

Windows 11 Upgrade



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This checklist is for upgrading from Windows Windows 10 to Windows 11.

NOTES:

- **VERIFY WITH THE MANUFACTURER** that your model PC supports Windows 11.
- **WINDOWS 11 Hardware Requirements:** <http://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/windows/windows-11-specifications>
- **UPDATE OPTIONS:**
 - 1. AUTO-UPDATE FROM WIN 10 USING WINDOWS UPDATE.**
 - 2. GET THE UPGRADE** via the Windows 11 Update Assistant or the Windows 11 Media Creation Tool. If you do not already have a Product Key for Windows 11 or have not previously Activated Win 11 on this PC, you must buy it. [Http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windows11](http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windows11) .

BEFORE STARTING THE UPDATE:

- **RUN MEMTEST86+** Tap on the memory sticks while it is running and make sure it it solid.
- **RUN CRYSTAL DISK INFO** (*Latest version!*) to validate the Hard-Drive is in good condition.
- **CHECK TEMPERATURES** with the Speedfan App.
- **DEVICE ENCRYPTION / BITLOCKER OFF:** Make sure Bitlocker is OFF and not shown as “Bitlocker waiting for Activation”. Go to: Contol Panel > Bitlocker Drive Encryption. To Turn it OFF, go to an ADMIN COMMAND PROMPT with Run as Administrator and enter: **manage-bde c: -off**
NOTE: After this it will take a while to decrypt the drive.
- **BIOS/UEFI:** Verify it is at the latest available level and that it supports Windows 11.
- **VERIFY ADEQUATE HARD-DRIVE SPACE:** Make sure there is plenty of free hard-disk space available. (*Enough for both the new system and the old system*).
- **WINDOWS UPDATES:** Install all your available Windows Updates. Including all “Optional” (Drivers).
- **APP UPDATES:** Update any downlevel apps that may not be compatible with Windows 11.
- **WIN 10 IMAGE BACKUP:** At this point, I strongly suggest you do a FULL Image backup. There is always the possibility that the upgrade will make your PC unbootable (bricked). Note: Acronis TI Home 2025 or later. At least, do a full data backup. .
- **SANDBOXIE:** If you use it, it must be up to date. 5.71 or higher. If not, the Win 11 upgrade may abort.
- **RECORD THE DISPLAY SETTINGS:** Wallpaper & other display Personalizations for use after upgrade. Make sure any unique settings are recorded. *Note:.* If you have a wallpaper image or images that you like, you need to find its picture files and save them into the Pictures folder for use after the upgrade. *Then after the upgrade, you should be able to find the images in the Pictures folder.*

MORE PRE-INSTALL TASKS:

- 1) DO A SCREEN PRINT** of each User’s Desktop and save to a document and save it for reference
- 2) DELETE ALL TEMP FILES FOR EACH USER USING THE LATEST VERSION OF CCLEANER.**
- 3) ANTI-MALWARE SCANS:** Run FULL scans with all available programs:
O ADWcleaner, O MalwareBytes, O SuperAntiSpyware, O ESET online Scan.
- 4) SYSTEM PROTECTION:** Make sure the Drive C protection is ON and the “Max Usage” is configured for 30 GB or greater.
- 5) REMOVE ANY PROGRAMS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE UPGRADE PROCESS OR WITH WINDOWS 10. YOU SHOULD REMOVE THESE PROGRAMS NOW!** Examples are: AVAST!, Acronis True Image (older than 2015 build 6613), SKYPE, SpyBot Search and Destroy, Microsoft Security Essentials, Secunia PSI, WOT for IE, and any other programs known to fail with the Windows 11. This includes CLASSIC SHELL, START8/START10 & old versions of CCleaner..
- 6) DISABLE THE REAL-TIME PROTECTION** of ALL installed Anti-Malware programs. If Microsoft Security Essentials is still installed, remove it.

- 7) **PAUSE ALL BACKUP & SYNC PROGRAMS:** Pause Dropbox, Google Backup & Restore, Carbonite
- 8) **POWER ADAPTER:** For laptops, make sure that the Power Adapter is plugged in and charging.
- 9) **POWER SETTINGS:**
 - a) "HIBERNATE" and "SLEEP" should be set to "NEVER". See the "Advanced Power Settings".
 - b) "TURN OFF THE DISPLAY" should be set to "NEVER". See the "Advanced Power Settings".
- 10) **SCREENSAVER:** Verify that "Control Panel > Personalization > Screen Saver" is set to "**None**".

STEP BY STEP UPGRADE:

- 1) **UNPLUG ALL USB DEVICES:** Unplug all devices from ALL USB Ports. (*Upgrade may ABORT if any are left plugged in.*)
- 2) **DISABLE THE REAL TIME PROTECTION OF ALL ANTI-MALWARE PROGRAMS.** If Microsoft Security Essentials is still installed, uninstall it.
- 3) Make sure you are logged into an "Administrator" authority User Account (*and not Standard*).
- 4) If you ARE updating with Windows Updates then go to Windows updates and allow it to install Win 11.
- 5) If you are NOT auto-updating, you should already have either the Windows 11 Upgrade Assistant program or the downloaded Windows 11 Media (*DVD or USB Stick*) available.
<http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=691209>
 - a) To upgrade from Update Assistant. click "Update Now"
 - b) To Upgrade from Media, do not boot the Media. Start setup while your system is running or you could lose all your data.
- 6) After the Reboot, at the Welcome screen, choose the "Log-in" screen for the Administrator Account, put in the previous password for the that Account.
- 7) If offered the PRIVACY Screen, disable all desired options.
- 8) Do steps 6 & 7 for each user Account.

AFTER THE UPGRADE:

- **RESTORE PREVIOUS SETTINGS:** Re-enable the real-time protection in your Anti-Malware program, and restore the Advanced Power Settings and Screen Saver settings to normal.
- **WINDOWS UPDATES:** Even though it will say, "No updates available", do a manual "Check for updates" and install all available Updates. Keep re-running the "Check for Updates" until no more show up.
- **RE-INSTALL ANY REMOVED PROGRAMS:** ie: Acronis True Image, as desired.
- **RESTART ANY PAUSED PROGRAMS.**
- **RESTORE THE WALLPAPER AND DISPLAY PERSONALIZATIONS:** The Windows 11 update may reset the desktop wallpaper and all display Personalizations. They must be restored manually to the settings recorded earlier. When done, be sure to save all the personalizations (Save Theme). See also <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/wallpaper>
- **NEW SETTINGS FOR WIN 11: (*Do this for each User*)**
 - Move the Taskbar back to the left: Taskbar settings > Taskbar behavior :
 - File Explorer options. Decrease Spacing and other File Explorer settings.
 - Restore Full Context Menus using WINAERO and increase the Scrollbar width to 25 or 30.
 - If OneDrive app is not used, disable the startup of the App: Start > settings > Apps > Startup.
- **Win 11 IMAGE BACKUP:** I strongly suggest you do a FULL Image backup of the new Windows 11 system before customizing the Install..
- **WINDOWS 11 INSTALL CHECKLIST:** Now is the time to use my Windows 11 Install Checklist to set up or verify your Windows 11 customizations.