



## Spooky Old Tech



### 3G Shutdown Reminder

Are your cell phones old enough to have neither 4G or 5G support? Problem: If they're 3G-only, they rely on 3G signals from cell towers from the three big carriers, and those will shut down during 2022. Why? Because it's technology from 2001, and has all the associated problems of old and slow insecure technology. And because keeping the 3G systems turned on doesn't allow the companies to re-use that section of radio spectrum for anything new. Your phones should all be running 4G or 5G now. 4G is from 2009, and will likely be OK until after any phone you can buy today is due for replacement. If you have to buy a phone, 5G is the current standard.

### Shutdown Dates:

- **T-Mobile** 3G shutdown of Sprint's 3G systems: January 1st, 2022
- **AT&T** 3G shutdown scheduled for February 22nd, 2022.
- **T-Mobile** shutdown of their own 3G systems, sometime in April 2022.

- **T-Mobile** will shutdown Sprint's LTE systems on June 30th, 2022.
- **Verizon** 3G shutdown is scheduled for December 31st, 2022.

It's important to know who you get your services from. If you buy service from a company with no towers, they're buying service for you from the big-three providers. Consumer Cellular uses AT&T and T-Mobile services. Metro PCS uses T-Mobile.

In some cases, your phone may have 4G, but it's turned off. Ask your cell phone provider for help with that.

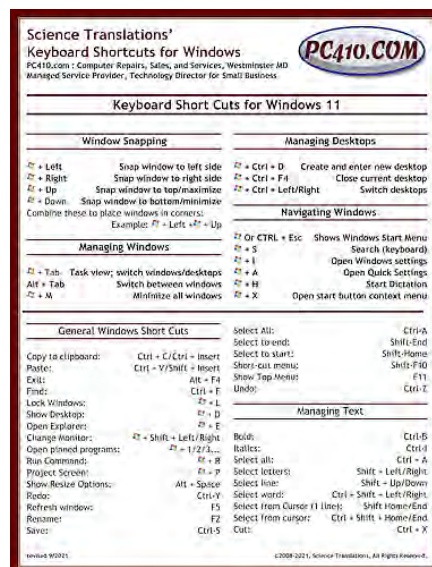
More here, from the FCC:

<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/plan-ahead-phase-out-3g-cellular-networks-and-service>

The end of 3G will affect some home security systems that don't rely on a phone connection, and car navigation that doesn't rely on the driver's connected cell phone. And here's what the effect may be on older cars with built-in satellite navigation:

<https://www.rcrwireless.com/20210329/analyst-angle/kagan-your-car-may-lose-wireless-navigation-system-in-2022>

## Windows 11 has Launched, so There's a New Keyboard Shortcuts Chart



The fastest computer users don't use the mouse as much as the rest of us. They don't bold a line by dragging it to select and going into the menus and finding 'Bold'. No, they start at the beginning of the line, hold down Shift and press End to select the line, and then press Ctrl-B to mark the text as bold.

You can find most of the shortcuts listed right in the menu. That's literally the right side of each menu entry; most lines show a keyboard shortcut for that feature. Memorize those you feel are useful, but start with Copy (Ctrl-C), Paste (Ctrl-V), Cut (Ctrl-X), and Close (Alt-F4). These work in nearly all programs in Windows.

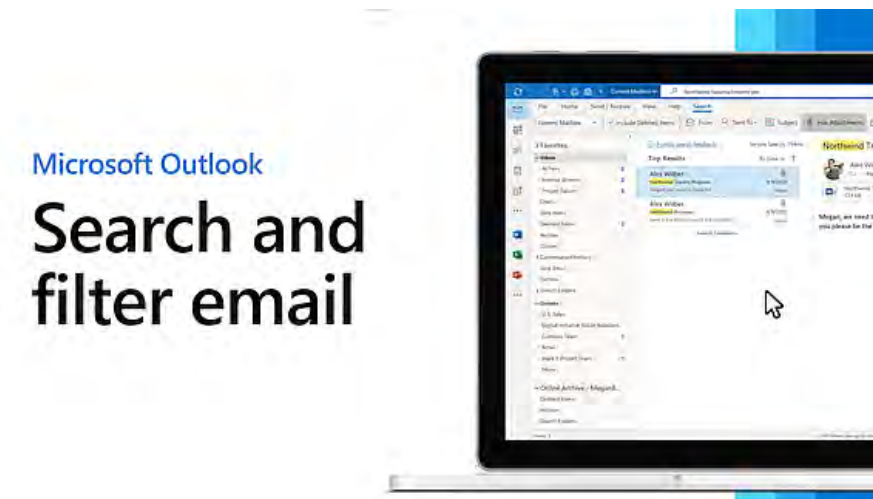
I've been publishing keyboard shortcut lists for decades now. The Windows 11 shortcut list is ready; ask me for a postcard when you see me. Or download the printable version here:

<https://www.pc410.com/shortcut/>

Notable change: Windows 11 has dictation built-in. So did Windows 10, but most users couldn't find it, and it needed work. Now there's a shortcut to turn it on: press the Windows key (with the logo on it), and tap H to start dictation. That actually does work in updated copies of Windows 10 as well.

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## How About Office?



The new Office 2021 launched on October 5th, matching the Windows 11 launch date. There is still both a subscription version, still called 'Microsoft 365', and a one-time purchase version, called either 'Office Home & Student 2021' or 'Office Home & Business 2021.' The business version includes Outlook. Both versions include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

Which should you buy? If you have both desktop and laptop computers for the same user, Microsoft 365 (the subscription) provides Office installs for both, but Office 2021 (the one-time purchase version) is for a single computer. Microsoft 365 includes more collaboration features (Teams, OneDrive cloud storage). Microsoft 365 includes version upgrades, Office 2021 does not. If you always want the newest versions and have 2 computers per user, Microsoft 365 is cheaper. For one computer per user, Office 2021 is around the same price as 2.5 years of Microsoft 365, so the choice really depends on what you need. Call

me for either product; I can get Microsoft 365 with US-based support, and that's not what Microsoft sells directly.

There are new features in Office 2021. There's a substantial list here:  
[Office 2021 New Features at Microsoft.com](#)

And at the bottom of that page, there's a 'Quick Starts' link to updated training for Office, and includes both videos and downloadable quick-reference PDFs for most programs within Office.

[Office 2021 Video Tutorials and PDFs at Microsoft.com](#)

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