

# the calls of frogs and toads

## The Enchanting World of the Calls of Frogs and Toads

**the calls of frogs and toads** have fascinated humans for centuries. Whether heard echoing across a quiet pond on a warm summer night or resonating through a dense forest after a rainstorm, these vocalizations are an essential part of the natural soundtrack around the world. But these calls are much more than just background noise; they serve crucial biological and ecological functions and reveal a lot about the behavior, environment, and even the identity of the amphibians producing them.

Understanding the calls of frogs and toads can open a window into the hidden lives of these often overlooked creatures. In this article, we'll explore why frogs and toads call, how they produce their sounds, the differences between their calls, and what these vocalizations tell us about their environment.

## Why Do Frogs and Toads Call?

The primary reason frogs and toads call is to communicate. Most notably, males use their calls during the breeding season to attract females. But calls can serve other purposes too, such as marking territory, warning off rivals, or signaling distress.

### Attracting Mates

During mating season, male frogs and toads produce a variety of calls to announce their presence and entice females. Each species has a unique call—sometimes a series of trills, croaks, or peeps—that females recognize and respond to. The quality and volume of the call can indicate the health and fitness of the male, influencing female choice.

### Territorial Calls and Rivalry

In addition to attracting mates, calls can serve as warnings to other males. When two males compete for the same territory or breeding site, they often engage in vocal duels, with the louder or more persistent caller typically asserting dominance. These territorial calls help minimize physical confrontations by establishing boundaries through sound.

### Alarm and Distress Signals

Some frogs and toads emit calls when threatened by predators or disturbed. These distress calls can startle predators or alert nearby frogs. Although less common than mating calls, these vocalizations are vital for survival.

# How Frogs and Toads Produce Their Calls

Unlike many animals, frogs and toads don't have vocal cords like humans. Instead, they rely on unique anatomical structures to create their distinctive sounds.

## The Role of the Vocal Sac

Most male frogs and toads have vocal sacs—flexible membranes of skin located around the throat or mouth. When the frog inhales air and forces it over the larynx, the vocal sac inflates like a balloon, amplifying the sound. This adaptation allows even small frogs to produce calls loud enough to travel long distances.

## Variation in Call Types

Different species have evolved various ways of modulating their calls. Some produce short, sharp croaks; others emit long, melodic trills. The size and shape of the vocal sac, the throat muscles, and body size all influence the pitch and volume of the call.

## Differences Between Frog Calls and Toad Calls

While frogs and toads are closely related amphibians, their calls often differ significantly—not just in sound but also in purpose and timing.

### Frogs: The Singers of the Night

Frogs tend to produce a wide variety of calls that can be musical or rhythmic. Many species are nocturnal callers, filling the night air with an orchestra of croaks, whistles, and trills. Their calls tend to be higher-pitched, and because many frogs live near water, their calls are often heard near ponds, lakes, or streams.

### Toads: The Deep-Voiced Croakers

Toads usually have deeper, more guttural calls that often sound like a prolonged “waaaah” or “rrrrr.” Their calls can be less frequent but carry over longer distances. Toads are more terrestrial, so their calls are commonly heard away from water bodies, often in fields or gardens.

# What the Calls Reveal About the Environment

Listening to the calls of frogs and toads can provide valuable insights into the health of an ecosystem.

## Indicators of Biodiversity and Habitat Quality

Amphibians are sensitive to environmental changes, such as pollution, habitat destruction, and climate change. A rich diversity of frog and toad calls usually indicates a healthy, balanced ecosystem with clean water and abundant resources.

## Seasonal Patterns and Climate Effects

The timing and intensity of calls can vary with seasons and weather. For example, increased rainfall often triggers more vigorous calling as breeding conditions improve. Monitoring these vocal patterns helps researchers track the impacts of climate variability on amphibian populations.

## Tips for Observing and Identifying Frog and Toad Calls

If you want to enjoy the fascinating world of frog and toad calls, here are some helpful tips:

- **Go out at the right time:** Most frogs and toads call during the evening and night, especially during warm, wet weather.
- **Bring a recording device:** A smartphone or portable recorder can help you capture calls for later identification.
- **Use field guides or apps:** Many apps and books provide audio samples and descriptions to help identify species by their calls.
- **Be patient and quiet:** Sudden movements or loud noises can silence calling frogs and toads.
- **Note the habitat:** Different species prefer different environments, so observing the surroundings can offer clues.

