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**PC Updater  
News**



## **New Windows on October 5th**

It's official. Windows 11 will be available October 5th. At first it will be a free upgrade to 'eligible' Windows 10 PCs, and there will be new PCs available that have Windows 11 already installed. I'm already building Windows 11-eligible systems that will be ready for free upgrades.

The eligible list of PCs are mostly computers from the last three years that include specific features and have Intel processors from the 8th generation and newer, or AMD Ryzen processors of the 2nd generation and newer. There is a list of the other requirements, and a testing program that can check if all the requirements are met.

Some of those requirements are negotiable: Adding a newer video card can 'fix' a failed requirement for certain video specifications, called 'DirectX 12.' And some of the requirements are for specific drive configurations; I can correct those. The TPM or encryption settings are usually off by default and I can turn them on if they're built in; the TPM feature is generally installed but not turned on in computers made in the last 3 years.

The short answer on compatibility is always going to be: Let's run the test and find out. I can run the test remotely, and it's quick.



When Windows 10 launched, the free upgrades basically ran on anything that could handle Windows 8, and with a solid state drive upgrade, anything that ran Windows 7. That won't be the case this time around; most computers older than 2019 won't be compatible. That's not necessarily an immediate problem; Windows 10 will continue to receive security updates and patches up to October 14th, 2025. Microsoft usually fixes only security issues in old versions of Windows, not program bugs that don't result in security issues.

## Business Office Technology Planning

Long-term, however, this will be a big issue: If your computers are all 5 years old and newer, you will be replacing around half of your computers in the next 4 years. But most offices have taken advantage of how Windows 10 and a solid state drive run, and allowed systems to age up. It's time to take inventory, and plan a replacement schedule for the aging technology.

So if your computers are at least 4 years old now, they probably are not eligible for Windows 11, and by the time late 2024 rolls around, will be 8 years old and overdue for replacement unless they're in very light-use use. And if they're newer than that, if the CPU is on the approved list, they will mostly be eligible for Windows 11 upgrades after I correct or upgrade the boot, video, and encryption settings.

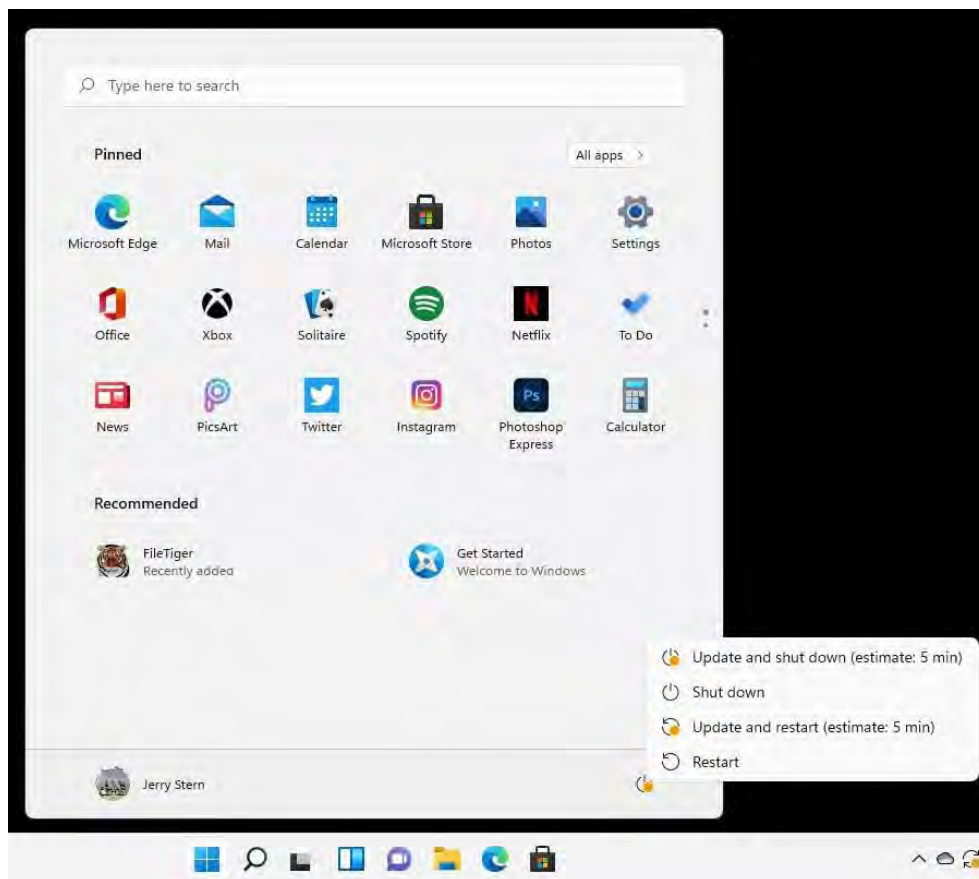
Worst case, if your computers are mostly over 6 years old now, they will need replacement before 2024. That's not a big problem for one computer, but for larger offices, plan out how many computers need replacements or upgrades by 2024. It's probably time to create a technology replacement budget, and plan on swapping out one third of the old systems per year during 2022 through 2024.

## New in Windows 11

The centered menu, of course, is the most visible change from Windows 10 to 11. But that can be set to the Windows-10 standard left-side position. It will no longer be possible to set the menu and taskbar to the top or sides of the screen; I welcome that, as the calls for 'my menu moved' were far more frequent than anyone actually *wanting* to move the taskbar.

Windows 11 is widely reported as faster than 10, due to turning off services that most users don't have a use for; Cortana is no longer turned on by default, and Cortana has been the biggest speed trap in Windows for the past year. There's also a priority system, so that the program you're currently using is given priority over anything running in the background. The claim is "faster on the same hardware." That claim is routine, but rarely applies to all systems.

- Internet Explorer is finally gone, but there's a compatible IE mode in the Edge browser.
- Pinned tiles in the start menu are gone, but they're replaced by pinned program icons on the new start menu, so that's just a minor change.
- I like the new restart time estimates on the 'update pending' icon, below.
- Semi-annual 'feature' updates will now be annual.
- Monthly bug fixes and security updates will continue, still on the second Tuesday of every month.



## Install it?

Starting October 5th, some Windows 10 systems will start offering to install Windows 11, if they meet all the eligibility requirements. My recommendation is to wait. That's especially true if you use any industry-specific software, sometimes known as 'vertical applications.' There are hundreds, but they all fall in the category of complex programs that are vital to specific types of businesses. Examples that come to mind: ProSystem FX, Xactimate, TimeSlips. For any vital software like these programs, ask their tech support if they're ready for Windows 11 before upgrading.

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## Quickbooks Desktop 2022 Will be Subscription-Only

News from Intuit: The desktop versions of QuickBooks 2022 will be released between September 28 and October 12, depending on the version. They are all subscriptions; the one-time purchase of Desktop Pro will no longer be available unless you get the 2021 version while it is still available. Intuit is extending sales of the 2021 version until December 10th for those users who don't want the subscription.

So far, I see nothing online about Windows 11 compatibility with QuickBooks, but the usual pattern is that official support for the new Windows will match the year of the QB release. That means that QB 2022 will be supported in Windows

11, and QB 2020 and 2021 will have limited support (as in tech support will test their compatibility), and versions 2019 and older will not be tested or supported. QuickBooks only supports the three most-recent releases of their desktop products. I'll update that news once I see an official statement from Intuit.

Here's more on the change to QuickBooks pricing:

<https://www.askwoody.com/2021/quickbooks-desktop-moves-to-subscription-model/>



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