

Science Translations

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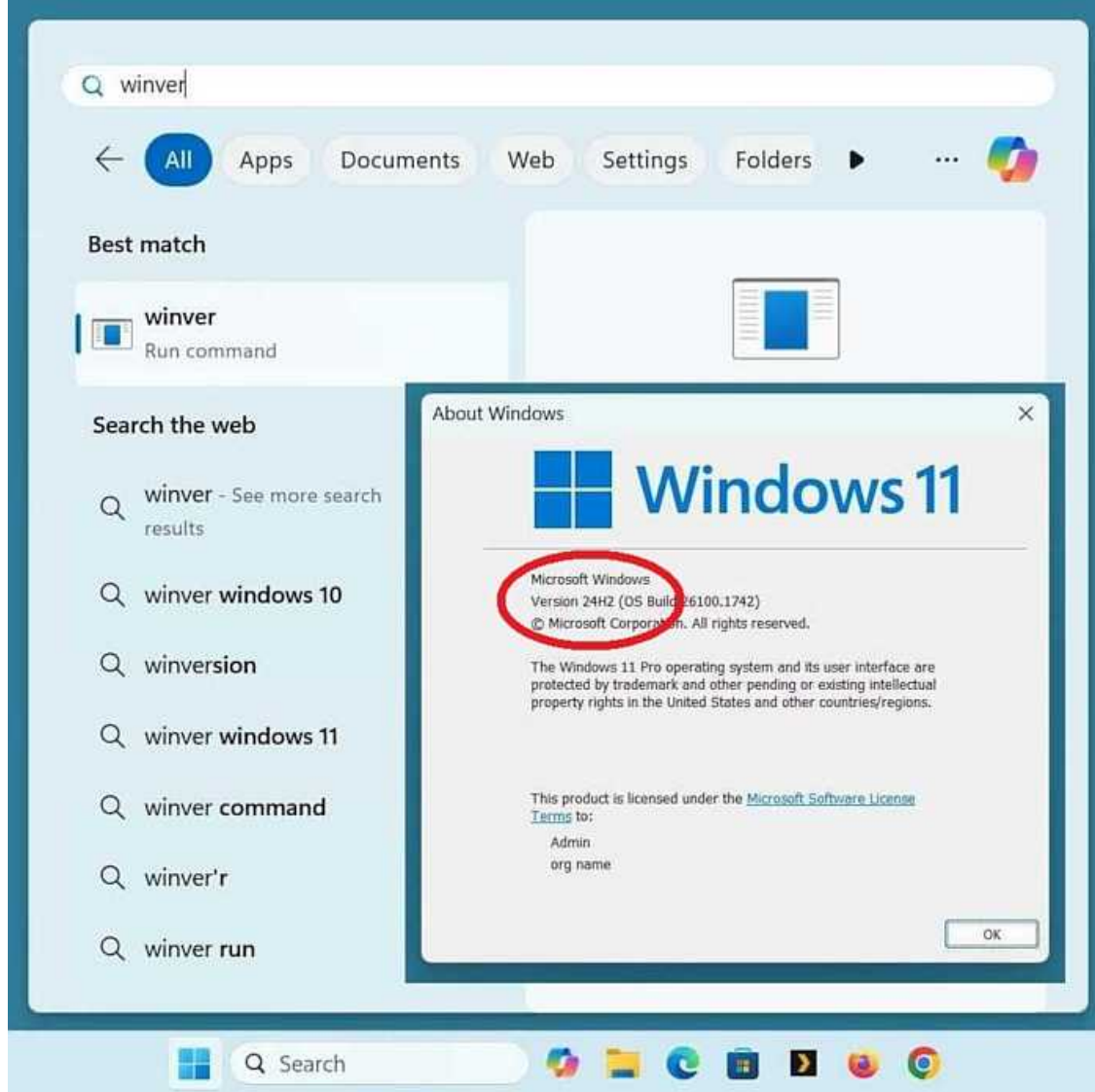


