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

If you're looking to extend security updates for Windows 10 beyond its October 14, 2025 end-of-support date, here's what you need to know—especially regarding the $30, one-year Consumer Extended Security Updates (ESU) option:

**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)**. [Microsoft Support](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-10-consumer-extended-security-updates-esu-program-33e17de9-36b3-43bb-874d-6c53d2e4bf42?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[The Verge](https://www.theverge.com/2025/1/15/24344209/microsoft-365-office-apps-windows-10-end-of-support?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_10?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* This offer is only for consumers; organizations/businesses pay per-device and can extend up to three years. [Microsoft Learn](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/whats-new/extended-security-updates?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[TechRadar](https://www.techradar.com/pro/microsoft-reveals-more-on-just-how-much-itll-cost-you-to-keep-using-windows-10?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_10?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**How to Enroll—Step by Step**

1. **Prerequisite**: Make sure your PC is running **Windows 10 version 22H2**. [Microsoft Learn](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/whats-new/extended-security-updates?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
2. Go to **Settings → Update & Security → Windows Update**. If eligible, you’ll see an **“Enroll now”** link. [Microsoft Support](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-10-consumer-extended-security-updates-esu-program-33e17de9-36b3-43bb-874d-6c53d2e4bf42?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Windows Central](https://www.windowscentral.com/microsoft/windows-10/microsoft-just-made-windows-10s-usd30-extended-support-program-an-even-better-deal-but-you-now-need-a-microsoft-account-to-pay-for-it?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
3. Click **“Enroll now”**:
   * If using a **local account**, you'll be prompted to sign in with or create a **Microsoft account**. [Microsoft Support](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-10-consumer-extended-security-updates-esu-program-33e17de9-36b3-43bb-874d-6c53d2e4bf42?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Windows Central](https://www.windowscentral.com/microsoft/windows-10/microsoft-just-made-windows-10s-usd30-extended-support-program-an-even-better-deal-but-you-now-need-a-microsoft-account-to-pay-for-it?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[TechRadar](https://www.techradar.com/computing/windows/microsoft-reveals-a-surprising-catch-to-extended-support-for-windows-10-thats-going-to-seriously-annoy-some-people?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
   * You can choose one of three enrollment methods:
     + **Sync your PC settings** via OneDrive (no cost).
     + **Redeem 1,000 Microsoft Rewards points** (if available).
     + **Pay $30 USD** (or equivalent in your local currency).  
       (Regardless of which option you pick, a **Microsoft account is required**.) [Microsoft Support](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-10-consumer-extended-security-updates-esu-program-33e17de9-36b3-43bb-874d-6c53d2e4bf42?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[TechRadar](https://www.techradar.com/computing/windows/microsoft-reveals-a-surprising-catch-to-extended-support-for-windows-10-thats-going-to-seriously-annoy-some-people?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
4. After enrolling, your device is covered with security updates through **October 13, 2026**. [Microsoft Support](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-10-consumer-extended-security-updates-esu-program-33e17de9-36b3-43bb-874d-6c53d2e4bf42?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[The Verge](https://www.theverge.com/2025/1/15/24344209/microsoft-365-office-apps-windows-10-end-of-support?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_10?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
5. One ESU license tied to your Microsoft account can cover **up to 10 devices**. [Windows Central](https://www.windowscentral.com/microsoft/windows-10/microsoft-just-made-windows-10s-usd30-extended-support-program-an-even-better-deal-but-you-now-need-a-microsoft-account-to-pay-for-it?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[TechRadar](https://www.techradar.com/computing/windows/microsoft-reveals-a-surprising-catch-to-extended-support-for-windows-10-thats-going-to-seriously-annoy-some-people?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**Comparison Table**

| **Enrollment Option** | **Cost** | **Microsoft Account Required?** | **Coverage Duration** | **Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sync PC settings (OneDrive) | Free | Yes | Through October 13, 2026 | Must use Microsoft account |
| Microsoft Rewards points | 1,000 points | Yes | Through October 13, 2026 | Rewards orders are final |
| One-time purchase | $30 USD | Yes | Through October 13, 2026 | Covers up to 10 devices via MS account |

