Windows lifecycle fact sheet

Content provided by Microsoft
Applies to: Windows 10Windows 7Windows 8.1

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Last updated: February 2018
Every Windows product has a lifecycle. The lifecycle begins when a product is released and ends when it's no longer supported. Knowing key dates in this lifecycle helps you make informed decisions about when to update, upgrade or make other changes to your software.

Windows 10

Windows 10 Semi-Annual Channel (SAC) is governed by the Modern Lifecycle Policy (as of January 25, 2018). Built as a service, Windows updates are cumulative, with each update built upon all of the updates that preceded it; a device needs to install the latest update to remain supported. For more information, see the Microsoft Lifecycle Policy or review the Modern Lifecycle FAQ.

Home, Enterprise, Education, Pro, and Pro for Workstation editions

Windows 10 will have feature updates released twice a year via the Semi-Annual Channel (SAC). Your device needs to install the latest version (feature update) before your current version reaches end of service to help keep your device secure and have it remain supported by Microsoft. Each Windows 10 version will be serviced with quality updates for up to 18 months from availability. It is important that all quality updates are installed to help keep your device secure.

Some editions can defer semi-annual feature updates at **Settings** >**Windows Update** >**Advanced options** or via a policy that an organization's management system may provide to the device. On devices that haven't been configured for deferral, you'll need to install the latest feature update to help keep your device secure and have it remain supported by Microsoft. New versions may be automatically installed prior to the end-of-service date of the current version on your device.*

Windows 10 version history	Date of availability	End of service
Windows 10, version 1709	October 17, 2017	April 9, 2019**
Windows 10, version 1703	April 5, 2017	October 9, 2018**

Windows 10 version history	Date of availability	End of service
Windows 10, version 1607	August 2, 2016	April 10, 2018**
Windows 10, version 1511	November 10, 2015	October 10, 2017**
Windows 10, released July 2015 (version 1507)	July 29, 2015	May 9, 2017

* Home edition does not support the deferral of feature updates and will therefore typically receive a new version of Windows 10 prior to the end-of-service date shown.
** Enterprise and Education editions for versions 1511, 1607, 1703 and 1709 will receive an additional 6 months of servicing after the end of service date.
Note: Not all features in an update will work on all devices. A device may not be able to receive updates if the device hardware is incompatible, lacks current drivers, or is otherwise outside the original equipment manufacturer's (OEM) support period.

Servicing extension for Enterprise and Education editions
Windows 10 version 1511, 1607, 1703 and 1709 will continue to receive monthly servicing updates at no-cost for a period of 6 months past the end of service dates. The security-only updates are available through all normal channels including: Windows Update (WU/WUfB), WSUS, the Update Catalog, and enterprise management solutions and are delivered as standard cumulative update packages.
Some versions of Enterprise and Education editions will have an option for an additional paid extension for eligible volume licensing customers. Customers should reach out to their Microsoft account team for more information about a paid program.

Enterprise LTSB editions
Windows 10 LTSB editions will continue to follow the Fixed Lifecycle policy. To learn more, please see [Microsoft Fixed Policy Details](#).

Windows 10 version history	Date of availability	Mainstream support end date	Extended support end date
Windows 10 Enterprise 2016 LTSB Windows 10 IoT Enterprise 2016 LTSB	August 2, 2016	October 12, 2021	October 13, 2026
Windows 10 Enterprise 2015 LTSB Windows 10 IoT Enterprise 2015 LTSB	July 29, 2015	October 13, 2020	October 14, 2025

Note: Not all features in an update will work on all devices. A device may not be able to receive updates if the device hardware is incompatible, lacks current drivers, or is otherwise outside the original equipment manufacturer's (OEM) support period.

For more information on Windows 10 lifecycle, see [Move to Modern Lifecycle](#) or the [Windows 10 release information](#) page. To learn more about Windows 10 mobile lifecycle, see [Windows 10 Mobile](#).

Windows 8.1 and 7

Prior releases of the Windows operating system are governed by the Fixed Lifecycle Policy. This policy comprises two phases: mainstream support and extended support. See [Microsoft Fixed Policy Details](#) for more details.

Client operating systems	End of mainstream support	End of extended support
Windows 7, service pack 1*	January 13, 2015	January 14, 2020
Windows 8.1	January 9, 2018	January 10, 2023

* Support for Windows 7 RTM without service packs ended on April 9, 2013. Be sure to install [Windows 7 Service Pack 1](#) to continue to receive support and updates.

