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The Most Important New Features in Windows 11—and How to Get Them

The newest version of Microsoft's desktop operating system is here.



Windows 11 will be free to everyone who owns Windows 10.

Microsoft is officially rolling out Windows 11, the next major version of its operating system (after announcing it back in June). It adds a revamped Start Menu, better multi-monitor and touchscreen support, tighter integration with Xbox Game Pass, and a renewed push for the Windows Store. We'll go over all the new features, but first, here's how to download Windows 11 to your device.

Is Your Computer Compatible With Windows 11?

Microsoft is making some substantial (and at times controversial) changes to compatibility requirements for Windows 11. Upgrading is free if you're running Windows 10, but only CPUs from Intel's 8th generation and AMD's Ryzen 2000 line and newer are officially eligible (with a few exceptions). If your hardware is eligible, the update will automatically roll out by mid-2022.

Unofficially, however, many more machines with older CPUs will work with the new OS version, but you'll have to install Windows 11 manually by creating an upgrade tool from the Windows 11 software download page and installing it yourself. When you do, you might get a warning that your hardware isn't officially supported, and it might not be entitled to receive future updates.

You can use Microsoft's recently updated PC Health Check app to find out if your computer is officially eligible. This will also help you find out if you have or need to enable the Trusted Platform Module 2.0, which is an official eligibility requirement and might be the only thing holding up some machines from being eligible. Your computer may already have it, but it might be disabled, and you can turn it on in your system's BIOS. You can also bypass the TPM check using a tweak to your registry that Microsoft outlines (and advises against for most people) [here](#).

If this all seems complicated, it's because it is. The short version is, if you have a new computer made after around 2017 or so, there's a good chance that you'll receive a Windows 11 update notification eventually. However, if you built your own machine or have an older computer, you might need to research and do some tinkering to install Windows 11.

How to Install Windows 11

As stated above, if you have officially eligible hardware, installing Windows 11 is easy. You can wait for the free update to roll out to your machine, just like any other update, and install it when you get a notification that it's ready. Alternatively, you can check for the update manually by heading to Settings > Windows Update and clicking “Check for updates.”

If your hardware isn't eligible, however, you'll need to download Windows 11 and create an upgrade tool. You can use this [file](#) to create your own bootable USB drive. Make sure you have an empty USB stick with at least 8 GB of space and then follow Microsoft's [guide](#) to creating a bootable drive. As we said above, doing

this on hardware that's not officially eligible might result in not qualifying for future updates.

Windows 11 Is Similar to Previous Versions

You'd be forgiven if the new features in Windows 11 sound familiar. Microsoft has added widgets, translucent windows, and window snapping. All of these features have been around for a while, but the approach here looks better. In fact, most of the new features are designed around a theme of incremental improvement rather than wholesale overhaul (which is good, because we all remember Windows 8.)

With the exception of one minor change that might be quite polarizing ...

The Start Menu Is in the Middle Now

The biggest visual difference in Windows 11 is how the Start button on the taskbar is centered as opposed to being on the far left of the screen. There is an option to move it back to the corner if you're not willing to retrain your muscle memory, but Microsoft is keen to mimic the MacOS and Chrome OS look.

The new Start Menu has been reworked to remove Live Tiles (only marginally useful in the past). Instead, there are a set of pinned apps and recent documents. A search interface at the top of the menu, much like the Start Menu today, will intelligently search for the documents, apps, or settings you're trying to find.

A More Cohesive Interface

For years, Windows has been a bit of a fractured mess, with newer, sleek user interface elements mixing with old. Windows 11 finally updates many features that have looked out of place in the past, and that means you'll see new designs more frequently.

Two of the biggest places you'll notice a change are in File Explorer, and any time you right-click to get a context menu. In the latter case, common actions like cut, copy, paste, and rename have been moved to a smaller, accessible bar next to the mouse with just an icon, while other features like Properties or "Open in new window" are still listed out with an icon and label like you're used to. It's cleaner, but it can take some getting used to.

Widgets Are Back (Again)

Microsoft tried to make widgets happen for years before abandoning them, but this might (*might*) be the version that sticks. A new button in the taskbar will open a widget panel with a to-do list, weather, traffic, calendar, and other basic widgets. This isn't too different from how widgets work in MacOS, available when you want to take a glance but disappearing when you don't need them. Eventually, the feature will be open to developers, so expect to see more third-party widgets down the road.

Improved Multi-Monitor Support

Laptop users that dock their computer into a separate monitor are all too familiar with the hassle that comes from managing all their windows. Once you disconnect the monitor, any windows on that monitor get resized and shuffled around, creating a mess on your desktop. Windows 11 puts an end to that. When you unplug your laptop from a second monitor, any open windows on that screen will minimize but remember their place. When you plug the screen back in, they'll pop right back to where they were before.

