Bits & Bytes

Arkansas' Premier Computer Club

February 2025

The Bella Vista Computer Club - John Ruehle Center
Highlands Crossing Center, 1801 Forest Hills Blvd Suite 208 (lower level), Bella Vista, AR 72715

Website: http://BVComputerClub.org   **Email: editor@bvcomputerclub.org**

MEETINGS

Board Meeting: February 10, 2pm, in John Ruehle Training Center, Highlands Crossing Center.

General Meeting: February 10, 3pm. Program: "Overview of Tax Preparation Software". This will be a look at the most commonly used tax preparation software options.

We will meet in-person in John Ruehle Training Center, Highlands Crossing Center, lower level, 1801 Forest Hills Blvd, Bella Vista, or you may attend the meeting on-line via Zoom. Zoom access information is published on our website.

Visitors or Guests are welcome.

Consider attending by Zoom if you are unable to attend in-person.

HELP CLINICS

February 1, 9am - noon at John Ruehle center
February 19, 9am - noon at John Ruehle center
Members may request Remote Help on our website at https://bvcomputerclub.org at menu path Member Benefits ►Remote Help .

MEMBERSHIP

Single membership is $30; $15 for each additional family member in the same household.

Join on our website at https://bvcomputerclub.org at menu path Get Involved ►Join/Renew, by mailing an application (from the web site) with check, or complete an application and pay in person at any meeting.

CLASSES

(At BVCC Training Center)

Thursday, February 20, 9am-11am, "Microsoft Word", with Joel Ewing.

Advance sign up required for each listed class: For reservations: email to edu@bvcomputerclub.org, or sign up at the General Meeting. Classes are free to Computer Club members.

Check the monthly calendar and announcements for any last minute schedule changes at https://bvcomputerclub.org .

NEW OR RETURNING BVCC MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members or members returning as BVCC members after an absence:

Mary Deady   Steven Miller   Margaret Foster

LENOVO LAPTOP RAFFLE

One of BVCC's most important fundraisers during the year is a raffle of a computer. This year the offering will be a refurbished Lenovo Ideapad 5, 15.6" laptop, including a laptop case and wireless mouse.

The raffle drawing will be held at the BVCC April 14 General Meeting.   Tickets are available for a donation of $10 at the BVCC General Meetings up until the time of the drawing, or by calling or texting 479-966-9357.   You do not have to be a BVCC member or present at the meeting to win.

The specifications of the laptop are as follows:
- Name: IdeaPad 5 - 15ITL05   MTM: 82FG000RUS, S/N: PF20M4DS
- Processor: 11th Gen Intel Core i5-1135G7, 2.40 GHz, PassMark Single/Multi BM: 2667/9690
- Display: 15.6" FHD (1920x1080), w Camera
- RAM: 8 GiB (not upgradable)
- Operating System: Windows 11 Pro
- Storage Drive: 512 GB NVME SSD
- 2 USB-A 3.2 Gen 1 ports, 1 USB-C 3.2 Gen 1 port
- SD Card reader
- HDMI 1.4b
- Headphone/mic port
- 802.11AX WiFi & Bluetooth 5.1
- Installed software: Microsoft Office 365 (not a subscription), Chrome, Firefox, Thunderbird, VLC Media Play, and Zoom

WHAT HAPPENS AT WINDOWS 10 END OF SUPPORT?

by Leo A. Notenboom
https://askleo.com/windows-10-end-of-support/
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This is another article on Windows 10 End-of-Support and how to mitigate potential risks of use of Windows 10 beyond its EOS date. One new piece of information is that for $30 you will be able to order one year of additional security updates to extend security service to October 14, 2026. For some this might be a reasonable short-term alternative to upgrading to Windows 11, but note that the recommendation is still to get to Windows 11 as soon as practical. Some are even speculating that a Windows 12 might be announced as early as Fall 2025, but so far there is little hard evidence to support that. [B&B, Ed]

The end of support for Windows 10 means Microsoft will no longer issue security updates. Here's how to continue using it safely.

> **Question:** *Will Windows 10 keep working after its end of support? Can I keep using it? Or will Microsoft force me to upgrade to Windows 11?*

No, you won't be forced to upgrade.

You can keep using it, but it's important to understand the risks involved.

One thing we've learned from being here before (with Windows XP and Wndows 7), is that the risks may not be as horrific as some make them out to be.

