

*PCS is a Special Interest (SIG) group of ...*



<https://www.yc.edu/v6/lifelong-learning/oli.html>



An International  
Association of Technology  
& Computer User Groups



# Windows 10 Support Ends

## *...What Should You Do?*

JB Burke & Phil Ball

Prescott Computer Society

**PCS4me.com**

# Prescott Computer Society

Prescott's most experienced computer club

*"Sharing and learning since 1988"*

Just go to ...

[pcs4me.com](https://www.pcs4me.com)

## A Word About the Prescott Computer Society

We are a PC-based user group located in Prescott, Arizona, mainly focused on:

- **Windows computers and software**
- **Android Smartphones and Tablets & Chromebooks**
- *with an emphasis on Secure and Safe computing and browsing*

Our Zoom meetings feature computer experts from across the **US** and **Canada**, speaking on a range of **Windows** and **Security** related topics.

**Our Motto: "Share what you know and learn what you don't."**

**Anyone with an interest in computers**

**is welcome to attend our meetings and join PCS.**

**Meeting Information and Registration is online at [PCS4me.com](https://www.pcs4me.com)**

# *As you probably know...*



## **Windows 10 dies in 2025: Why you shouldn't brush off the risks**

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/microsoft-has-a-big-windows-10-problem-and-its-running-out-of-time-to-solve-it/>

## **Windows 10 End of Life (EOL): Everything You Need to Know**

<https://www.aztechit.co.uk/blog/windows-10-end-of-life>

## **If your Windows 10 PC can't be upgraded, you have 5 options before time runs out**

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/if-your-windows-10-pc-cant-be-upgraded-you-have-5-options-before-time-runs-out/>

## **Windows 10 end of life set for this year — everything you need to know to get ready**

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/windows-10-end-of-life-set-for-this-year-everything-you-need-to-know-to-get-ready/ar-AA1yxDXT>

## **Microsoft reveals more on just how much it'll cost you to keep using Windows 10**

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/microsoft-reveals-more-on-just-how-much-itll-cost-you-to-keep-using-windows-10/ar-AA1yybX8>

## Perspective – **Windows 10 is 10 Years Old** What has happened to *Automobiles* in the **Past 10 Years**

- In the past 10 Years ... automobiles have seen significant advancements in safety features, enhancing both driver assistance and occupant protection. Key developments include:
- **Advanced Driver-Assistance Systems (ADAS):**
  - **Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB):** Detects potential collisions and applies brakes automatically to prevent or mitigate impacts.
  - **Lane-Keeping Assist:** Monitors vehicle position within lanes and provides steering inputs to prevent unintentional drifting.
  - **Blind Spot Warning and Intervention:** Alerts drivers to vehicles in adjacent lanes and can intervene to prevent lane-change collisions.
  - **Pedestrian Detection and Braking:** Identifies pedestrians in the vehicle's path and applies brakes to avoid accidents.

## Perspective – **Windows 10 is 10 Years Old** What has happened to Automobiles in the **Past 10 Years**

- **Enhanced Occupant Protection:**
  - **Rear Seatbelt Reminder Systems:** Starting from September 1, 2027, all new cars and light trucks in the U.S. will be required to have rear seatbelt alert alarms to encourage seatbelt use among rear-seat passengers. [the-sun.com](https://www.the-sun.com)
  - **Improved Airbag Systems:** Advancements in airbag technology have led to better protection for occupants in various crash scenarios.
- **Regulatory Updates:**
  - **Inclusion of ADAS in Safety Ratings:** Beginning with the 2026 model year, the U.S. government's automobile safety ratings will incorporate evaluations of driver-assistance technologies and pedestrian protection measures. [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com)
- **These developments reflect a concerted effort to leverage technology in reducing accidents and enhancing vehicle safety.**

**You'd be Safer in a New Car Than in a 10-year-old Car**

# First question to ask yourself ... Do I really **NEED** Windows?

*In other words,*

Do I use any software that only runs on the **Windows OS**:

E.g. **Quicken** for finances

**Adobe Photoshop** for photo editing

*Etc.*

**Or** do I do all my computing using:

A **Browser** (Chrome, Firefox, etc.) e.g. *Banking, Finance, etc.*

**Office functions** (Word, Excel, etc.)

**Email** (via Browser)

If the latter, you ***may not even need Windows!***

# *Do you REALLY Need Windows?*

## 4 Signs You Don't Actually Need Windows

- **Most of What You Do Happens in a Web Browser**

- A modern web browser is essentially a mini operating system itself, and you can even run applications in it or access them via the cloud.
- Cloud based apps like **Google Docs** and **free office suites** can do a lot

- **You're Not a PC Gamer (and Even Then)**

- If you don't play video games on your computer, then Linux (or any number of alternatives) will likely serve you just as well.
- On [Linux](#), there have been major leaps in getting Windows games to run using compatibility layers

