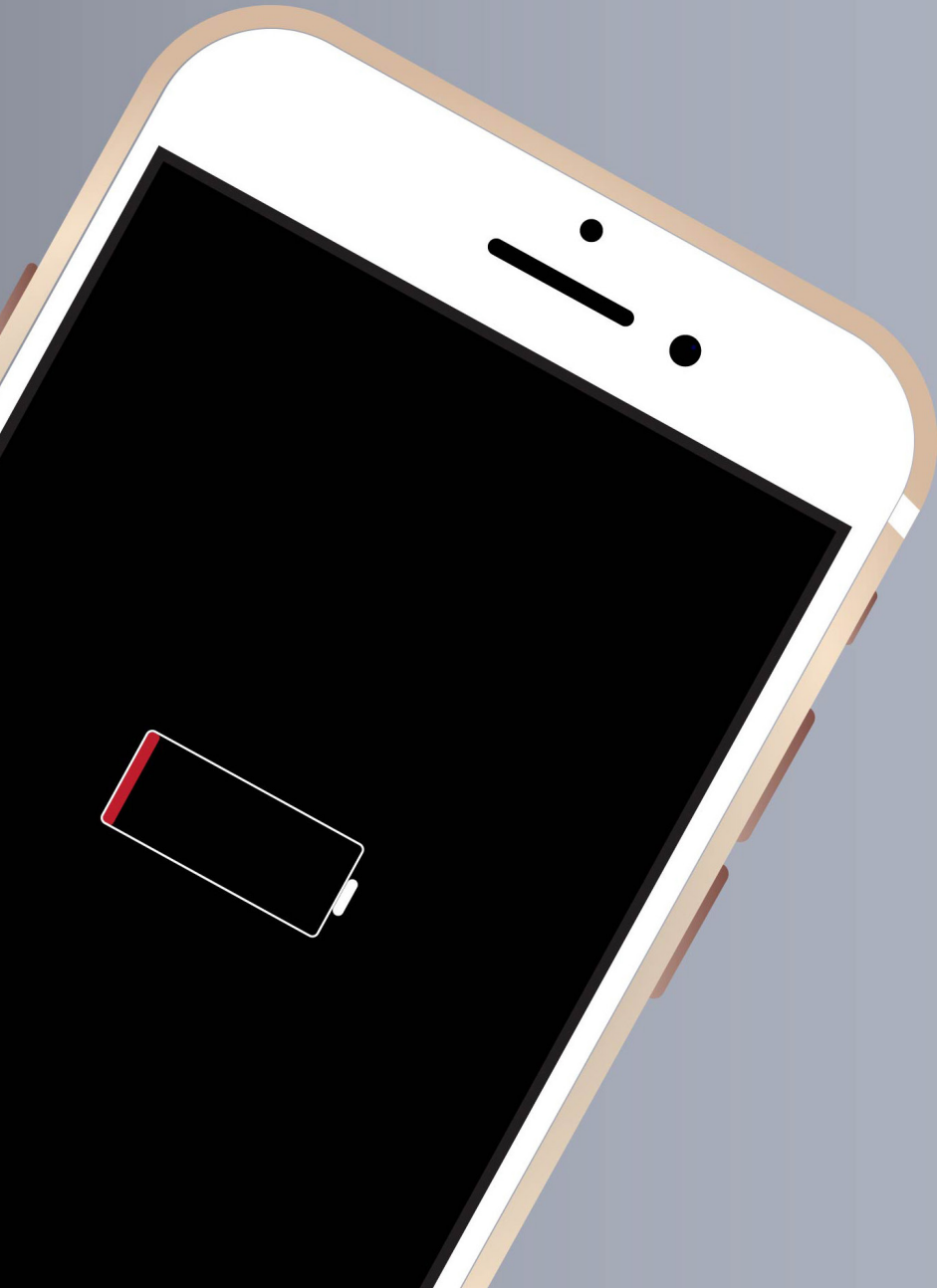


*Dema Hamdan*

# Not built to last

Are Apple slowing down their phones?



# Not built to last

*Dema Hamdan*

iPhone users have always suspected that Apple are slowing down their phones. Whenever a new phone launches, older phones are asked to download the latest iOS software update. If your iPhone is more than a year old, the latest iOS updates will most likely cause your battery life to drain much quicker.

So, are they purposely slowing phones down?

Well, companies like Apple tend to do is try to make it harder to use an older object. The iPhone would consistently keep nagging you to update to the new iOS making it impossible to ignore. Apple uses planned obsolescence which is a policy of producing consumer goods that rapidly become obsolete and so require replacing. ("Definition of planned obsolescence | Dictionary.com", 2020). In 2017, a statement issued by Apple revolved around the way that phones with older batteries perform. Even though

smartphones use rechargeable batteries, they have a limited life span. According to apple, these batteries recharge by reversing the chemical reactions that usually generates power for your phone. Since these batteries are not made to last a lifetime, the battery won't be able to hold the charge as well over time as you recharge it over and over again. If your battery is old, the iPhone can end up shutting off due to a dead battery, way before the expected battery life span. That's why some of those new features just literally can't be faster because of the way the processor is integrated into the design process.

Not updating the phone is also a security risk, new updates come with new security features and by not updating the phone, hackers can easily access your phone. One of the ways that hackers get your information is simply sending you a link via message, and once it's clicked on, then hackers will get access to your phone.

