

Google's Inactive Account Manager

is Google's official tool that lets you decide what happens to your Google Account **if you stop using it for a long time**. It acts like a **digital will** for Gmail, Photos, Drive, YouTube and other Google services.

★ What it does (clear summary)

- Lets you set an **inactivity period**: 3, 6, 12, or 18 months.
- Allows you to choose up to **10 trusted contacts** who will be notified.
- You decide **which data** they can download (Gmail, Photos, Drive, Contacts, Calendar, YouTube, etc.).
- You can write a **personal message** that Google sends when the plan triggers.
- You can choose to **delete your account** after the data is shared.

Google checks signals such as last sign-ins, Gmail usage, My Activity logs, and Android device check-ins to determine inactivity.

What your trusted contacts receive

Once your account has been inactive for the period you set:

- They get an email you wrote.
- If you allowed data sharing, they get a **download link** to the services you selected.
- Access lasts **3 months**, then expires.

🗑 Account deletion (optional)

If you choose deletion:

- All Google services tied to the account are removed.
- Your Gmail address **cannot be reused**.

⚙ Why this matters

Inactive accounts are a security risk and can be targeted by cyber-attacks. Google created this tool to protect users and give families controlled access when needed.

🔑 How to set it up (step-by-step)

Go to: <https://myaccount.google.com/inactive> Then configure:

1. **Inactivity period** (3–18 months).
2. **Trusted contacts** (up to 10).
3. **Data to share** (Photos, Gmail, Drive, etc.).
4. **Personal message**.
5. **Account deletion** (optional).

* Other than Google are there any other similar facilities

Yes — several companies offer features *similar* to Google’s Inactive Account Manager, but **none are identical**. Google is the only major platform with a true **inactivity-based trigger**, but other services provide **digital-legacy** or **dead-man’s-switch** functions with different rules and purposes.

Below is a clear, structured list of the closest equivalents, grounded in current sources.

❧ 1. Apple — *Digital Legacy*

Closest big-tech equivalent, but only triggers after death.

- Lets you nominate up to **five Legacy Contacts**.
- They gain access **only after providing a death certificate + access key**.
- Covers iCloud Photos, Drive, Notes, Mail, Contacts, Calendars, etc.
- **No inactivity trigger**.

2. Facebook — *Legacy Contact*

- Lets someone manage your memorialised profile.
- Only activates **after confirmed death**, not inactivity.
- No data download; limited profile management.

❧ 3. Instagram — **Memorialisation**

- Similar to Facebook (same parent company).
- No inactivity trigger; only memorialisation after death.

❧ 4. Dedicated “Dead Man’s Switch” services

These are the **closest functional equivalents** to Google’s inactivity trigger — often more flexible.

IfOffline

- Pure inactivity-based triggering.
- Custom check-in intervals, reminders, grace periods.
- Sends messages if you fail to check in.

Y.O.D.O. (UK)

- Checks in on you regularly (daily/weekly).
- If you miss check-ins, delegates are notified.
- Can deliver encrypted text, voice, video messages.
- Much faster trigger than Google (hours/days vs months).

Laterly

- Full digital-legacy messaging platform.
- End-to-end encrypted messages, photos, videos.
- Can trigger by inactivity or specific dates.
- Works across all services, not just Google.

Killswitch

- Digital-estate tool with inactivity triggers.
- Designed to cover *non-Google* assets (bank, crypto, password vaults).
- Highlights Google IAM's limitations.

Summary Table

Service	Inactivity Trigger	Death Trigger	Data / Message Delivery	Scope
Google IAM	✓ Yes (3–18 months)	✗ No	✓ Data sharing	Google ecosystem only
Apple Digital Legacy	✗ No	✓ Yes	✓ Data access	Apple ecosystem only
Facebook Legacy Contact	✗ No	✓ Yes	✗ No (management only)	Facebook
IfOffline	✓ Yes	✗ No	✓ Messages	Any email recipients
Y.O.D.O.	✓ Yes (check-ins)	✓ Yes	✓ Messages (encrypted)	Universal
Laterly	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Rich messages	Universal
Killswitch	✓ Yes	✗ No	✓ Secure documents/messages	Universal

🎯 Bottom line

- Google is the only major tech company with a true inactivity-based account handover.
- Apple and Meta (Facebook/Instagram) only trigger after death.
- If you want **inactivity triggers**, **messages**, or **cross-platform coverage**, services like **IfOffline**, **Y.O.D.O.**, **Laterly**, or **Killswitch** are the closest equivalents.