<https://www.howtogeek.com/4-signs-you-dont-actually-need-windows/>

# 4 Signs You Don't Actually Need Windows

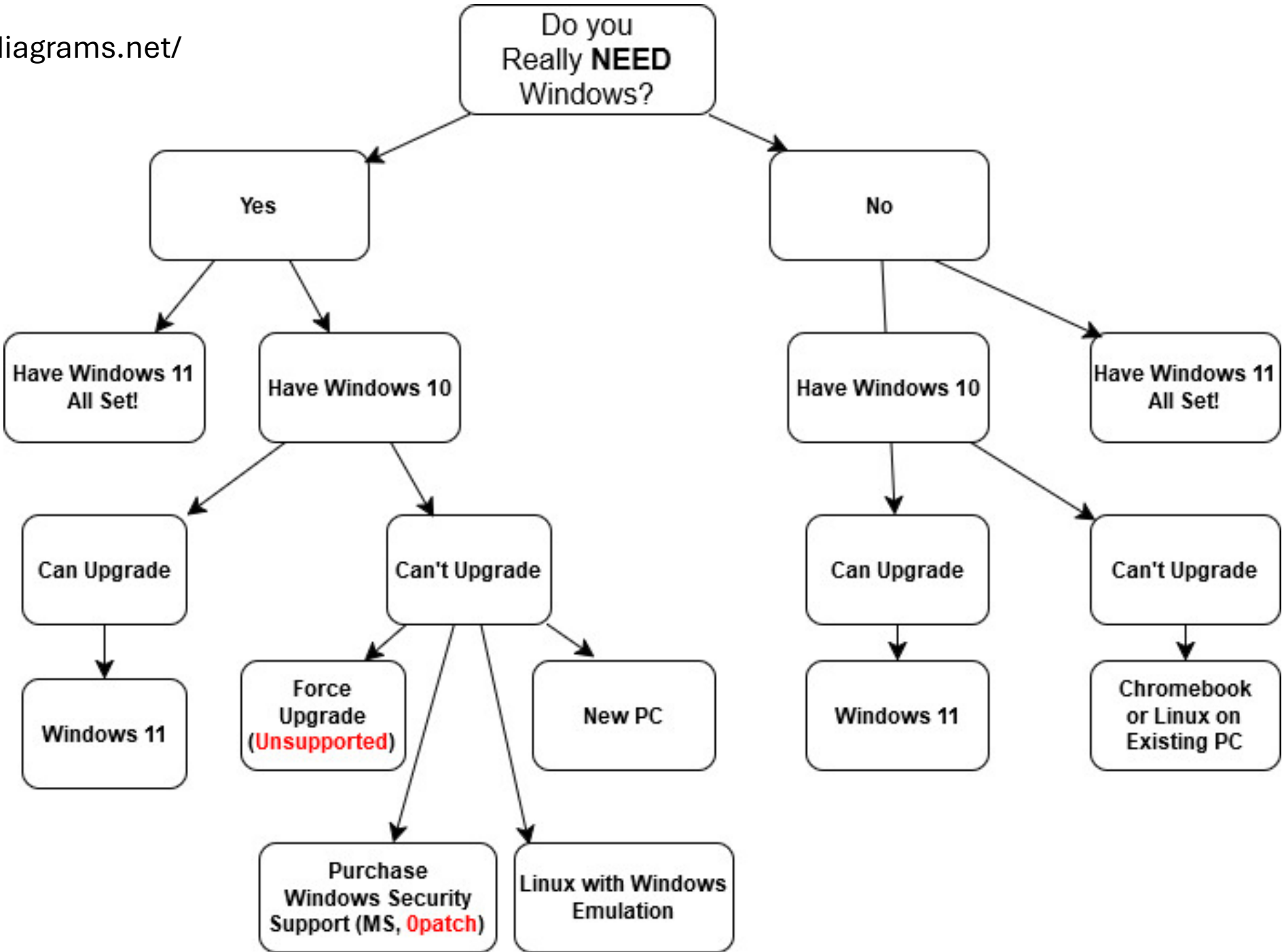
- **Your Apps Aren't Windows Exclusive**

- Are the apps that you use on Windows only available in a Windows version?
- Alternatively, are there other equivalent apps that would run on something other than Windows that could do the same job?
- It might feel like you must stick with Windows simply because you rely on software that needs Windows, but in many cases this might not be true.

- **You Don't Use MS Subscription Services**

- If you aren't using services like **OneDrive** or **PC Game Pass**
- If you aren't buying into those Microsoft value adds that Windows opens up to you, do you really need to stick with Windows at all?





**Let's take a look  
at the alternatives!**



If you *can* upgrade to Windows 11...

**First Choice:**

**Upgrade to Windows 11**

**If you can!**

# Upgrade to Windows 11 If you can!

- **Windows** continues to come under attack from all quarters
  - Russian hackers, the exploitation of zero-day vulnerabilities in Windows itself, Password hacking threats
- Keeping your operating system secure has never been more vital
- And ... security support for Windows 10 (**a 10-Year-Old Operating System**) ends on **October 14 of This Year**.
- A Jan. 21 posting to Microsoft's Windows release health support pages revealed that there is a way to get a legal upgrade to Windows 11 free of charge.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/daveywinder/2025/01/27/how-to-get-windows-11-for-free-before-windows-10-support-ends/>

## Current status as of January 21, 2025

[Windows 11, version 24H2](#) <sup>↗</sup>, also known as the Windows 11 2024 Update, is now broadly available.

Starting this week, we are expanding this latest Windows version's phased rollout. We are gradually offering this update also to eligible devices running Windows 10, version 22H2.

If you have an eligible Windows 10 or Windows 11 device, you can check if the update is available by selecting **Settings > Windows Update** and selecting [Check for updates](#) <sup>↗</sup>. If your device is ready for the update, you'll see the option to **Download and install** Windows 11, version 24H2.

Devices running Home and Pro editions of Windows 11, versions 23H2 and 22H2 that are not managed by IT departments will receive the [update automatically](#) <sup>↗</sup>. Users can [choose the time to restart](#) <sup>↗</sup> their device or [postpone the update](#) <sup>↗</sup>.


For Copilot+ PC devices, new features will continue rolling out in phases to select devices and markets in the Windows Insider community. Note that [availability may differ based on the various silicon platforms](#) <sup>↗</sup>.

We will regularly share more information on the Windows 11 2024 Update rollout on this page.

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

# How To Get Windows 11 For Free Before Windows 10 Support Ends

Current status as of January 21, 2025

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Microsoft

| Software Download

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windows11>

## Download Windows 11

(Current release: Windows 11 2024 Update l Version 24H2)

There are 3 options below for installing or creating Windows 11 media. Check out each one to determine the best option for you.

Before installing, check the [Windows release information status](#) for known issues that may affect your device. If you're running a prior version of Windows, see the [Upgrade to Windows 11:FAQ](#) for additional information.

