

Is your computer getting on in years? Is it capable of running Windows 11?

A message from Willow Valley Computer Club

Free support for Windows 10 is ending on October 14, 2025

What does this mean?

Security updates for personal (non-business) Windows 10 users will end. Although Windows 10 can still be used after that date, this means that your Windows 10 personal computer (PC) could become vulnerable to viruses, phishing attempts and other malicious activity. Willow Valley Computer Club (WVCC) strongly recommends either:

- a) upgrading to Windows 11 if your computer is capable of that, or
- b) purchasing a new, refurbished or slightly used computer already running, or capable of running, Windows 11.

What should I do?

You can stay on Windows 10 for another year, by purchasing an Extended Security Update plan from Microsoft for \$30, available in October 2025. That will allow you to delay possibly considering purchasing a newer device.

PCs purchased since 2019 can typically be upgraded to Windows 11 at no cost. To see if your PC can be upgraded, download, install and run the [PC Health Check](#) app from Microsoft's website. You will get one of these notices:



This PC meets Windows 11 requirements

Great news — Windows 11 is coming soon! Check device specifications for apps and features that exceed minimum system requirements and Windows 10 features that aren't available in Windows 11.



This PC doesn't currently meet Windows 11 system requirements

Check to see if there are things you can do, and if not, you'll keep getting Windows 10 updates.



The processor isn't currently supported for Windows 11.
[More about supported CPUs](#)
Processor: Intel® Core™ i7-7500U CPU @ 2.70GHz



This PC supports Secure Boot.



TPM 2.0 enabled on this PC.
TPM: TPM 2.0



There is at least 4 GB of system memory (RAM).
[System memory: 16 GB](#)

Any one of these will disallow the upgrade.

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Congratulations! The steps to do the upgrade follow in Section A.

SECTION A

Willow Valley Computer Club anticipates that many residents may need assistance upgrading their computers and, depending on the number and timing of requests, we may not be able to assist in a timely manner. The process of upgrading to Windows 11 is straightforward and is described below. You also may find this YouTube [video](#) helpful. Another possibility is to ask a trusted relative or friend to assist you. If you do need our assistance, we will gladly help you as soon as possible.

Backup your PC. Make sure you have a current backup of your data! There are many ways to do this: internally, using Windows Backup, or by using third-party apps. Check the [WVCC presentation on backups](#) for guidance on this.

Once you are ready to install Windows 11, follow these steps.

1. Select **Start** and then select **Settings > Update & Security > Windows Update**.

2. In the **Windows Update** window, select the **Check for updates** button.

Note: If there are updates available for the current version of Windows, the Windows 11 upgrade might not be made available until those updates are installed. Install any updates for the current version of Windows, restart the computer, and try checking for the Windows 11 upgrade again.

3. If Windows 11 is ready to be installed on the device, a message is displayed in the **Windows Update** window showing that Windows 11 is ready.
4. To proceed with the upgrade to Windows 11, select the **Download and install** button. Note that this will take some time, so be patient.



Note: Downloading and installing Windows 11 usually takes longer than a typical Windows 10 feature update. You can use your PC while Windows 11 downloads. Additionally, the install can be scheduled to happen at a specific time when you aren't planning on using your PC.

5. After several restarts, the upgrade to Windows 11 will complete, and you will be presented with the normal startup image and login.
6. If the Windows 11 upgrade completes successfully, no further action is needed. Your PC will continue to function with all its programs and data that you previously used in Windows 10. **Congratulations!**

If, for some reason, the Windows 11 upgrade does not complete successfully, call the Get Help line at 717-464-6330, or email gethelp@wvcomputerclub.org for assistance.

SECTION B

If your PC is not eligible to be upgraded, here are some suggestions.

After October 14, 2025, you may opt to continue using Windows 10. However, over time, your PC might become increasingly susceptible to viruses, phishing, and other security threats. WVCC recommends purchasing the Extended Security Updates, or buying a new, refurbished or slightly used PC to ensure optimal security protection and performance.

It is unlikely that WVCC will have inventory on hand to supply more than a few of the requests for newer hardware. Volunteers at the WVCC and Computer Club Technology Center (CCTC) can help you decide on your options. Volunteers may also be able to assist in transferring information from your old computer to your new one, although we expect a higher volume of requests as we get closer to the October deadline.

