



News Roundup, July 2021



'Is This OK to Click On?' is Now on YouTube:

Most of you missed my live presentation at the [AllBizNetwork](https://allbiznetwork.com) May meeting of Carroll County businesses (<https://allbiznetwork.com>). I covered a short set of emails and web site images and explained how to recognize that they're fake, dangerous, or just harmless errors. There are samples of ransomware (fake documents you must not open), credential theft (fake web pages you must not log into) and Windows gone wrong. It's online now at YouTube, around 13 minutes, and suitable for employee training. I'll need feedback and comments to know if I should create more of these talks.

Video: [Is This OK to Click On?](#)

Also on YouTube: Supply Chain Issues



Shortages are persisting, both in tech and elsewhere. I'm seeing it in processor chips, video cards and power supplies right now. Rental cars are crazy scarce right now, but the dimensional lumber shortages have improved somewhat. It's the same issue as toilet paper: When the pandemic began, the TP manufacturers could not switch quickly from commercial building supply packaging of big rolls in big boxes, to home packaging, fancier products in shrink wrap. Where people are affect how they use products. More carry-out food and fewer restaurant meals means ketchup in packets has become scarce.

But the shortages are running deeper than that, and some will take two years to settle down, and those big problems are due to semiconductors, where it takes a long time to create a new type of chip, or even a new plant to make more of them, and to shipping issues, where the empty shipping containers are sitting in the wrong country, and there are not enough workers to move them around. Right, it's all due to just-in-time manufacturing, and why it goes wrong when it's not done in the way that Toyota pioneered it.

This is a world tour of the issues in around 19 minutes:

[YouTube: Why There are Now So Many Shortages \(It's Not COVID\)](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1J1YZQG3II>

Equifax just Bought your Payroll Data from QuickBooks

If you use QuickBooks as a payroll service, you will soon be publishing that data to Equifax. Given their history, they won't handle it carefully. (See my [October 2017](#) newsletter)

I suspect that the income that Intuit receives for this data won't reduce the price of QuickBooks. More and more, YOU are the product. ADP already shares similar data with Equifax. There is a way to opt out, but that has a deadline; opt out by July 31st, 2021, or your data will begin to be shared in Fall. There's more about this at Krebs on Security, here:

<https://krebsonsecurity.com/2021/07/intuit-to-share-payroll-data-from-1-4m-small-businesses-with-equifax/>

Windows 11 will Launch in Late 2021



Windows 11 had a rough announcement event on June 24th. The live stream didn't work properly. Microsoft's own pages couldn't keep up; relying on Google's Youtube live stream was the best way to see it. The full [video](#), around 45 minutes, is available now.

However, for most users, this [feature tour from WindowsCentral.com](#) is a better use of time, and only 12 minutes.

Windows 11 will begin shipping this fall. It will also be a free **optional** upgrade to Windows 10, and the end-of-service date for Windows 10 that was announced years ago, of October 14th, 2025, will stay as is. That optional part is important, but Windows 11 won't run on most computer hardware that is more than 2 years old. The system requirements limit which processors it can use, and require a TPM chip. That's the chip on the motherboard that works with Bitlocker for encrypting drives. Yes, even if you won't use that feature, the TPM chip is required.

Since the launch, Microsoft has already modified the requirements, and might do so again. That 'TPM 2.0' requirement is really more of a motherboard feature and not a chip feature, so the 'Big 3' board companies (Asus, Gigabyte, and MSI) are changing board settings to make sure that the features Windows 11 needs are turned on by default.

There will be "Ready for Windows 11" computers before October; I'm building them right now. But Windows 10 computers, for the most part, won't be upgraded in bulk to Windows 11. New hardware will be needed.

The Headlines, Same as Every Other Windows Launch

There are the usual minor improvements that we've seen before: Smaller updates, faster on the same hardware, longer battery run-time, new start menu, and easier to use on touch screens. And what was separate, is now built in. This time, that's video chat, which will replace the built-in Skype app. Voice typing is improved, and better at punctuation.

Docking programs is greatly improved, from hovering over the maximize button, you can choose where to show each program on-screen. Multi-program docked layouts are automatically saved. Those layouts minimize when an additional monitor is disconnected, and restore the programs on that screen when the monitor is available again. This will be helpful for the laptop users who have docking stations and extra monitors while they're in the office, but not on the road.

Desktop widgets, the failed Vista features declared to be dangerous and hackable, are back. These are like the live tiles from Windows 8, which are also gone, but larger, and possibly the best use of the old desktop widgets and tiles technology. Microsoft has a long history of botching new features and getting it right a few years later. Maybe widgets are ready to use this time around. It's too soon to know for sure.

There's a new look. The menu is centered by default. Most surfaces, like the

taskbar and widget areas, have a frosted glass look. Icons have curved corners. It's closer to the look of the Mac operating system, overall.

Actual Changes

Windows 11 will run Android apps, but will get them from the Amazon store, not from Google Play. As Windows 10 apps have been scarce, this will mean a massive increase in the number of apps available to run in Windows.

Gaming: New automatic HDR (high dynamic range) will enhance colors in games that have been set up to use it, over 1,000 so far. Early tests by gamers report sizable performance jumps.

Windows 11 will have only one feature update per year. The semi-annual schedule is gone. Monthly patches (bug and security fixes) will continue.

And finally, early reviews and tests say that Windows 11 is considerably faster than Windows 10 on the same hardware, due to turning off background software that formerly ran by default, like the Cortana search engine. Maybe so; there was clearly room for improvement.



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