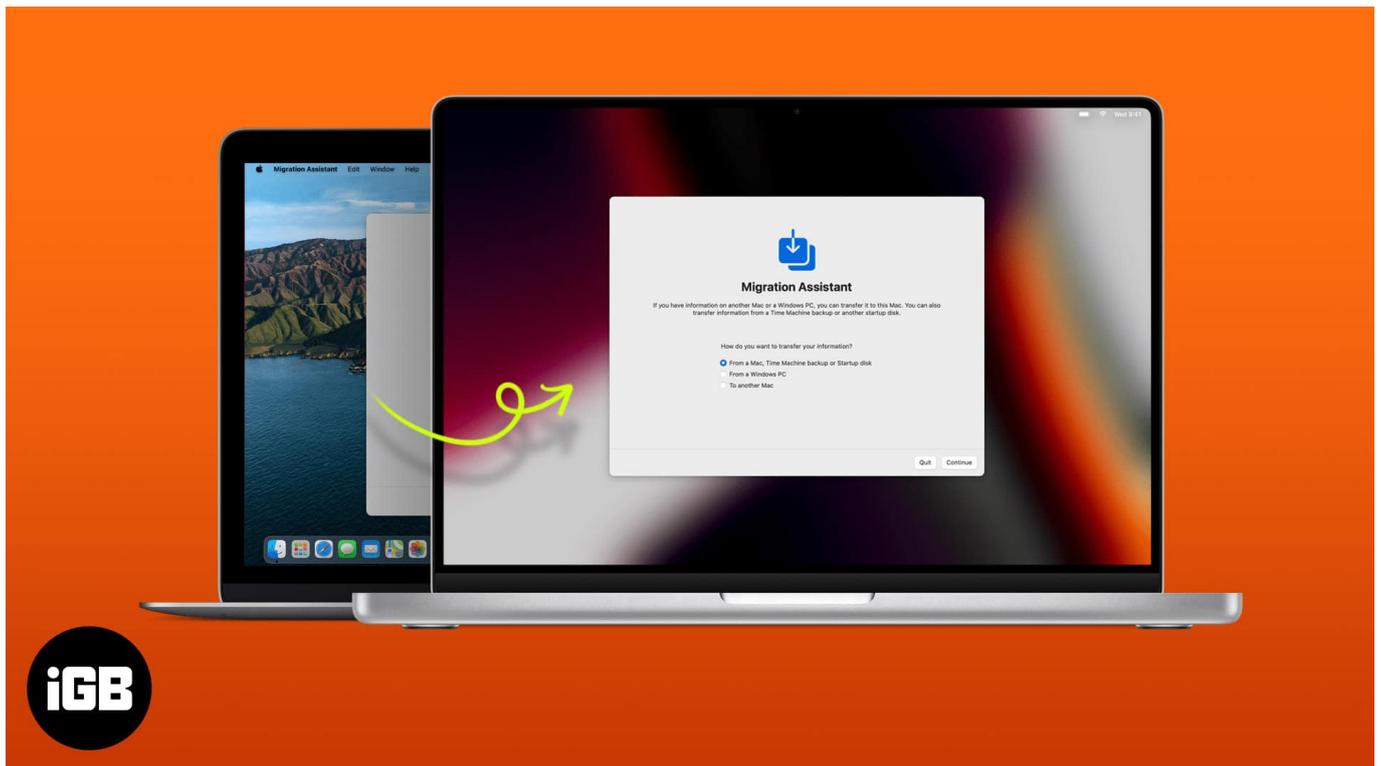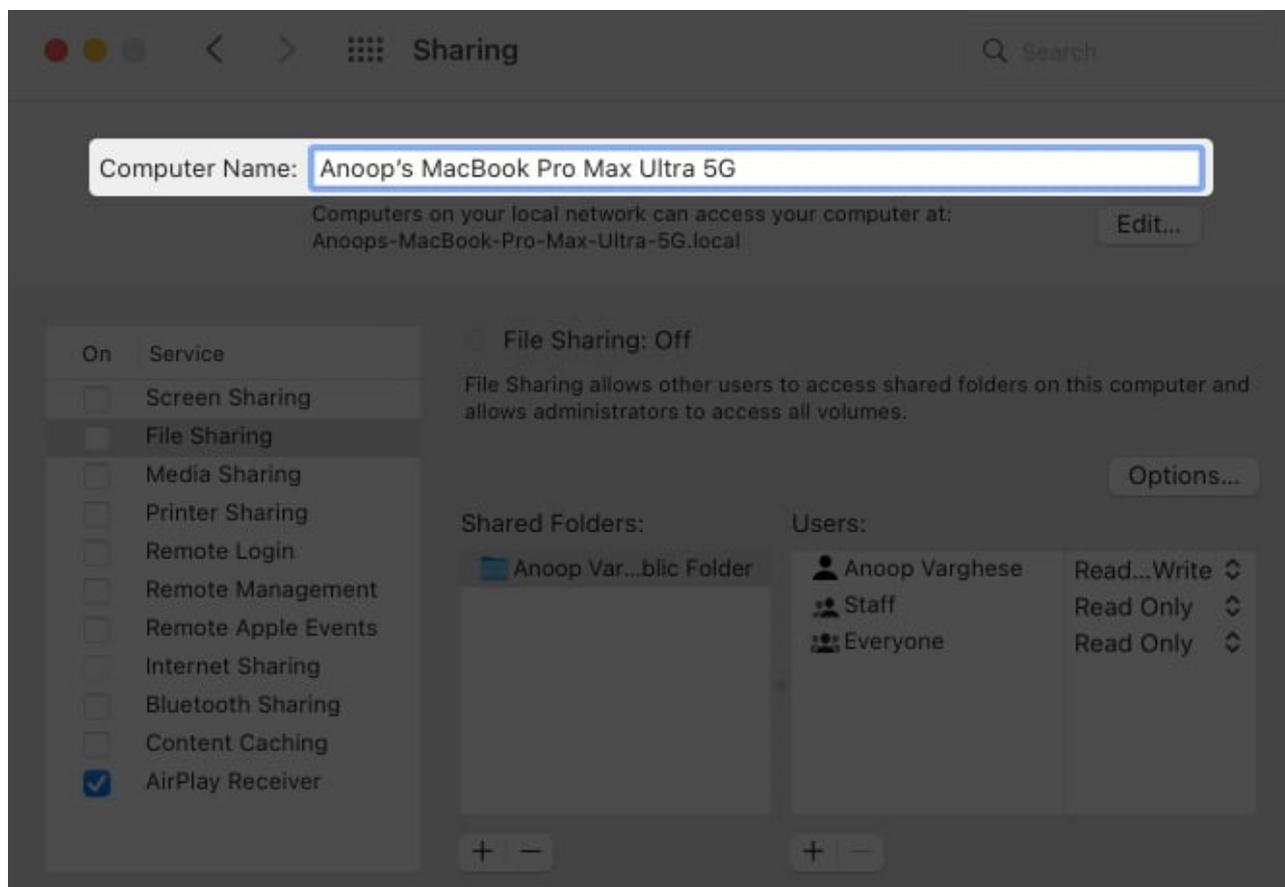You received your new Mac, and you are all excited to try it out until you realize you have to transfer a ton of data from your old Mac to the new one but have no idea how to do it. Don't worry, because I will show you more than one way to migrate files from one Mac to another!

