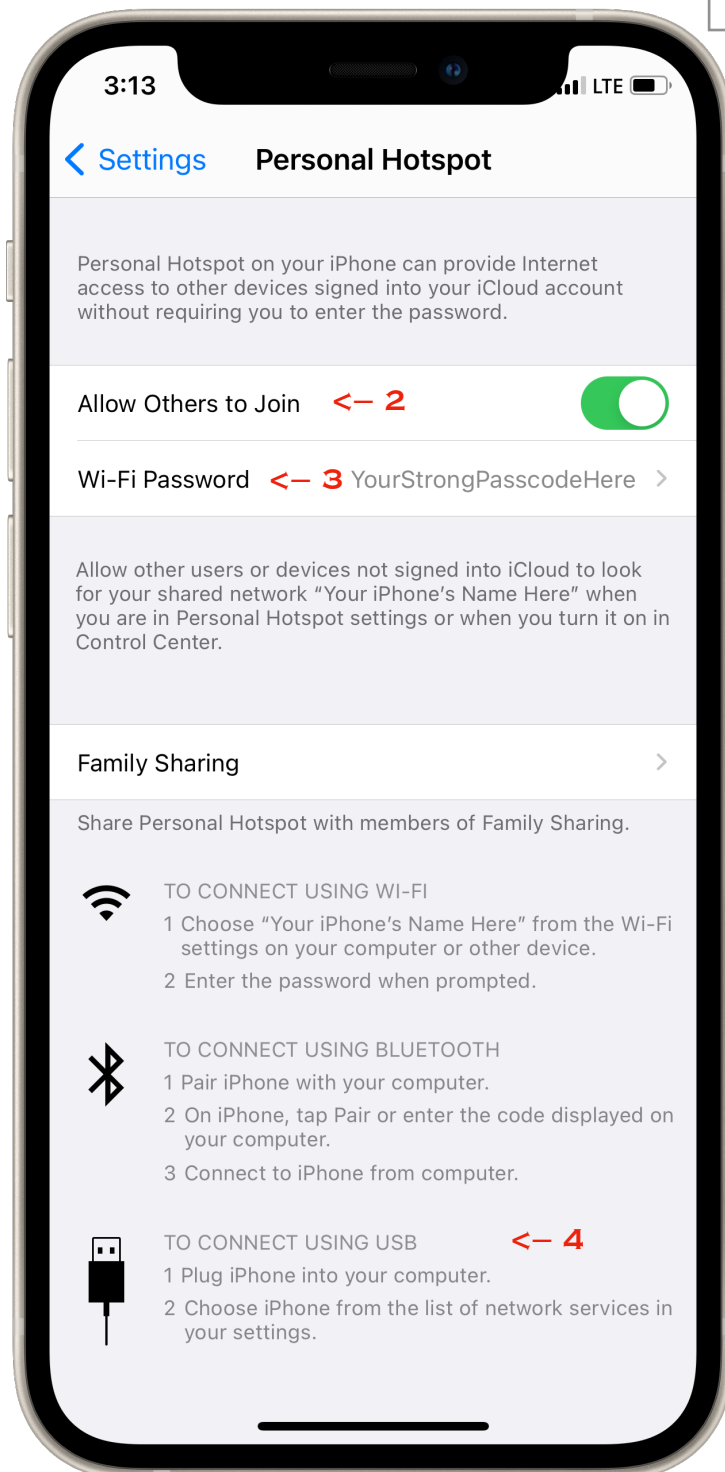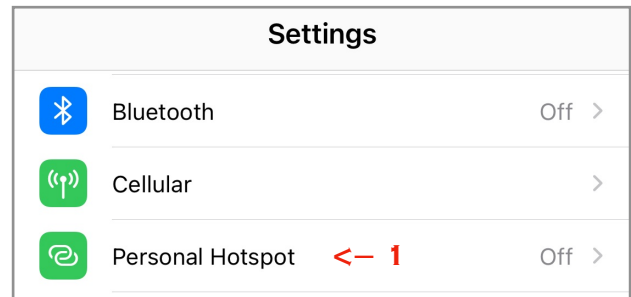# Using Your iPhone as a Tethered Hotspot for a Mac

STEPHEN HUSTON — APRIL 2021

Your iPhone can be used as a cellular Hotspot for your Mac computer when there is no other connection available (*i.e.* you have no WiFi or Broadband).

**Settings**

🅑 Bluetooth    Off  >

📶 Cellular >

🔗 Personal Hotspot   <— **1**   Off >

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**3:13**    LTE

‹ Settings    **Personal Hotspot**

Personal Hotspot on your iPhone can provide Internet access to other devices signed into your iCloud account without requiring you to enter the password.

Allow Others to Join   <— **2**   🟢

Wi-Fi Password   <— **3**   YourStrongPasscodeHere >

Allow other users or devices not signed into iCloud to look for your shared network "Your iPhone's Name Here" when you are in Personal Hotspot settings or when you turn it on in Control Center.

Family Sharing >

Share Personal Hotspot with members of Family Sharing.

📶 TO CONNECT USING WI-FI
1 Choose "Your iPhone's Name Here" from the Wi-Fi settings on your computer or other device.
2 Enter the password when prompted.

✳ TO CONNECT USING BLUETOOTH
1 Pair iPhone with your computer.
2 On iPhone, tap Pair or enter the code displayed on your computer.
3 Connect to iPhone from computer.