Multiple Desktops on a Single Monitor

Windows 11 also makes virtual desktops (introduced in Windows 10 in limited form) much more powerful and useful. There's a new desktop menu in the taskbar, but there's also good keyboard support. Out of the box, pressing Alt-Win on the keyboard will move through your virtual desktops much like alt-tab moves between applications.

Snap Groups Make Reorganizing Windows More Intuitive

Windows' current snapping feature is useful if you want to put two windows side by side, but you have to do any other arranging yourself. Windows 11 changes that. Now, when you hover over the Maximize button on a window, you'll see a small arrangement selector, showing you different layouts you can snap windows to, including three- or four-window layouts. You can then select which windows to fill in the rest of the layout and get to work quicker.

Translucent Windows Are in Fashion Again

Another in the category of features that Microsoft discontinued only to bring back, Windows 11 once again introduces a translucent window design. Apps and window borders—including the Start Menu and widget menu—will be semi-see-through, like a frosted-glass window. It's a nice look and probably won't have the same performance issues on lower-end hardware the last time Microsoft tried this trick.

Easier Touchscreen Interactions

While Microsoft's hardware team makes some great convertible laptops and tablets, the software hasn't quite kept up. Windows 11 hopes to fix some of the most annoying problems by adding larger touch targets for resizing windows. There's also a smaller touch-typing keyboard that can sit in the corner of the screen for one-handed typing, not unlike how you might type on your phone.

If you use a stylus, the OS will also support haptic feedback, which might make writing feel more responsive. It remains to be seen if these changes are enough to make Windows a natural touchscreen experience on a tablet, but it can't be worse than switching entirely into a Tablet Mode like Windows 10 does now.

Deeper Microsoft Teams Integration

Like Zoom, Microsoft Teams saw a massive uptick in usage since March 2020, for obvious reasons. So it makes sense that Microsoft is tying Teams more tightly

into its newest operating system. The Chat icon in the taskbar launches a list of your recent contacts where you can pick up a conversation where you left off, or start a new one. When you receive a message, you'll even be able to reply directly to the notification itself. The downside is that Microsoft Teams is enabled by default in Windows 11, so if you don't use it, you might want to turn it off.

PC Gaming Gets Some of the Xbox's Best Features

With Microsoft owning two of the biggest gaming platforms in the world—Windows for PC gaming and the Xbox—you'd think that combining the two would be a higher priority. Well, Windows 11 is finally making this a reality by bringing some Xbox features to PC.

First, there's the DirectStorage API, which lets games load data directly into your graphics card's memory, drastically cutting down on load times. The process is a little more complicated than that brief description makes it sound, but if you have the hardware and games that support it, you'll be spending a lot less time waiting to play.

Another major Xbox feature now available on PCs is called Auto HDR. For games created using DirectX 11 or later, this feature can automatically upgrade games that previously used only SDR to the much richer and vibrant HDR standard. This won't magically make games take full advantage of HDR the same way game artists who intended the game to use the full range of HDR colors from the beginning would, but it's a welcome quality-of-life update. Especially for your latest *Skyrim* play-through.

And speaking of games developed by Bethesda, the final and perhaps biggest Xbox-related change is that the Xbox app comes built-in. The app provides access to your library of games purchased through the Xbox Store, including those that are a part of Microsoft's wildly popular Game Pass subscription.

The Xbox app also enables Game Pass subscribers to stream games from the cloud via the company's xCloud technology. Similar to Google's Stadia, xCloud

lets players run games on Microsoft's servers and stream the audio and video back to their computer. This lets players run demanding games on PCs with minimal specs, right from an app that comes built into Windows.

The Windows Store Is Now the Microsoft Store (and It Has Android Apps)

Right now, the Windows Store isn't terribly useful, because it allows only UWP (Universal Windows Platform) apps—that is, apps specifically designed to work across a wide range of Windows devices like laptops, tablets, and phones. Most developers weren't willing or able to rewrite their apps for this format, especially since Microsoft initially charged the same 30 percent cut for any sales made on the Windows Store as competitors like Apple and Google.

That all changes with the new Microsoft Store. After allowing game developers to upload win32 versions (read: the format that almost every Windows app you use comes in) to the store in 2019, Microsoft is extending that flexibility to everyone. Now app developers can upload win32 versions of apps, as well as any other app framework.

Much more importantly, developers have the option of using their own payment system (or, as Microsoft clumsily calls it, "commerce engine") to charge customers for using their apps. This means that major players like Adobe and Disney don't have to hand over 12 to 15 percent of their revenue for the privilege of being on Microsoft's store. Now that companies don't have to jump through major hoops like rewriting their apps or forking over tons of cash to Microsoft, there's a decent chance you might actually be able to use the Microsoft Store to find and manage apps you care about.

