

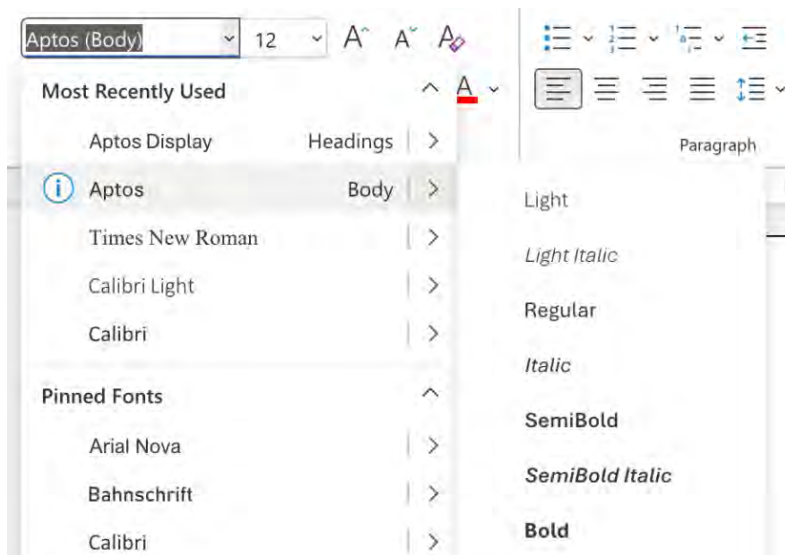


Old Office vs. New Office



What is Aptos?

In the latest updates to Microsoft 365 (subscription Office 2021), Microsoft is changing the default font in new documents and in templates from Calibri to Aptos. There are several of these: There's the new default non-serif Aptos, Aptos Serif, and Aptos Mono, which is fixed-width.



No big deal, right? Aptos is not dramatically different from Calibri. The x-height is a little taller—that's the height of lower-case letters like 'n'. That's enough to change line breaks and spacing, so precisely-aligned documents like forms are going to change appearance. And Aptos is not an installed font like Calibri. It's a "Cloud Font" which Microsoft says is stored in the cloud, and it's **not available to other programs** on the same computers, or to users of non-subscription Office. It cannot be 'installed' in Windows like a TrueType font. You can, however, embed the font in a document. Added complexity causes problems, so it's probably best to not use Aptos until the world understands how to deal with proprietary cloud-based fonts.

Don't use Aptos:

- If you send docx files back and forth for group editing; use any other font.
- Don't use Aptos in forms you send elsewhere.
- Don't use Aptos if you embed non-European phonetic or international characters—the character heights won't match.
- If you are creating PDF documents, Aptos works using Microsoft 'Print to PDF', but not Acrobat Distiller. Non-Microsoft PDF tools naturally have a problem with non-existent fonts.

There's more here, and instructions on changing default fonts, and embedding cloud fonts:

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/cloud-fonts-in-office-f7b009fe-037f-45ed-a556-b5fe6ede6adb>

Why Aptos?

Aptos is supposed to provide 'modern readability' cross-platform, which of course means on mobile devices. And Microsoft 365 doesn't run on those, mostly, so the implied statement is 'so far.' Stay tuned.

Is your Office too Old?

Most users of Microsoft Office use the one-time purchase edition of Office, which they bought when they last upgraded hardware. But the replacement cycle for desktop computers and Office software don't match, and older computers tend to run out-of-date MS Office. Microsoft also sells Microsoft 365, which includes all major-version updates, and of course, also includes online features like email or cloud storage, and product changes that are not announced in advance, like the 'Aptos' font above. That's your choice, so far. It looks like the one-time purchase option will continue for at least one more major version of Office.

Here again are the expiration dates of the Office products. That's the last security patch date, or the date they leave compliance for any office that is legally required to maintain basic security standards, which generally include any office in finance, law, and health care, or that does any business with government, or directly accepts credit cards.

- Microsoft Office 2010: Oct. 23, 2020.
- Microsoft Office 2013: April 12, 2023.
- Microsoft Office 2016: October 14, 2025
- Microsoft Office 2019: October 14, 2025
- Microsoft Office 2021: October 13, 2026

Note this date: October 14, 2025. It's the end of Office 2016 and 2019, and all editions of Windows 10.

Is Windows 11 Too Old?

And for Windows 11 users, feature version 21H2 (2021 second half) expires next month, on October 10th. All Windows installs, either Windows 10 or 11, should be running version 22H2 now.

As always, check the Windows version with 'winver', short for 'windows version.' Run winver from the Start menu. 22H2 will be the LAST feature update for Windows 10 before it ends support in October 2025. And for Windows 11, there will be a new feature update sometime this Fall, probably called 23H2, if Microsoft matches the naming style of previous years.



Changes at Backblaze



Backblaze cloud backup is making changes to their pricing and services starting October 3rd. They previously included 30 days of version history—that's changing to a year. That means that if you edit a document and save a new version under the same filename, both the old and new versions were available in the online backup for up to 30 days, and then after that, only the newer version was kept. One-year retention was an extra \$2/month option, and that extra fee will go away. Everyone using Backblaze will have one-year retention as their standard option. **However, you must log into your account after October 3rd, and TURN ON one year of Extended Version History for free.**

There's a cost for that extra storage, of course. Also on October 3rd, annual

renewals of Backblaze will increase to \$99/PC, and the monthly option will be \$9/PC. Backup is still unlimited, and still includes attached USB drives. It does not include network locations. If you buy Backblaze from Science Translations, monitoring of backups is included; we both get the emails if Backblaze detects an issue, and any software updates that need manual install will be included; that combination will increase to \$120/year.

At this time, Backblaze is still the best-available option for cloud backup of single workstations. Call if you would like Backblaze with monitoring, or click the link below to buy direct. During September, Backblaze is still available to buy at the old price for either 1 year for \$70 or 2 years for \$130.



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