**PC Updater
News**



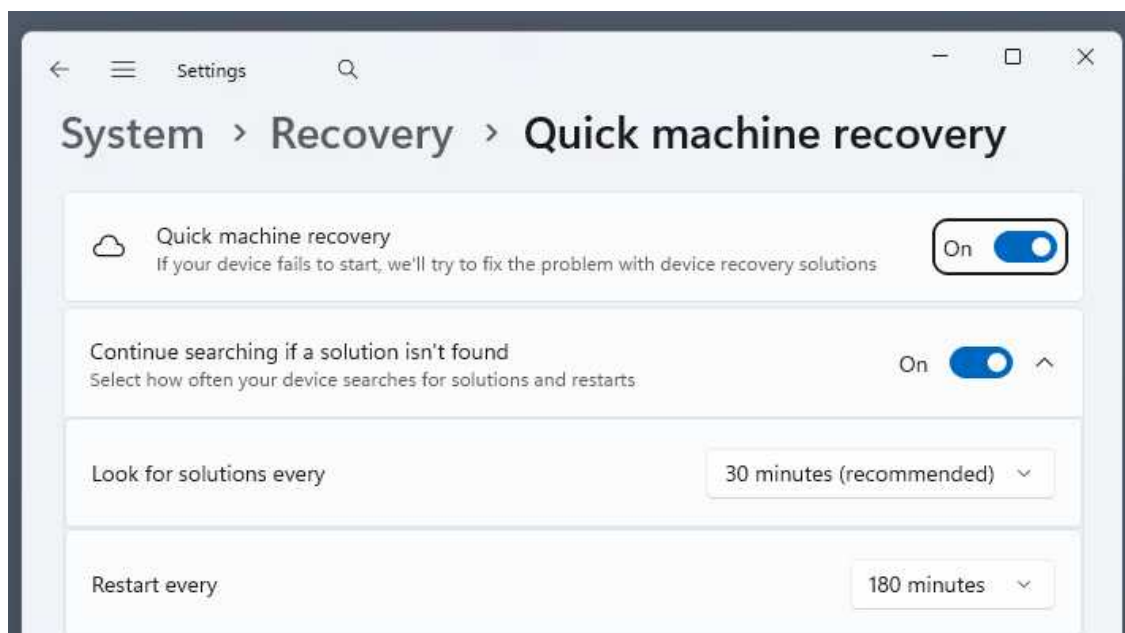
25H2 is OK to Install

Windows 11 25H2 (second half of 2025) is starting to offer to install. If it shows up in your Windows Update on workstations or notebooks, go ahead and install it; it's well-behaved, and the changes are minor, and mostly not noticeable. As always, to check if you have Windows 11 25H2 or something older, click on Start (the logo key), type 'winver' and click the program to run it.



Here are some of the new features to check out.

Quick Machine Recovery



This is a new feature in 25H2, on by default, no action required. The claim is that Windows will fix boot errors automatically. Theoretically, as most computer

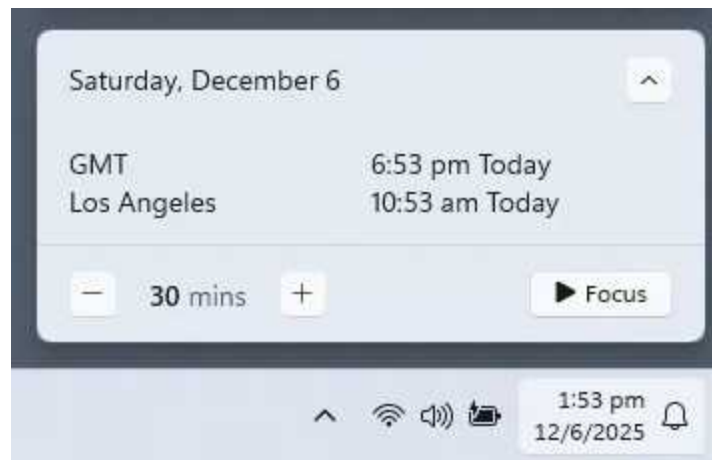
boot failures are caused by Microsoft errors in recognizing existing hardware as new, or loading updates in unexpected, untested, or interrupted sequences, it should be possible for Windows to fix these boot issues. My view as a computer tech seeing a source of income go away: If it works, great, I'd rather make a living doing upgrades than boot repairs. So yes, leave it turned on. It's early days, in any case, and we'll see if it works as claimed. Microsoft's record in such things is basically this: First version is weak, but it will generally work, eventually.

