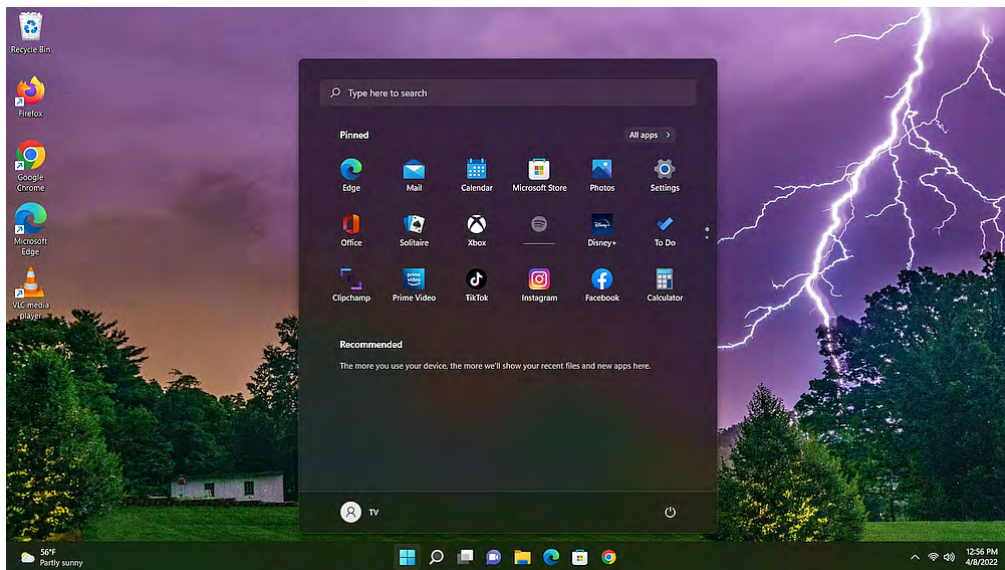


Science Translations

Established 1990



**PC Updater
News**



Windows 11 in dark mode.

Is Windows 11 Ready to Upgrade?

Windows 11 launched half a year ago. The bug fixes continue, and new features have shown up in monthly updates, slowly. Clocks are finally available on second monitors. Android apps (in Amazon versions) were promised and they are partially available at this time. We should see pictures of folder contents and content tabs in File Explorer soon.

What Else is New?

Here is Microsoft's view of what's new in Windows 11. Scroll down all the way to the bottom of the page, past all the marketing, to get to the new feature

videos.

<https://insider.windows.com/en-us/insidewindows11>

However, this YouTube video (15 minutes) does a better job of introducing the new Windows 11:

[Windows 10 vs 11: Features & Changes](#)

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

Mostly, the changes are visual. Programs run like they ran before.

Can you upgrade?

The software upgrade is free, but limited to computers from 2017 and newer. However, there is a long list of requirements. Out here in the real world, most new systems meet those requirements, because the computer makers are pre-testing for the new Windows 11, mostly. Caution applies: bargain specials use parts from up to two years ago, and may not qualify, and only Windows 10 Home and Pro systems can upgrade; I've now seen one brand new Windows 10 Education netbook that could not be upgraded.

Upgrading means installing the new operating system over the old system, and keeping all installed software, settings, and documents. There are non-upgrade options for new installs of Windows 11 on older hardware if the system is completely wiped clean. That's for computers that nearly qualify.

WhyNotWin11
v 2.4.0.0

Your Windows 11 Compatibility Results Are Below

* Results based on currently known requirements! Older Hardware Supported if Data Wiped!

✕

	Architecture	64 Bit CPU 64 Bit OS	(i)
	Boot Method	UEFI	(i)
	CPU Compatibility	Listed as Compatible	(i)
	CPU Core Count	12 Cores 24 Threads	(i)
	CPU Frequency	3793 MHz	(i)
	DirectX + WDDM2	DirectX 12 & WDDM 2	(i)
	Disk Partition Type	GPT Detected	(i)
	RAM Installed	16 GB	(i)
	Secure Boot	Supported	(i)
	Storage Available	222 GB C: 3 Drive(s) Meet Requirements	(i)
	TPM Version	TPM 2 Detected	(i)