# **The Fascinating Complexity of Frog and Toad Communication**

The calls of frogs and toads are more than simple croaks; they are complex signals shaped by evolution to convey information vital to survival and reproduction. Each call carries meaning—whether it's a serenade to attract a mate, a warning to rivals, or a call for help.

For nature enthusiasts, learning to recognize these calls adds a new dimension to outdoor experiences. For scientists, these vocalizations provide a non-invasive way to monitor amphibian populations and environmental health. Next time you hear the chorus of frogs and toads, take a moment to appreciate the rich language hidden in those nighttime symphonies.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why do frogs and toads call?**

Frogs and toads call primarily to attract mates during the breeding season. Their calls serve as a way to communicate reproductive readiness and to establish territory.

### **How do the calls of frogs and toads differ?**

Frog calls tend to be more musical and varied, often with trills or croaks, while toad calls are usually more monotone, low-pitched, and guttural. These differences help each species recognize their own kind.

### **Can you identify frog or toad species by their calls?**

Yes, many species of frogs and toads have unique calls that allow scientists and enthusiasts to identify them by sound alone, which is useful for monitoring populations and biodiversity.

### **What factors influence the frequency and duration of frog and toad calls?**

Environmental factors such as temperature, humidity, time of day, and presence of predators or competitors can influence how often and how long frogs and toads call.

### **Do female frogs and toads respond to the calls?**

Yes, female frogs and toads often use the calls to choose mates, typically preferring males with louder, longer, or more frequent calls, which may indicate better health or genetic fitness.

# Are the calls of frogs and toads affected by urban noise pollution?

Urban noise pollution can interfere with frog and toad calls by masking their sounds, which can disrupt mating communication and potentially reduce reproductive success.

## How do frogs and toads produce their calls?

Frogs and toads produce calls by forcing air from their lungs over vocal cords into vocal sacs, which amplify the sound. The vocal sacs inflate and deflate as they call, creating their distinctive croaks and trills.

## Additional Resources

The Calls of Frogs and Toads: An In-Depth Exploration of Amphibian Vocalizations

**the calls of frogs and toads** represent one of the most distinctive and evocative sounds of the natural world. They punctuate evenings and rainy nights, serving as key communicative signals within diverse amphibian species. These vocalizations are not merely background noise but are complex biological phenomena that play critical roles in reproduction, territoriality, and species identification. Understanding the nuances of these calls offers valuable insights into amphibian behavior, ecology, and even environmental health.

## Understanding the Biology Behind Frog and Toad Calls

The production of calls in frogs and toads involves specialized anatomical structures. Unlike many other animals, these amphibians produce sound by forcing air from their lungs through the larynx, often inflating a vocal sac, which acts as a resonating chamber to amplify sound. The presence, size, and shape of this vocal sac vary among species, directly influencing the pitch, volume, and duration of their calls.

Amphibian vocalizations are typically species-specific. This specificity allows frogs and toads to identify suitable mates and avoid hybridization. The calls can vary dramatically in frequency and complexity, from simple repetitive croaks to elaborate trills and pulses.

## Functions of Frog and Toad Calls

Calls serve multiple biological and ecological functions, including:

- **Mating Calls:** The primary purpose of most calls is to attract females during the breeding season. Male frogs and toads produce advertisement calls that signal their

presence and fitness.

- **Territorial Calls:** Some species use calls to establish and defend territory, warning rivals to stay away.
- **Distress Calls:** When threatened, certain species emit distress calls to startle predators or alert conspecifics.
- **Release Calls:** These are signals made by frogs or toads to indicate they are not receptive to mating advances, often preventing unwanted amplexus (grip).

Each of these vocalizations carries distinct acoustic signatures, which researchers can analyze to understand species behavior and interactions.

## Comparing the Calls of Frogs and Toads

While frogs and toads are closely related, their calls exhibit notable differences that often correspond with ecological adaptations and physical characteristics.

### Acoustic Characteristics

Frog calls tend to be higher-pitched and more melodious, often consisting of a series of repeated notes or trills. For example, the Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*) produces a high-pitched “peep” that is easily recognizable.

