

## **Windows 11 Upgrade information**

These are some of my thoughts about the Windows 10 to Windows 11 upgrade.

Microsoft's Windows 10 will reach its End-of-Support on October 14, 2025. End-of-Support means that Microsoft will no longer provide free security, performance or feature updates for Windows 10. If your computer is using Windows 10, you have a few options.

### **REPLACE HARDWARE**

If your computer is an older model, the simplest and best solution is to buy a new computer. You can get one with Windows 11 pre-loaded.

Make a list of the programs you use and the things you do with your computer to help decide what your computer requirements are. Review your software vendors and printer manufacturer web sites for information about compatibility with Windows 11 to see if you need to upgrade these products.

### **UPGRADE**

If you wish to continue using your current hardware you may be able to upgrade from Windows 10 to Windows 11. If your Windows 10 computer meets the device requirements, you will get a notification in "Settings -> Update & Security -> Windows Update" that the Windows 11 upgrade is ready for installation.

If you want to check the compatibility of your computer sooner, you can download Microsoft's PC Health Check app from the <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-11#pchealthcheck> site.

Check the web sites of your software vendors and printer manufacturer for information about compatibility with Windows 11. If you run into compatibility issues after the upgrade, see the notice about rolling back to Windows 10 later in this document.

### **EXTENDED SECURITY UPDATES**

If you wish to continue using your Windows 10 computer, you can subscribe to the consumer Extended Security Updates (ESU) for one year at \$30.00, Microsoft will announce the enrollment availability closer to the October 14, 2025 End-of-Support date. This service will only provide critical and important security updates. There won't be any performance/feature updates or other support.

### **CONTINUE USING WINDOWS 10 WITHOUT SECURITY UPDATES**

While that worked fairly well after End-of-Support for earlier versions of Windows, the threat landscape has changed tremendously and newer hardened security is planned. Old systems will be easier, more desirable targets. You may not only endanger your own data and hardware, but your system could be taken over and used to attack other systems/sites.

At the minimum, subscribe to an antivirus service, as Microsoft Defender will no longer be updated.

### **CLOUD PC**

The Business plan of Windows 365—the Cloud PC—is primarily intended for businesses of 1 to 300 employees. An individual consumer can purchase a subscription from the Windows 365 Plan site or the Microsoft 365 admin center (minimum looks like \$31/user/month just for the virtual Windows PC).

Using the internet and any device that has the Microsoft Remote Desktop app or an HTML5-capable browser, a user connects to a Virtual Computer running Windows 11. Thus, all web browsing, email management, etc. happens on the virtual computer and not your Windows 10 computer, greatly reducing your exposure to threats or performance issues.

With a Windows 365 subscription, Microsoft will include 3 years of Extended Security Updates (ESUs) at no additional cost for Windows 10 devices that access Windows 365.

### **ROLL BACK TO 10 FROM 11**

If you perform the Windows 11 upgrade from Windows 10 and wish to return to Windows 10, during the first 10 days after doing the upgrade, you can go back to Windows 10 without application or data loss. After 10 days, you would need to backup your data and reinstall Windows 10 from scratch, reloading programs and copying your data onto the computer.

### **Office and Microsoft 365**

From the "[What Windows end of support means for Office and Microsoft 365](#)" web page: "Microsoft 365 is governed by the [Modern Lifecycle Policy](#) which requires customers to stay current as per the servicing and system requirements for the product or service, including using Microsoft 365 on a Windows operating system that is currently in support."

That being said, Microsoft 365 apps will continue to function, however, over time you may experience performance and reliability issues. Microsoft will continue to provide security updates for Microsoft 365 running on Windows 10 until October 10, 2028. To be eligible for product updates, you will need to upgrade to a supported operating system.

Microsoft Office 2019 has been on the Extended End Date cycle for 2 years and support ends 10/14/2025. Office 2021 will reach Retirement Date on 10/13/2026 and Microsoft Office 2024 will reach Retirement Date 10/9/2029.

## **LINKS**

Windows 10 End-of-Support:

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-10-support-ends-on-october-14-2025-2ca8b313-1946-43d3-b55c-2b95b107f281>

Upgrade to Windows 11 FAQs:

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/upgrade-to-windows-11-faq-fb6206a2-1a0f-448a-80f1-8668ee5b2bf9>

Getting ready for the upgrade:

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/getting-ready-for-the-windows-11-upgrade-eb50813f-c7da-4cf8-89a3-6ba0d33b2773>

PC Health Check App:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-11#phealthcheck>

Ways to install Windows 11 (Includes using Windows Update to upgrade):

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/ways-to-install-windows-11-e0edbbfb-cfc5-4011-868b-2ce77ac7c70e>

System Requirements for Windows 11:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-11-specifications#table1>

Feature-specific requirements for Windows 11:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-11-specifications#table2>

When upgrading to Windows 11 from Windows 10 or when installing an update to Windows 11, some features may be deprecated or removed:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-11-specifications#table3>

Windows 365:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-365>

Rolling incompatible devices back to Windows 10:

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-11-on-devices-that-don-t-meet-minimum-system-requirements-0b2dc4a2-5933-4ad4-9c09-ef0a331518f1>

Transfer data to a new computer with Windows Backup:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/transfer-your-data-with-windows-backup>

Create Installation media for Windows 11 and Windows 10 (I don't know how long Windows 10 will be available):

[https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/create-installation-media-for-windows-99a58364-8c02-206f-aa6f-40c3b507420d#id0ejd=windows\\_10](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/create-installation-media-for-windows-99a58364-8c02-206f-aa6f-40c3b507420d#id0ejd=windows_10)

Windows 10 and Microsoft Office:

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/what-windows-end-of-support-means-for-office-and-microsoft-365-34e28be4-1e4f-4928-b210-3f45d8215595>

Support for Microsoft 365 (formerly Office 365):

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/what-windows-end-of-support-means-for-office-and-microsoft-365-34e28be4-1e4f-4928-b210-3f45d8215595>

Office 365 on Windows 10:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-ph/windows/end-of-support>

Microsoft Product Life Cycle search page:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/lifecycle/products/>

Windows 365 FAQs:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-365/faq#coreui-collapsibledrawer-w56p8sc>

Windows 365 Plans and Pricing:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-365/business/compare-plans-pricing>