

USER GUIDE · iOS · Finance

Subscription Radar

Turn Apple subscription screenshots into a clean, private monthly spending dashboard.

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WHAT THIS GUIDE COVERS

A complete walk-through of Subscription Radar.

This guide explains what Subscription Radar does, how to set it up in under three minutes, how every screen works, and how the app protects your privacy. Read the section you need or follow it front-to-back.

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SECTION 1

About Subscription Radar

Subscription Radar is an iPhone-first subscription tracker that works without bank logins, without an Apple ID connection, and without sending your data anywhere. Instead, it uses inputs you already control: screenshots from Apple's own Subscriptions page, and manual entries you type in yourself.

It's designed for people who want a clear, monthly picture of what they're paying for — including the recurring charges you forgot about — without handing over credentials to a third-party budgeting service.

Who it's for

- Anyone with more than three or four active subscriptions.
- People who avoid Plaid / bank-login budgeting apps on principle.
- Households reviewing recurring spend before a renewal cycle.
- Privacy-conscious users who want their financial data on-device only.

SECTION 2

Getting started

Three minutes from install to your first dashboard. You will need an iPhone running iOS 17 or later and a screenshot of your Apple subscriptions list.

Step 1. Install the app

Download Subscription Radar from the App Store and open it.

Step 2. Capture your subscriptions

On your iPhone, go to **Settings** › **[your name]** › **Subscriptions**. Take a screenshot (volume-up + side button) of the active list. Repeat for the inactive list if you want history.

Step 3. Import the screenshot

In Subscription Radar, tap **Import screenshots** and choose the screenshot from Photos. The app uses on-device OCR to detect each subscription.

Step 4. Review & save

Edit any detection that looks wrong, remove anything you don't want, then tap **Save**. Your dashboard now shows your monthly total.

SECTION 3

The dashboard

Your home screen inside the app. Everything you need to see at a glance is here.

Monthly total

The single largest number on screen is your estimated monthly subscription spend. Yearly subscriptions are normalized to a monthly figure (annual price ÷ 12) so the total is comparable across billing periods.

Subscription list

Each row shows the service name, renewal date, and price. Tap a row to open its detail screen, where you can edit the name, price, billing period, renewal date, and add cancellation notes.

Sort & filter

Use the controls at the top of the list to sort by price, name, or renewal date, and filter by source (imported vs. manually added).

Upcoming renewals

A panel below the list shows everything renewing in the next 30 days, so you know what's about to hit your card.

SECTION 4

Importing screenshots

Subscription Radar uses Apple's Vision framework for on-device OCR. No image ever leaves your phone.

Best results

- Use Apple's native Subscriptions screen (Settings › your name › Subscriptions).
- Take screenshots in light mode if you can — OCR accuracy is slightly better.
- Avoid scrolled overlap when capturing long lists; take multiple shots instead.
- If your iOS Display text size is very large, font weight gets bolder — that's fine; OCR copes.

The review screen

Before anything is saved, Subscription Radar shows you a review screen with every detected line. You can edit a detection inline, remove a row, or accept the whole batch. Duplicates of subscriptions you already have are flagged automatically.

Price-history tracking

If a future import shows a different price for an existing subscription, the previous price is logged automatically — so silent price hikes don't slip past unnoticed.

SECTION 5

Adding subscriptions manually

Plenty of subscriptions aren't billed through Apple — Netflix on the web, your gym, a newsletter, a software tool. Add those manually and they sit alongside your Apple-imported items in the same dashboard.

Required fields

Name	What the service is called (e.g. "Spotify Family").
Price	The amount you pay each billing cycle.
Billing period	Monthly, yearly, or a custom interval.
Renewal date	When the next charge is expected. Used for renewal reminders.

Optional fields

- Cancellation notes — short reminder of how to cancel.
- Cancellation URL — link to the cancel page on the service's website.
- Tags or category — useful when you have many subscriptions.

SECTION 6

The review list & savings forecast

Open any subscription's detail screen and toggle **Considering canceling**. It instantly shows up on the Review List.

The Review List sums every flagged subscription into two numbers: your potential **monthly** savings and your potential **yearly** savings. It's a fast way to decide which cancellations actually matter.

Cancellation notes

When you mark something as a cancellation candidate, add the exact steps or the cancellation URL right on the subscription. When you're ready to actually cancel, you'll have everything in one tap instead of hunting through old emails.

Note: Apple subscriptions can only be canceled in iOS Settings › Subscriptions. Subscription Radar stores your notes; iOS handles the cancellation itself.

SECTION 7

Renewal reminders

Optional notifications, scheduled and delivered locally on your device. No remote push servers are involved.

How to enable

- Open **Tools** from the bottom tab bar.
- Tap **Renewal reminders** and allow notifications when iOS asks.
- Reminders are scheduled automatically for any subscription with a known renewal date.
- You can mute or re-enable per subscription on its detail screen.

By default, you'll get a notification one day before each renewal, giving you time to cancel before being charged.

SECTION 8

Backups & exporting your data

Subscription Radar is on-device by design — there's no cloud sync. To move data between devices or keep an external backup, use the export tools.

JSON backup

From **Tools** › **Export** › **JSON**, share a complete backup of your subscriptions, history, and notes. AirDrop it to a new iPhone and import it there to restore everything.

CSV export

Use **Tools** › **Export** › **CSV** to share a spreadsheet-friendly version of your subscription list. Drop it into Numbers, Excel, or Google Sheets to slice it however you like.

SECTION 9

Privacy & data handling

Subscription Radar's App Store privacy label is **Data Not Collected**. The app does not create an account, does not connect to banks, does not read your Apple ID or email, does not include third-party analytics or ad SDKs, and does not transmit subscription data to any server.

What runs where

Screenshot OCR	On device, via Apple Vision framework.
Subscription database	Local app sandbox (Application Support folder).
Reminders	Scheduled locally with iOS UserNotifications.
Exports	Generated on device; you choose where to share them.
Network calls	None made by Subscription Radar itself.

If a future version of the app adds optional features that would change this (for example, an opt-in iCloud backup), the App Store privacy label and this guide will be updated before those features ship.

SECTION 10

Troubleshooting & FAQ

OCR missed one of my subscriptions.

Tap **Add** on the dashboard and enter it manually, or retake the screenshot in better lighting / with larger system font size. The review screen lets you edit detections before saving.

Can I track non-Apple subscriptions?

Yes. Manual entries and Apple-imported entries are treated the same.

Where is my data stored?

In the app's local sandbox on your device. Nothing is uploaded.

How do I cancel an Apple subscription?

Subscription Radar stores notes and links, but Apple requires the cancel action itself in **Settings** › **[your name]** › **Subscriptions**.

Will my data sync between iPhone and iPad?

Not automatically. Use **Tools** › **Export** › **JSON** on one device and import on the other.

I lost my data after reinstalling the app.

Local data is removed when an iOS app is uninstalled. Always export a JSON backup before deleting the app, or before switching iPhones.

SECTION 11

Support & contact

Subscription Radar is designed and supported directly by Daniel Cywinski at Cywinski Digital. You're not routed through a ticketing system — emails go straight to the developer.

Email	daniel@cywinski.digital.com · responses within 2 business days
Phone	(773) 592-5598 · Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm Central Time
Support page	cywinski.digital.com/apps/subscription-radar/
Bug reports	Email a short description plus a screenshot, if relevant.
Feature requests	Welcome — same address.

Thank you for using Subscription Radar.

If the app saves you the price of a forgotten subscription even once, it's earned its keep.

— *Daniel Cywinski, Cywinski Digital*