Support for WiFi 7

If you are upgrading a wireless router to the latest and greatest version, WiFi 7, the 25H2 update adds support for these devices. Without it, older Windows will still connect, at slightly slower speeds. Do we care? Maybe, as most homes and offices do not have internet fast enough to take advantage of WiFi 7 speeds. Faster WiFi is paired with less ability to transmit through walls, and most users don't need the speed as much as they need to move between rooms.

Miscellaneous

There is an updated battery icon, providing just slightly more information at a glance. (To the left of the time, below.)



You can change AM & PM in the clock settings to anything you want, and add additional time zones, which will only show up while floating the mouse over the clock, or clicking the time. Look in Settings, Time & Language, Date & Time, 'Change the date and time format.' In the sample, I changed "PM" to "pm" and added two additional time zones.

Copilot Everywhere

If you have a paid Copilot account from an Office 365 plan, there are

embedded options pretty much everywhere there is a file list, with new right-click options, varying with the type of file, to 'Summarize this' or 'Remove background' and other such tasks. More features are available on new systems with AI processors, such as second-generation Core Ultra processors.

Buyer Beware: Cheap Microsoft Office

There are offers all over the web to buy Microsoft Office for between \$12 and \$24. Don't do it; they're scam offers, which provide license keys stolen from large-office enterprise installation licenses. Sometimes they work temporarily, and sometimes not at all. They're listed as 'lifetime licenses,' but Office has no such thing; they have the usual one-time purchase security expirations.

Real Microsoft Office is available three ways:

- **Free:** If you have a Microsoft account (also free to create), there is a free web-only version of Microsoft Office online. It works, but will default to saving to OneDrive, so remember to save your documents, from the File, Export menus in each app. It's all at <https://office.com>. or more info at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/free-office-online-for-the-web>
- **One-time purchase:** Call me to buy Office for one device, either Office Home & Business (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Outlook), or Home & Student (without Outlook).
- **Microsoft 365:** These are the Office subscriptions. There are a bunch of these, starting at Office 365 Personal, good for one user, and a Family version for 5 users, and business editions that run from \$6 to over \$30/month, depending on features, additional storage, and bundled AI services.
- **LibreOffice:** LibreOffice is free, and it reads and writes all the Microsoft document formats, and the standardized OpenDocument Formats as well. It's at <https://www.libreoffice.org/>
- **Thunderbird:** If you also need an email program for free, because LibreOffice does not have one, the best email software is Thunderbird, from Mozilla/Firefox, at <https://www.thunderbird.net/en-US/>
Disadvantage: Thunderbird does not have the strong scheduling and to-do list features of Outlook.

What should you pick? Large companies buy the Office monthly subscriptions, mostly for Outlook scheduling features. For home use, Office Family is popular. On a budget? Get LibreOffice.



Should I Fix this Computer, or Replace It?

PC repairs depend on lots of issues. Whether a fix is a good investment comes down to what the computer was when it was new, what's wrong with it, and the cost of parts. Let's break that down...

Read the new article at [PC410.com](https://www.pc410.com):

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Mailing address:

Science Translations

PO Box 1735

Westminster, MD 21158-5735