Toads, conversely, typically emit lower-pitched, more guttural sounds. The American Toad (*Anaxyrus americanus*) is known for its long, musical trill that can last up to 30 seconds. This lower frequency may be advantageous in open habitats where sound travels differently compared to dense forests or wetlands.

### Environmental Influences on Calls

The habitat and environmental conditions profoundly impact the structure and timing of calls. Frogs inhabiting dense vegetation or noisy environments often produce more complex or louder calls to overcome acoustic interference.

Moreover, temperature influences call rate and frequency. Many frogs call more rapidly and at higher pitches in warmer conditions, a phenomenon linked to their ectothermic physiology. Toads, active in cooler or drier habitats, may have calls adapted to these conditions, with longer durations and lower frequencies suited for energy conservation and effective transmission.

# Scientific Methods for Studying Amphibian Calls

Advancements in bioacoustics have enabled researchers to record, analyze, and interpret the calls of frogs and toads with increasing precision. Digital recording devices, coupled with software tools, facilitate spectral analysis, revealing patterns in frequency, amplitude, and temporal structure.

## Applications of Call Analysis

- **Species Identification:** Many cryptic species are distinguishable primarily by their calls, making acoustic monitoring critical for biodiversity surveys.
- **Population Monitoring:** Automated recording units can track calling activity over time, providing data on population trends and breeding success.
- **Environmental Assessment:** Changes in the presence or characteristics of calls may indicate habitat degradation, climate change effects, or pollution impacts.

Such research underscores the importance of the calls of frogs and toads not only as biological curiosities but as vital tools for conservation.

## The Ecological and Evolutionary Significance of Vocalizations

Calls are shaped by selective pressures that balance attracting mates against the risk of predation. Predators such as bats and birds can locate calling males, imposing a cost on conspicuous vocalizations. As a result, some species have evolved “quiet” calls or modify calling behavior to reduce risk.

Sexual selection also drives vocal diversity. Females often prefer males with specific call characteristics, such as longer duration or higher frequency, which may signal genetic fitness or territorial dominance. This selective pressure contributes to the evolution of an extensive variety of call types across amphibian taxa.

In ecosystems, calling activity influences species interactions and community dynamics. Frogs and toads calling in chorus can create acoustic niches, reducing overlap and competition. These vocal interactions sometimes result in temporal partitioning, where different species call at distinct times of night or in different microhabitats.

# Impact of Anthropogenic Noise on Amphibian Calls

Human-generated noise pollution is an emerging concern affecting the calls of frogs and toads. Road traffic, industrial activity, and urban development introduce background noise that can mask amphibian vocalizations, disrupting communication.

Studies show some species adjust call frequency or timing to avoid interference, but these adaptations can be energetically costly or less effective. In extreme cases, noise pollution may reduce mating success, threatening population viability.

Efforts to mitigate these impacts include establishing quiet conservation zones and researching noise thresholds that amphibians can tolerate without adverse effects.

## Distinctive Calls from Around the World

The diversity of amphibian calls is exemplified by species across different continents:

- **Amazonian Rainforest:** The Tungara Frog (*Engystomops pustulosus*) produces complex calls combining a “whine” and “chuck” sound, which females find especially attractive.
- **North America:** The Wood Frog (*Lithobates sylvaticus*) emits a nasal “quack,” notable for its resemblance to a duck’s call.
- **Australia:** The Green Tree Frog (*Litoria caerulea*) is known for its loud, repetitive “crawk,” often heard during the wet season.

These examples highlight how evolutionary pressures and environmental contexts shape the acoustic signals of frogs and toads globally.

## Future Directions in Amphibian Acoustic Research

The calls of frogs and toads continue to be a fertile area for scientific inquiry. Emerging technologies such as machine learning and AI-driven acoustic monitoring promise to accelerate species detection and behavioral studies.

Integrating acoustic data with genetic and ecological research can deepen understanding of speciation, adaptation, and ecosystem health. Furthermore, public engagement through citizen science platforms allows enthusiasts to contribute recordings, expanding datasets and raising awareness about amphibian conservation.



Ultimately, the study of amphibian vocalizations offers a window into the delicate balance of natural systems, emphasizing the need to preserve these ancient and vital forms of communication.

