

How to upgrade to Windows 11: a member's guide to Microsoft's Windows 10 end-of-life countdown

The time has finally come, and Windows 10 is reaching end-of-life on 14th October 2025. Windows 10 was released in July 2015 and in those intervening 10 years, the security protection available and attack methods used have advanced significantly. So, to keep pace with these advances, Microsoft released Windows 11 and will retire Windows 10.

The retirement of Windows 10 means that after October 2025, Microsoft will no longer provide security updates, bug fixes or technical support. The impact of this is that your computer will be vulnerable to security attacks and increasingly exposed to new cyber threats and glitches. As time goes on, the apps that you use either won't be updated or simply won't run on your device, which in turn will leave you further exposed.

So how do I get Windows 11?

Unlike the upgrade to Windows 10, upgrading to Windows 11 isn't a given, and requires your device to meet certain specifications to conform with its advanced security features.

The main new requirements include:

- **Processor:** Intel 8th Generation and newer or AMD processor (see below)
- **System firmware (BIOS):** UEFI and Secure Boot capable.
- **TPM:** Trusted Platform Module (TPM) version 2.0.

How can I check device compatibility?

There are a couple of straightforward ways to check Windows 11 compatibility. The first is to check Windows Update and the second is to run the "PC Health Check" App.

In Windows Update you should either see a message saying that Windows 11 is ready to install or that your device does not meet the requirements.

On a compatible device

Windows Update



If you see the message above, then your device meets the requirements, and you can download and upgrade when you are ready.

On a device that's not compatible

Windows Update

 You're up to date
Last checked: Today, 16:06

[Check for updates](#)

[View optional updates](#)

This PC doesn't currently meet [Get PC Health Check](#) ×
the minimum system requirements to run Windows 11
Get the details and see if there are things you can do in the PC Health Check app.

If you see the message above, then your computer hasn't passed the requirements to run Windows 11 and so Windows 11 cannot currently be installed on this device. You can find out why the device isn't compatible by running the "PC Health Check App". See below for information on this App.

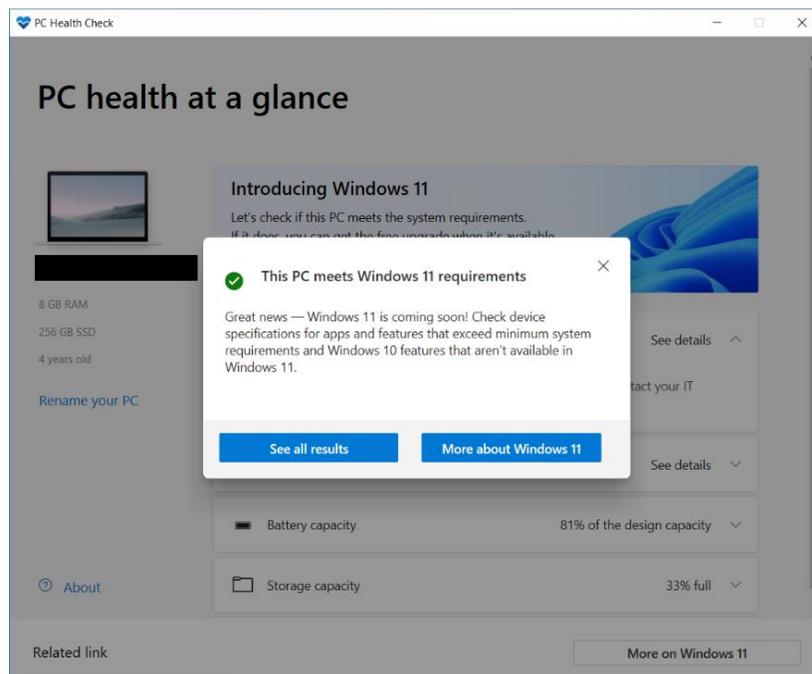
No compatibility information listed

If you don't see either of these messages in Windows Update, then the easiest way to check eligibility and compatibility is to run the "PC Health Check App". This can be

downloaded from Microsoft here: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/windows/windows-11#pchealthcheck>

