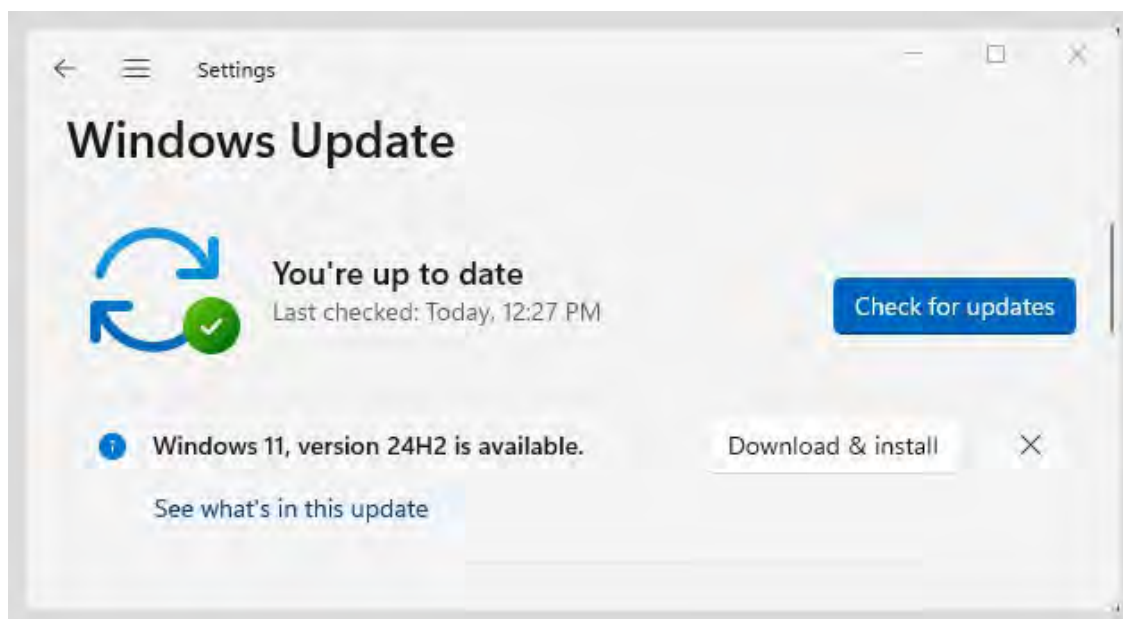




Don't be a Windows Lab Rat

As of this month, I'm now seeing the 24H2 (2024 second half) feature update for Windows 11 showing up as available on some very new computers, and in one case, automatically installing on a brand new laptop during the initial setup. And I'm running it on two computers without issues. But for non-techs, and especially for certain offices, wait. It's still a work in progress, and accepting that upgrade still makes your computer into a lab rat for Microsoft, Western Digital/Sandisk, and Fujitsu/Ricoh.



Drives: There are serious issues for Western Digital and Sandisk, which are the same company. The 24H2 update causes blue-screen errors that prevent starting Windows for users of certain models of 2 Tb drives from WD or Sandisk. There is a fix, done as a routine firmware update; contact me to install that if you have a 2Tb boot disk from either brand.

Scanners: 24H2 has problems with identifying scanners, in particular Ricoh/ Fujitsu models, and possibly some Brother models, and the result is an error that identifies your scanner as "WIA No Friendly Name." Microsoft and Ricoh know about the issue, and Microsoft is working on a fix.

I'm updating my advice on 24H2: Continue to wait on this one—it is just beginning to show up as an optional update, as above, on already-configured systems. But it is OK on new machines that arrive with it already installed, in offices not using Fujitsu scanners. But don't install it when offered. If you want to block it, there is a program to turn off automatic feature updates altogether, and it will still allow the monthly (security) updates. Call for help with that, or look for InControl at GRC.com.

<https://www.grc.com/incontrol.htm>

If you would like to see the bug list for 24H2, Microsoft has it here:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/release-health/status-windows-11-24h2>

(Article is being updated as items are fixed.)

Not Enough Time?



In the December 10th set of updates for Windows 11, we're scheduled to have the time and date in the system tray (bottom right of the screen) change to a smaller format, which will no longer display the year or AM/PM. It's an option. When that happens and you want the longer format, go to Settings/ Time & Language/ Date & Time, and in 'Show time and date in the System tray', look in the drop-down list and uncheck 'Show abbreviated time and date'.

FUD, but Now with Added AI

FUD, as always, is Fear, Uncertainty, and Doubt, and it is nearly always inserted into dangerous phish emails, and sometimes television advertising, as a way to encourage you to take action before something bad happens. The AI part is becoming more of an issue now. AI is eliminating the bad grammar and international date formats and minor errors in fraudulent email messages and bad text messages, and tailoring them to their intended victims more closely. So now, instead of sloppy messages coming to me that are (allegedly) from *my* bank in some other country, I'm receiving messages that perfectly mimic banks closer to me. They still don't know where I bank, but the time when a breach is used to provide that information and target a phishing spam individually is probably just months away. That's called spear phishing, which used to go mostly to large corporate targets, but it is becoming possible for every address now.

So what's still wrong with this email? Hint: I created the screen capture while the mouse was over the green button, so the destination of the link shows below.

Capital One <capitalone@work.net>

To

12/5/2024, 7:36 PM

Do you recognize this transaction?

Do you recognize this purchase?

About your Capital One credit card

Please let us know if you or an authorized user recognize the purchase below. The sooner we hear from you, the sooner we can help protect your account from unauthorized purchases.

Date	Merchant Name	Amount	Outcome
December 05, 2024	AMZN *AMAZON*Y79392E72	\$4626.01	Pending

Yes, I Recognize It

No, Something's Wrong

Some things to consider when reviewing your purchase:

- If you respond yes, declined transactions will stay declined. After responding, try your card again.

1 attachment: mail size unknown

Save

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://trimmer.to/xFzvO&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AOvVaw13h1OwbmZjKTDknQSZGwCx>

The FUD is there; a large unknown order is pending. And the message looks mostly sensible, even cautious. But the email sender (top arrow) does not match the bank. And the bottom arrows show an attachment that has no reason to be there, and a click destination with an international two-letter domain. A domain ending in .to is based in Tonga, and Capital One Bank is not.

Newer versions of Outlook hide email addresses. Click the email sender's name to see the actual address, or open the email, and then go to File, Properties, and read the FROM: message header to see what email address was used to send it.

Malware Definition: Computer Worm



A computer worm is malware that can copy itself to other computers, either on the same network, or to other computers on the internet. When they're active, they're a very big issue and make network news. CodeRed and SQL-Slammer were worms that shut down major government offices and corporations, around 20 years back. This category of malware is aggressively hunted by Microsoft, in the once-monthly 'Malicious Software Removal Tool' that arrives in the 'Other Updates' category of Windows Update. The monthly scan happens at bootup, and can add one-time delays to startup, which can be lengthy on slower systems, with black screens and no on-screen notifications.



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Mailing address:

Science Translations

PO Box 1735

Westminster, MD 21158-5735