Finally, Microsoft is bringing Android apps to Windows via perhaps one of the weirdest ways: through the Amazon Appstore. Within the Microsoft Store, you'll be able to search for Android apps. If an app is available, it will prompt users to download it "from Amazon Appstore," which means it will be tied to your Amazon account, *not* your Google one. If you were hoping to download paid apps you bought via Google, you'll have to buy them again. This compatibility is made

possible through Intel's Bridge technology, so we'll have to see it in action to gauge how well it works, but at least in principle, it could be a handy way to get access to a few apps that are out of reach on Windows today.

DR. SNEHAL H. MISTRY
PRINCIPAL

UNKNOWN FACTS ABOUT INSTAGRAM

Instagram (IG), a Facebook subsidiary, is the largest photo- and video-sharing platform worldwide. And the Instagram statistics show that it's considered the top social platform where brands and business owners alike can promote their services and products.

IG goes a long way to seamlessly accommodate these companies in providing a wide range of unique features every year. Indeed, by January 2019, 500 million users visited the Stories feature daily, according to recent Instagram stats. The data clearly shows that many of the world's population runs to the platform every day. Needless to say, marketers and businesses alike should do what they can to learn how the network works.

1. Instagram has over a billion monthly active users.
2. About 995 photos are uploaded to Instagram every second.
3. The number-one most-shared food on Instagram is pizza.
4. There are currently over 140 million Instagram users in the United States.
5. 80% of Instagram accounts are for personal use.
6. More women use Instagram than men.
7. The majority of Instagram users are aged between 25–34 (33.1%).
8. 60% of Instagram users go on the platform to find new products.
9. 61% of brands are planning to increase their advertising budget for Instagram in 2021.
10. The Stories feature receives more than 500 million users daily.

CHIRAG DEVENDRABHAI MEHTA

ASST. PROFESSOR

TOP 10 ANDROID APP OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER 2021

1. Deepstash
2. Life Hacks Tips
3. QR & Barcode Scanner
4. Boosted
5. Notica Plus
6. The Pattern
7. Balance
8. Splitwise
9. BabyG
10. Pi Network

PATEL REEMA RAKESHBHAI

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TOP 10 IOS APP OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER 2021

1. WeFast
2. Clipboard Pro
3. Endel
4. Spyglass
5. DocuBay
6. LogoScopic
7. Wally
8. Simpl Pay
9. BookFunnel
10. Hotellook

PATEL VRUSHANGI MEHULBHAI

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BEST CELL PHONE OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER 2021

1. iPhone 13 series

If there's one company that releases their latest smartphone like clockwork in September, it's Apple. That means we are pretty sure that iPhone 13 series will release this month. Talking about the phones themselves, we expect four new iPhones to be released. Like last year, there will be a mini and regular model for iPhone 13 and a regular and max model for the iPhone 13 Pro. All four devices will be powered by Apple's next-generation A15 chip manufactured based on TSMC's 5nm production process. The sizes of all four iPhones are to be the same. New reports suggest that the iPhone 13 series will be a tad costlier than the iPhone 12 series, owing to the rising cost of TSMC's production process.

2. Mi 11T and 11T Pro

Xiaomi Mi 11T and 11T Pro are expected to launch on September 15th, 2021. Leaked renders of the phones have given us a good idea about the design of these smartphones. The renders show a triple-camera module at the back, housed in a slightly raised rectangular island. We also see the bezel-less front with a punch-hole display in the middle. As for the colours, the renders along with a listing on UK retailer has revealed that the phones will be available in three colours, namely Meteorite Gray, Celestial Blue, and Moonlight White. Both the Xiaomi 11T and Xiaomi 11T Pro will be available in 8GB+128GB and 8GB 256GB variants.

3. Vivo X70 series

The Vivo X70 series has a firm release date, with the devices launching in China on September 7th. The Vivo X70 series is said to include three different smartphones, including the Vivo X70, X70 Pro, and X70 Pro+. We also have a fair bit of idea about the design of these smartphones as Vivo has been teasing the premium X70 Pro+ through their social media channels. The phones look quite similar to the leaked renders that we saw last week. The teaser images reveal a lot about the device, and it seems cameras are going to be a big selling

point for it. The X70 Pro+ has Zeiss optics on the back, and there's also a mention of T*, a special type of lens coating that eliminates the glare from stray light. We don't have any clarity about the specs, but leaks suggest that the regular X70 will be powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 1200 processor and bring an FHD+ display. There's also no date for the India release of these devices.

4. Samsung Galaxy S21 FE

The Samsung Galaxy S20 FE turned out to be quite a popular device, and if rumours are to be believed, its successor, the Samsung Galaxy S21 FE will hit the Indian market this September. We know how the device looks thanks to an “accidental” Instagram post from Samsung. The now-deleted post showed a triple camera set-up at the back, with the camera module sporting the same finish as the rest of the body. According to leaked specifications, the phone will sport a 6.4-inch FHD+ AMOLED display with a 120Hz refresh rate. It is said to be powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon 888 SoC coupled with up to 12GB RAM and 256GB storage. The Samsung Galaxy S21 FE is tipped to release on September 8th.