Things to do before you transfer files from Mac to Mac

- Connect both Macs to a **power source**.
- Either use cable or connect to a local Wi-Fi.
- **Update** macOS to the latest version.
  Make sure they are on the same macOS version.
- **Name your Mac** to differentiate each other.
  To do so, go to **System preferences → Sharing → Computer Name**.

Now, select how you want to transfer data and follow the rest of the steps.

How to transfer files from Mac to Mac using Migration Assistant

Migration Assistant is a built-in app in macOS with which you can transfer information such as data, computer settings, and apps from one Mac to another or transfer data to a Mac using the backup file. Not only that, but you can also use the application to transfer information from a Windows PC.

How to use Migration Assistant

1. Open **Launchpad → Others/Utilities → Migration Assistant** on the new Mac.
   *You can also use **Spotlight Search***.
2. Click **Continue**.
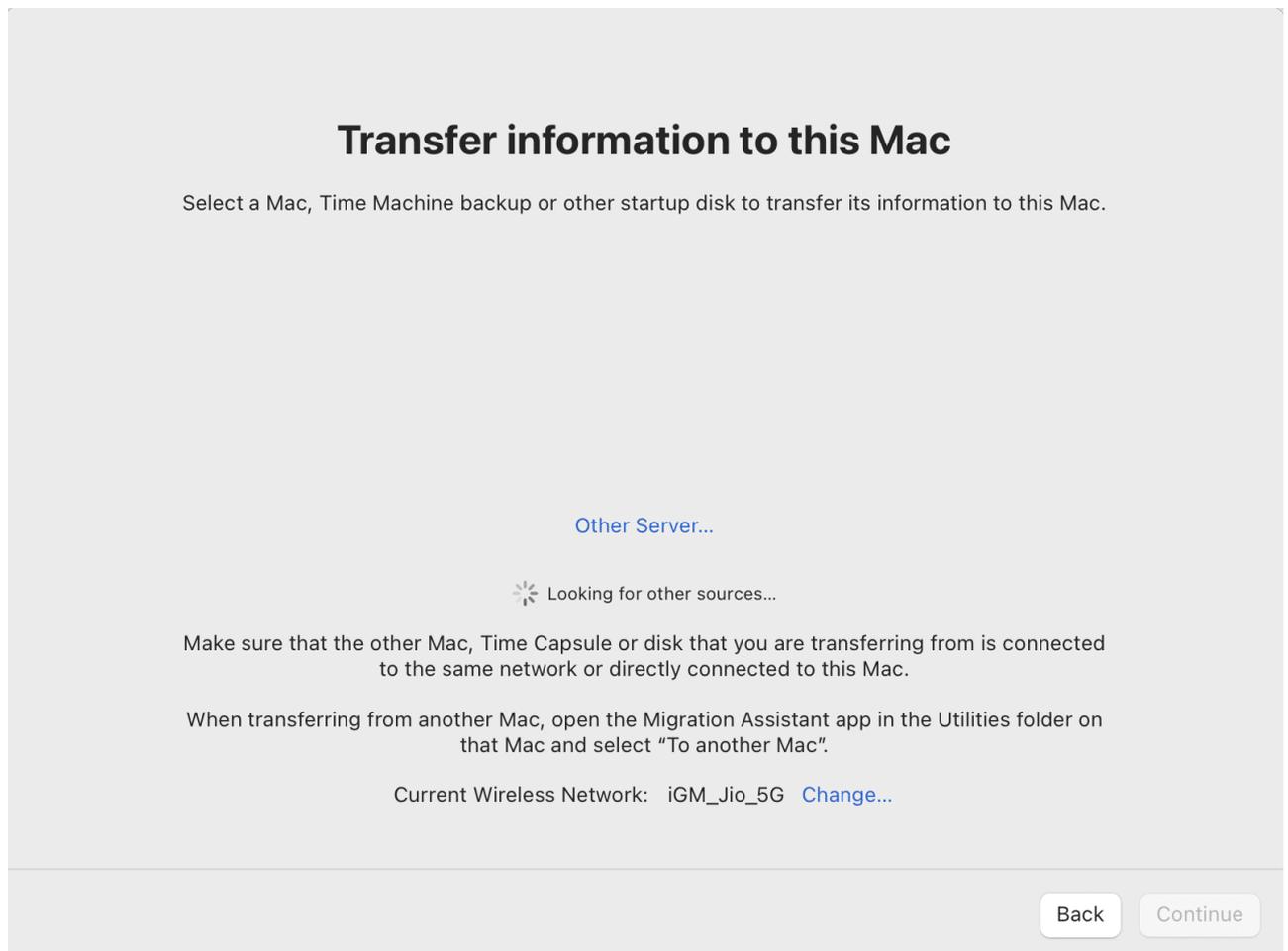
Migration Assistant

Use Migration Assistant to transfer information (data, computer settings and apps) to this Mac from another Mac, a Windows PC, a Time Machine backup, or a disk. You can also transfer information from this Mac to another Mac.

All other apps will quit when you click Continue.

Go Back   Continue

3. Enter your **administrator password** → click **OK**.
4. Select **From a Mac, Time Machine backup or Startup disk**.
5. Now, open **Migrate Assistant** on the old Mac → click **continue**.

Transfer information to this Mac

Select a Mac, Time Machine backup or other startup disk to transfer its information to this Mac.