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**the calls of frogs and toads: Handbook of Frogs and Toads of the United States and Canada** Albert Hazen Wright, Anna Allen Wright, 2019-06-30 The preeminent naturalists Albert Hazen Wright and Anna Allen Wright spent years assembling the wealth of material on frogs and toads appearing in this widely used handbook, the third edition of which was originally published in 1949. With abundant black-and-white photographs, colorful descriptions, journal notes from the field, and excerpts from the literature, their personalized natural history emphasizes amphibians observed in the wild. In a foreword to the 1995 paperback edition, Roy McDiarmid, a foremost specialist on frogs and toads, brings the book into historical perspective and supplies information to bring it up to date. Accounts of more than 100 species and subspecies cover such topics as common and scientific names, range, habitat, size, and general appearance, as well as color, structure, voice, and breeding. Separate keys are given for secondary sexual characteristics, eggs, tadpoles, families, and species. Generous quotations from the Wrights' field journals give the reader a sense of the problems and satisfactions of their work.

**the calls of frogs and toads: The Frogs, Toads, and Their Ways** Pasquale De Marco, 2025-05-18 Frogs and toads are fascinating creatures that play a vital role in our ecosystem. They are found in a wide variety of habitats, from rainforests to deserts, and they come in all shapes and sizes. Some frogs are as small as a fingernail, while others can grow to be as large as a dinner plate. Toads are generally larger than frogs and have a more warty skin. This comprehensive guide to the world of frogs and toads covers everything from their anatomy and physiology to their behavior and ecology. It also discusses the threats facing frogs and toads, as well as the efforts that are being made to conserve them. Readers will learn about the diversity of frogs and toads, their importance in the ecosystem, and the threats they face. They will also learn about the unique life cycle of frogs and toads, their behavior, and their role in the food chain. The book is packed with interesting facts and stories about frogs and toads, making it a fun and informative read for people of all ages. It is also a valuable resource for students, teachers, and anyone else who wants to learn more about these amazing creatures. Frogs and toads are a vital part of our planet, and they are facing a number of threats. This book is a call to action to learn more about these creatures and to take steps to protect them. With its engaging writing style and beautiful illustrations, this book is sure to appeal to a wide audience. It is a must-have for anyone who loves frogs and toads, or anyone who wants to learn more

about the natural world. If you like this book, write a review on google books!

**the calls of frogs and toads: Frogs and Toads of the World** Chris Mattison, 2011-05-22 First published by the Natural History Museum, ... London ... 2011 under the title 'Frogs and toads'--T.p. verso.

**the calls of frogs and toads: Frogs and Toads: Explained** Pasquale De Marco, 2025-08-16 \*\*  
Frogs and Toads: Explained \*\* is the definitive guide to understanding and caring for these fascinating creatures. Written by a team of experienced herpetologists, this comprehensive book offers a wealth of information on every aspect of frog and toad biology, behavior, and care. From their unique anatomy and physiology to their intriguing communication methods, frogs and toads are a captivating group of animals. \*\* Frogs and Toads: Explained \*\* delves into the fascinating world of these amphibians, exploring their diverse habitats, ecological roles, and conservation status. This book provides practical guidance on every aspect of frog and toad care, from selecting the right enclosure and providing a healthy diet to managing common health issues. With expert advice on handling, socialization, and breeding, this book empowers you to provide the best possible care for your amphibian companions. Beyond their role as pets, frogs and toads play vital roles in the ecosystem. As predators and prey, they contribute to the delicate balance of nature. Their presence also serves as an indicator of environmental health, making them valuable tools for conservation efforts. \*\* Frogs and Toads: Explained \*\* also explores the cultural significance of these creatures, from their place in folklore and mythology to their depiction in art and literature. Their unique characteristics have inspired countless stories, songs, and dances, revealing the enduring fascination humans have with these remarkable animals. Whether you're a seasoned frog and toad enthusiast or new to the world of amphibians, \*\* Frogs and Toads: Explained \*\* is the perfect resource for expanding your knowledge and appreciation of these captivating creatures. With its comprehensive content, engaging writing, and stunning photography, this book is a must-have guide for anyone interested in these fascinating animals. If you like this book, write a review!

