



Windows 10 End of Life Dilemma

Microsoft will officially end support for its most popular operating system later this year on October 14, 2025. If you currently use a Windows 10 PC, what this essentially means is that your computer will no longer be updated to patch security vulnerabilities or bugs that are discovered in Windows. Without these critical updates, your PC will be more susceptible to malware and viruses than it currently is, and that will keep steadily getting worse.

[Here is Microsoft's FAQ: Windows 10 Extended Security Updates \(ESU\)](#)

So, what should you do about it? Here's what you should do with your Windows 10 PC that fails Microsoft's Windows 11 compatibility tests (see more below) - before that day arrives.

IGNORE THE END-OF-LIFE SUPPORT DEADLINE

Ignore the end-of-support deadline completely. You could do nothing at all -- just continue running your unsupported operating system and hope for the best.

That's a bad idea that exposes you to the very real possibility that you'll fall prey to a security exploit. I've heard from some folks who believe that being extra careful and using third-party antivirus software will protect them from harm. I wouldn't bet my files on that strategy.

While antivirus software—like Microsoft Defender or third-party tools—can help, it's not enough on its own. Without regular security updates from Microsoft, the operating system remains exposed to new threats. Think of antivirus as a lock on a door, but without ongoing security updates, the doorframe itself may be weak.

And to add to the confusion: What happens to Microsoft 365 Apps? Adding to the opportunity to be exposed to more threats, if you're running Microsoft 365 Apps on a Windows 10 device after support ends, the applications will continue to function as before. However, Microsoft strongly recommends upgrading to Windows 11 to avoid performance and reliability issues over time.

In the interest of maintaining your security while you upgrade to Windows 11, Microsoft will continue providing security updates for Microsoft 365 on Windows 10 for a total of three years after Windows 10 end of support, ending on October 10, 2028. But beware the 2-year gap.

FSL SeniorNet – a Program of Family Service League

www.seniornetli.org • www.fsl-li.org • www.facebook.com/seniornetfsl • FSLseniornet@fsl-li.org • 631-470-6757



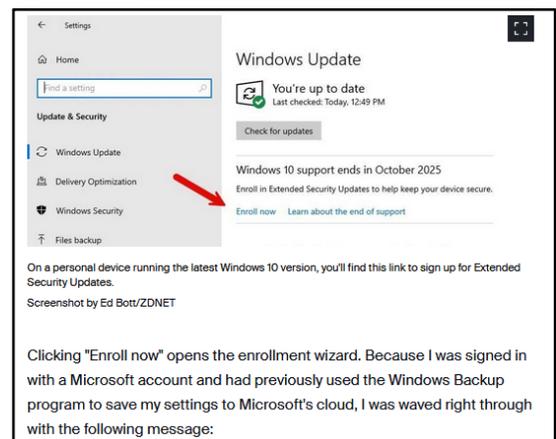
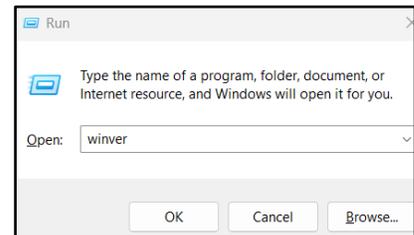
Windows 10 End of Life Dilemma

PAY MICROSOFT \$30 FOR ONE YEAR OF EXTENDED SECURITY OPTIONS (ESU)

[How to get Windows 10 extended security updates for free: 2 options](#)

- You must be logged into your Microsoft Administrator's Account
 - Settings > Accounts > Family & other users > Other users' section, you will see all user accounts, **excluding** the one you are currently signed into.
 - To make an account as Administrator > Settings > Accounts > Family & other users > Other users' section, select the flyout for the account you want to change. Next to **Account options**, select **Change account type**. From the dropdown, select the account type and then select **OK**.
 - Getting ESU for free by redeeming 1,000 Microsoft Rewards Points which are earned by creating a personal profile using your Microsoft Account in Edge.
 - When using the "free" option, you must use [Windows Backup](#). This means using OneDrive and note that you only have 5 GB of free storage. [Here's the rate list.](#)

- To purchase ESU for one year:
 - Your Windows 10 must be updated to 2H22.
 - You must use Microsoft's Cloud - OneDrive – only 5 GB are free.
 - To see what version you're on: on the desktop, just press Windows Key + R > then type *winver* and enter to see your Windows version.
 - Settings > Update & Security > Windows Update > If you're eligible, and if Microsoft has rolled it out, you get a fly-out and choose how you want to enroll. -or-
 - You may also get a notification advising you of eligibility for the ESU program.



