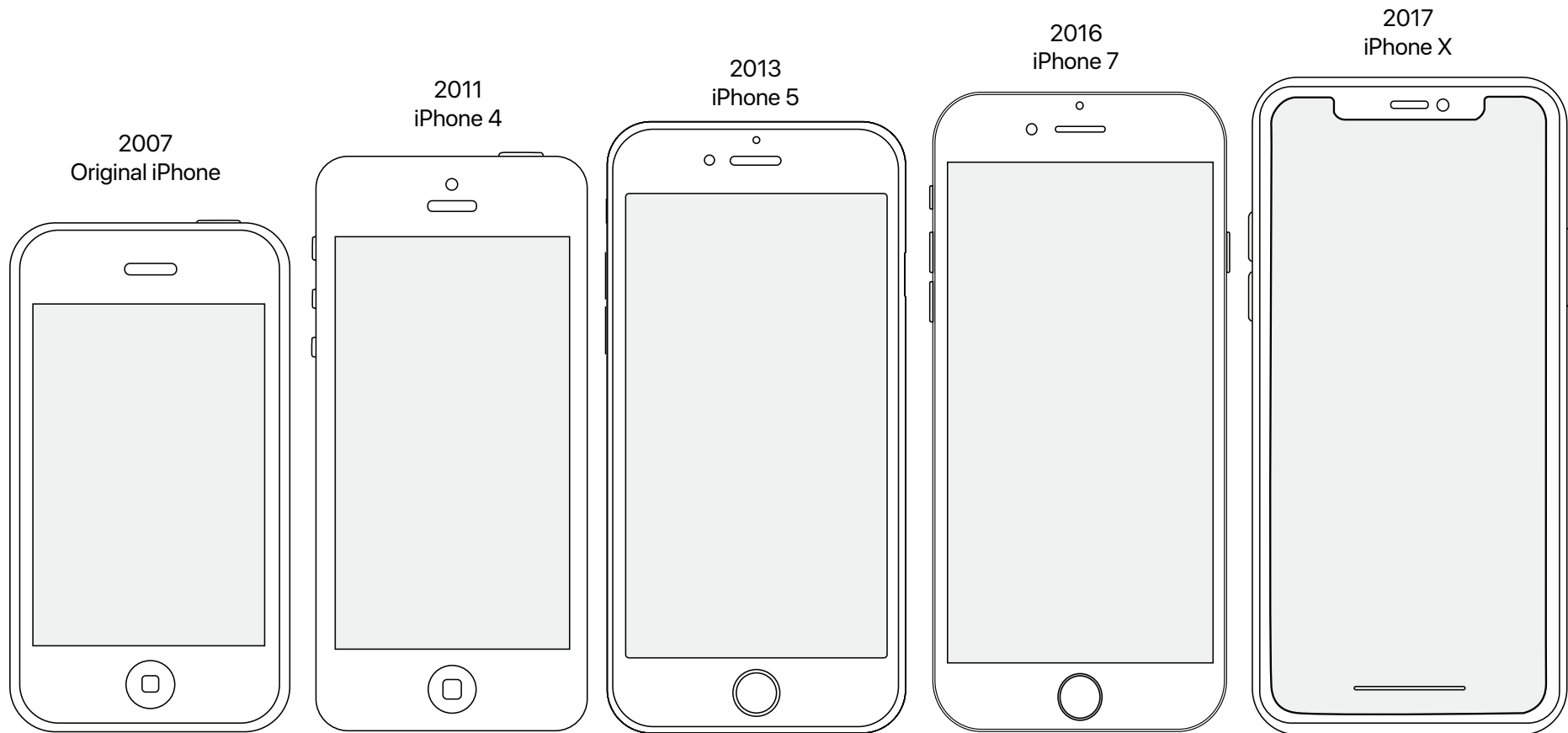
Sorrel, C.(2017, November 2). *Learn all the new gestures for iPhone X*. Retrieved from <https://www.cultofmac.com/511619/new-iphone-x-gestures/>

iphone-x.

Grabham, D.(2017, December 12). *Phil Schiller Interview on iPhone X*. Retrieved from <https://www.t3.com/features/phil-schiller-interview>.

Gandhe, S.(2017, September 12). *From the Steve Jobs Theater, here is the iPhone X*. Retrieved from <https://www.neowin.net/news/from-the-steve-jobs-theater-here-is-the->

# Changes of the home button



Introduction of the home button with the release of the original iPhone



iOS 5 and Siri were released and introduced new features the home button could do



The iPhone 5 introduced Touch ID. Adding a fingerprint sensor for authentication into the button



First iPhone without a home button, replacing it with a solid-state pressure sensitive area.



Complete removal of the home button. On screen home button.

# Components of Touch ID

The iPhone 5 introduced a fingerprint sensor for authentication embedded into the home button.