# How To Get Windows 11 For Free Before Windows 10 Support Ends

- **The Security Dangers Facing Windows 10 Users Who Don't Take The Free Upgrade Option**
  - **Hack attacks, data loss, espionage** and **ransomware** are going to be high on the list for many people
  - **The most secure operating system yet, Windows 11**, had been losing market share to Windows 10, which is, by definition, a less secure operating system.
  - Recently, the rate of Windows 10 to 11 conversion has been accelerating.
  - **Windows 10** will soon become a **very insecure operating system indeed** as Microsoft has already announced end of support (no more security fixes for Windows 10 users).



# How To Get Windows 11 For Free Before Windows 10 Support Ends

- To check if your Windows 10 device is eligible for the free Windows 11 operating system upgrade then head for **Settings > Windows Update** and then select the **check for updates** option.
- If your device is ready for the update, you'll see the option to download and install **Windows 11, version 24H2**.

# Windows 11 features: Some reasons to upgrade

- **A refreshed look**
  - Windows 11 keeps the **Taskbar** and **Start Menu**, but there's more than a whiff of **Apple's macOS influence** here.
  - You'll get a **centered row of app icons** on the taskbar, **rounded window edges**, and other flourishes that make for a **cleaner, more appealing interface**.
  - There's also a new **widget feed**.
- **Improved performance**
  - Windows **updates will be approximately 40% smaller** than they are currently and take place in the background, so there's **less room for interruption**.
  - You can expect **general performance enhancements across the board**, too, including with **web browsers (not just Edge)**.

<https://www.stuff.tv/features/all-biggest-new-features-in-windows-11/>



Recycle Bin



Microsoft Edge

Type here to search

Pinned

All apps >



Mail



Calendar



Microsoft Store



Photos



Settings



Solitaire



Edge



PowerPoint



Clipchamp



Outlook



To Do



Google Chrome



Excel



Firefox



Photo editor



Word



Office



Messenger

Recommended

More >



Get Started  
Welcome to Windows



REvil ransomware gang may be ba...  
Sep 8



Article Status  
Aug 29



US PC shipments jump by 17 buoye...  
Aug 25



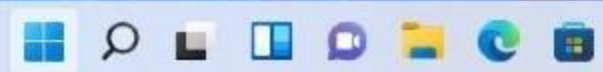
How to Unlock your Mac with Your...  
Aug 25



Windows 10 Guide Essential Keybo...  
Aug 25



Lance Whitney



11:11 AM



# Widgets in Windows 11

**Weather**

Valley Park, CA

72°F / 22°C Strong UV today 0%

See full forecast

**Microsoft Edge**

Search the web

Ikema Ohashi, Japan

**Watchlist**

WGRB Woodgrove Bank 435.75 -1.67%

You may be interested in

CTSP Contoso 23.98 +2.23%

**Calendar**

October 20 21 22 23

All day Angela's Birthday

12 PM Lunch  
1h Alex Johnson

1:30 PM Presentation  
1h Skype Meeting

6:00 PM Studio Time  
3h Conf Rm 32/35

**Photos**

On This Day  
Oct 20 · 33 items

See all

**To Do**

My Day

- Send invites for review  
Q4 planning
- Buy groceries  
Tasks

Add widgets

**TOP STORIES**

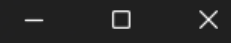
USA Today · 3 mins  
One of the smallest black holes — and

NBC News · 5 mins  
Are coffee naps the answer to your

# Windows 11 features: Some reasons to upgrade

- **Big ecosystem changes**

- The **Windows Store** in Windows 11 will open things up for all kinds of apps, even if they're not Universal Windows apps.
- Apps like Adobe's Creative Cloud will finally be available through the native Microsoft Store
- App makers can use their own in-app monetization systems and keep 100% of the revenue **(More New Useful Windows 11 apps!)**



Microsoft Store

Home

Gaming

Entertainment

AI Hub

Best selling apps >



PDF X: PDF Editor & PDF...

Free



HEVC Video Extensions

\$0.99



Crosshair X

\$7.99



Nitrado

Free



Sketchbook Pro

\$24.99



Movie Maker - Video Editor...

\$19.99

Essential apps >



LinkedIn

Free



Adobe Acrobat...

Free



Threads, an Instagram...

Free



BreeZip: RAR & ZIP...

Free



Adobe Photoshop

Paid



Dolby Access

Free

What's New

Downloads



# Moving from Windows 10 to Windows 11? What's different, and how to adapt

- Windows 11 isn't as different from Windows 10 as it might seem at first glance.
- And what you can't get used to, you can often restore.
- It is easier than switching to Mac or Linux
- In many cases, these are fairly small changes that you can quickly get used to.
- In many cases, it's even possible to restore or mimic old behavior, and new additions you don't need can often be turned off or hidden.

<https://www.pcworld.com/article/2649373/the-main-differences-between-windows-10-and-windows-11.html>

# Start11 V2 Brings More Start Menu Designs to Windows 11 & 10

- For \$9.99 **Start11** allows you to customize your Windows 11 Start menu in various ways, including switching it back to the Windows 10 and even Windows 7 menus.
  - \$14.99 to get it on up to 5 PCs
- There's a free trial, so you can test the app out before dropping the cash.
- <https://www.stardock.com/products/start11/>



<https://www.howtogeek.com/start11-v2-update/>



# How to change the Windows 11 Start menu back to Windows 10

- 1. Head to the [Start11 download page](#) (opens in new tab) and select **Try free for 30 days**. **Download and install the software, following any steps required** to sign up to the trial.
- 2. **Click the Start button** to open up the soon-to-be-deceased Windows 11 Start menu and **type "Start 11"** into the search bar. **Click the Start 11 icon** when it appears to open the software.
- 3. You can choose from multiple **Start Menu** choices
- 4. Chose whichever works best for you.
- 5. There are many configuration options.



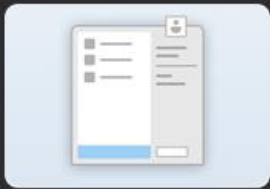
On



# Start Menu

Which style of Start Menu would you prefer?


