



## Waiting for New Windows



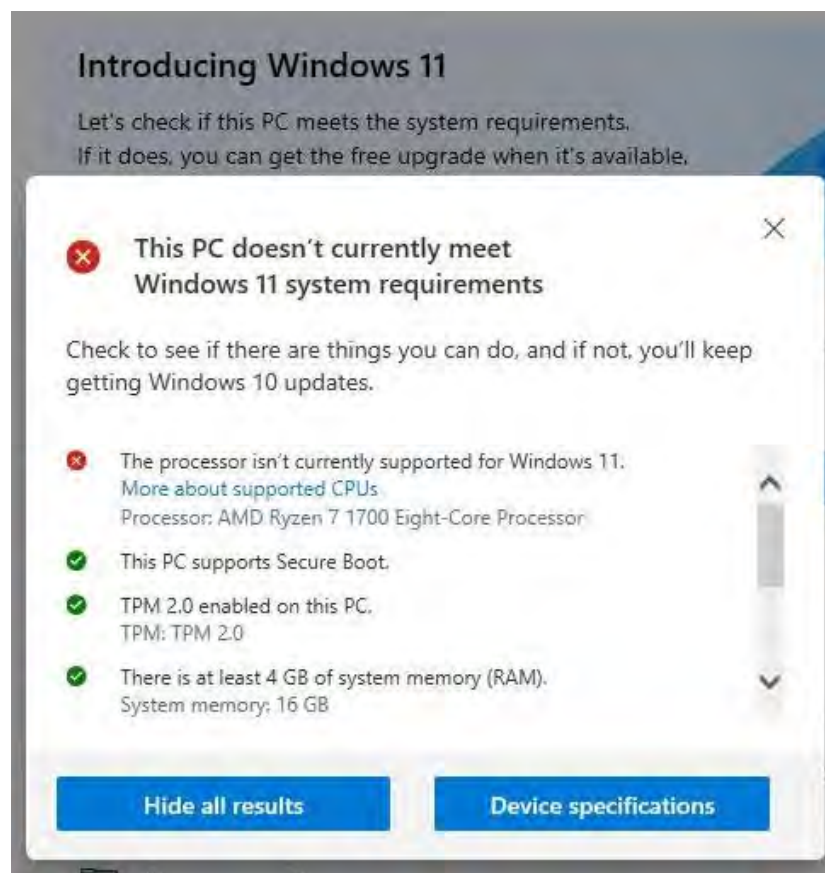
On computers that can run Windows 11, I'm beginning to see offers to install it. They're showing up in the bottom right corner, as small popups in the system tray, similar to the 'you have updates ready to install' message. For most users, wait for a while, while Microsoft finds the bugs and quirks and gets rid of the worst of them. All business users should wait for 2022 to install Windows 11, except for tax preparers, who should wait until the 2021 tax deadlines pass in April or (probably) May. For computers new enough to run Win 11, I can block the upgrade offer until then if needed.

This applies to business users that have specialty software installed, just for your industry. These are the programs that run just your kind of business, or do just your kind of work. Those programs' tech support offices are mostly saying that they aren't ready or won't support Windows 11, just yet.

On the other hand, for a standalone home computer, with just the usual browsers, email, and Office apps, you could choose to install Windows 11 when it is offered. And for gamers, well, the game sites seem to like it, a lot.

## Is your PC Compatible?

There's a whole list of requirements for running Windows 11, and there's a quick software test of them. Basic stuff first: enough memory, 64-bit processor. And Secure Boot must be turned on, and TPM (trusted platform module) must be turned on, and an approved CPU chip installed. Short version: if the computer is from the last 2 years, it should be able to run Windows 11. And if it's over 4 years old, not.