🔌 TO CONNECT USING USB   <— **4**
1 Plug iPhone into your computer.
2 Choose iPhone from the list of network services in your settings.

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Open the Settings app on your iPhone. Find the Personal Hotspot line in the first panel of the screen (**1**, above) and tap to open it.

Turn ON "Allow Others to Join" (**2**), and set a good password to protect your hotspot from unwanted piggy-backers using your data plan while it's on (**3**).

NOTE: When tethered to your Mac, you won't need to enter that password because of your direct connection via the USB cable.

When Personal Hotspot has been turned ON for the iPhone, note the section in the lower screen — To Connect Using USB — for details of *tethering* a Mac (**4**).

Your iPhone is then ready to use as a Hotspot, so it's time to connect your Mac using a USB cable which has a lightning connector and either USB-A or

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USB-C, depending on your Mac's connection ports and any adaptors or dongles.
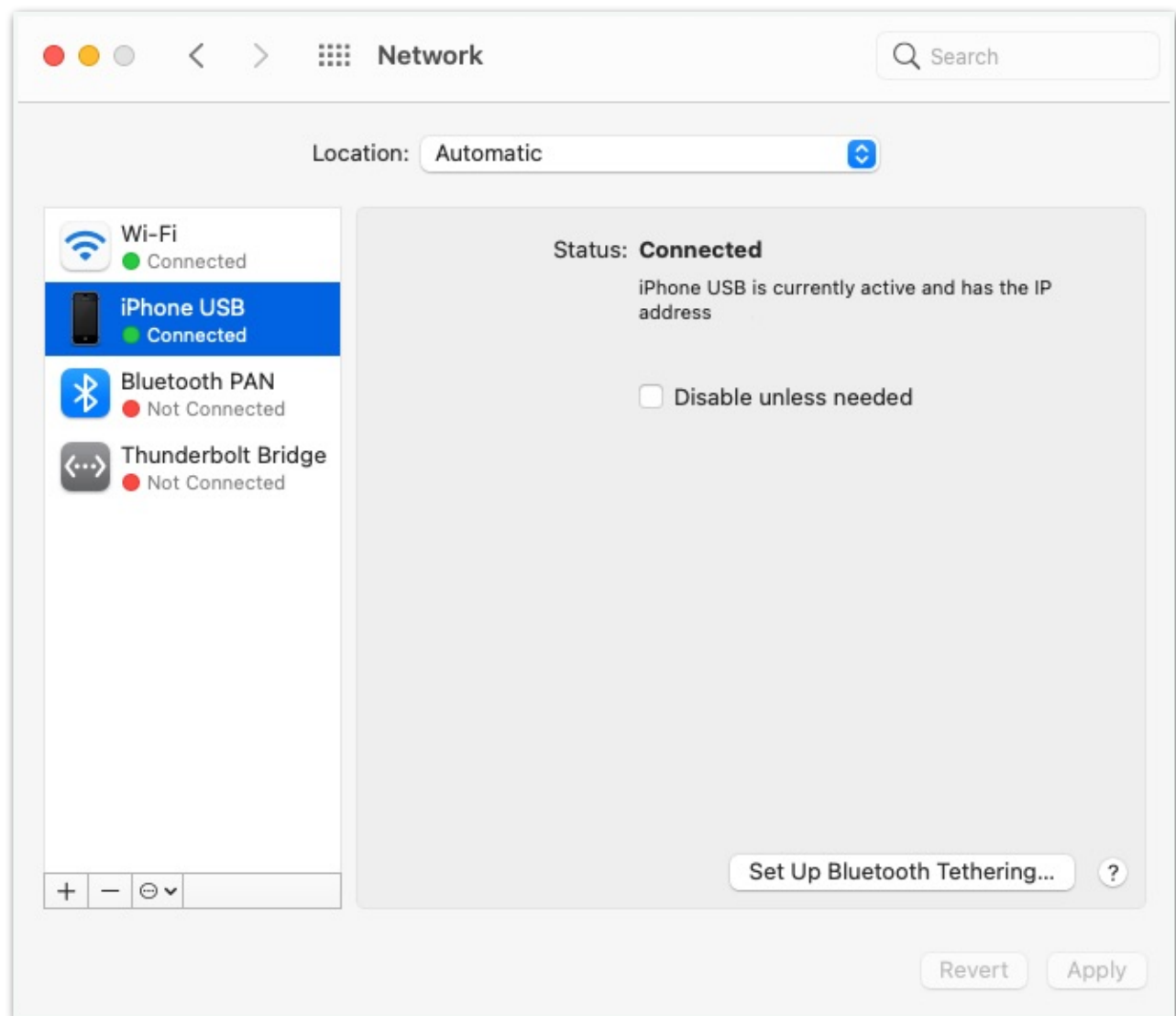


After tethering your iPhone to your Mac, open the Mac's System Preferences, and go to the **Network** panel. In the list of network connection options in the vertical list to the left, select **iPhone USB**. Status: **Connected** will appear to the right.

Now the Mac is using your iPhone's cellular network as its broadband connection.

Be aware that while using your iPhone as a Hotspot, you are using the iPhone's Cellular Data Plan for all online activities. This can affect your cell phone bill if you don't have an unlimited data plan (*i.e.*, using iPhone's hotspot for a 1-hour Zoom meeting uses 1-Gig of the data plan). It still beats having *no* connection.