Prior versions of Windows, including Windows 7 and Windows 8.1, have limited support when running on new processors and chipsets from manufacturers like Intel, AMD, NVidia, and Qualcomm. For more information, see the [Microsoft Lifecycle FAQ](#). A device may not be able to run prior versions of Windows if the device hardware is incompatible, lacks current drivers, or is otherwise outside the original equipment manufacturer's (OEM) support period.

Windows 8.1 and 7: questions and answers

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[What is the difference between mainstream support and extended support?](#)

For more details on the difference between mainstream support and extended support, refer to the [Microsoft Lifecycle Policy FAQ](#).

[What should I do when the version of Windows I'm using reaches its end-of-support date?](#)

You can either install the latest available update or service pack, or you can upgrade to a newer version of Windows. For more information, see [What does it mean if my version of Windows is no longer supported?](#)

[Where can I learn more about updates and service packs?](#)

Service packs and updates are part of the process of keeping Windows 7 and Windows 8.1 up to date. Service packs combine the latest updates and fixes into one package or download. A service pack can include security and performance improvements as well as support for new types of hardware. To install the latest service pack for Windows 7, or to install the latest update for Windows 8.1, visit the [Service Pack Center](#).

End of sales

End of sales refers to the date when a particular version of Windows is no longer shipped to retailers or original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). Examples of OEMS are Dell and Toshiba, PC manufacturers who often preinstall Windows software.

This table gives end-of-sales dates for specific Windows operating systems.

Client operating systems and updates	Date of general availability	Retail software end of sales*	End of sales for PCs with Windows preinstalled
Windows 7 Home Basic, Home Premium, Ultimate	October 22, 2009	October 31, 2013	October 31, 2014

Windows 7 Professional	October 22, 2009	October 31, 2013	October 31, 2016
Windows 8	October 26, 2012	October 31, 2014	June 30, 2016
Windows 8.1	October 18, 2013	September 1, 2015	October 31, 2016

* Note that when the retail software product reaches its end-of-sales date, it can still be purchased through an OEM (the company that made your PC) until it reaches the end-of-sales date for PCs with Windows preinstalled.

End of sales: questions and answers

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How long can OEMs sell devices with a prior version of Windows installed?

When Microsoft launches a new version of Windows, we will continue to allow OEMs to sell PCs preinstalled with the previous version for up to two years after the launch date of the new version unless otherwise announced. Certain OEM versions of Windows products include downgrade rights (as outlined in the software license terms). Downgrade rights make it possible to use a previous version of Windows instead of the licensed software preinstalled on a new PC. See Downgrade rights for additional details.

How long can retailers sell a prior version of Windows?

We will continue to allow retailers to sell the previous version of Windows for a year after the launch date of the new version.

How long will Volume Licensing be available for a prior version of Windows?

For Volume Licensing programs, licenses will continue to be available through downgrade rights after the end of general availability. General availability of licenses for the previous version of Windows will cease as soon as the new version is available, or when otherwise determined by Microsoft. However, we will make media available for the current version as well as the previous two versions.

Windows downgrade rights

To use prior versions of Windows software on PCs installed with newer versions, it is possible for consumers to obtain a license for downgrade rights. These downgrade rights will vary depending on whether the software was acquired via Volume Licensing, OEM, or FPP. To learn more about these rights, review the downgrade rights licensing brief. Prior versions of Windows, including Windows 7 and Windows 8.1, have limited support when running on new processors and chipsets from manufacturers like Intel, AMD, NVidia, and Qualcomm. For more information, please see the Microsoft Lifecycle FAQ. A device may not be able to run prior versions of Windows if the device hardware is incompatible, lacks current drivers, or is otherwise outside of the original equipment manufacturer's (OEM) support period.

Windows Server

To learn more about Windows Server related to Windows 10, see [Windows Server release information](). See the following table for service pack support information prior to Windows 10.

Server operating systems	Preceding service packs	Current service pack and date of availability	Next update and estimated date of availability
Windows Server 2008	SP1 (Windows Server 2008 was released including SP1)	[SP2]() May 26, 2009	Not yet established
Windows Server 2008 R2	Not applicable	[SP1]() February 22, 2011	Not yet established
Windows Server 2012	Not applicable	October 30, 2012	No service packs planned
Windows Server 2012 R2	Not applicable	October 18, 2013	No service packs planned
Windows Storage Server 2016	Not applicable	October 15, 2016	No service packs planned
Windows Server 2016 Datacenter, Essentials, Standard)	Not applicable	October 15, 2016	No service packs planned
Windows Server, version 1709 (Datacenter, Standard)	Not applicable	October 17, 2017	No service packs planned