

**Science Translations**

Established 1990

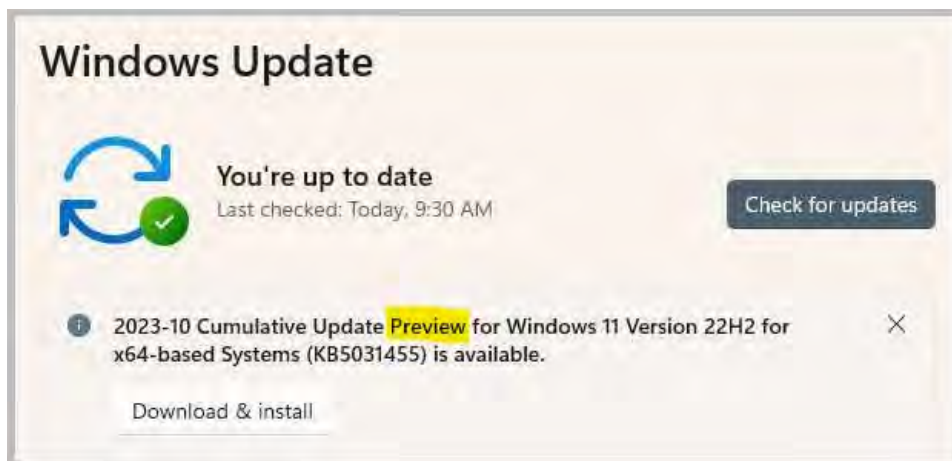


**PC Updater  
News**



## **Don't be a Guinea Pig**

There's something wrong in this screen capture. Windows is up to date, but there is an update to install. But Windows updates automatically on the second Tuesday of each month; it's difficult to stop that from happening. So what's that 'preview' thing?



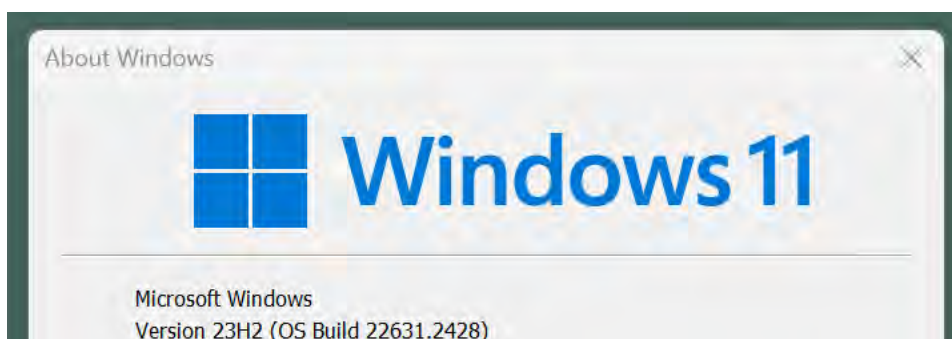
Bluntly, it's a "be a guinea pig" request. Just say no. There's usually a 'preview' update available in Windows Update each month. If you're looking at Windows Update to see what's happening and if your computer is up-to-date, that's great, but previews are not required updates. These previews won't install automatically, so don't install them from that button. Here's what they do:

- You get an experimental mystery update planned for a future month, early.
- Your computer spends processing power collecting reports and sending them back to Redmond.
- Your computer is now running beta-testing software as part of a large herd of unpaid guinea pigs. Some computers will have issues with speed or program crashes.
- And when the patches, updates, features, and what-ers in that very-unlabeled mystery file are properly tested and corrected, they will be sent out in the normal update cycle, when they are far less likely to break bits and pieces of Windows.

Also in Windows Update, there's an option available to "Get the latest updates as soon as they're available." Leave that turned off; it's a setting that essentially means "Be the guinea pig forever."

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## Windows 11 23H2 Launches, Slowly



The new annual feature update to Windows 11, named '23H2' for second half of 2023, is now available. I can install it now, manually. It's not showing up in Windows Update just yet; that will probably start in another month, and as

Microsoft staggers the delivery of big updates, it will arrive first on hardware known to have no issues with the changes.

New features include Copilot, promoted as “your everyday AI companion.” Chat is going away and is replaced by Teams (free), which is a different product and install than paid Teams (part of Office). Paint will have a major upgrade, and include AI features for image creation, and the ability to adjust/blur photo backgrounds.

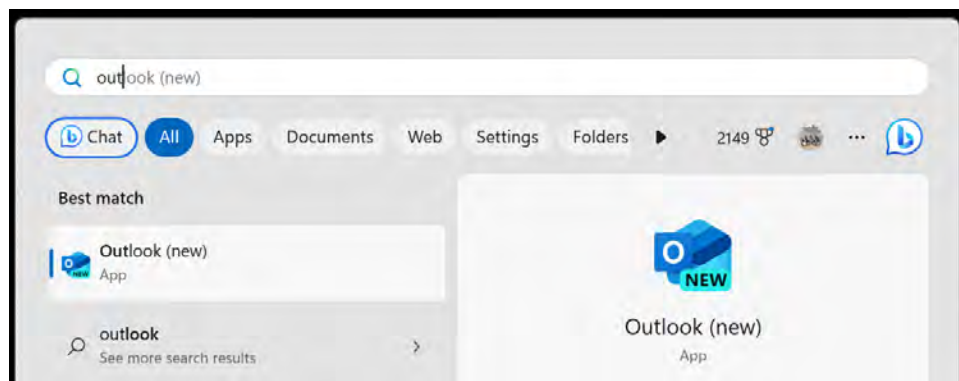
There's more on the Copilot features here: (The videos are a quick tour of what will be available.)

