

**Science Translations**

Established 1990



**PC Updater  
News**



## **Old Windows, the 2021 Editions**

Windows is expiring again. The annual feature versions only last a year and a half, and then they stop downloading security updates. These big feature updates should automatically install, but they don't, around a third of the time. Why? Well systems that aren't rebooted often or that have programs left running at night, will often fail to install the large feature updates. Best practice

for computers left on at night is to log out of the Windows account; leave them on the login screen; remote access, updates, and backups can all run from there. And all Windows computers benefit from a monthly log-out and a full restart.

Windows 10, version 21H2, for second half of 2021, will download its last security update on June 13, 2023. For Windows 11, 21H2 runs up to October 10, 2023. Both should be updated now, to version 22H2. For Windows 10, 22H2 will be the very last feature update before it stops updating entirely on October 14, 2025.



Reminder: Here's how to check the current feature version of Windows. Click the Start button (the logo key), type 'winver', and in the search result, run the WinVer command. It should show 22H2, for 2022 second half, in the second line. Anything earlier than that should be updated.

To update, click Start, then Settings (the gear icon), and in the search box, type 'update'. There should be an option there to install 22H2. If not, click 'Check for Updates' and install all pending updates, and look again for the 22H2 installation option.

## Windows 11?

If Windows Update offers Windows 11, yes, it's OK to upgrade. Most computers from earlier than 2019 won't be able to install it. Call if you need help deciding when to update to either new Windows or new hardware.

## More End of Service Dates

Still running Office 2013? The last security update was April 11th. The last patch date for Windows Server 2012 will be October 10th.

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## Thunder Season is Early

I've already seen lightning damage this season, on computers, and on a pine tree that had a direct strike. So it's time for the yearly reminder: Check that every computer, and every electrical device of value, is plugged into a surge suppressor or a battery backup. Again, electrical strips marked on the bottom as 'Temporary power tap' are NOT surge suppressors—they're just splitters.

And if you know there's a big storm on the way, it's very reasonable to shut down computers overnight that are normally left running so that they can back up and update. Backup software is smart enough to catch up on skipped backups.

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## AI Images Are Already Useful

Don't place computers on the floor. They attract dust down there, and are attacked by the vacuum cleaner. In floods, they get shorted instead of damp. I've seen PCs with shoe sole scuff marks, too. And pet fur in the fans. And claw marks, but that happened only once, and clearly did not involve a mythical robotic vacuum dragon.

Yes, it takes Artificial Intelligence to create images like this one, and the old window and lightning images above. The dragon vacuum was created using Bing's AI system. It's free, and newly launched on March 21st.

You can try Bing Image Creator here:

<https://www.bing.com/images/create/>

Limitations: None of these AI image systems can cope with putting words into images. Try adding 'speed limit sign' into a description of what image to create, and it will produce very odd results. If including people or animals, check them for too many eyes, legs, and fingers. It's a young art, and art generation done by merging and morphing other people's artwork creates mutants and chimeras.