- Start Menu
- Start Button
- Taskbar
- Taskbar pins
- Search
- Control
- Settings backup
- About
- Buy Start11




**Windows 7 style**  
The classic Windows 7 menu.




**Modern style**  
An updated Windows 7 style.



**Windows 10 style**  
Windows 10 style with improvements.



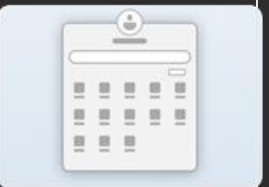
**Windows 11 style**  
Windows 11 style with improvements.



**Windows App style** ✓  
An updated Windows 11 style.




**Windows Pro style**  
An updated Windows 11 style.



**Windows Launcher style**  
An updated Windows 11 style.

**Substyle :** This menu style has no substyles. Change options for it using the link below.

 **Configure menu** >  
Adjust colour, transparency, icon size, and many other settings.

- Windows 7 Style
- Modern Style
- Windows 10 Style
- Windows 11 Style
- Windows App Style
- Windows Pro Style
- Windows Launcher Style

If you *can't* upgrade to Windows 11...

## Option #1

**Stick with Windows 10**

# Stick with Windows 10?

- **Ignore the end-of-support deadline completely**
  - Just continue running your unsupported operating system and **hope for the best.**
  - That **exposes you** to the very real possibility that you'll fall prey to a security exploit.
  - Some think their antivirus software is sufficient – **that might be a bad bet!**
  - If you're intent on doing this, think about buying add-on support
    - More later

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/if-your-windows-10-pc-cant-be-upgraded-you-have-5-options-before-time-runs-out/>

# The risks of staying with Windows 10 after End Of Life

- **Security risks:**
- Without security updates, Windows 10 will become increasingly vulnerable to new **malware, ransomware**, and zero-day exploits.
- Older operating systems are prime targets for cyberattacks since attackers know that security holes will never be patched.
  - **Even if you use third-party antivirus software, it won't be enough to protect you from system-level vulnerabilities that Microsoft would have fixed.**
- **Disconnect If You Keep It:** If you're not ready to part with your older PC, Microsoft advises **disconnecting it from the internet** before October 14th.

<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/the-risks-of-staying-with-windows-10-after-end-of-life>

# The risks of staying with Windows 10 after End Of Life

- **No support from Microsoft:**
- If you run into errors or system crashes, you will not be able to seek support from Microsoft.
  - You'll have to rely on online forums, outdated documentation, or third-party support services, which may not provide reliable fixes.
- **Software and Hardware compatibility issues:**
- As time passes, new software and hardware will be designed for Windows 11 and later versions, leaving Windows 10 users behind.
- You may find that essential applications stop working or that new hardware (such as printers, GPUs, or peripherals) lacks proper driver support for Windows 10.

If you *can't* upgrade to Windows 11...

## Option #2

**Buy a New PC with  
Window 11 Installed**

# Buy a New PC with Window 11 Installed

- **Buy a new PC**
  - Microsoft and its partners would like you to replace that unsupported hardware with [a new PC](#).
  - You might even be tempted by one of the [shiny new Copilot+ PCs](#), with their custom neural processing units, or maybe a [powerful gaming PC](#).
  - Some feel this is Microsoft's **real** goal.
- **Microsoft tells Windows 10 users to just trade in their PC for a newer one, because how hard can it be?**
  - Microsoft has a problem.
  - If [StatCounter](#) is to be believed, **58.7% of Windows users** have stuck to **Windows 10**, despite it losing support in just over half a year.



# Microsoft Says: Buy a New PC with Window 11 Installed

- We're not sure how much money Microsoft thinks people can squeeze out of a trade-in for a Windows 10 machine.
- You'd probably get *more* value out of a Windows 10 machine by keeping it around versus selling it online or at a store.
- Check out these articles we have on the topic:
  - [7 coolest things to do with your old PC instead of throwing it away](#)
  - [10 things to use your old desktop PC for](#)
  - [7 cool ways to reuse your old CPU and motherboard](#)
- There are many ways you can use old hardware instead of purchasing new stuff that can do the same job.

# Microsoft Says: Buy a New PC with Window 11 Installed

- **On your new PC you'll need to:**
  - **Reinstall your apps**
    - Setup settings, etc.
  - **Update or transfer your settings for:**
    - Browsers (Bookmarks, Settings)
    - Email clients (Outlook, Thunderbird) – Accounts, folders, address books, etc.
  - **Transfer your data**
    - Documents
    - Photos
- **Clean out your old PC**
  - **ERASE** (not Delete) any financial, medical or other confidential information.
- **You may need help**

# What to Do With Old Computers: 3 Responsible Options

- Our electronics and other household electrical gadgets are potential Molotov cocktails for the environment, filled with unsavory heavy metals and toxic chemicals.
- These hazardous components can leach into the soil, causing significant harm to both human health and wildlife.
- This article covers:
  - **How to Prepare Your Old Computer for Disposal**
  - **3 Best Ways to Dispose of Your Old Computer**
    - **Trade-in**      **Donate**      **Recycle**
  - **The Rundown on E-Waste**
  - **Recycling Old Computers**

# Trade War News of the Day

## (April 12, 2025)

- **Trump exempts phones, computers, chips from new tariffs**
- **Smartphones** and **computers** will be exempted from Trump's reciprocal tariffs.
- Trump earlier this month imposed 145% tariffs on products from China, a move that was poised to take a toll on tech companies like Apple, which makes most of its other products in China.
- The guidance also includes exclusions for other electronic devices and components, including **semiconductors, solar cells, flat panel TV displays, flash drives, memory cards** and **solid-state drives** used for storing data.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2025/04/12/trump-exempts-phones-computers-chips-tariffs-apple-dell.html>

# Buying a New PC - Resources

- **8 Things to Consider Before Buying a Desktop PC**
  - <https://www.lifewire.com/desktop-pc-buyers-guide-832343>
- **The Best PCs (Desktop Computers) for 2025**
  - [https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-desktop-computers?test\\_uuid=06VbILP0gGfqWI6STznyr7F&test\\_variant=B](https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-desktop-computers?test_uuid=06VbILP0gGfqWI6STznyr7F&test_variant=B)
- **How to Choose the Right Laptop: A Step-by-Step Guide**
  - <https://www.wired.com/story/how-to-buy-the-right-laptop-for-you/>
- **Best computers in 2025: our top picks tested and rated**
  - <https://www.tomsguide.com/best-picks/best-computers>
- **I never pay full price for PCs or Macs, thanks to these 7 money-saving tricks**
  - <https://www.zdnet.com/article/i-never-pay-full-price-for-pcs-or-macs-thanks-to-these-7-money-saving-tricks/>

If you *can't* upgrade to Windows 11...