MANIYA JENIL NARESHBHAJ

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BEST LAPTOP CONFIGURATION OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER 2021

Dell Vostro 3400



Price – 52,858/-

Intel Core i5 11th Gen Processor

14" inch Full HD Display

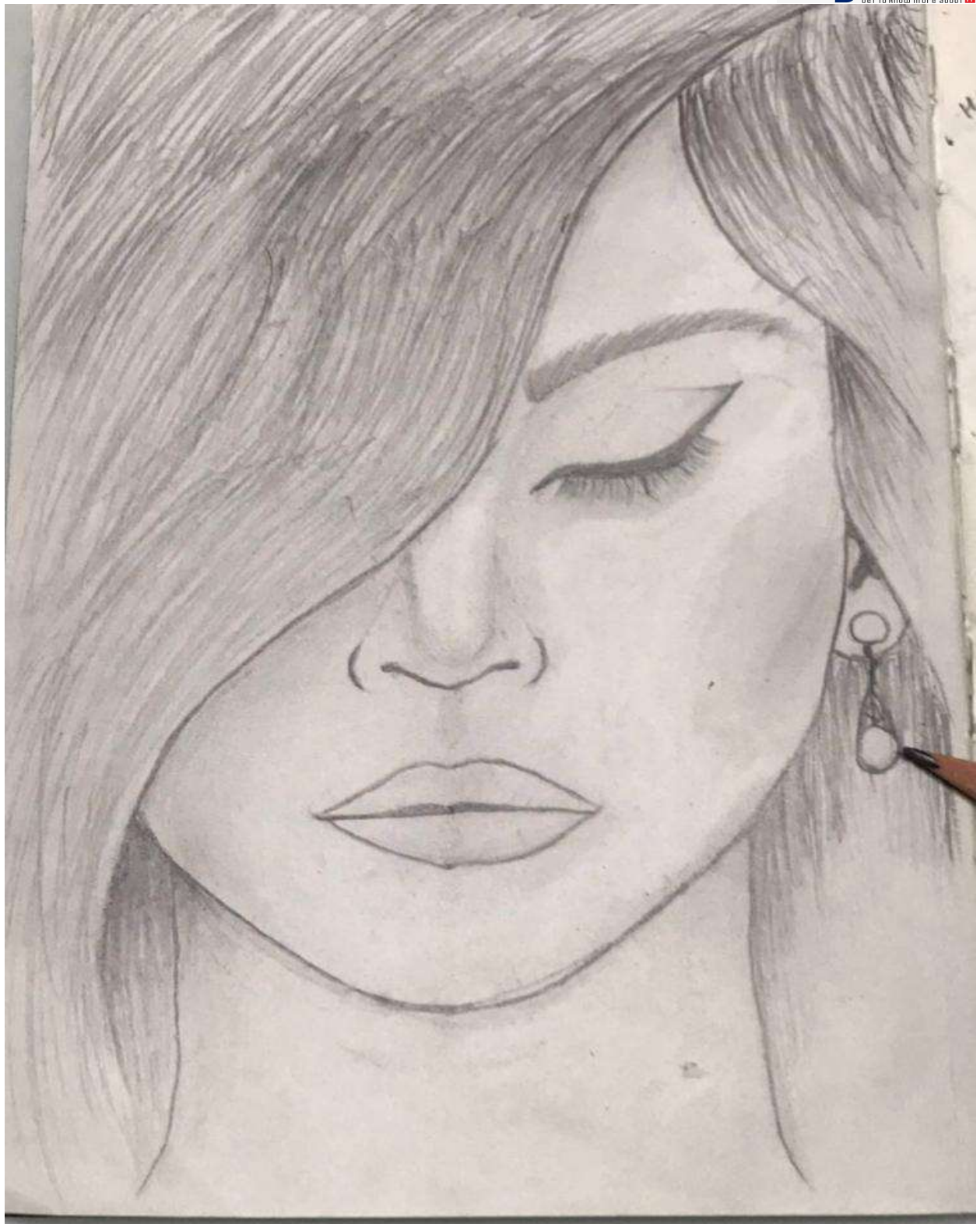
8 GB RAM

512 SSD | M2 slot Available for upgrade

Integrated Graphics

RAIN MAHAMADSADIK ASINBHAI

19BCA123



MISS. MOHINI PATEL
TEACHING ASSISTANT



MISTRY UNNATI BHARATBHAI

19BCA43



Saifali
17/04/21

MISS. SAIFALI TAMAKUWALA
TEACHING ASSISTANT