



## Are You and Your Computer Ready for Windows 11?

MICROSOFT WILL START PUSHING WINDOWS 11 OUT TO ELIGIBLE COMPUTERS SOON. IT'S A PROCESS THAT WON'T BE COMPLETE UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF 2022. IS YOUR COMPUTER READY? ARE YOU?

Remember when Microsoft announced that Windows 10 would be the last version of Windows? That's what Apple said about OSX, too, but it's now the MacOS. Perhaps the folks in Redmond thought it would be wise to copy Apple's move and rename Windows 10.

One main reason for releasing only one version of Windows was to standardize everything, which is good for both Microsoft and users. But Windows 11 will include security enhancements that won't run on all computers that can run Windows 10.

Because Windows 10 will be supported until 2025, Microsoft is creating the same bifurcated support problem they had been trying to eliminate.

**Windows 11: October 5.** That's not a score from some oddball game. Microsoft says Windows 11 will be released on 5 October, so those whose computers can run the new version of the operating system (and whose owners want to have it) might be able to see the update as early as next Tuesday.

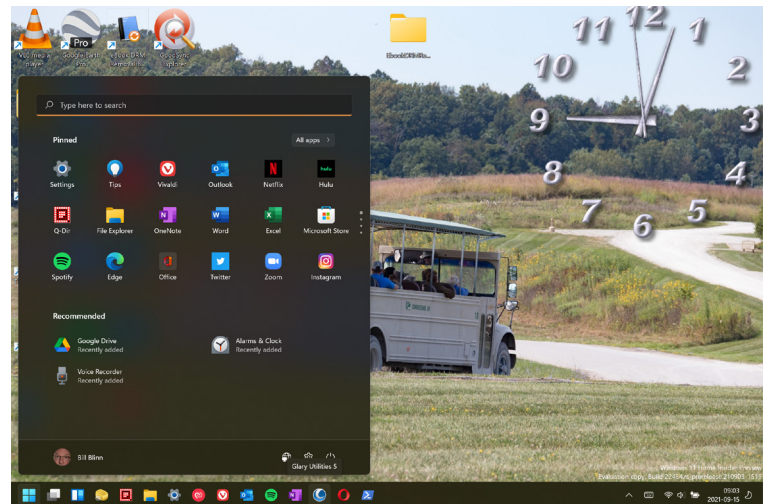
Initially the updates will go out to recently purchased computers, the ones most likely to run Window 11 without a problem.

Microsoft expects the full roll-out to continue through the middle of 2022. The company says it has "worked closely with our OEM and retail partners to bring you powerful Windows 10 PCs today that will take you into the future with Windows 11." If your Windows 10 PC is eligible for the upgrade, you can open **Settings > Update** to find out approximately when you'll be offered the update. The update will be free.

**THE START MENU HAS BEEN IMPROVED IN WINDOWS 11, BUT AT THE COST OF LIMITING THE USABILITY OF THE TASK BAR.**

**SEVERAL NEW ICONS ARE ON THE TASK BAR BY DEFAULT. IT'S EASY TO REMOVE ANY THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE THERE.**

**THE CLOCK ON THE SCREEN IS NOT A WINDOWS COMPONENT.**



## Some Computers Won't Go

EVEN IF YOUR COMPUTER IS RUNNING WINDOWS 10 WITHOUT A PROBLEM, YOU MAY HAVE TO MODIFY SOME BIOS SETTINGS TO INSTALL WINDOWS 11, AND THE NEW OPERATING SYSTEM CANNOT BE INSTALLED ON SOME COMPUTERS.

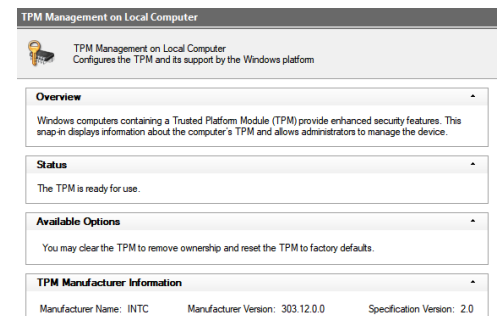
Windows 11 will require a Trusted Platform Module 2.0 (TPM) chip. Some computers have the chip, but it's not enabled, so users will have to visit the computer's BIOS settings and enable it. Without the TPM chip, Windows 11 cannot be installed.

Computers purchased within the past five to seven years probably have a TPM chip. To find out if the chip is present in your computer, click the Windows icon to open the Start menu and type **tpm.msc**. If the chip is present, you'll see information about the chip and its status. If not, your computer won't run Windows 11.

Computers that can't run Windows 11 will still receive updates for Windows 10 until sometime in 2025, and even then Windows

10 won't stop working. It will just stop being updated.

Support for Windows 7 ended last year and people still use it. Support for Windows 95 ended in 2001, but some people are still using that relic. So if you can't upgrade your Windows 10 computer to Windows 11, or don't want to, there's no immediate problem.