## Option #3

**Ditch Windows  
completely**

# Ditch Windows completely

- You could keep your old hardware and replace Windows 10 with the flavor of **Linux** you prefer. (*Linux is Free*)
- **If you've got the technical know-how and experience to manage the transition, that option is worth considering.**
- Purchasing a **Chromebook** is an inexpensive alternative



# Ditch Windows completely → Linux ←



- If you've ever considered making the jump to a different operating system, now is the perfect time.
- But if you don't want to pay more for a Mac, it's important to remember that there are options outside of the Windows-macOS binary—and you don't even have to settle for the browser-based ChromeOS.
- With a little patience and some command line acumen, you can turn to the world of Linux.
- It's easier to make the jump than you may think.

<https://www.pcmag.com/how-to/how-to-make-the-switch-from-windows-to-linux>



# Ditch Windows completely

## → Linux ←

- There are many online resources – Videos, Articles, Tutorials - available to walk you through this process.
- **Choose Your Distribution**
  - All are **FREE**. Many look much like Windows
- **Create Your Installation Drive**
  - A memory stick for the downloaded Linux “**distro**”
  - Backup the Data on your Window System
- **Install Linux on Your PC**
  - Boot from the downloaded Linux stick

# Ditch Windows completely

## → Linux ←

- **How to Install and Update Apps**

- How you install and manage apps will be very different from what you're accustomed. In Linux,
- Each distro has its own **repository**—kind of like a **free app store**, with a directory of popular apps.
- **You can install apps** From a graphical software manager (which looks like an app store)
- Browse or search using the bar at the top.
- You will find **Linux versions of Windows software**, such as Steam and Spotify, or open-source alternatives to common apps, like **Banshee** in place of **iTunes** and **Gimp** instead of **Photoshop**.

# Ditch Windows completely →Linux←

- **Resources:**

- **How to Install Linux**

- <https://www.howtogeek.com/693588/how-to-install-linux/>

- **How to install Linux on an old laptop to give it new life and purpose**

- <https://www.zdnet.com/article/how-to-install-linux-on-an-old-laptop/>

- **5 Windows-Like Linux Distros You Should Try Out**

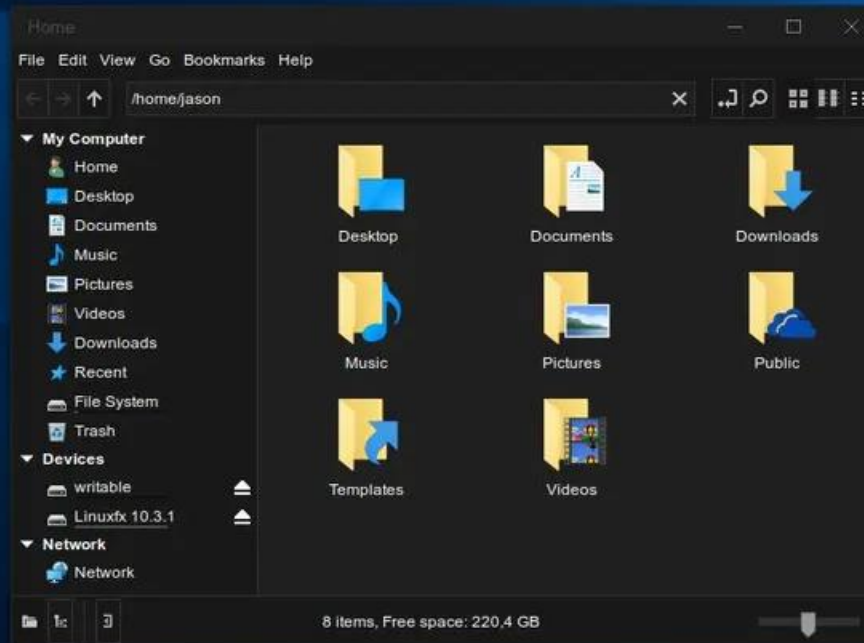
- <https://www.howtogeek.com/windows-like-linux-distros-you-should-try-out/>