**Important Notes & Considerations**

* **Microsoft account is essential**: Even if you pay the $30, a Microsoft account is required to enroll—contrary to earlier assumptions. [TechRadar](https://www.techradar.com/computing/windows/microsoft-reveals-a-surprising-catch-to-extended-support-for-windows-10-thats-going-to-seriously-annoy-some-people?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Windows Central](https://www.windowscentral.com/microsoft/windows-10/microsoft-just-made-windows-10s-usd30-extended-support-program-an-even-better-deal-but-you-now-need-a-microsoft-account-to-pay-for-it?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* **Only security updates**: ESU provides *critical and important security updates only*. It does **not** include technical, feature, non-security, or general support. [Microsoft Learn](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/whats-new/extended-security-updates?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[The Verge](https://www.theverge.com/2025/1/15/24344209/microsoft-365-office-apps-windows-10-end-of-support?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Windows Central](https://www.windowscentral.com/microsoft/windows-10/microsoft-will-stop-releasing-new-office-features-on-windows-10-youll-need-to-upgrade-to-windows-11-for-the-latest-features-soon?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* **Beyond security**: Starting **August 2026**, Microsoft will **stop releasing new Office features** for Windows 10 users—even those with Microsoft 365. Only security updates will continue until 2028, but no new features will be delivered. [Windows Central](https://www.windowscentral.com/microsoft/windows-10/microsoft-will-stop-releasing-new-office-features-on-windows-10-youll-need-to-upgrade-to-windows-11-for-the-latest-features-soon?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* **Long-term alternatives**:
  + Windows 10 LTSC (Long-Term Servicing Channel), such as IoT Enterprise LTSC 2021, will receive support until **2032**. However, it's intended for specialized systems and requires volume licensing. [Laptop Mag](https://www.laptopmag.com/laptops/windows-laptops/windows-10-ltsc-extended-support-2032?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
  + Eventually, migrating to **Windows 11** is the most forward-looking choice for ongoing updates, new features, and broader app compatibility. [The Verge](https://www.theverge.com/2025/1/15/24344209/microsoft-365-office-apps-windows-10-end-of-support?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Lifewire](https://www.lifewire.com/risks-windows-10-after-service-ends-11776847?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Windows Central](https://www.windowscentral.com/microsoft/windows-10/microsoft-will-stop-releasing-new-office-features-on-windows-10-youll-need-to-upgrade-to-windows-11-for-the-latest-features-soon?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**TL;DR – Here's What to Do**

1. Verify you're on **Windows 10 version 22H2**.
2. Go to **Settings → Update & Security → Windows Update**.
3. Click **Enroll now** (rollout is gradual; it may not appear immediately).
4. Sign in with a **Microsoft account** if not already signed in.
5. Choose to:
   * Sync your settings (free),
   * Use 1,000 Microsoft Rewards points, or
   * **Pay $30 USD for the one-year ESU**.
6. Enjoy extended security updates through **October 13, 2026**, on up to **10 devices** linked to your Microsoft account.

**Bottom Line**

* The $30 one-year ESU option for Windows 10 Home or consumer PCs is now available—but *must* be tied to a Microsoft account and only includes critical security updates.
* It's a handy short-term solution if you need extra time to upgrade, but not a substitute for moving to Windows 11 or another long-term platform.

You can use your existing ESU license on up to 10 devices once you enroll in ESU. Does that mean more than one PC

**ChatGPT said:**

Yes — it does mean more than one PC.

When you purchase or redeem the **Windows 10 Consumer ESU license**, it’s **linked to your Microsoft account**, not just to a single machine. Microsoft’s documentation states that a **single ESU license can cover up to 10 devices** under the same account.

So, for example:

* If you have **3 Windows 10 PCs at home**, one $30 ESU enrollment will keep all three of them updated through October 13, 2026.
* If you have **8 PCs** (say, family members’ laptops), they can all be covered as long as they’re linked to the same Microsoft account.
* If you have **11+ PCs**, you’d need a second ESU license tied to another Microsoft account (since the cap is 10 devices per license).

👉 In short: **Yes, one ESU license extends to multiple PCs (up to 10), not just one.**