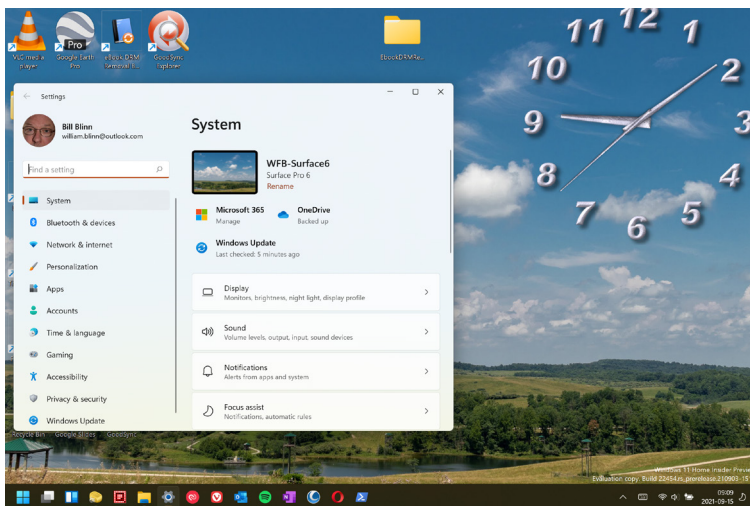


**YOU'LL SEE THIS IF YOUR COMPUTER HAS THE REQUIRED TPM CHIP.**

I was surprised to find that my four-year-old Lenovo P50 isn't compatible even though it has a powerful Intel CPU, 64GB of RAM, and substantially exceeds all other specifications.

MICROSOFT HAS BEEN WORKING ON SETTINGS SINCE BEFORE WINDOWS 10 WAS RELEASED, AND THE LATEST VERSION IS A MARKED IMPROVEMENT OVER ALL PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS.

THE OLD CONTROL PANEL REMAINS AND WILL PROBABLY NEVER BE REMOVED, BUT YOU WILL NEED TO USE IT RARELY, IF AT ALL.



This computer also has the required Trusted Platform Module (TPM) version 2.0, but the problem is the CPU: Xeon E3-1505M v5 processors are not supported for Windows 11.

I was not surprised to find that a seven-year-old notebook computer would be unable to run Windows 11. My two-year-old Surface tablet will run Windows 11, and I installed a preview version on that computer in August.

## Buying a New Computer?

CONFIRM WITH THE MANUFACTURER THAT THE HARDWARE IS FULLY COMPATIBLE WITH WINDOWS 11.

Most manufacturers have included information on their websites about compatibility, and some have added badges to descriptions to show which models are compatible.

This is important because, although Microsoft will continue to support Windows 10 for a few years, the operative term is “few”. Anyone who keeps computers for more than three years should confirm that a new computer will be able to run Windows 11. Microsoft appears to be continuing the policy that charges users

only once for the operating system — when they buy the computer — and all updates are then included for that computer for as long as it’s in service.

## Much Remains the Same

There’s a temptation to say *Windows 11 is exactly like Windows 10 except when it isn’t*. A lot remains the same, and there are welcome improvements along with a few changes that I do not like.

The Task Bar must remain at the bottom of the screen and cannot be adjusted to allow more than a single layer of icons. This is at the top of my *don’t like* list, not because the Task Bar has to stay at the bottom of the screen, but because it severely limits the number of icons that can be placed there. I use the Task Bar for dozens of frequently used applications because it’s faster than using the Start Screen.

**MANUFACTURERS SPECIFY WHICH OF THEIR COMPUTERS WILL RUN WINDOWS 11, SO THE COMPUTER YOU BUY TODAY — EVEN IF WINDOWS 11 ISN’T INSTALLED — WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE UPDATE.**

Windows 11 ruins that by making the Task Bar more like the MacOS Dock.

Widgets have returned. Users can add widgets that display information such as weather forecasts, stock prices, and other bits of data that might be useful, but not so useful that the user wants to run an app to see it. Microsoft has tried widgets before and people didn’t care for the approach. Now they’ve copied the MacOS method.

Those who have computers that connect to multiple monitors when they’re in a docking station will be delighted by Windows 11’s memory feature.

Disconnect a monitor and all the applications that were on that monitor will be placed on the remaining monitor. That’s not new, but Windows 11 should remember where applications were on each screen and restore them when all the monitor are available again.

This is a most welcome feature! Sometimes switching from a Windows computer to a MacOS computer causes the Windows computer to lose track of one monitor and, when I switch back to Windows, I have to re-arrange the apps.

Touch screens should work better with Windows 11 because icons will be larger and further apart when running on a computer with a touch-enabled screen.

Translucent panels will return with Windows 11. Microsoft tried this with Aero in Windows 10, and most people turned it off because it created serious performance problems. The Start Screen, for example, can be partially transparent, and users can specify the degree of transparency.

Android apps will run on Windows 11. This will make a huge number of apps that people use on their Android phones available when they’re using their computer. The Android apps won’t be served by the Google Play store. Instead, you’ll use the Amazon app store. This arrangement probably makes sense to somebody. Somewhere.

If your computer won’t run Windows 11, just ignore the pressure from manufacturers to replace it. You’ll miss some useful security enhancements until you do upgrade, but there’s no need to rush. 🚫