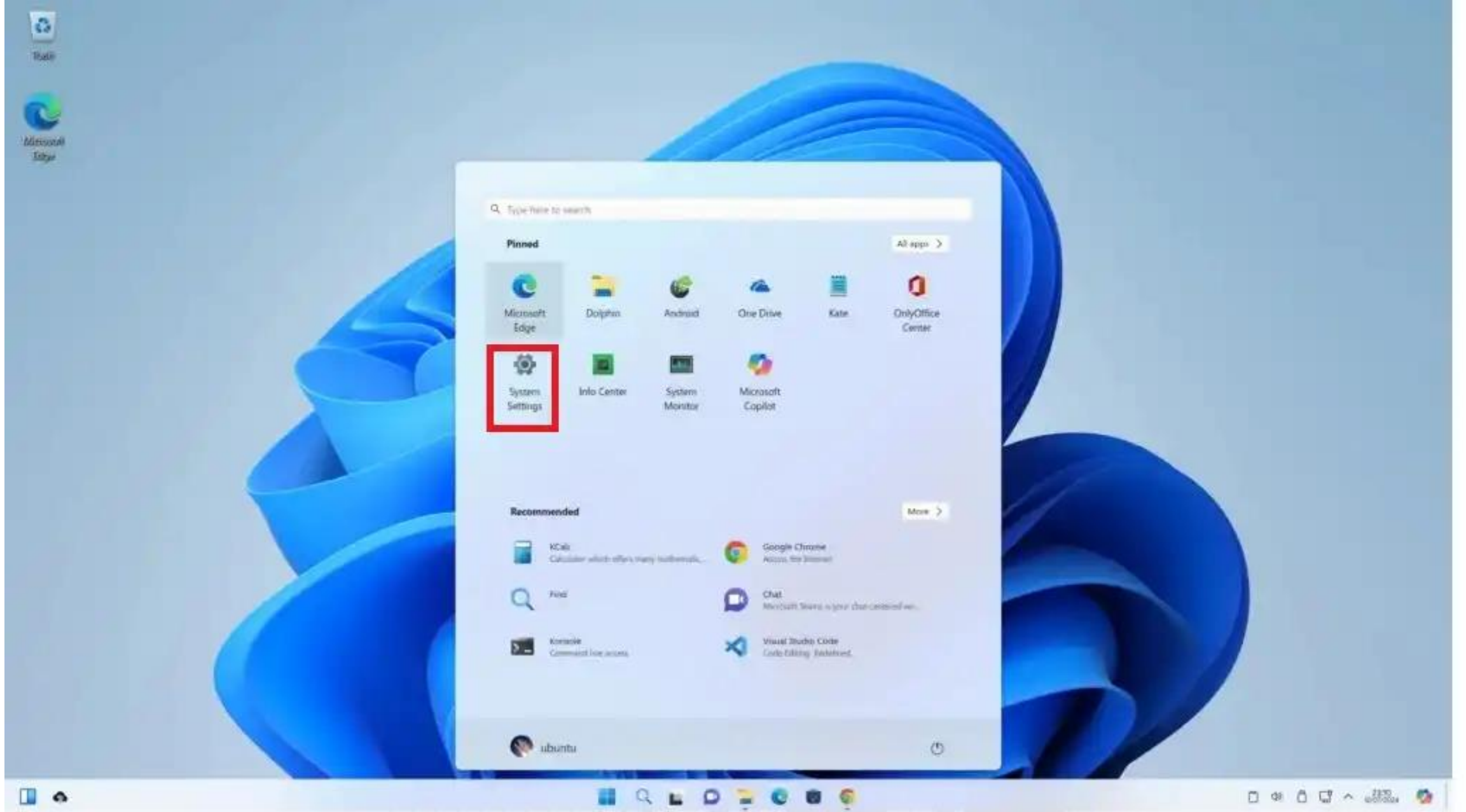
- **Switching to Linux: A Beginner's Guide**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8vmXvoVjZw&t=867s>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jasonevangelho/2020/07/10/ubuntu-based-linux-os-similar-to-windows-10/>

```
Jason@L4E-Thelio: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
jason@L4E-Thelio:~$ cat /etc/os-release  
OS: Windowsfx 10 x86_64  
Host: Thelio thelio-r1  
Kernel: 5.6.15-windowsfx-10-generic  
Uptime: 24 mins  
Packages: 2714 (dpkg), 5 (snap)  
Shell: bash 5.0.16  
Resolution: 1920x1080  
DE: Cinnamon  
WM: Mutter (Muffin)  
WM Theme: Linuxfx-10-dark (Linuxfx-10-da  
Theme: Linuxfx-10-dark [GTK2/3]  
Icons: Linuxfx-10-icons [GTK2/3]  
Terminal: gnome-terminal  
CPU: AMD Ryzen 5 3400G (8) @ 3.700GHz  
GPU: AMD ATI 0d:00.0 Picasso  
GPU: AMD ATI Radeon VII  
Memory: 1401MiB / 14004MiB
```





**3 free Linux distros that look and feel like Windows**

**Ditch Windows completely  
→ Chromebook ←**



chromebook

# 7 reasons why a Chromebook is the best laptop for most people



- Forget Windows laptops, MacBooks, and iPads. If you want a fast, reliable, and secure laptop for cheap, get a Chromebook.
  - *It'll be one of the best tech decisions you'll make.*
- Whenever people are looking for a new laptop, their minds almost immediately go to Windows laptops or MacBooks, but there is a third classification that should be considered: **Chromebooks**.
- Chromebooks have grown into user-friendly laptops that you can productively use for both personal and business workflows.
- **Since most of our work now happens within web browsers, Chromebooks offer a perfect marriage of simplicity and usability.**

# 7 reasons why a Chromebook is the best laptop for most people



- **1. Chromebooks are cheap**

- Finding an inexpensive piece of hardware can be a big plus for anyone looking to stay productive.
- You can purchase a very respectable Chromebook, such as the [ASUS Chromebook Flip C433 2 in 1](#) for \$204.99.
- Acer is selling its [Chromebook Plus 514](#) for \$353.00 on Amazon.

- **2. Chromebooks are user-proof**

- ChromeOS' ease of use is light years ahead of the competition.
- No matter your experience level, you can sit down with a Chromebook and **put it to use immediately**.
- OS upgrades are something even grandparents can handle.



# 7 reasons why a Chromebook is the best laptop for most people



- **3. Chromebooks are fast**

- It's not just about how quickly Android or Linux apps open but also how fast the machines boot.
- ChromeOS boots in a fraction of the time it takes any other operating system to boot.
- If you want a fast laptop at a reasonable price, get a Chromebook.

- **4. Chromebooks are reliable**

- That's partly because ChromeOS is "mostly" a web browser masquerading as an OS, but even with Linux and Android app support enabled, you'll seldom have a problem.

