

## Windows 10 End of Life

*Microsoft's support for Windows 10 ended on October 14. We need to talk.*

Microsoft introduced Windows 10 in 2015, and the vibe back then was that this would be the final version of Windows. Microsoft would continue to update Windows 10 *forever*. It would just be “Windows.” There would be no Windows 11, 12, or...

**Forever ended in 2021** when Microsoft unveiled Windows 11 with a new look and enhanced security features. Some of those security features require the PC to have a “Trusted Platform Module 2.0.”

**The Trusted Platform Module (TPM)** is a security chip designed to verify that your computer is running an authentic, untampered version of Windows. In addition to this integrity check, it supports encryption features that help protect sensitive data. Most PCs manufactured after 2015 include a TPM by default; however, you cannot add one to an older machine.

**Windows 11 is reliable**, has a beautiful look and feel (both of which are admittedly subjective), and includes new security features in addition to those provided by the TPM chip. It works like Windows 10, but with a revamped Start menu, color-coded folders, and the addition of Co-Pilot, Microsoft's artificial intelligence model (similar to ChatGPT). If you know how to find your documents, start your applications, and manage your desktop, then Windows 11 will feel like an old friend. (Or maybe an old friend after a facelift, some bling, and a new wardrobe from J.Crew.)

On the other hand (the other shoe has dropped), Windows 11 may not run some old(er) software that worked on previous versions of Windows. You can blame that on the software vendor who decided not to update their application for Windows 11, but that won't help.

**Microsoft no longer provides security patches or feature upgrades to Windows 10.** You can continue to use Windows 10, but your PC may become more vulnerable to malware over time. And, as with any unsupported operating systems, some programs may eventually stop working.

**If you're using Windows 10**, you have a few options:

- 1. Upgrade to Windows 11.** Most PC's manufactured after 2015 include the necessary TPM 2.0 chip. If yours falls into that category, then you should consider upgrading to Windows 11.<sup>1</sup>
- 2. Continue to use Windows 10.** Microsoft offers a one-year Extended Security Update service for \$30, but I have no experience in pursuing that option.
- 3. Purchase a new PC.**

You can always contact our CMAP Tech Help at: <https://engage.cmaprinceton.org/tech-help> to discuss these options.



*Sharon is simply overjoyed with her recent Windows 11 upgrade. Here she is in her new turtleneck sweater from J.Crew. I think it's looks great.*

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<sup>1</sup> Right-Click the START (Windows) Icon > Settings > Windows Update