Here are some guidelines to consider as you decide how to proceed.

1. Purchase from reputable sources, such as Best Buy, Amazon or Walmart. Purchasing direct from PC manufacturers is also possible, although that sometimes tends to be a more expensive choice.
2. Reliable PC brands include Acer, Asus, HP and LG. We do not recommend purchasing a PC from any company headquartered in China due to potential security vulnerabilities. For those considering a transition to an Apple Macintosh computer, the Apple Store and many online YouTube guides are available to ease that transition.
3. Note that many PC websites and Apple offer refurbished models at significant discounts. These include "open box" items and store demos. Ensure that they have the full manufacturer's warranty and are eligible for extended coverage like Apple Care+.

The type, size, capacity and cost of computers is a personal decision. The enclosed table includes some criteria to consider.

Note that your old computer and accessories can be donated for recycling at the CCTC, and personal data will be fully erased before recycling.

If your current computer cannot be upgraded to Windows 11, the time to take action is fast approaching.

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Willow Valley Computer Club

Suggestions for Resident Computer Replacement/Upgrade

DESKTOP COMPUTERS*

Windows 11 PCs	Typical Use	Features	Suggested Processor RAM / Storage / Cost
Budget PC for most people	Email, web browsing, word processing	Windows 11 Home	Intel i5 or i7, or AMD Ryzen 5 16GB / 512GB / ~\$450-\$600
All-in-one PC for most people**	Above, with a larger screen	Windows 11 Home	Intel i5 or i7, or AMD Ryzen 5 16GB / 512GB / ~\$900
Compact business workstation	Spreadsheets, photo editing, games, etc.	Windows 11 Pro	Intel i7, or AMD Ryzen 5 or 7 16GB / 1TB or higher / ~\$900
All-in-one business desktop**	Spreadsheets, photo and video editing, specialized software, etc.	Windows 11 Pro	Intel i7, or AMD Ryzen 7 16GB / 1TB or higher / ~\$1,100

Apple Macintosh			
All-in-one for most people**	Email, web browsing, word processing, spreadsheets, photo and video editing, any specialized software	Apple iMac 24-Inch (refurb), MacOS Tahoe	Apple Silicon M3 or M4 16GB / 512GB / ~\$1,400

* Most desktop computers will work with existing keyboards, mice and monitors. Some low-cost adapters may be required for USB devices, such as for external backup drives.

** Comes with keyboard, mouse and built-in monitor. Some low-cost adapters may be required for USB devices, such as for external backup drives.

LAPTOP COMPUTERS

Windows 11 PCs	Typical Use	Features	Suggested Processor RAM / Storage / Cost
Budget laptop for most people	Email, web browsing, word processing	13"-15" screen size; Windows 11 Home	Intel i5 or i7, or AMD Ryzen 5 16GB / 512GB / ~\$450-\$600
Larger screen size laptop	Above, with a larger screen	16"-17" screen with 10-key keyboard; Windows 11 Home	Intel i5 or i7 16GB / 512GB / ~\$900
Budget business/gaming laptop	Spreadsheets, photo editing, games, etc.	15"-17" screen with 10-key keyboard; Windows 11 Pro	Intel i5 or i7 16GB / 1TB or higher / ~\$900
Laptop for advanced needs	Spreadsheets, photo editing, etc.	17" screen with 10-key keyboard; Windows 11 Pro	Intel i5 or i7 16GB / 1TB or higher / ~\$1,100
2-in-1 laptop e.g., HP Envy x360; Microsoft Surface Pro	Keyboard & touch screen; usable as a tablet	Smaller screen; unusual keyboards; Windows 11 Home or Pro	Intel i5 or i7, Snapdragon X 16GB / 1TB or higher / ~\$1,100

Apple Macintosh			
Mac laptop for most people	Email, web browsing, word processing, spreadsheets, some specialized software	Apple MacBook Air 13-Inch (refurb), MacOS Tahoe	Apple Silicon M3 or M4 16GB / 512GB / ~\$950
Larger screen size	Email, web browsing, word processing, spreadsheets, photo and video editing, any specialized software	Apple MacBook Air 15-Inch (refurb), MacOS Tahoe	Apple Silicon M3 or M4 16GB / 512GB / ~\$1,200