If you're putting a load on your phone's processor like streaming HD video or playing a game, it draws more power from your battery draining it more quickly. Apple states that some workloads are so hungry that they can ask for more power than an ageing battery can provide at any given moment.

It is speculated that Apple are overclocking their phones and delivering performance out of the box that isn't typical of what you expect from the longer term. Also, they face criticism for not giving users a choice. If Apple had an option in the settings menu to either choose between saving battery life and not over performing the phone or have the option of the phone performing more effectively but the phone dying quicker.

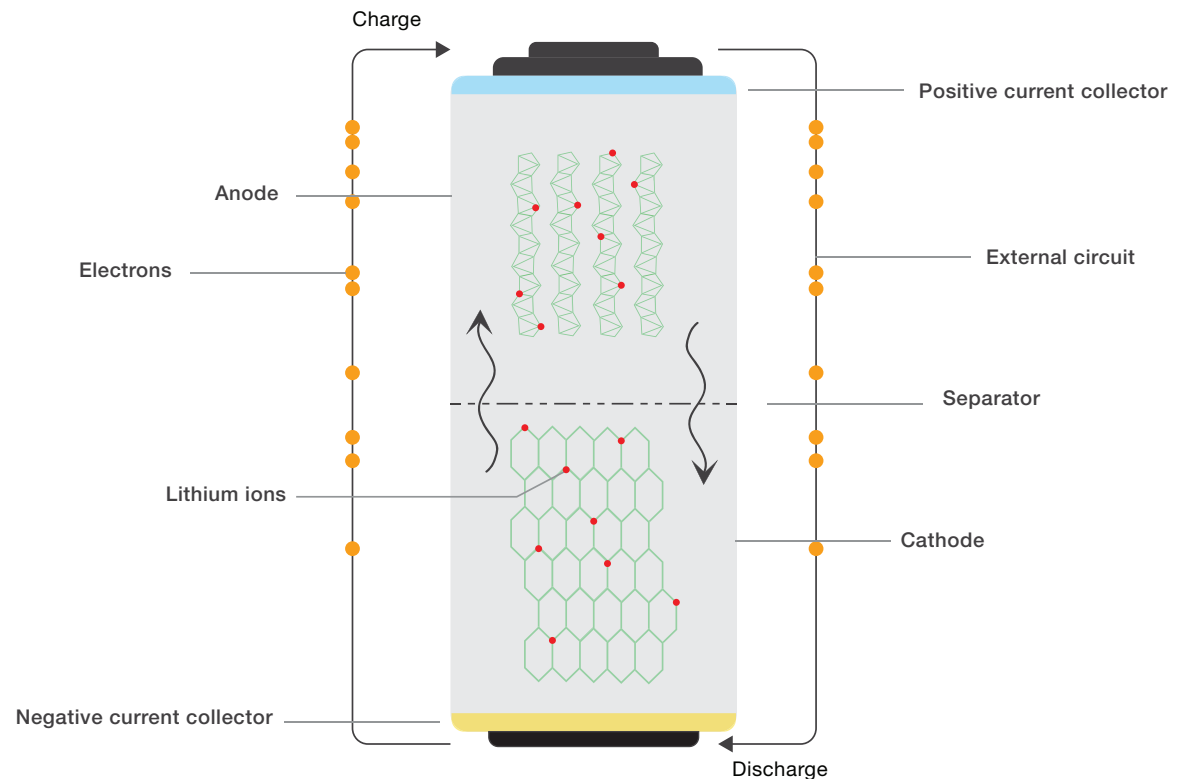
The design of the Apple iPhone makes it harder to buy a new battery and replace it. Unlike other phones, it doesn't have a removable back cover. Buying kits to

# How Lithium-Ion Batteries Work

remove the back cover can risk damaging the device, and if any damages occur while removing the battery, users will risk losing the Apple warranty.

In addition, Apple uses Lithium-Ion batteries. These batteries are not made to last long. The typical lifespan is about two to three years or 300 to 500 charge cycles, whichever occurs first. One charge cycle is a period of use from fully charged, to fully discharged, and fully recharged again.

So what choice are we left with?



## References:

Tektronix. Lithium-Ion Battery Maintenance Guidelines [PDF]. Retrieved 9 October 2020, from <https://www.newark.com/pdfs/techarticles/tektronix/LIBMG.pdf>.

KARE 11. (2017). Why do iOS updates slow down your phone? [Video]. Retrieved 9 October 2020, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vfyVxiF9dE>.

iPhone Battery and Performance. Apple Support. (2020). Retrieved 12 October 2020, from <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT208387>.

Stephen, L. (2018). 13 tips to extend the lifespan of your phone battery. Medium. Retrieved 10 October 2020, from <https://medium.com/@lauren.c.stephen/13-tips-to-extend-the-lifespan-of-your-phone-battery-16c2af5ca59f#:~:text=With%20every%20charge%20cycle%20your,a%20fraction%20of%20a%20cycle.&text=Battery%20manufacturers%20say%20that%20after,capacity%20will%20degrade%20by%2020%25>

About Optimised Battery Charging on your iPhone. Apple Support. (2020). Retrieved 11 October 2020, from <https://support.apple.com/en-au/HT210512#:~:text=A%20battery's%20lifespan%20is%20related,since%20the%20battery%20was%20assembled.&text=With%20iOS%2013%20and%20later%2C%20Optimised%20Battery%20Charging%20is%20designed,your%20iPhone%20spends%20fully%20charged>.