Other Server...

Looking for other sources...

Make sure that the other Mac, Time Capsule or disk that you are transferring from is connected to the same network or directly connected to this Mac.

When transferring from another Mac, open the Migration Assistant app in the Utilities folder on that Mac and select "To another Mac".

Current Wireless Network: iGM_Jio_5G   Change...
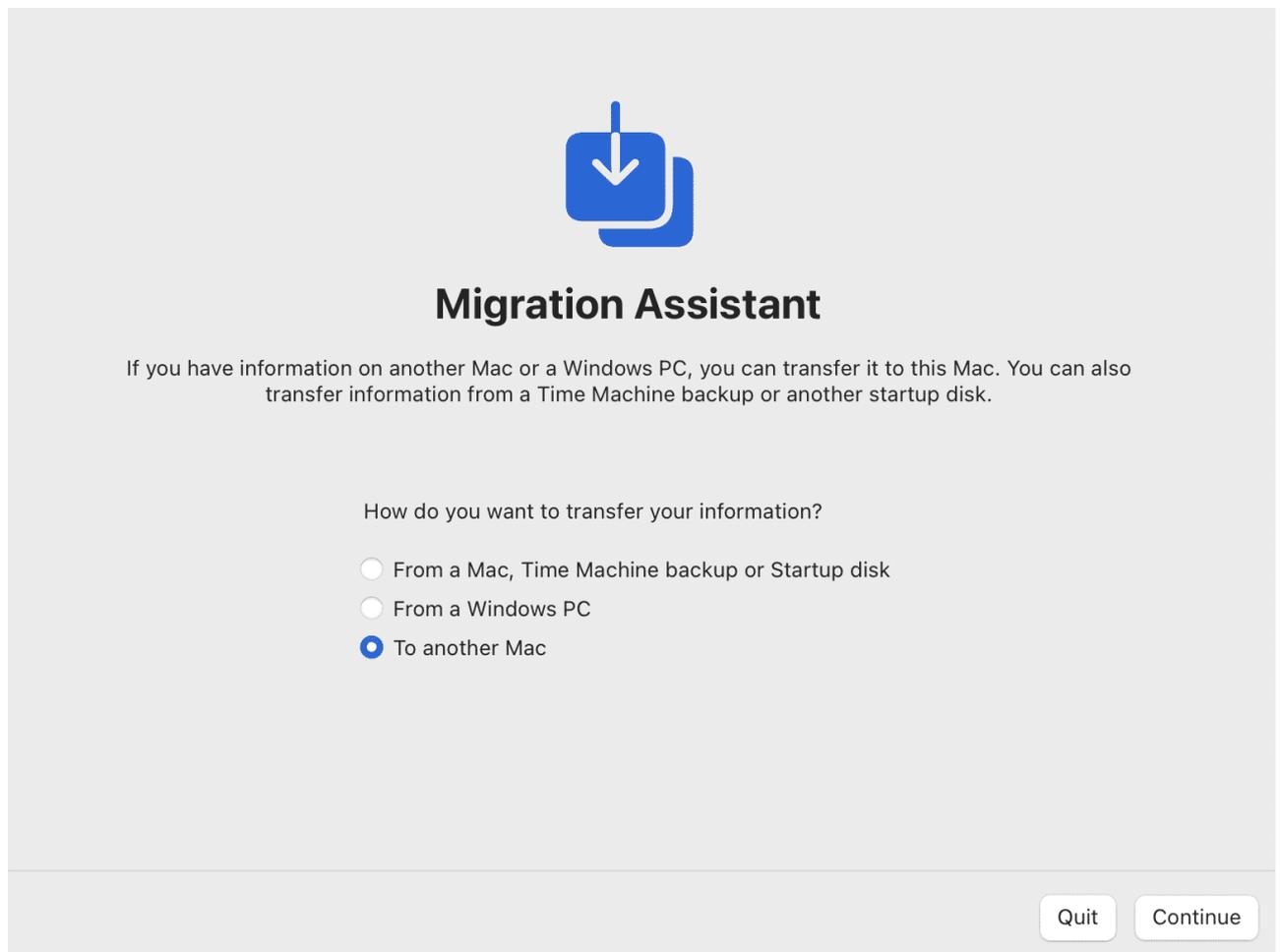
Back   Continue

The steps will be different based on the type of way you choose for migration. I have mentioned what you need to do for each one of them.

