

Computer Bytes – April 2023

Windows 8, Windows 10, & Windows 11 Update

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It's been some time since we've visited! I hope the new year finds you and yours happy and successful, both professionally and personally. All the rain has made our area GORGEOUS. I hope you're able to enjoy that. I've not shared in a while and am going to refresh on a couple of issues that are in the forefront now for Windows users.

Windows 8 operating system reached end of life/support on January 10, 2023. What this means is that while you can still use your computer, there will be no new Microsoft updates, patches, etc. This opens your system up to potential security issues. It's recommended to upgrade to Windows 10 at minimum to ensure you continue to get those updates. Note that most systems allow this software upgrade free, so it's just the labor/effort to address. We strongly recommend you move on this point if you've not already done so, particularly if you use in a business environment.

Also, referencing Windows 10, that will be supported until October 2025 so that provides plenty of breathing room.

As far as Windows 11 goes, let's refresh on that. Currently, it is the latest Windows operating system and available and noted in the Microsoft Windows updates. Some of you may have noted prompts, alerts, etc. when running Windows updates that read "This PC doesn't currently meet the minimum system requirements to run Windows 11." This message looks a bit scary and can lead to concern for security and compliance on your Windows system(s). For your review, within this message, there are actually links that take you to a Microsoft page that provides the details. While the message seems intimidating, some systems may actually be pretty far back for the requirements and require extensive upgrades or not be possible. In that case a newer system is required to support the Windows 11 requirements. Also, once again, Windows 10 is just fine for now so don't feel that you HAVE to do the upgrade.

There are some of you who may still have Windows 7 – yes, it's true! In this case I do recommend you upgrade to Windows 10 for security patches and fixes. Again, for the most part you're entitled to the software at no charge with these pre-existing operating systems.

Should you choose to actually go with the Windows 11 upgrade, just be sure you meet compliance requirements and be prepared for the learning curve any new operating system presents.

Once again, this discussion also brings up the point to run your Windows Updates. Sometimes they can interfere with unique functions and may require 'rollbacks' or disabling specific ones that create issues for you but it's definitely the lesser of evils to keep updates current for security fixes, etc.

NOTE: Our sharing of information within articles includes suggestions and tips. **USE AND/OR APPLY AT YOUR OWN RISK.** If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our offices for professional service/guidance. Until next time, don't forget your backups! For more information, contact Harv Oliver, HANDS-ON Consultations, (805) 524-5278, www.hocsupport.com