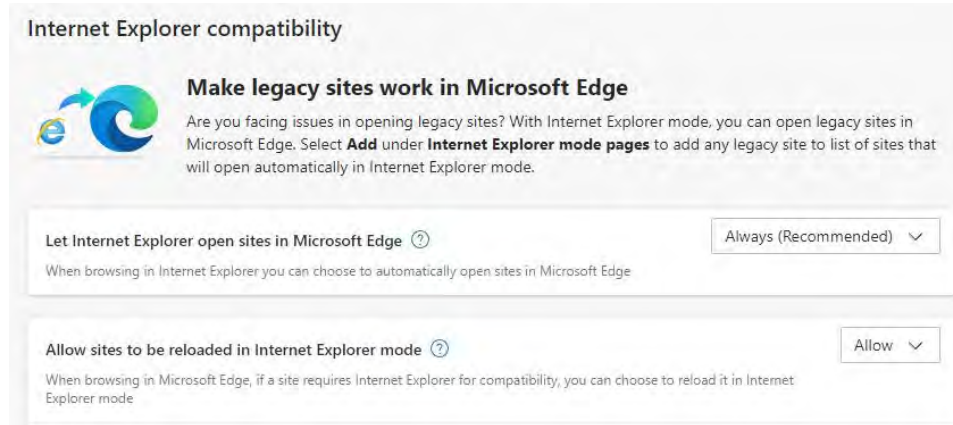


In between those dates, I can sometimes make adjustments to the BIOS (hardware) settings, or upgrade the BIOS and processor to a newer model, and make the computer compatible that way. These upgrades are mostly practical on custom-built computers, but generally not possible on notebooks and laptops because the processor is soldered into place.

## IE Mode in Microsoft Edge

Internet Explorer does not exist in Windows 11. For those applications that just can't run with any other browser, there's an official fix for that. That's to run

Edge with IE Mode turned on, so that it displays pages as Internet Explorer 11 would have. It's off by default; here's how to turn it on, in either Win 10 or 11:



1. Open Microsoft Edge on Windows 10.
2. Click Settings ( ... button) on the top-right corner.
3. Select the Settings option.
4. Click on Default browser.
5. Under the “Internet Explorer compatibility” section, turn on the “Allow sites to be reloaded in Internet Explorer mode” toggle switch.
6. Click the Restart button.

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## QuickBooks in Windows 11

There have been some questions about QuickBooks running in Windows 11. Versions of QuickBooks up to 2021 use Internet Explorer to open up any embedded web pages. This is, of course, irresponsible behavior, but Intuit's apparent goal is one product version that will run everywhere, and security considerations do not apply. Well, Windows 11 cannot run Internet Explorer, but instead uses 'IE Mode' instead, and that's part of their Edge browser, as above. So the question has been, will QuickBooks 2021 and older function on Win 11? I know that if Internet Explorer is missing from Windows 10, QuickBooks won't start. And QuickBooks support pages have questions of “Will QB 2021 run in Windows 11?” with official answers of “I've pasted the list of supported versions below,” but no mention of an actual answer. Other users reply that their limited tests have worked, but they might not have tried every feature. I tried QuickBooks Pro 2013 here, with similar results; it's uneven, with most features working, and a few, not.

The moral of this story remains the same as it has been in Windows for 25 years: A major upgrade of Windows should be expected to break one or two programs or devices. It's frequently scanners that don't work in a new version of Windows, but in general, it's any program that was not originally written using

the official Microsoft rules on how to program, which we call the API, or Application Programming Interface. If the publisher just 'found a way' to connect with Windows that's not in the API, it probably won't work in future versions of Windows. Embedded web pages, as used by QuickBooks, should start the default browser, not an obsolete browser that hasn't been updated since 2015.

And the complication here, as reported in this newsletter in September, is that QuickBooks 2021 is the last desktop version of QuickBooks that can be used as a one-time purchase. The 2022 version is subscription-only.

What I actually am recommending is that when it's time to move to Windows 11 next year, upgrade only one computer in your office to Windows 11, and use that to test all the specialty software you use and maybe the scanning hardware, just to see what breaks. There's a 10-day uninstall option, if needed, but don't count on that, create a full system backup in advance. (Or call for help. 410-871-2877)

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## Shortcuts: Zoom



The zoom-in and zoom-out shortcuts still work in nearly every browser, and in Outlook and Thunderbird. Hold down Ctrl (or Control) and tap the Plus key to zoom in on a page. Ctrl-Minus zooms out, and Ctrl-Zero resets the zoom.





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