

Windows 10 support ends on October 14, 2025

To be eligible to install updates from the ESU program, devices must be running **Windows 10, version 22H2**

Limitations

ESUs doesn't include the following items:

- New features
- Customer-requested nonsecurity updates
- Design change requests

Consumer ESU Availability for Home Users

Windows 10 Pro (and Home) users can access ESU for one year beyond the October 14, 2025 end-of-support date, provided their system runs **Windows 10 version 22H2** with all updates applied. The license costs \$30, or it can be obtained for free through alternative methods like redeeming 1,000 Microsoft Rewards points or syncing PC settings via a Microsoft account

Enrollment requires a Microsoft account — local accounts alone are no longer accepted, even if you pay for ESU

The ESU registration link should appear in Windows Update settings. If it's missing, ensure you've installed the KB5063709 update, which fixes earlier bugs and makes the enrollment wizard available to all users

ESU FAQ

1. Is there a minimum license purchase requirement for Windows 10 ESU?

The minimum license purchase requirement for Windows 10 ESU is one license

2. Can ESUs be purchased for a specific duration?

The Extended Security Update Program for Windows 10 must be purchased by year. Customers can't buy partial periods, for instance, only six months. Year One starts in November 2025. If you decide to purchase the program in Year Two, you have to pay for Year One too, as ESUs are cumulative.

3. Is technical support included in ESU?

No, technical support isn't included in the ESU program. Microsoft will provide support for customers that encounter challenges related to the ESU.

4. Will Windows 10 PCs stop working **without the ESU offering**?

Windows 10 PCs will continue to work, but we recommend customers upgrade eligible PCs to Windows 11 using Windows Autopatch, Microsoft Intune, or transition to a new Windows 11 PC for the best, most secure computing experience. Customers also have the option to migrate to the cloud and subscribe to Windows 365 to make Windows 11 available to users on any device with a Cloud PC. Beginning October 14, 2025, Microsoft will no longer provide the following for versions of Windows 10 that reach end of support on that date:

- Technical support
- Feature updates or new features
- Quality updates (including security and reliability fixes)

For home users, **a single \$30 ESU purchase** (or free alternative) covers **up to 10 Windows 10 devices**, as long as they are all logged in with the same Microsoft account and individually enrolled via Windows Update.

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How to Apply for One Year \$30 Support for Windows 10

What Is the \$30 Windows 10 ESU Option?

- Windows 10 Consumer ESU allows individuals and Windows 10 Home users to receive critical security updates for one additional year, through October 13, 2026, for a one-time payment of \$30 (USD).
 - This offer is only for consumers; organizations/businesses pay per-device and can extend up to three years.
1. After enrolling, your device is covered with security updates through October 13, 2026.
 2. One ESU license tied to your Microsoft account can cover up to 10 devices.

Post Script

Converting Windows 10 to Windows 11

After You Have Completed Conversion of Windows 10 to Windows 11, there is Windows 11 25H2 Update.

Windows 11 25H2 update is now live in Release Preview. It brings faster installs, removes legacy tools like PowerShell 2.0, and adds better IT admin controls. While design changes are limited, it sets the stage for future AI upgrades.

Windows 11 25H2 Update is available now in Release Preview, public release planned for late 2025.

What if Your PC Does Not Have an NPU?

If you don't have an NPU, your AI tasks will fall back to the GPU first, then the CPU. That's why NPUs are being added – they're more power-efficient than GPUs for continuous, lightweight AI tasks (like live video filters, speech recognition, or background AI assistants).

Windows 11 Devices Are Currently More Unstable

However, these additional costs resulting from extended Windows 10 support are offset by the advantages that come from continued use of Windows 10 for the time being. Nexthink's analysis shows that Windows 11 devices are currently more unstable, with more frequent system crashes (1.2 percent compared to 0.6 percent for Windows 10) and hard resets (9.9 percent compared to 8.5 percent for Windows 10). Stability and reliability are particularly important for corporate use.

Companies and Public Organizations

For companies and public organizations that are required to pay for extended Windows 10 support. Private users have two free options for Windows 10 extended support in addition to the paid ESU program:

- Option 1: Activate Windows backup, which syncs PC settings on the cloud. OneDrive serves as the storage location and you need a Microsoft account for this. OneDrive offers 5GB of space for free.
- Option 2: Redeem 1,000 Microsoft Rewards points. Users receive these points for using Microsoft services, such as Bing Search. A Microsoft account is also required for this.

Windows Backup for Organizations Doesn't Actually Save Data Files

This is not a comprehensive backup solution for a device. It won't image a disk, send copies of files to another location, or enable a standalone PC to be rebuilt in the event of a disaster. Instead, it is a tool to back up Windows 10 or 11 settings and restore them on a Microsoft Entra-joined device.