- [Here's a more detailed article on the ESU.](#)

FSL SeniorNet – a Program of Family Service League

www.seniornetli.org • www.fsl-li.org • www.facebook.com/seniornetfsl • FSLseniornet@fsl-li.org • 631-470-6757



Windows 10 End of Life Dilemma

UPGRADE WINDOWS 10 TO WINDOWS 11 - [Microsoft's Windows 11 compatibility tests](#)

Check if your PC can run Windows 11 by using [Microsoft's PC Health Check Tool](#). Then “Download PC Health Check App” and run it to check if your system is upgradable to Win 11.

Minimum Computer Requirements:

TPM 2.0 – specialized security chip

Secure Boot – another layer of security

UEFI Firmware – modern form of BIOS

Intel 8th Gen or AMD Ryzen 200 or newer CPU

4 GB RAM and 64 GB of storage (minimum)

CONVERT YOUR PC TO A NEW OPERATING SYSTEM, e.g., Linux, Chromebook

BUY A NEW COMPUTER: PC with Windows 11, Chromebook, Apple (Mac & iPads)

[Microsoft has provided a website](#) to assist you with a new PC choice.

- Minimum requirements for Windows 11 installation: Intel 11th Gen or AMD Ryzen 200 or newer CPU; 8 GB RAM and 256 GB of storage for Hard Drives (minimum); Storage – NVME is the more modern and fast internal storage.
- Suggested requirements for buying a new Windows 11 PC: You really need more than the minimum for your PC to run smoothly: 16 GB RAM, 1 Terabyte of storage.
- These should be included in a PC running Windows 11: Trusted Platform Module (TPM 2.0) – specialized security chip; Secure Boot – another layer of security; Unified Extensible Firmware (UEFI Firmware) – modern form of BIOS

NOTE: The weblinks are clickable by using the Windows key  on the keyboard (bottom row, between the CTRL and ALT keys) and mouse click at the same time.



Windows 10 End of Life Dilemma

Questions & Answers from our Webinar:

Q: If I'm only using my Window 10 computer for documents, am I OK?

A: If you are not using the Internet or Email, you are safe. It's best to totally disable Wi-Fi access.

Q: Will SeniorNet assist with converting Windows 10 Laptops to Chrome Flex OS?

A: Reach out to us at seniornethelp@gmail.com or call 631-629-5426 for details.

Q: What are some outside tech resources?

A: Micro Center on 655 Merrick Ave, Westbury is recommended over Best Buy's Geek Squad considering the feedback we've received from our students. Also, if you purchase a Dell or HP computer, their assistance is decent.

Q: Does Chromebook expire?

A: Chromebooks have a lifespan of 6 years; Chrome Flex does not.

Q: Are Chromebook documents (Google Suite) convertible to Microsoft Office versions?

A: Chromebook's Docs, Sheets, and Slides are convertible to Microsoft's Word, Excel, and PowerPoint and visa-versa.

Q: If I just got a new hard drive last year – does that make my computer newer?

A: Not necessarily, as it depends on all the other components mentioned earlier in the slides.

Q: Can a Surface tablet be converted to Chrome.

A: Surface tablets are a special version of Windows and The Internet says yes using Chrome Flex.



Windows 10 End of Life Dilemma

Q: What to do with your expired Windows 10 computers?

A: We are receiving donations of Windows 10 laptops as part of our donations program, and we will convert them to Chrome for our families and seniors who are in need of computers. We will wipe your computer if you haven't. Here's more information on our [donation program](#). If we cannot use it, we recommend you bringing it to the Town's recycling facility.

Q: Does SeniorNet not provide at-home assistance?

A: We will try to assist you over the phone but cannot come in-person or dial into your computer remotely.

Q: Are there computers for visually impaired?

A: It's not the computer model, but the accessibility settings that can accommodate various issues, e.g., vision and hearing.

The **SeniorNet** Computer Help Desk supports students' classroom learning, provides guidance with Windows and computer operations, and advice on selecting the computer for your needs.

seniornethelp@gmail.com

1-631-629-5426

SeniorNet's TechConnect Library:

<https://www.seniornetli.org/help/techconnect/>

FSL SeniorNet – a Program of Family Service League

www.seniornetli.org • www.fsl-li.org • www.facebook.com/seniornetfsl • FSLseniornet@fsl-li.org • 631-470-6757