> ### Windows 10 end of days
>
> Windows 10 will continue to work after its end-of-support date (October 2025). Applications running on Windows 10 may get updates for some time, but eventually stop supporting Windows 10 as well. Make extra sure you maintain good security practices, and backup regularly to continuing to use Windows 10 safely.

Windows 10 end of support date

Windows 10 22H2 will be supported until October 14, 2025.

The only thing that happens when support ends is that no further fixes are available, even for security-related issues. In fact, even now, as the date draws closer, security-related issues are the only fixes you'll get.

It'll keep working, but whatever Windows 10 looks like on October 14 is what it'll be from then on. No changes, no fixes, no 'nuthin.

A twist: Extended Security Updates

For the first time, Microsoft is making the Extended Security Updates (ESU) program available to consumers who use Home and Pro editions. Sort of.

> And for the first time ever, we're introducing an ESU program for personal use as well. The ESU program for consumers will be a one-year option available for $30. Program enrollment will be available closer to the end of support in 2025.

For $30, you get one year of additional security updates beyond the October 14, 2025 cutoff date. One year. After that, you're once again on your own.

Essentially you've simply punted the deadline one year further down field.

Applications may still get updates

Just because Windows stops getting updates doesn't mean the applications you use will stop getting updates. That depends entirely on the application vendor and when they decide to stop supporting Windows 10.

Some may stop on Microsoft's date. Others may stop sometime thereafter. You simply need to monitor updates for the programs you care about.

Someday, those updates will probably stop as well. It'll be up to you to decide if you care.

Windows Security will still get updates for some time

Think of Window Security as separate from Windows itself. Just as if it were a third party application, the scanner may continue to get updates for some time, and the database of malware that it relies on will keep getting updated as well.

Security bugs in Windows itself will not be fixed, but the security software looking for malware will stay current for some unspecified amount of time.

So what's the risk?

Good question. The gloom and doom scenario is that there's an unpatched vulnerability waiting to be found. Hackers will exploit it, and Microsoft won't fix it.

The more pragmatic risk is that **eventually, your other software will no longer be updated**. You'll have to figure out whether you can live with it or find alternatives.

The other risk is that when your computer dies, you won't be able to get Windows 10 for its replacement. Once again, you'll face a decision: move to the latest, most current version of Windows, or switch to something else entirely.

Mitigate the risks

Perhaps the most important step to keeping yourself safe is to make extra sure you're following proper security practices, and that your security software continues to work and continues to be updated. If your security software is no longer supported, find an alternative immediately.

Windows Security should continue to receive updates for "a while". In the past, the Windows security software continued to be updated for some time after Windows itself was past end of support.

The other important step I recommend is my old standby: regular and complete backups. If something goes wrong, you'll want to restore to a backup. This will also protect you to some extent when Microsoft eventually takes existing Windows 10 updates and activation offline. That action would prevent you from downloading Windows 10 from scratch, but if you have a backup, you can still restore it.[1]

We've been here before

If what we're experiencing sounds hauntingly familiar, that's because it is. This is exactly what happened with Windows 7 some years ago, and Windows XP before it.

Related

Internet Safety: 7 Steps to Staying Safe Online

- Use good security software.
- Keep software up-to-date.
- Secure your online accounts.
- Educate yourself.
- Secure your home and mobile connections.
- Remember physical security.
- Back up.

And in the light of many dire predictions of catastrophe and doom… nothing happened. There were no catastrophic malware outbreaks targeting Windows 7 or Windows XP. There was no list of known vulnerabilities that hackers kept secret until they knew they wouldn't be fixed.

Nothing.

Windows 7, Vista, and XP users were probably more affected by the decreasing hardware and software support for the applications they cared about.

I expect Windows 10's "death" to be very similar: a slow fade into obscurity.

Do this

If you're running Windows 10 it's time to at least start thinking about Windows 11 if you can. But even if you don't, as long as you continue to use your computer safely, you should be fine. Eventually, yes, you'll want to upgrade, either because the software you care about stops working, or you get a new machine with a new version of Windows pre-installed.

Until then, subscribe to Confident Computing! More information about Windows 10 as it nears its end of life, as well as less frustration and more confidence, solutions, answers, and tips in your inbox every week.

Leo Who?

I'm Leo Notenboom and I've been playing with computers since I took a required programming class in 1976. I spent over 18 years as a software engineer at Microsoft, and "retired" in 2001. I started Ask Leo! in 2003 as a place to help you find answers and become more confident using all this amazing technology at our fingertips. More about Leo.