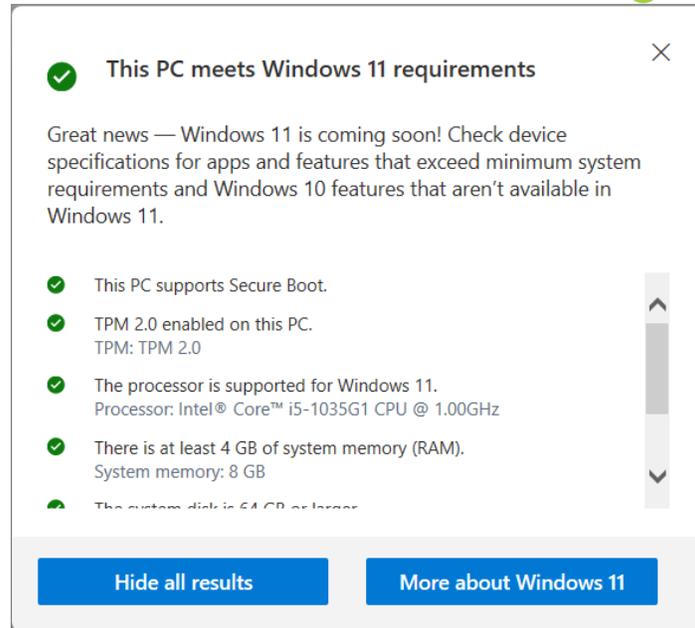


Once you've installed the program, click "Check now" inside the app to see if you qualify.

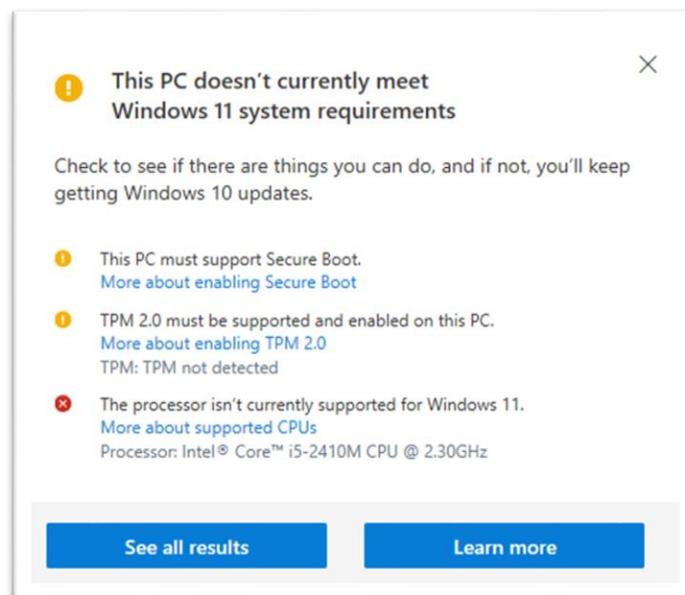


A screen will be displayed showing whether the device does or does not meet the Windows 11 requirements.

If your computer is compatible, a message tells you that your PC meets Windows 11 requirements and displays the results:



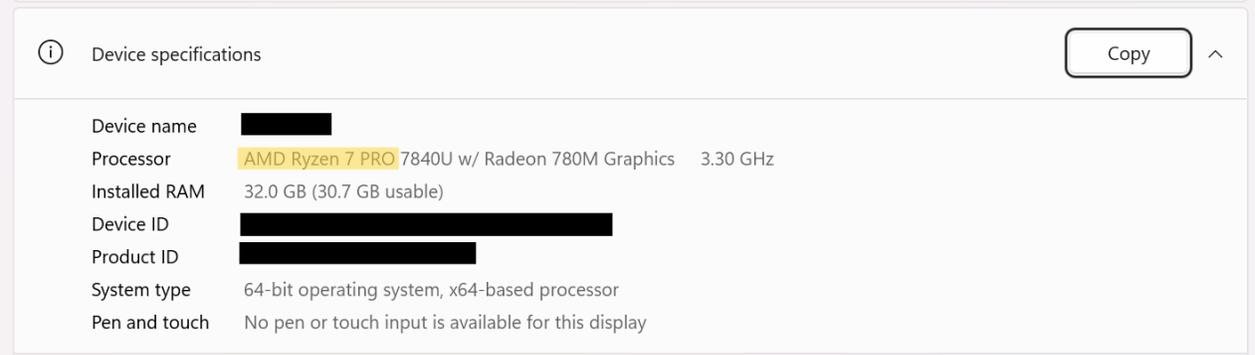
If your device is not compatible, a message tells you that your PC doesn't meet the Windows 11 requirements and displays the results. The items with a green tick meet the requirements, An Orange (!) or Red (X) shows the items that don't meet the requirements.



