



Windows 11

Top Commercial FAQs

CTRL + click to navigate to desired answer.

When can I buy a PC with Windows 11? [\[link\]](#)

Where can I buy a PC with Windows 11? [\[link\]](#)

How will I know when the upgrade is available for my Windows 10 PC? [\[link\]](#)

I am buying a new PC now; will it be eligible for the free upgrade? [\[link\]](#)

What edition of Windows 11 will I get when I upgrade? [\[link\]](#)

What is an update vs an upgrade? [\[link\]](#)

What are the benefits of Windows 11 over Windows 10? [\[link\]](#)

With Windows 10, Microsoft forced me to make significant changes to my IT processes, management approach and tooling, what will this new version require me to change? [\[link\]](#)

Will my current Windows 10 applications, devices, and accessories work with Windows 11? [\[link\]](#)

Will all my third-party Windows 11 security solutions continue to work across Windows 10 and Windows 11? To support Windows 11, will I have to upgrade those solutions to the latest and greatest before they are supported on Windows 11 and Windows 10? [\[link\]](#)

When will the upgrade be available for my current Windows 10 PC? [\[link\]](#)

What are the basics of the free upgrade offer for Windows 11? [\[link\]](#)

What are the benefits and value proposition of Windows 11 for the Enterprise? [\[link\]](#)

What is the upgrade path from Windows 10 to Windows 11? My company still has some Windows 7 devices. If they meet the hardware floor, can these be upgraded directly to Windows 11? [\[link\]](#)

What is the activation & provisioning process for my remote users? Is it the same as Windows 10? [\[link\]](#)

I use Windows Autopilot to provision devices for end users, will Windows Autopilot be available for Windows 11? [\[link\]](#)

Why did Windows choose to introduce a new Windows? I thought Windows 10 was going to be the last version. [\[link\]](#)

What does this announcement mean for the roadmap for Windows 10? [\[link\]](#)

Last update: June 22, 2021

When can I buy a PC with Windows 11?

PCs with Windows 11 pre-installed will be available later this year.

Where can I buy a PC with Windows 11?

PCs with Windows 11 will be available from a broad selection of retailers and our partners later this year. More details will be coming soon.

How will I know when the upgrade is available for my Windows 10 PC?

We'll send you a notification once your eligible PC has been tested and validated for the free upgrade. Or you can go to Windows Update and see for yourself. Please note that a significant download is required to complete this upgrade. ISP fees may apply in areas where the internet is metered.

I am buying a new PC now; will it be eligible for the free upgrade?

Most devices available for purchase now will be upgradeable to Windows 11. Look for devices that indicate that they are eligible for the upgrade. You can also ask your retail sales professional or the PC manufacturer (OEM) to confirm. Please note, after Windows 11 is released, Windows Update will confirm when the free upgrade is available for your PC. ISP fees may apply for any upgrade occurring in locations with metered internet.

What edition of Windows 11 will I get when I upgrade?

The upgrade to Windows 11 is for the same edition as you have on your Windows 10 device. Devices with Windows 10 Pro installed will be upgraded to Windows 11 Pro. Devices running Windows 10 Enterprise will upgrade to Windows 11 Enterprise. Windows 11 Pro will not offer Windows 11 Pro in S mode, so you will need to switch out of S mode to upgrade.

What is an update vs an upgrade?

An update is a change within a version of a Windows product. For example, moving from Windows 10, version 2004 (the Windows 10 May 2020 Update) to Windows 10, version 20H2 (the Windows 10 October 2020 Update). An upgrade is when you change OS versions, for example moving from Windows 10 to Windows 11, or when you upgrade to a higher edition within the same OS version (e.g., Windows 10 Home to Windows 10 Pro).

What are the benefits of Windows 11 over Windows 10?

Windows 11 offers new productivity features and functionality designed to meet the challenges of the hybrid world, with a completely refreshed look and feel that helps you get more done with less stress. Learn more about what's new with Windows 11 Pro at <https://aka.ms/next-for-windows> and Windows 11 Enterprise at <https://aka.ms/Windows/web001>.

With Windows 10, Microsoft forced me to make significant changes to my IT processes, management approach and tooling, what will this new version require me to change?

Windows 11 is based on the same foundation as Windows 10, so it will support the same management tools that you use today with Windows 10.

Will my current Windows 10 applications, devices, and accessories work with Windows 11?

Yes, most applications, devices, and accessories that worked with Windows 10 will be compatible with Windows 11. You can also check with the software, device, or accessory manufacturer to confirm compatibility.

Will all my third-party Windows 11 security solutions continue to work across Windows 10 and Windows 11? To support Windows 11, will I have to upgrade those solutions to the latest and greatest before they are supported on Windows 11 and Windows 10?

Most software and accessories that worked with Windows 10 are expected to work with Windows 11. Check with your software publisher or accessory manufacturer for specific details on your products.

When will the upgrade be available for my current Windows 10 PC?

The upgrade is expected to be available in early 2022. Not all eligible Windows 10 PCs will be offered the upgrade at the same time. To see if your PC is eligible, download the PC Health Check app at <https://aka.ms/GetPCHealthCheckApp>. Once the upgrade rollout has started, you can check the status of your device by navigating to Windows Update in settings.

What are the basics of the free upgrade offer for Windows 11?

The upgrade to Windows 11 is available for devices running Windows 10, version 20H1 or newer, on eligible hardware. Please view <https://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-11-specifications> to access the full minimum hardware requirements and specs.

What are the benefits and value proposition of Windows 11 for the Enterprise?

Windows 11 provides a familiar modern and refreshed interface that helps increase productivity and enhances the collaboration experience for end users while maintaining consistent management for IT managed devices.

What is the upgrade path from Windows 10 to Windows 11? My company still has some Windows 7 devices. If they meet the hardware floor, can these be upgraded directly to Windows 11?

Most devices available for purchase now will be upgradeable to Windows 11. You will have the option to upgrade, clean install, or reimage Windows 10 devices to move to Windows 11. For Windows 7 devices that meet hardware requirements, you will need to clean install or reimage to go directly to Windows 11. Please view <https://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-11-specifications> to access the full minimum hardware requirements and specs.

What is the activation & provisioning process for my remote users? Is it the same as Windows 10?

Windows 11 has been built on the same core as Windows 10, so you'll continue with the same experience you're accustomed to.

I use Windows Autopilot to provision devices for end users, will Windows Autopilot be available for Windows 11?

Yes, you will be able to use Windows Autopilot for Windows 11 devices.

Why did Windows choose to introduce a new Windows? I thought Windows 10 was going to be the last version.

The goal with Windows is still the same, regardless of number. Our commitment to drive innovation, bring people together and build the best version of Windows remains. We said we would always update Windows, of course we're going to innovate, move people forward, commitment to give people the best version of Windows remains.

What does this announcement mean for the roadmap for Windows 10?

Windows 10 remains supported through October 14, 2025, as originally announced at its launch. Customers using long term service releases (LTSC and LTSCB) will continue to be supported through those published end of support dates.

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