However, On **Apple Discussion**, some users reported that migration assistant did not work on their MacBooks. If you're facing the same issue, You can check out our detailed guide to **fix migration assistant not working on your Mac**.

Transfer files between Macs

Follow the steps mentioned in the previous section and after that, follow the steps mentioned below:

1. On the old Mac, select **To another Mac**.

Migration Assistant

If you have information on another Mac or a Windows PC, you can transfer it to this Mac. You can also transfer information from a Time Machine backup or another startup disk.

How do you want to transfer your information?

○ From a Mac, Time Machine backup or Startup disk
○ From a Windows PC
● To another Mac

Quit   Continue

2. Back on your new Mac, select **other Mac** → click **continue**.
   *A **security code** will appear on both Mac.*
3. Check if it's the same, and click **continue**.
4. Now, on the new Mac, select the **information** to transfer.
   Note: *Your name refers to all the user data stored in the old Mac*.
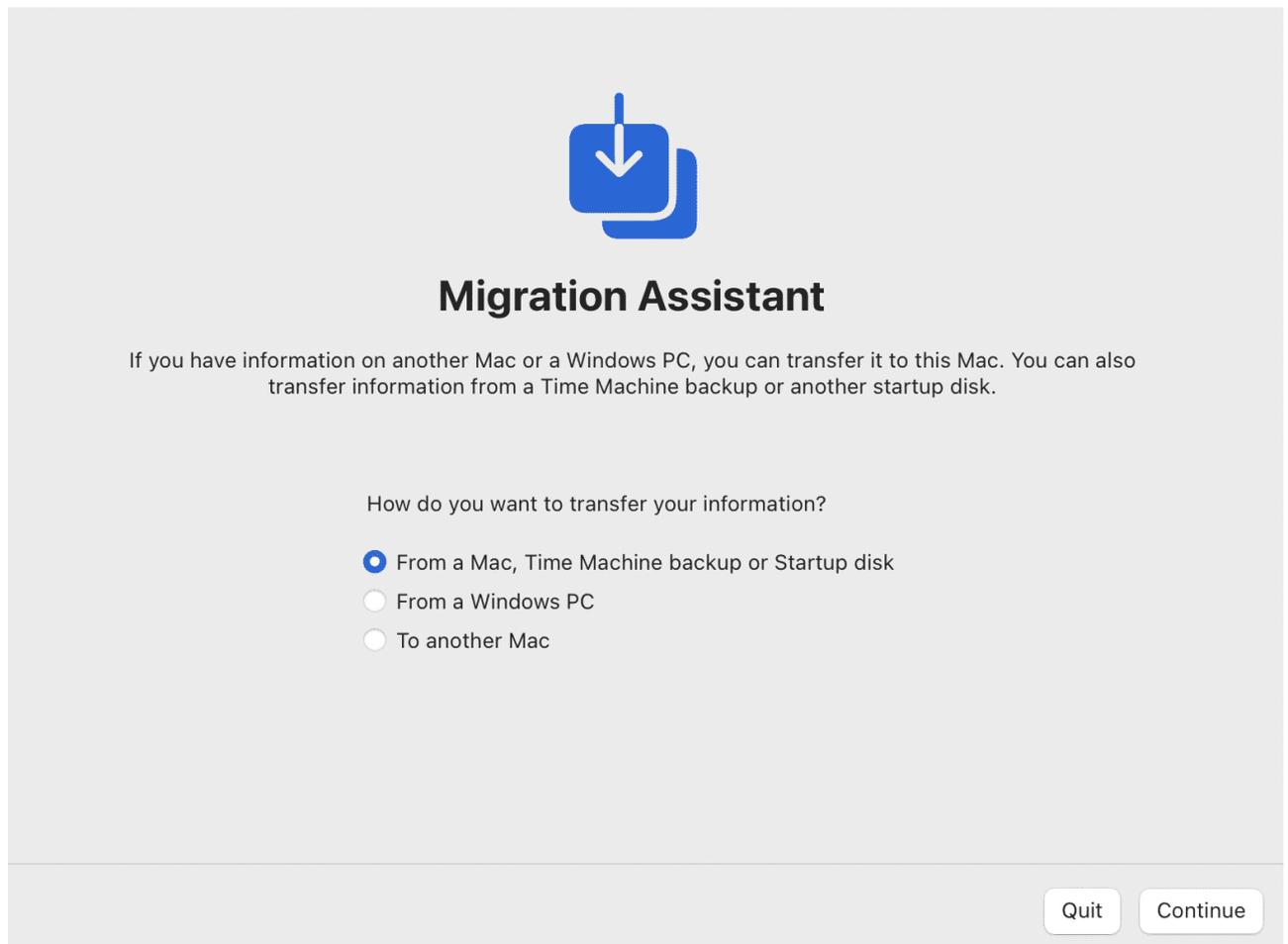5. After selecting the required information, click **Continue**.

