

Windows 11 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q What's the difference between Windows 10 and Windows 11?

A. Windows 11 has all the power and security of Windows 10 with a redesigned and refreshed look. It also comes with new tools, sounds, and apps. Every detail has been considered. All of it comes together to bring you a refreshing experience on your PC.

Q. When can I buy a PC that comes pre-installed with Windows 11?

A. PCs with Windows 11 pre-installed will be available from October 5th.

Q. I want to buy a Windows PC now, will I be able to install Windows 11 later?

A. All Dell PCs with Windows 10 currently being sold on [dell.com](https://www.dell.com) will be able to upgrade to Windows 11. For the PC to be able to upgrade to Windows 11, it must meet the [minimum hardware specifications](#) and specific hardware is required for some features. **Windows 11 Upgrade** will be delivered late 2021 into 2022. Timing varies by device. Commercial customers should check with their IT departments for rollout plans.

Windows 10 Pro (includes Windows 11 License) is available from October 5th: your system is preinstalled Windows 10 Pro and comes with a free Windows 11 Pro license included, allowing you to upgrade to Windows 11 Pro when ready.

Q. How do I know if a new Windows PC I'm considering meets the minimum requirements?

A. All Dell Windows PCs currently being sold on [dell.com](https://www.dell.com) meet the minimum requirements for Windows 11.

Q. When will I be able to upgrade to Windows 11 on my Windows 10 device?

A. If your existing Windows 10 PC is running Windows 10 20H1 or later and meets the [minimum hardware specifications](#) it will be able to upgrade to Windows 11. The upgrade rollout plan is still being finalized, but for most devices already in use today, we expect it to be ready sometime in early 2022. Not all Windows 10 PCs that are eligible to upgrade will be offered to upgrade at the same time. To see if your PC is eligible to upgrade, refer to our [knowledge base](#) for a list of tested systems. Once the upgrade rollout has started, you can check if it is ready for your device by going to Settings/Windows Updates. Similar to how end users are notified when updates are available in Windows 10, end users will see an indication in the notification areas of the taskbar in the bottom right, that the upgrade is available. More information on how that is presented will be available at a later date. Additional desktop notification options may be also be added at a later date.

Q. Will eligible Dell PCs continue to offer Windows 10 as an option alongside Windows 11?

A. Most Windows 10 devices will move over to Windows 2021 Home. For Windows 10 Pro, we will still offer Windows 10 as well as a downgrade option, meaning customers can buy the Windows 11 license, but have their product shipped with Windows 10.

Q. What are the minimum hardware requirements for Windows 11?

A. The minimum hardware requirements are available at <https://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-11-specifications>

Q. How do I know if my current Windows 10 PC meets the hardware requirements for Windows 11?

A. If you'd like to see if your current PC meets the minimum requirements, you can refer to our [knowledge base](#) for a list of tested systems.

Q. What if my PC doesn't meet the minimum hardware specifications? Can I stay on Windows 10?

A. Yes. Windows 10 continues to be a great version of Windows. Microsoft has committed to supporting Windows 10 through October 14, 2025.

Q. How will I know when the upgrade is available for my Windows 10 PC?

A. Upgrades to Windows 11 will begin to roll out late in 2021 and continue into 2022. During this time, we will be doing some behind the scenes testing and validating for your specific PC. Windows Update will provide an indication if and when your PC is eligible. You can check to see by going to Settings/Windows Update. Similar to how end users are notified when updates are available in Windows 10, end users will see an indication in the notification areas of the taskbar in the bottom right, that the upgrade is available. More information on how that is presented will be available at a later date. Additional desktop notification options may be also be added at a later date.

Q. How much does it cost to upgrade from Windows 10 to Windows 11?

A. It's free. But only Windows 10 PCs that are running Windows 10 20H1 or later and meet the minimum hardware specifications will be able to upgrade. You can check to see if you have the latest updates for Windows 10 in Settings/Windows Update.

Q. How long will the free upgrade offer last?

A. The free upgrade offer does not have a specific end date for eligible systems. However, Microsoft reserves the right to eventually end support for the free offer. This end date will be no sooner than one year from general availability.

Q. What is an upgrade vs. an update?

A. An update can consist of bug and security fixes and new features in a version of Windows. They tend to roll out throughout the year. An upgrade is when you change versions, for example moving from Windows 10 to Windows 11, or moving editions from Windows Home to Windows Pro.

Q. Can I keep using Windows 10?

A. Yes. You do not have to upgrade to Windows 11. Microsoft will continue to support Windows 10 until October 14, 2025.

Q. Does Windows 11 take up more space on my PC than Windows 10?

A. No. Windows 10 and Windows 11 require approximately the same amount of disk space. During the upgrade process, however, extra space is required. Windows will clean up this extra disk space about ten days after the upgrade is complete.

Q. Is Windows 11 a Windows 10 replacement?

A. Windows 11 is the newest version of Windows. However, Microsoft will continue to support Windows 10 until October of 2025.

Q. If I upgrade to Windows 11 what will happen to my files?

A. By default, all your files and data will transfer. However, we recommend backing up your files before installation. Learn more about [OneDrive PC folder Backup here](#)

Q. Can I go back to Windows 10 after I upgrade if I don't like Windows 11?

A. After you have installed the Windows 11 upgrade there is a 10-day period where you can move back to Windows 10 while keeping files and data that you brought along with you. After the 10 days you will need to back up your data and do a "clean install" to move back to Windows 10. New PCs preinstalled with Windows 11 cannot use rollback function.

Q. How long does it take to install Windows 11?

A. Downloading and installing Windows 11 will most likely take longer than a typical Windows 10 feature update. You can use your PC while you're downloading it and then you have the option to schedule the install to happen at a specific time when you aren't planning on using your PC.

Q. Can I upgrade my Windows 10 PC to Windows 11 if I'm running S mode?

A. If your PC meets the minimum hardware specifications, the Windows 10 Home edition in S mode can upgrade to the Windows 11 Home edition in S mode. If your Windows 10 PC is running the Pro edition in S mode, you will need to switch out of S mode to upgrade to Windows 11 Pro. Windows 11 Pro edition is not available in S mode.

Q. Can a really old PC run Windows 11?

A. You can refer to our [knowledge base](#) for a list of tested systems to determine if your device is eligible to upgrade to Windows 11. Many PCs that are less than four years old will be able to upgrade to Windows 11. They must be running 20H1 or later version of Windows 10 and meet the [minimum hardware requirements](#) to receive the Windows 11 upgrade.

Q. Are customers able to download the upgrade 'on demand'? Will there be ways that customers can find the upgrade prior to Intelligent rollout?

A. Microsoft plans to have options similar to those available today for updates to Windows 10: Upgrade Assistant (similar to Update Assistant) and the Media Creation Tool. We recommend, however, customers wait until they are notified through Windows Update that the upgrade is ready for their device. Note that there will be temporary blocks in some instances that will prevent the upgrade from completing installation.