Windows 10 is here

Official release date July 29th

Windows 10 is the direct successor to Windows 7 and 8 … the version designator "Windows 9" is being skipped entirely.

Windows 10 was formally unveiled last fall, and it will become available to the public starting July 29th.

Windows 10 is a major version upgrade, which has a common core that works across all platforms – from PCs, laptops, and tablets to Windows Phones, Xbox and the so-called "Internet of Things" (cloud-connected sensors in vehicles, appliances and many other devices).

Starting July 29th, Windows 10 will be available as a free upgrade on every qualified device running Windows 7 (SP1) or Windows 8.1 (currently updated). According to Microsoft's website, this upgrade offer is a full version of Windows 10 … it's not an introductory or limited trial version.

The upgrade will preserve the same edition you already have. Home editions will upgrade to Windows 10 Home, and Pro editions will upgrade to Windows 10 Pro.

The free upgrade will only be available online, requiring a 3GB download. This offer will be available for one year, until July 29, 2016.

Compatibility with existing hardware devices and software programs is said to be very good. In general, if a device, driver or program works on Windows 7 or 8 it will probably work properly on Windows 10. To check specific applications, [click here] for the Microsoft Windows 10 Compatibility Center.

Microsoft recommends that the best way to proceed is to "Reserve" a Windows 10 upgrade in advance, which accomplishes several things. First, a reservation checks to confirm that your device is compatible with Windows

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10. Next, the files needed for the upgrade will automatically be downloaded in advance to your PC, laptop or tablet so that the final installation will go more quickly.

Lastly, when your upgrade is ready after July 29, 2015, you'll receive a notification that lets you get started with the final step.

Perhaps the biggest question is, *"why should I upgrade?"* First, Microsoft has eliminated most of the major obstacles that normally cause resistance to upgrades. Windows 10 is free, and there should be no need to replace your current computer or software.

Next, there should be only a very minimal learning curve. Windows 10 combines everything that people liked in Windows 7 (and even XP) with the substantial but often unsung advances in Windows 8, plus much more.

Security is perhaps the single most important reason to upgrade. Research indicates that, compared to Windows 8, Windows XP was more than 22-times at greater risk of virus infection, and Windows 7 was more than 8-times at greater risk.

Each new version has delivered significantly increased security, and Windows 10 promises to be no exception. One example is that, with Windows 10, routine security updates will become automatic – previous options to ignore or manually select periodic updates will no longer be available.

To get started with the free upgrade process, [click here] to go to the Microsoft Windows 10 introduction website. There's an overview of new features, and you'll find buttons to "Reserve Windows 10." It's not necessary to make a reservation, but it will help expedite the process.

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			(Note 1)			
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BUSINESS						
Business	**3.5M**	3.5M	60GB	20		129.95
Professional	**4.5M**	4.5M	70GB	25		159.95
Corporate	**6M**	6M	90GB	30		199.95
Enterprise	**8M**	8M	120GB	40		249.95
MOUNTAINS						
Yokohl, Balch, Bear Creek	*(Note 2)*					
Alpine, Pierpoint, Nelson	**1.5M**	768K	20GB	5		69.95

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