

The Future of Windows 10

When Microsoft rolled out Windows 11 on October 5, 2021, it promised to support Windows 10 through October 14, 2025. So, even though that's more than a year from now, if you're using Windows 10, it may be time to consider your options.

What happens to Windows 10 on October 14, 2025?

Nothing. You can continue using Windows 10. However, after October 14, 2025, Microsoft won't send Windows 10 users security "patches" or bug fixes. Your computer will continue to use its built-in or third-party anti-malware software, like Windows Security, Norton Anti-Virus, or MalwareBytes. However, over time, the risks of using an unsupported operating system increase, and some applications may stop working.

Recommendations

We suggest you upgrade your PC from Windows 10 to 11. It's free. You can check this out by clicking the Windows button > Settings > Windows Update. **If your PC is compatible**, you'll find instructions on how to perform the upgrade. It's (relatively) painless. (More or less).

However, your computer must have a Trusted Platform Module chip¹ to run Windows 11. This chip provides hardware-based, security-related functions that help keep Windows 11 safe. (Most computers manufactured within the last ten years have this chip.) Windows 11 also requires certain minimum central processor and video display capabilities. Windows 10 will tell you if your computer can run Windows 11. If it can't, you'll need to replace it if you want to use this new operating system. (I'll publish Guru articles later this year with suggestions on Windows PCs and Mac computers.)

The Windows 11 Experience

Everything is an "experience" today, and that includes Windows 11. But the Windows 11 experience isn't much different from the Windows 10 experience. Microsoft gussied up the folder icons and revised some context menus (the thingies that pop up when you click the right mouse button.) The overall look and feel includes rounded window corners, nice colors, and a nifty window arrangement option for those who multi-task.

But more importantly, **Windows 11 is more secure than Windows 10**, thanks to the TPM chip and other software improvements.

Overall, everything works pretty much the same. You probably won't have a conniption when you update your current computer to Windows 11 or buy a new PC with Windows 11 already installed.

If you need help upgrading to Windows 11, just fill out the tech help form. Go to **Tech Lab – Center for Modern Aging Princeton** (cmaprinceton.org) to set up an appointment.



Dave just installed Windows 11 and is really pleased. Overjoyed, in fact. Maybe Dave is carrying this too far? Not sure. His dog, Steve, is more laid back. But I digress.

¹ A TPM chip prevents malicious software (a.k.a. "malware") from messing with your computer. Windows 11 won't install if your computer doesn't have this chip. Bummer.