In some cases, it may be possible that the items not meeting requirements can be rectified, for example, it may be possible to enable Secure boot and TPM2.0 in your computer BIOS.

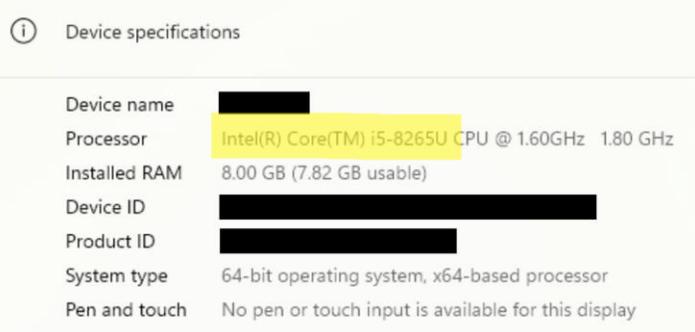
Does my processor meet requirements?

One of the key requirements for Windows 11 compatibility is the processor in your device. An easy way to determine the processor is to check your device's specifications from within Windows, and you can do this by just pressing the Windows key (or clicking the Windows icon in your taskbar). Then, type 'Device specifications' and hit enter. When it opens, you'll see a section that looks something like this, with the processor listed:



Device specifications

Device name	[REDACTED]
Processor	AMD Ryzen 7 PRO 7840U w/ Radeon 780M Graphics 3.30 GHz
Installed RAM	32.0 GB (30.7 GB usable)
Device ID	[REDACTED]
Product ID	[REDACTED]
System type	64-bit operating system, x64-based processor
Pen and touch	No pen or touch input is available for this display



Device specifications

Device name	[REDACTED]
Processor	Intel(R) Core(TM) i5-8265U CPU @ 1.60GHz 1.80 GHz
Installed RAM	8.00 GB (7.82 GB usable)
Device ID	[REDACTED]
Product ID	[REDACTED]
System type	64-bit operating system, x64-based processor
Pen and touch	No pen or touch input is available for this display

Once you've figured out the specifications of your current device, you can click on the links below to see what the Windows 11 requirements for that processor are.

- Intel processors: <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-hardware/design/minimum/supported/windows-11-supported-intel-processors>

- AMD processors: <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-hardware/design/minimum/supported/windows-11-supported-amd-processors>

Downloading Windows 11

If your device is eligible for the upgrade, follow Microsoft's simple steps on how to set up Windows 11:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/software-download/windows11/>

What if my device doesn't meet the requirements?

If your current device isn't compatible with Windows 11, it will need to be replaced. But don't worry because we can help you explore some solutions.

Superhighways has guides on budgeting, as well as information on how you can secure funding for your tech infrastructure.

One great funding opportunity is the Clothworkers Foundation, which has helped many organisations like yours access funding to replace outdated devices.

Have a look at the links below to learn more:

- **Creating a digital and tech budget:**
<https://superhighways.org.uk/latest/creating-a-digital-and-tech-bu/>
- **Funding your tech and digital infrastructure:**
<https://superhighways.org.uk/latest/funding-your-tech-and-digital/>

Once you've sorted out a replacement, you must securely wipe your old device to protect against any unauthorised access to personal data that might be stored there. This is essential for staying GDPR compliant and safeguarding the people you support.

You could consider turning the device into a Chromebook by using ChromeOS flex. See here for more info: <https://www.androidpolice.com/chrome-os-flex-what-it-is-and-why-you-should-use-it/>.

Feel free to reach out to us on info@superhighways.org.uk for more guidance.