**the calls of frogs and toads: Frogs and Toads of the Southeast** Michael E. Dorcas, J. Whitfield Gibbons, 2008 A comprehensive, authoritative, and fun-to-read identification guide enumerates the distinguishing characteristics of frogs and toads found throughout the southeastern United States and discusses their morphology, the main groups to be found in the Southeast, their habitats and distribution, life cycles, behavior, and conservation.

**the calls of frogs and toads: Frogs and Toads** Steve Grenard, 2008-01-22 The authoritative information and advice you need, illustrated throughout with full-color photographs--now revised and redesigned to be even more reader-friendly! Frogs and toads are perennial favorite pets. They include easy-to-care for breeds and intriguing, exotic varieties. For both first-time pet owners and life-long hobbyists, frogs and toads can make fascinating pets, but it is essential to learn how to care for them properly. With colorful photos, charts, and tables, this guide covers the basics, including: \* Choosing your frog or toad \* Creating and maintaining your pet's new habitat \* Feeding and caring for your frog or toad \* Keeping your pet healthy You'll also learn about the varieties of frogs and toads, and about their existence in the wild.

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**the calls of frogs and toads: Frogs** Michael E. Dorcas, Whit Gibbons, 2011-05-02 Packed with facts and featuring two color galleries and 70 black-and-white photographs, *Frogs: The Animal Answer Guide* is sure to address the questions on the minds of curious naturalists.

**the calls of frogs and toads: The Ecology and Behavior of Amphibians** Kentwood D. Wells, 2010-02-15 Consisting of more than six thousand species, amphibians are more diverse than mammals and are found on every continent save Antarctica. Despite the abundance and diversity of these animals, many aspects of the biology of amphibians remain unstudied or misunderstood. *The Ecology and Behavior of Amphibians* aims to fill this gap in the literature on this remarkable taxon. It is a celebration of the diversity of amphibian life and the ecological and behavioral adaptations that have made it a successful component of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Synthesizing seventy years of research on amphibian biology, Kentwood D. Wells addresses all major areas of inquiry, including phylogeny, classification, and morphology; aspects of physiological ecology such as water and temperature relations, respiration, metabolism, and energetics; movements and orientation; communication and social behavior; reproduction and parental care; ecology and behavior of amphibian larvae and ecological aspects of metamorphosis; ecological impact of predation on amphibian populations and antipredator defenses; and aspects of amphibian community ecology. With an eye towards modern concerns, *The Ecology and Behavior of Amphibians* concludes with a chapter devoted to amphibian conservation. An unprecedented scholarly contribution to amphibian biology, this book is eagerly anticipated among specialists.

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**the calls of frogs and toads: *RSPB Spotlight Frogs and Toads*** Jules Howard, 2019-07-25 RSPB Spotlight: Frogs and Toads is packed with eye-catching, informative colour photos, and features succinct and detailed text written by an expert on these amphibians. They were bestowed with magical properties in folklore, they were sought after as ingredients of witches' broth, and they are comic characters that have invaded popular culture, from Kermit the Frog to Toad of Toad Hall. Frogs and toads are charismatic members of Britain's wildlife. But what do you really know about them? Scratch beneath the surface, and you will discover some of nature's weirdest creatures, amphibians whose ecology we are only now coming to understand. Spotlight Frogs and Toads is a compelling account of Britain's four native amphibian species: the Common Frog, the Pool Frog, the Common Toad and the rare and secretive Natterjack Toad. New research suggests that, in the next ten years, three out of four UK species are likely to be listed as threatened. Revealing a host of secrets, including how they migrate, what they eat, and how they got to the UK in the first place, Jules Howard inspires us all to look down, rather than up, in spring. The Spotlight series introduces readers to the lives and behaviour of our favourite animals with eye-catching colour photographs and informative expert text.