# 7 reasons why a Chromebook is the best laptop for most people



- **5. Chromebooks are flexible**

- Work done on a Chromebook is automatically saved onto Google's cloud servers.
- This leaves your on-device storage space free for whatever you want.
- For this reason, Chromebooks tend to have small SSDs -- Google figures everything will be saved on its servers.
- If you ever decide to upgrade your laptop, you won't have to transfer files to the new machine.
  - **But: accessing files on the cloud requires constant internet access.**
- **Chromebook Plus** laptops have solved this with the [File Sync](#) feature, which gives you offline access to your Google Drive accounts.
- You can do your work while away from a connection, and when you return home, the files are automatically uploaded to the cloud.

# 7 reasons why a Chromebook is the best laptop for most people



- **6. Chromebooks are secure**

- Thanks to the Linux kernel, ChromeOS is a very secure option.
- Chromebooks are also secured with verification at boot, a read-only OS that blocks executables, data encryption, sandboxing, and more.
- In Chromebook's 10-year history, [only 57 ChromeOS security exploits](#) have been documented.
- You won't need antivirus or anti-malware. Just make sure to apply all updates when they become available, avoid suspicious websites, and only install extensions from the official Google Chrome Store.

# 7 reasons why a Chromebook is the best laptop for most people



- **7. Chromebooks can be easily restored**

- Should you wind up having a problem with ChromeOS misbehaving (extremely unlikely), you can simply do a "powerwash" (a factory reset) and log back into your Google account.
- You'll find everything there, minus whatever problem you were experiencing (and anything you'd previously saved to the Downloads folder).
- No other operating system can compete with ChromeOS' ability to factory reset and return you to a pristine working state without losing your data, bookmarks, and apps.

- **Note:**

- *Not for serious video editing, audio recording or other CPU heavy apps.*

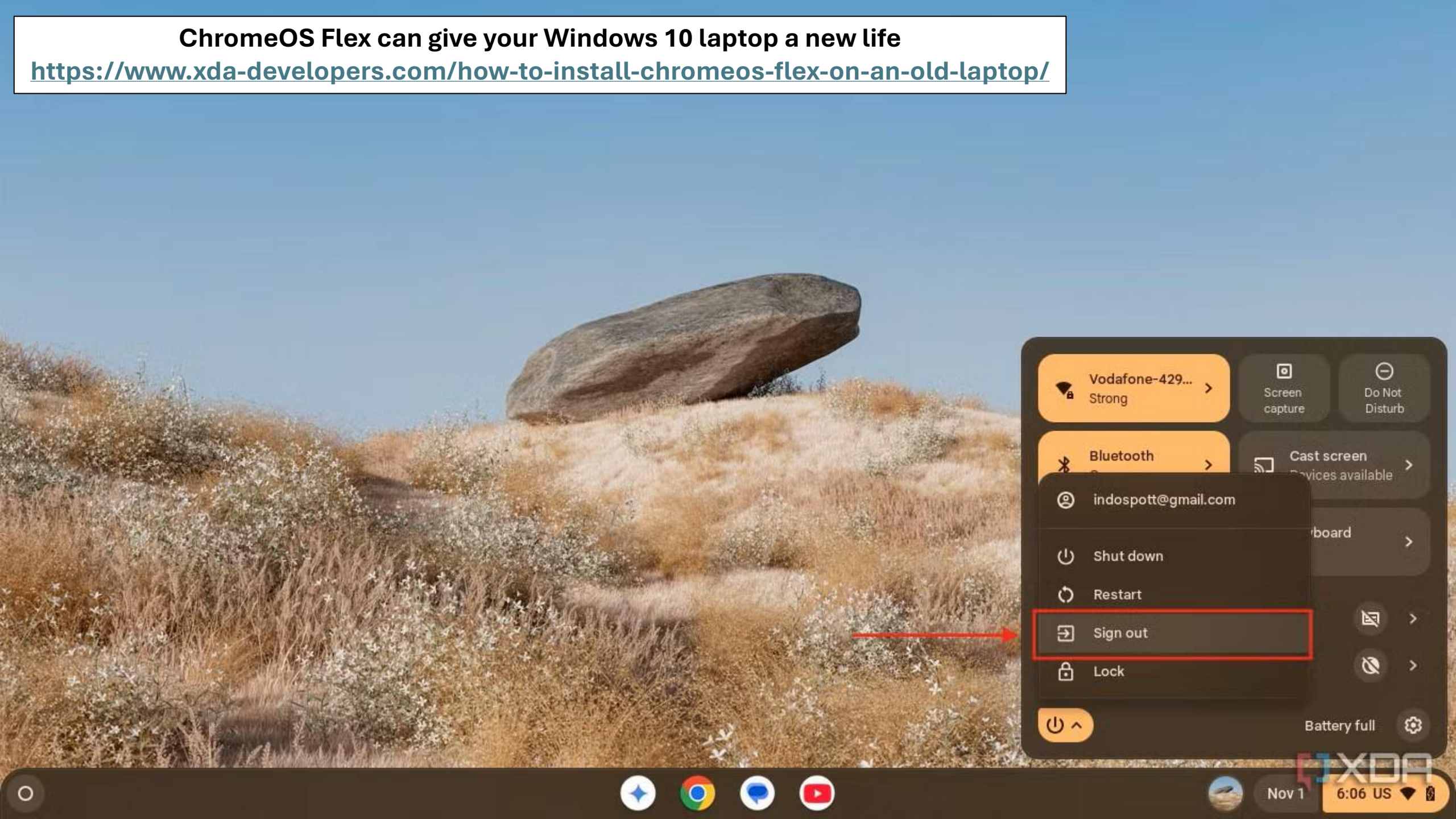
<https://www.zdnet.com/article/7-reasons-why-a-chromebook-is-the-best-laptop-for-most-people/>

# A Quick Search – Best Chromebooks for 2025

- **The Best Chromebooks for 2025**
  - <https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-chromebooks>
- **Best Chromebooks in 2025: our top picks**
  - <https://www.tomsguide.com/best-picks/best-chromebooks>
- **Best Chromebooks 2025: Best overall, best battery life, and more**
  - <https://www.pcworld.com/article/608636/best-chromebooks.html>
- **The Best Chromebooks, According To A PC Expert**
  - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbes-personal-shopper/article/best-chromebooks/>

# ChromeOS Flex can give your Windows 10 laptop a new life

<https://www.xda-developers.com/how-to-install-chromeos-flex-on-an-old-laptop/>



Vodafone-429...  
Strong

Bluetooth

indospott@gmail.com

Shut down

Restart

Sign out

Lock

Battery full

Screen capture

Do Not Disturb

Cast screen

Devices available

Keyboard

Settings

If you *can't* upgrade to Windows 11...