<https://blogs.microsoft.com/blog/2023/09/21/announcing-microsoft-copilot-your-everyday-ai-companion/>

There is no matching update for Windows 10; feature updates for Windows 10 have ended, and only security patches will be issued, up to October 2025. The last feature update was 22H2.

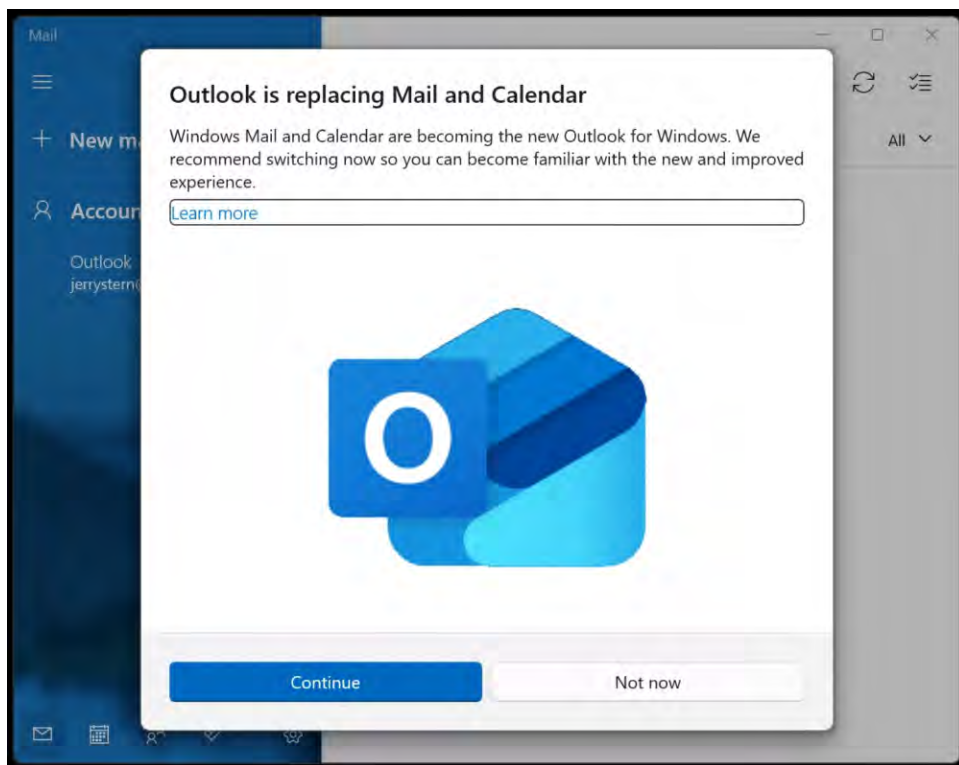
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## Outlook (New) is the new Mail



First things first: Microsoft is having one of its trademark juggling moments. Look out, it's messy. Despite the name of “Outlook (new)”, Microsoft's new mail app in Windows has nothing to do with Outlook as either the installed desktop product or the web version of Outlook; it's a successor to Windows Mail, or to the long-gone free Outlook Express.

Windows Mail, as in the mail app built into Windows, is going to become a new WEB app, not a desktop program and not a Windows app, called Outlook (New). Simplified greatly, that's a single-use web browser that runs a single web site, basically webmail. The benefit to Microsoft in that approach is that everyone using it has identical settings, with no pesky 'block ads' settings to get in the way of whatever they're doing.



So can you use Outlook (New)? Well, it supports Microsoft-hosted email, such as accounts at Microsoft's Outlook.com or Hotmail.com, or elsewhere at Gmail, Yahoo, iCloud, and anywhere else using accounts that connect by IMAP. It is not for POP-connected accounts.

Refresher: IMAP accounts store your mail on the mail server, so that with multiple devices (PC, tablet, phone, laptop), every device has the full set of mail messages available, including what was sent from some other device. POP-configured email accounts don't sync like that; your incoming email is stored on the device that retrieves it, and your outgoing mail is not saved on the mail server; once it's sent, there's only a local copy of it.

There are reasons to use either POP or IMAP. Mail servers are constantly under attack. A POP server with a lost password does not have more than a few days worth of messages to lose or to risk having spam/hack messages sent as replies to every email it holds. An IMAP account is bigger, riskier, slower, more work to fix when it breaks, and more reliant on the web host, but it is considerably more powerful because of the sync options and online features.

So should you use Outlook (New)? If you're currently using Outlook (desktop, as in installed), or Outlook (web page, as in Microsoft 365 Basic), NO. Just be aware of which program icon is which.

I tried Outlook (New) briefly. First thing it did was correctly import a Microsoft account that was used to sign into Windows. That's not an account where I receive mail; it did it anyway. Then it showed me an ad in the new mail section. Not a spam email, but an ad disguised as an email in the new email section. TANSTAAFL applies. (Famous quote: There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch.) Or a more modern version: If you aren't the customer, you are the product.

## Security Implications of Outlook (New)

This is a web app. Your email and your password are stored on Microsoft servers to make this work. The design of such things adds an extra hackable layer to your mail. If your email is already hosted by Microsoft (mostly Outlook.com or Hotmail.com accounts), it may be a reasonable choice. If it's hosted anywhere else, probably not.

### More on the transition:

[https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/windows-mail-calendar-and-people-are-becoming-outlook-773ecb94-5b16-4155-96e1-bc9afdc08e31?OCID=WinMail\\_2024Outlook\\_BizbarLearnMore](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/windows-mail-calendar-and-people-are-becoming-outlook-773ecb94-5b16-4155-96e1-bc9afdc08e31?OCID=WinMail_2024Outlook_BizbarLearnMore)



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