

# What you need to know about Windows



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# Windows 10 End of Life

- **Oct 14, 2025**
- **Pay for support (\$30) – will only extend your problem by 1 year**
- **Update to Windows 11**
- **Force update to Windows 11**
  - **Rufus, ISO image, 32GB flash drive**
  - **<https://www.zdnet.com/article/how-to-install-windows-11-the-way-you-want-and-bypass-microsofts-restrictions/>**
  - **Be sure to backup everything first – record your software and keys**
- **Buy and move to a new computer**
- **All subject to change**

# Updating to Windows 11

- **Install and run the Health check app**  
**<https://aka.ms/GetPCHHealthCheckApp>**
- **It will tell you if you can update.**
- **Do an Image Backup of your hard drive (discussed later) in case things go sideways.**
- **Goto**  
**<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windows11>**
- **Use Create Windows 11 media, Windows 11 Installation Assistant (best), or download ISO and use Rufus (next slide)**
- **Installation Assistant will walk you through updating your current system.**

## Windows 11 Installation Assistant

This is the best option for installing Windows 11 on the device you're currently using. Click **Download Now** to get started.  
Note: Windows 11 Installation Assistant doesn't run on Arm-based PCs; it only works for x64 processors.

> Before you begin using Installation Assistant

[Download Now](#)

## Create Windows 11 Installation Media

If you want to perform a reinstall or clean install of Windows 11 on a new or used PC, use this option to download the media creation tool to make a bootable USB or DVD.

Note: Windows 11 media creation tool cannot be used to create installation media for Arm-based PCs; it can only create media for x64 processors.

> Before you begin using the media creation tool

[Download Now](#)

## Download Windows 11 Disk Image (ISO) for x64 devices

This option is for users that want to create a bootable installation media (USB flash drive, DVD) or create a virtual machine (ISO file) to install Windows 11. This download is a multi-edition ISO which uses your product key to unlock the correct edition.

Windows 11 ISOs for Arm64 devices are available [here](#).

Windows 11 (multi-edition ISO for x64 devices) >

> Before you begin downloading an ISO

[Download Now](#)

# Using Rufus or Windows 11 Image

- **You need to use Rufus if your machine doesn't support Windows 11 requirements**
  - **Download from <https://rufus.ie/en/>**
  - **Rufus has options to create a flash drive that bypasses those requirements – they are checked by default.**
  - **You also might want to check “Set a local account” to not use a Microsoft account.**
- **Boot the flash drive and choose to update windows but keep programs and data intact**
- **Take a break**
- **Come back and answer a bunch of questions**

# Moving to a new computer

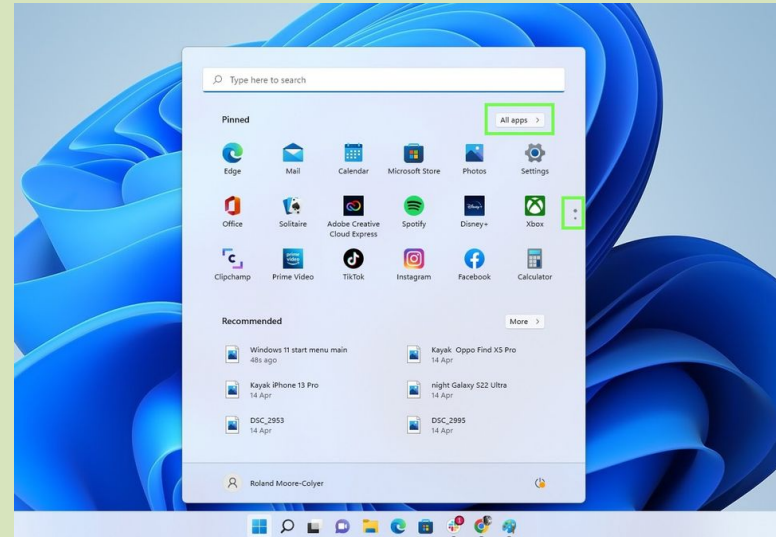
- **Manual Process – transfer using flash drive**
  - **Copy User/Public**
  - **Copy User/Yourself**
  - **Install apps all over again**
    - **There will be issues with programs that create profile folders – Thunderbird email, for instance**
- **Use transfer program**
  - **Zinstall – [www.zinstall.com](http://www.zinstall.com) (\$129)**
    - **Network or File transfer**
  - **PCMover Pro (\$40)**
    - **Network, USB to USB, or File Transfer**

# Disk Layout

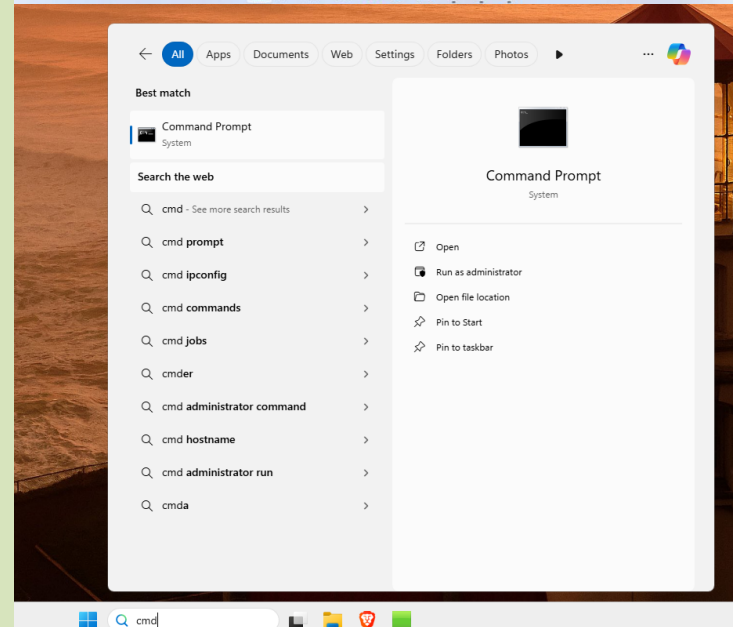
- **Folders**
  - **Windows – the windows OS**
  - **Program Files – 64-bit programs**
  - **Program Files (x86) – 32-bit programs**
  - **Users – holds all user data**
    - **Public – info for “all users”**
    - **YOU – info specific to you**
    - **Others – depends**
  - **ProgramData – invisible, holds Program Data**
  - **Pagefile.sys, swapfile.sys, hiberfile.sys – system files, don't need to backup – they're big**

