The Windows 10 Deadline is Coming Up!

It is an enormously **lousy** idea to continue to use Windows 10 after the support period ends in October! If you can update your Windows computer to Windows 11, then do so. If you can't (for millions of Windows 10 machines), then you should replace your Windows 10 computer with a Windows 11 computer, or a computer using another operating system, like Apple or Linux.

Consider this: Microsoft announced the end of support for Windows 10, many months ago. The end-of-support is also consistent with Microsoft's the product life guidelines implemented decades ago. It was never a secret. What was a surprise is is the lack of Windows 11 backward compatibility with older hardware. Actually, that's a good thing for online safety, but it's also inconvenient and perhaps expensive.

The people who write malware, ransomware, viruses and other really nasty software know when the deadline is, and the also know that thousands and thousands of Windows 10 machines will still be out there, because their owners don't realize this is a real problem for them! The malware writers had lead time handed to them, so they can write, test, and fine tune their nasty stuff, and be ready to flood the internet with it, come mid-October. And **they will do exactly that.**

Consider this: Stores that sell computers also know when the deadline is. They also know that it is human nature to procrastinate. Prices in our economy are driven by supply and demand. It makes sense, to me, that there may be lots more demand than there is supply, as the end of summer approaches. Will the replacement computer that you want be available? If so, has the price been set higher than it was six months earlier? Maybe a lot higher?

Now is the time to check things out. Can you upgrade to Windows 11? If so, then do so now. If not, you really need another plan.

I am one of those people who needed to replace my computer, and my replacement desktop machine is being shipped to me now.

It was a rougher experience, this time, than in the past.

I usually buy refurbished machines, when I can. I had a local seller which has given me really great service for several years. He has apparently left the business.

Okay, I looked online for both new and refurbished computers. I found several ads online, where the fact that it was a Windows 10 computer was there, but I had to look for it. This happened with both new and refurbished computers Any computer for sale that can be upgraded to Windows 11 should have already been upgraded by the seller. The point here is that the advertised products were not necessarily the up-to date stuff.

If you are looking at new (or new to you) Windows computers, and the seller doesn't say it's Windows 11, don't even consider it. Retailers are trying to get rid of their Windows 10 stock. You DON'T have to be the buyer!

I saw an ad for one machine, where it was hidden in some fine print that it was a Windows 7 computer. Are they kidding??? Probably not.

During my efforts, I choose to write an email to the CEO of Best Buy. I started out by my saying that I just bought a computer from their competitor. In all fairness to Best Buy, that resulted in a rather positive email exchange. Then . . . they put me on their advertising email list. Not really my plan.

Shop carefully.

Apple makes a wonderfully good product. They're pricey though.

Lots of people use Windows. Windows 11 will be more-or-less familiar. For a home or business-level computer, prices aren't terribly bad. For something special (like gaming, video editing and that kind of thing) they can be very expensive.

Chromebook. This may be an excellent choice for some, and is definitely worth checking it out. Like your Android phone, software comes from the Google Play Store, and the software in the play store is reviewed and approved. Software runs in in a protected

environment, keeping rest of the computer safer should a problem occur. Google offers a very nice set of applications (word processor, spreadsheet, etc). You can check those out, right now, if you wish. Just click on the 9-dot menu icon on a Google search page. If you are in a busy office, do video editing, or competitive gaming, then Chromebook is not for you. If you've settled down to a quieter home life, then it may be worth considering.

Linux is basically free. It comes with a suite of office software (spreadsheet, word processor, etc.) and a browser, and a bunch of free applications are available. Since it's free, it can also be tried out, at no cost (to see if you like it), before October. It's my personal system of choice, but I'm not trying to convince anyone away from their personal choice.

What's really important here, is to be safe. Using Windows 10 after October 14, 2025 will **not** be safe. There might be concessions, like updates for a fee, or something like that. At best, if they happen at all, it's a stop-gap thing. It just delays what will surely eventually take place.

Upgrade to Windows 11, if you can. If not, work on your plan B soon. Buying a new computer is a hassle, to be sure. It can also be your chance to get newer, faster, better. Or . . . maybe a chance to try something different.