

August 14 2025 - October 14, 2025

Kicking the Can down the Road

What is your Plan B

Preamble

- For the average Windows 10 user, switching to another operating system such as to **Linux or MacOS is not an option. With 60 days remaining**, you don't have the time.
- **TPM is not functionally required for Windows 11 to run.** It's a policy-level enforcement designed to push the Windows ecosystem toward stronger hardware security standards. (TPM.MSC)
- **Windows 11 was released October 21, 2021 - Only 50% Adoption**
- **Windows 11 a Moving Target** with Constant Changes resulting in non migration of Vertical applications

- Minimum Hardware Requirements - **Not Clearly Defined**
- Microsoft End of Support for Windows 10 is **October 14, 2025**
- Microsoft End of Support for **Windows 11 23H2 in November 2025**
- On **September 11, 2025**, a Microsoft-issued signing key—used by many Linux distributions via the shim bootloader—will expire. This key has allowed shim (and thus Linux kernels signed via shim) to be validated during a Secure Boot sequence. Without this, some installations or updated bootloaders may fail to load under Secure Boot.
- **Do a FULL Backup** of the existing Windows 10 Drive **BEFORE** Upgrading or new installation onto existing Windows 10 system. -Upgrade or new install Windows 10 to Windows 11 24H2
- **MediaCreate from Microsoft.COM**
 - Windows 10 22H2 ISO
 - Windows 11 24H2 ISO

The Microsoft Options

1. **Buy a new PC system with Windows 11-** and migrate all the apps from the existing PC to the new system which assumes all the apps are Windows 11 compliant
2. **Upgrade existing Windows 10 PC to Windows 11** in which apps are moved with the upgrade to run under Windows 11, which assumes all the apps are Windows 11 compliant
3. **Sign up for Extended Security Updates (ESU)** for 1 year at cost o \$30 per device

Windows 10 Extended Security Updates

For Commercial & Enterprise Users:

- Year 1 (2025-2026): \$61 per device
- Year 2 (2026-2027): \$122 per device
- Year 3 (2027-2028): \$244 per device

4. **Microsoft's free extended support**, which is available under specific conditions through OneDrive/Windows Backup, as part of their Extended Security Updates (ESU) program for Windows 10. The catch? You must enable Windows Backup, which syncs your settings/folders to OneDrive. Free OneDrive storage (**5 GB**) is typically enough for small backups, but larger setups may require you to purchase more storage. Existing Windows 10 **hardware** is Windows 11 24H2 **Compliant**

5. Existing Windows 10 **apps** are Windows 11 24H2 **Compliant**. **Have** critical mission **apps**. **Upgrade Windows 10 to Windows 11**
6. Existing Windows 10 **hardware** is Windows 11 24H2 **Compliant**. Existing Windows 10 **apps** are Windows 11 24H2 **Compliant**. **Have no critical mission apps**. **Consider new install of Windows 11 24H2**
7. Existing Windows 10 **hardware** is Windows 11 24H2 **Compliant** . Existing Windows 10 has **non compliant apps** **Sign up for Extended Security Updates (ESU) or Run existing Windows 10 system off line and Hardwired to Internet when needed**
8. Existing Windows 10 **hardware** is **non compliant** with Windows 11 24H2 **Sign up for Extended Security Updates (ESU) or Run existing Windows 10 system off line and Hardwired to Internet when needed**

Windows 11 24H2, Microsoft set specific system requirements

- **Processor:** Windows 11 requires an 8th generation Intel Core processor or AMD Ryzen 2000 series or newer.
- **RAM:** A minimum with 8GB or more preferred for an optimal experience.
- **Storage:** The operating system mandates at least 64GB of available storage.
- **UEFI firmware with Secure Boot capability**
- **TPM: The Trusted Platform Module (TPM) version 2.0 requirement**
- **Graphics card:** A compatible DirectX 12 graphics
- **Internet Connection:** For Windows 11's initial setup

NPU requirement is a Microsoft App Option

- **Copilot Chat (Included Tier)**
- **Microsoft 365 Copilot (Add-on Tier)- Cost: About \$30 per user/month**
- **Copilot Pro (Consumer-Focused) - Cost: Around \$20/month.**
- **Copilot Studio - This is Microsoft's builder platform for custom agents (Copilot extensions).**

Google TPUs are cutting-edge AI chips—purpose-built for deep learning. The current TPU v7 (Ironwood), released April 2025, optimized for massive-scale inference with exceptional efficiency and compute. Google TPUs are designed for server (data center) environments, not for client (consumer) PCs.

The AWS equivalent of Google's TPU is the AWS **Inferentia** and AWS Trainium chip families—custom silicon designed by Amazon for AI workloads.

Ideal Solution - dual processing with two separate systems

- Start with a working Windows 11 installed System,
- Run Windows 10 for non compliant apps on an Intranet setup or sign up or 1 year ESU \$30
- Run Windows 11 for all other compliant apps and use of Internet

Preparation for Windows Upgrade

- Identify Plan B procedures to be used
- Print Out Steps
- Backup and Recovery Tests
- Cost Effectiveness of Hardware Upgrade
- Acquire, Install, and Test Hardware Acquisitions

Decision Guide:

- If upgrade cost is $< 25\%$ → Consider upgrading.
- If upgrade cost is $25\text{-}40\%$ → Think carefully; may be worth upgrading only if system is recent.
- If upgrade cost $> 40\%$ → Buy a new system instead.

Equipment Upgrade

- 1. 16 GB Upgradeable to 32 GB**
- 2. NPU Not Needed**
- 3. HDD Replacement with SSD, if possible M.2**
- 4. Use Passmark to Compare CPU Speed - look for minimum 2x Speed over present system**
- 5. High Core Count vs Low Core Count of CPUs rated at the same speed**
 - High core count = better for multitasking & heavily threaded workloads**
 - Low core count = sometimes better for single-threaded tasks, games, or apps that don't use many cores**

Recommendations:

Least Risk: Subscribe to the one year only ESU (Extended Support Upgrade) \$30

1. Purchase a New Windows 11 System

- 16 GB RAM Upgradable to 32 GB RAM (Beware of Soldered On RAM)
- M.2 Solid State Storage

2. Identify Possible Replacement App for Test and Review

3. Using Passmark to Identify at least 2x Rating for Replacement CPU

4. Selecting CPU: High Core Count vs Low Core Count with Same Processing Rating

Modest Risk:

Continue to Use Windows 10 but with no support

Use Hardwire for Internet Connection or Back Haul on Mesh Network