# Running Programs

**Use the start menu:**



**Type part of the name of the program into the Search bar and choose from the choices shown**

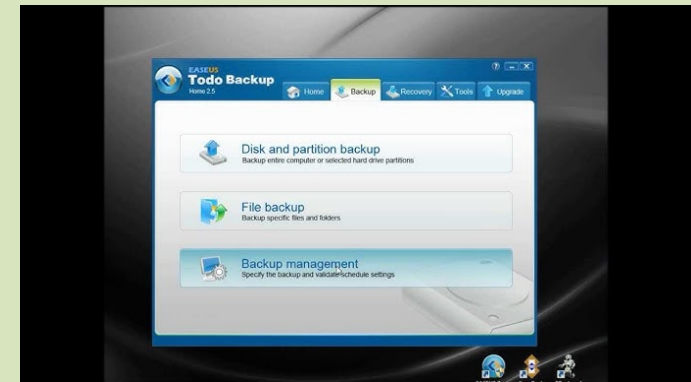


# OneDrive

- **NOT a backup solution**
- **If you delete a file on OneDrive, it's deleted on the computer and vice-versa**
- **If you tell OneDrive to backup, it will move folders to the OneDrive folder**
- **Documents, Desktop, Downloads, etc. are all normally under c:\users\YOU\**
- **OneDrive moves them to c:\users\YOU\OneDrive\**
- **Anything outside that OneDrive folder is not touched by OneDrive**
- **<https://www.youtube.com/@askleonotenboom> - AskLeo has a lot of good information on OneDrive**

# Backups

- **Get a large (1-4TB) USB disks drive**
- **Two type – Full Image or File by File**
- **Full image is most useful when your hard drive dies**
- **File by File is good for accidentally deleting a file you needed (although most Full Image backup programs can do this as well).**
- **For ease of use – go Full Image**
- **Usually can choose Full or Incremental backup – do Full the first time, then Incrementals afterwards to save space.**
- **Do a Full backup every one in a while**
- **AOMEI Backupper and Easeus Todo are good free backup programs**
- **R-Drive, Acronis True Image, Retrospect Solo are well-reviewed paid programs**



# Off-site Backups

- **Carbonite (\$80), Backblaze (\$99), CrashPlan (\$88)**
- **Costs more the more data you need to store**
- **If you have a local backup, the only reason you need cloud backup is to recover from a disaster to your house.**
- **Putting a drive in a good fire safe could be a reasonable alternative.**

# File Backups

- **Normally, backup the following folders**
  - **Users – all user-specific data**
  - **ProgramData – data saved by the programs you use**
  - **Any data on extra disk drives**
- **There are special files (registry files) that are constantly open, and you need a good file backup program to handle them properly.**

# AntiVirus

- **Windows Security/Defender is normally good enough if you let it auto update.**
- **Malwarebytes is a good 2<sup>nd</sup> AntiVirus – the free version will scan your disk and try to fix any malware infestrations.**
- **The paid version will do it on the fly, and also let you know if you're about to browse a dodgy website**
- **If you're running Windows 10 after EOL, you want to be running a commercial antivirus like ESET.**

# Debloat Windows 11

- **A little more knowledge is required for this.**
  - **<https://github.com/Raphire/Win11Debloat>**
  - **<https://github.com/ChrisTitusTech/winutil>**
- **Follow the instructions on the those webpages**
  - **Allows you to remove things, and setup preferences**
  - **Can remove telemetry, debloat Edge browser, Disable Bing, Cortana, Copilot, Windows Recall snapshots**
- **Be sure to create a Restore point prior to doing this, just in case**

# Restore points

- **Full Image backup is better than restore points**
  - **Type “Create” in the search bar and choose “Create a restore point”**
  - **Click Start, select the drive.**
  - **If it’s not configured yet – choose configure, Turn on System Protection, and choose the amount of space to use for restore points, then click Apply**
  - **Click “Create”, enter a descriptive name, then “Create” again.**
  - **[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WiYPmDjm\\_w0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WiYPmDjm_w0)**
- **You can do the same for Restore, but normally you need a restore point when your system won’t boot.**
- **You will probably want your grandson or Geek Squad to try to recover from a Restore Point if it won’t boot.**

# System acting wierd

- **Do a virus scan**
- **Run an administrator command prompt**
- **Type cmd in search bar and choose “Run in Administrator Mode”**
  - **DISM /online /cleanup-image /scanhealth**
  - **DISM /online /cleanup-image /checkhealth**
  - **DISM /online /cleanup-image /restorehealth**
    - **If this gives an error, mount an ISO disk image and run**
      - **DISM /online /cleanup-image /restorehealth /source:WIM:X:\Sources\Install.wim:1 /LimitAccess**
        - **Where X: is where the ISO disk mounted.**
  - **Sfc /scannow**