Wait until the data transfer is completed, and close the Migrate Assistant on both devices when completed. Now, log in with your Apple ID on the new Mac.

Note: If you plan to give your old Mac to someone, don't forget to [factory reset your Mac](#).

How to migrate to a new Mac using a backup

As you can assume, for this method, you need to have a [Time Machine backup](#) from your old Mac**.**

1. Follow the common steps at the beginning.
2. Turn on and **connect** the Time Machine backup disk to your new Mac.
3. Select **Time Machine backup** → click **Continue**.
4. Now, select the **information** you want to transfer and click **Continue**.
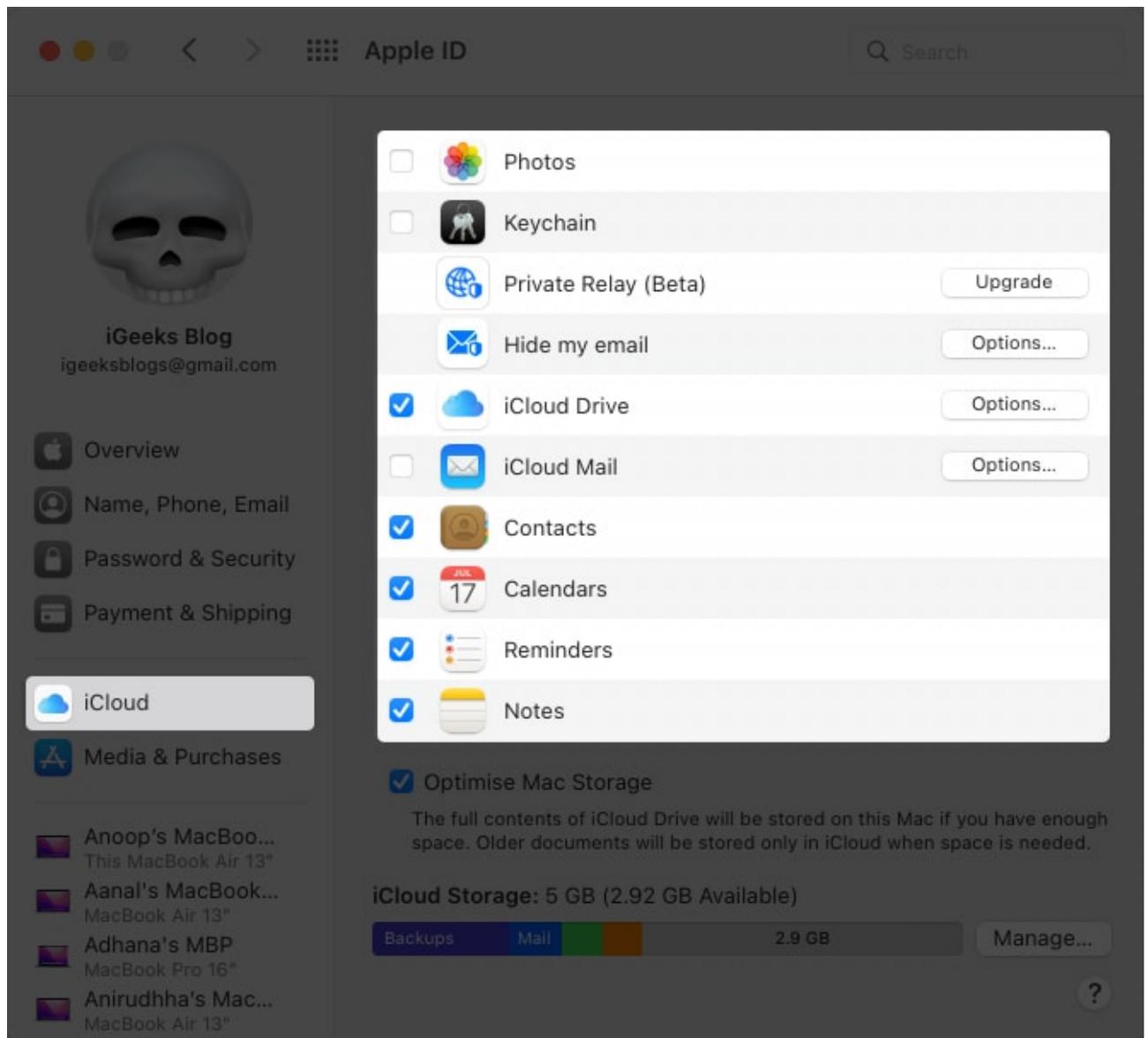