Check for Updates
AMD Ryzen 9 3900X 12-Core Processor
NVIDIA GeForce GT 710

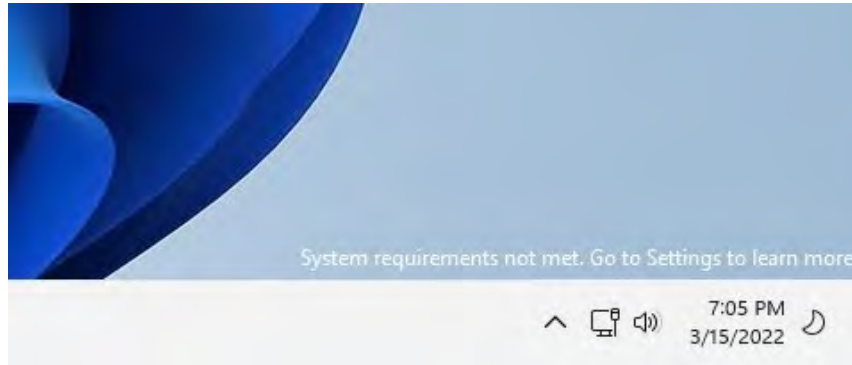
The requirements for the upgrade are shown above. They fall into a few categories.

- For the CPU, and 4 of the first 5 items listed, other than 'Boot Method', the processor has to have at least 2 64-bit cores, and be of a certain speed, and has to be on a list at Microsoft. Those processors are from 2017 and newer.
- Next is DirectX, version 12. That's a video card requirement, and video can be upgraded in most desktop computers.
- Disk Partition Type has to be the new GPT type, not the old MBR type. I can convert MBR drives to GPT.
- RAM is memory, and the requirement is 4Gb. I recommend 8Gb as minimum memory, 16Gb if possible.
- Secure boot and Boot Method are closely-related settings that claim to prevent a computer from booting from an unauthorized device. If the board supports Secure Boot, also called 'UEFI', I can turn it on. Most boards from 2015 to 2017 support UEFI, but didn't have it turned on by default.
- Storage: 64Gb is required by Microsoft. That's not enough to run Windows properly, but only some toy Windows tablets ship with less than 120Gb.
- TPM: That's the Trusted Platform Module. Basically, it's a chip used for drive encryption, but Windows 11 will apparently use it for other features. TPM is generally available on business-class computers from 2014 onwards, but it's usually turned off by default. If it's available, I can turn that on.

All that boils down to this: I can remotely run the test program shown above to check if a computer can run Windows 11, and to get an idea of the categories that fail. I need the computer on my workbench to fix most of those items, as they're either hardware, or working with software that runs before Windows.

What if I can't upgrade?

It's possible to run Windows 11 on almost any hardware. But it's not worth it unless the computer is very close to the official requirements. There are methods to skip testing for some of the required features, requiring new installations, not upgrades; the existing software and documents will have to be reinstalled or backed up and restored. And the result will be a warning on the desktop, stating "System requirements not met. Go to Settings to learn more." The warning has only begun showing up this month, so it's not clear yet whether it applies to all the requirements or just some of them.



A 2015 system is 7 years old, far older than Intel suggests a computer could possibly last. My own data shows computers have frequent repairs starting around age 7, but high-end systems can be reliable to age 10. Fast-forward to October 14th, 2025. That's the end of Microsoft support, also known as security patches, for Windows 10. To be accurate, that's the last scheduled Second Tuesday security patch day for Windows 10. By then, those 2015 computers will be at age 10, due for melting down. So plan on replacing those computers before the end of 2025.

How old is my computer?

For Dell computers, the build date is usually on the service tag. For both Dell and Lenovo, go to their 'support' web pages and enter the tag number or serial number, and look at the warranty start date.

<https://www.dell.com/support/home/en-us>

<https://support.lenovo.com/us/en/>

Or look in Control Panel, add/remove programs, and click the date header to sort the software by installation date. The oldest date is usually when the computer was originally configured.

But do I want 11?

First, for computers from this year and last year that shipped with Windows 10 Pro, yes, upgrade them to 11 unless there's some vital program on your system that isn't ready. (Check the publishers' web sites.)

The changes from 10 to 11 are mostly visual and background security. You use Windows the same way in 11 as in 10, with a few location changes for settings. Once in any program, it does what it always did. My old rule used to be that "a Windows system upgrade will break either one or two hardware devices or

programs.” Windows 10 to 11 isn’t a major upgrade, and I’ve seen very few programs that don’t keep working as they did under Win 10. Internet Explorer 11 is completely gone, so any program old enough to insist on having IE 11 is likely to have problems--so far, that’s QuickBooks versions from 2019 and earlier.

If in doubt, call me about upgrades to Windows 11. I’ll look at a system and tell you if it’s worth upgrading. And if you do the upgrade yourself, remember to create a ‘SYSTEM’ backup first, as Microsoft deletes the old Windows 10 folders 10 days after the upgrade.



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