**the calls of frogs and toads: The Bedside Book of the Garden** Dr D G Hessayon, 2011-07-08 The perfect bedside read from the world's best-loved, best-selling writer of the Expert gardening books. There are times when we simply wish to read about our hobby and not be badgered by advice. If you enjoy reading about plants whether or not you can grow them, or enjoy

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**What happened to Steepologie? : r/tea - Reddit** What happened to Steepologie? I used to enjoy ordering from Steepologie when I discovered them in 2020 but no longer. Their customer support needs serious help! Orders

**Steepologie Teas** - We have 250+ loose leaf tea blends and herbalsomething for everyone! We also have a steep bar with specialty drinks and we can steep any of our 250+ teas hot or chilled to-go

**Steepster — Steepologie** Information on Steepologie, a directory of their teas and other products, including customer reviews

**Steepologie Teas** 250+ loose leaf teas, herbals and blends. 50+ bagged teas, teaware and gift packs. Open daily! Yelp users haven't asked any questions yet about Steepologie Teas

**Steepologie Teas - Progress Studio** Steepologie Teas is a specialty tea retailer that offers a wide range of loose-leaf teas, tea blends, and accessories. They have a unique concept where customers can customize their own tea

**Steepologie Teas Menu in Lynnwood, WA | Order Delivery** View the menu for Steepologie Teas in Lynnwood, WA. Order Online, get delivery, see prices and reviews

**STEEPOLOGIE TEAS, Seattle - Belltown - Tripadvisor** This hidden gem in Seattle is definitely worth seeing. They brew over 300 different types of teas each different from the next. The herbal mango chai was great and we also got some loose leaf

**Menus for Steepologie Teas - Seattle - SinglePlatform** Bancha green tea, popped corn, toasted hulled rice kernels. Black tea, shredded coconut, almond slices, chocolate chips and caramel extract. Black tea, black pepper, cloves, ginger, cinnamon

**Steepologie Teas, Issaquah - Menu, Reviews (32), Photos (37)** Latest reviews, photos and ratings for Steepologie Teas at 936 NE Park Dr in Issaquah - view the menu, hours, phone number, address and map

**Steepster — Best Teas from Steepologie** A list of the highest rated Black, Bubble Tea, Chai, Dark/Heicha, Flavored, Flowering, Food, Fruit, Green, Guayusa, Herbal, Honeybush, Kombucha, Matcha, Oolong, Pu'erh, Pu'erh (Sheng),

**Katy Perry - Wikipedia** Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson (born October 25, 1984), known professionally as Katy Perry, is an American singer, songwriter, and television personality. She is one of the best-selling music

**Katy Perry | Official Site** The official Katy Perry website.12/07/2025 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix Abu Dhabi BUY

**KatyPerryVEVO - YouTube** Katy Perry on Vevo - Official Music Videos, Live Performances, Interviews and more

**Katy Perry | Songs, Husband, Space, Age, & Facts | Britannica** Katy Perry is an American pop singer who gained fame for a string of anthemic and often sexually suggestive hit songs, as well as for a playfully cartoonish sense of style.

**Katy Perry Says She's 'Continuing to Move Forward' in Letter to Her** Katy Perry is reflecting on her past year. In a letter to her fans posted to Instagram on Monday, Sept. 22, Perry, 40, got personal while marking the anniversary of her 2024 album

**Katy Perry Tells Fans She's 'Continuing to Move Forward'** Katy Perry is marking the one-year anniversary of her album 143. The singer, 40, took to Instagram on Monday, September 22, to share several behind-the-scenes photos and

**Katy Perry Shares How She's 'Proud' of Herself After Public** 6 days ago Katy Perry reflected on a turbulent year since releasing '143,' sharing how she's "proud" of her growth after career backlash, her split from Orlando Bloom, and her new low

**KATY PERRY (@katyperry) • Instagram photos and videos** 203M Followers, 842 Following, 2,683 Posts - KATY PERRY (@katyperry) on Instagram: "🎵 ON THE LIFETIMES TOUR 🎵"

**Katy Perry on Rollercoaster Year After Orlando Bloom Break Up** Katy Perry marked the anniversary of her album 143 by celebrating how the milestone has inspired her to let go, months after ending her engagement to Orlando Bloom

**Katy Perry admits she's been 'beloved, tested and tried' amid** 6 days ago Katy Perry reflected on her "rollercoaster year" following the anniversary of her album, 143, with a heartfelt statement on Instagram – see details

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**Microsoft is bringing its Windows engineering teams back together** 1 day ago Windows is coming back together. Microsoft is bringing its key Windows engineering teams under a single organization again, as part of a reorg being announced today. Windows

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