Wait for some time for the backup to finish. The completion time depends on the file size. If you had taken some other backup, you need to [restore the backup file to the Mac](restore) using a different method.

Transfer files to new Mac using iCloud

You can use Apple ID to sync data between your Apple devices. But you have to enable sync for the files you want to transfer.

1. Open **System Preference** → **Apple ID** → select **iCloud**.

2. Select all the **files** you want to sync.

Now that you have synced data to iCloud in the old Mac, let us see how to log in with the same ID on the new Mac. Follow these steps for that:

1. Go to **System Preference → Apple ID → Sign in**.
2. Enter your **Apple ID** and **password**.
   You may receive a verification code on any of the linked devices.
3. Enter the **code**.

After that, go to **System Preference → Apple ID → iCloud** and enable iCloud and other files. Besides iCloud, you can use other popular cloud services like Google Drive or OneDrive to upload or download files.

Mac to Mac transfer using File sharing

If you don't want to use Migration Assistant to migrate files from your Mac to another, you can use the Finder app. For that:

1. On the old Mac, open **System preferences → Sharing**.
2. **Name** your Mac.
3. Select **File Sharing**.
4. Now, open **Finder** on the new Mac.
5. Then, click **Go** on the menu bar and select **Connect to Server**.
6. Click **Browser**.
7. Double-click your **Mac's name**.
8. If asked, enter your **username** and **password**.

You have successfully connected two Macs. Now, all you have to do is drag and drop the files between them. But this method is not good if you have a lot of files to share.

Use AirDrop to transfer files from old Mac to new

Just like Finder, you can also use AirDrop to transfer files between an old Mac to a new Mac.

1. Turn on **Bluetooth** and **Wi-Fi** on both Macs.
2. Open **Finder** → click **Airdrop** on both Macs.
   You can also use the shortcut shift + command + R.
3. Once both Macs detect each other, **drag and drop** the files above the new Mac and click **Send**.

It will be a tedious process to transfer all those files through AirDrop. Hence, I don't suggest using it unless you want to.

Q. What cable do I need to transfer from Mac to Mac?

Use cables with Thunderbolt 3 or above standard for transferring data fast. You can get the cable from the official Apple store as well as all major online and offline retailers.

Q. Does Migration Assistant wipe data of the new Mac?

No. Migration Assistant won't wipe the data of the new Mac while transferring. All the application does is transfer files from the old to the new one. It won't wipe any data stored in your new Mac.

Q. How long does a Mac transfer take?

The time for transferring files from Mac depends on which method you choose. The size and the number of files also influence the transfer speeds.

Q. Does migration transfer everything on Mac?

Yes, if you have enabled all the files required to transfer, the Migration Assistant will follow that instruction and then transfers every file on your old Mac to the new one.

Signing off...

Moving to a new Mac is exciting, but the thought of transferring data from an old one to a new Mac can easily drain that excitement. With this guide, I have provided the easiest ways to move files from one Mac to another. By the way, what is the total size of files you will transfer? Share in the comments below!

Your Mac experience can be boosed a lot with these reads:

- How to use hot corners on Mac
- Bluetooth devices disconnecting on Mac? Here's how to fix it
- How to change or remove Font Smoothing on Mac
- How to transfer data from dead Mac to new Mac (Without erasing)