## Option #4

**Pay for security  
updates**

# Pay for security updates



Microsoft

- **Pay Microsoft for security updates (Temporary – 1 year)**
  - Microsoft will indeed continue developing security updates for Windows 10, but they won't be free.
  - Microsoft announced in December 2023 that it will offer Extended Security Options (ESUs) for Windows 10
  - Home users can opt in for ***a single year*** of updates at **\$30 per PC**
    - <https://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2024/10/home-users-can-only-buy-one-year-of-extra-windows-10-updates-for-30-per-pc/>



# Pay for security updates



Microsoft

- **Extended Security Updates (ESU) program for Windows 10**
  - <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/whats-new/extended-security-updates>
- The Windows 10 Extended Security Updates (ESU) program gives customers the option to receive security updates for PCs enrolled in the program.
- To be eligible to install updates from the ESU program, devices must be running Windows 10, version 22H2.

# Pay for security updates



Microsoft

## Limitations

- **ESUs doesn't include the following items:**
  - New features
  - Customer-requested non-security updates
  - Design change requests
  - General support won't be provided for Windows versions past the end of support date.
- **How much does ESU cost?**
  - For individuals or Windows 10 Home customers, Extended Security Updates for Windows 10 will be available for **purchase at \$30 for one year.**

# Pay for security updates



- **Purchase Support from 0patch (*Zero Patch*)**
  - **0patch Explained:** How It Works and What It Means for the End of Windows 10
    - <https://www.pcmag.com/explainers/0patch-explained-how-it-works-and-what-it-means-for-the-end-of-windows>
  - If you must stick with Windows 10, consider installing the **third-party 0patch agent** to deal with any security issues that aren't addressed by Microsoft.
  - The **free** 0patch personal plan includes patches for **known 0-day vulnerabilities**, but if you want all Windows 10 patches, you'll need to pay for a **0patch Pro plan** at a **per-PC rate** that equates to a few dollars a month.

<https://0patch.com/>

# Pay for security updates



- **Want to keep using Windows 10? This company offers unofficial security patches — but it will cost you**
  - They have previously been providing patches for Windows 7
  - There will be an annual fee – announced later
  - Now offering up to 5 years of Patches for Windows 10
  - These are only Security patches
  - Your Applications will continue to age, and possibly fail in the future
  - No new upgrades for Windows 10 – only Security
- <https://www.techradar.com/pro/security/want-to-keep-using-windows-10-this-company-offers-unofficial-security-patches-but-it-will-cost-you>

If you *can't* upgrade to Windows 11...

## **Option #5**

**Upgrade your  
'incompatible' hardware to  
Windows 11**

# Upgrade your 'incompatible' hardware to Windows 11

- There are “officially” supported ways to bypass those restrictions.
  - You just must jump through a few **technical hoops**.
    - <https://www.zdnet.com/article/how-to-upgrade-your-incompatible-windows-10-pc-to-windows-11-in-2025/>
  - For PCs that were originally designed for Windows 10, you need to make one small registry edit and then make sure that your PC is configured to use **Secure Boot with the Trusted Platform Module (TPM)** enabled.
    - Even an old TPM 1.2 chip will do.
  - For older PCs that were originally designed for Windows 7 or Windows 8.1, you might need to use a third-party tool called **Rufus** to bypass installation challenges.

**You may need help if you go this route!  
And you may lose Microsoft Support,!!!!**

# Upgrade your 'incompatible' hardware to Windows 11

- **Your 'unsupported' Windows 10 PC can still run Windows 11 in 2025 — here's how**
  - <https://www.tomsguide.com/computing/your-unsupported-pc-can-still-run-windows-11-in-2025-heres-how>
- **You can still upgrade old PCs to Windows 11, even if Microsoft says no: Readers prove it**
  - <https://www.zdnet.com/article/you-can-still-upgrade-old-pcs-to-windows-11-even-if-microsoft-says-no-readers-prove-it/>
- **How to Upgrade Your 'Unsupported' PC to Windows 11**
  - <https://lifehacker.com/tech/how-to-upgrade-your-unsupported-pc-to-windows-11>

# Installing Windows 11 on old PCs is incredibly risky. Here's why

- **You can run Windows 11 on just about any PC, but it doesn't mean you should.**
  - The operating system **won't behave the same across the board.**
  - An update could rollout and break functionality severely, and you'd be stuck.
  - Microsoft could also choose to not push certain updates to incompatible PCs—which may include [security patches and features](#).
  - Without fixes for zero-day vulnerabilities, hackers can exploit them in order to, say, take over your PC or add code that steals sensitive data (e.g., financial info).
  - Such outcomes can cost you real time and money.

<https://www.pcworld.com/article/2556052/installing-windows-11-on-old-pcs-is-incredibly-risky-heres-why.html>



# How to Use Windows 11 - Basics Tutorial for Beginners - Computer Guide for Dummies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KRwF94nQg5Q>

# Refreshers

- **Always keep Windows up-to-date and on the Latest Version**
  - As of April 2025, **22H2** is the **FINAL** version of Windows 10.
  - As of April 2025, **24H2** is the **latest** version of Windows 11
    - *Some issues with this – perhaps hold off for now?*
  - **Install Updates** as they become available
  - Via **Settings => Windows Update** or ...
    - <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/update-windows-3c5ae7fc-9fb6-9af1-1984-b5e0412c556a>