



## Windows 10 - Is it Time to Install the New Operating System?

by Ross Hendry



**M**icrosoft Windows 10 has been loaded to over 110,000,000 PCs since its launch on 29th July. Is it time for you to take advantage of this free offer from Microsoft?

On 12th November 2015 Microsoft launched the first major update to Windows 10, this update is for Windows PCs and Tablets. The update provides improvements for all aspects of the operating system and most importantly includes thousands of updates to device drivers and applications improving the Windows 10 compatibility. Microsoft will also start updating the Xbox one and some select Windows mobile telephones.

Personally, I have been waiting for this point to be the trigger to update my main desktop PC. Until now I have been running Windows 10 on the pre-release version via the Windows insider program on a test computer and have been impressed by the usability and stability, but concerned that my PC (which is not young by any standards - coming up 5 years old). I was not happy to update until I was sure that I could get the relevant Windows 10 device drivers. I intend to perform the update in the next few weeks and report the experience to you next month. So I have a mammoth back-up to perform to make sure I am safe in the event of ... ..

Terry Myerson the Executive Vice President, Windows and Devices Group of Microsoft, states the following in his blog :  
“...Most importantly, with this free update we have reached the point in the platform’s maturity where we can confidently recommend Windows 10 deployment to whole organisations.

Experience improvements in this update include:

- **Performance** in everyday tasks, such as boot time now nearly 30% faster than Windows 7 on the same device.
- With **Cortana**, you can use your device’s pen\*\* to just scribble a note in the Cortana Notebook and Cortana will recognize the phone number, email address, and even physical address to help you set reminders. Cortana can also now keep track of your event and movie bookings too, sending you helpful reminders to know where to go and get there on time, plus the option to book and track an Uber\*\*. We’re excited to make Cortana available in Japan, Australia, and Canada and India (in English) with features and experiences customized for each market.
- **Microsoft Edge** offers improved performance and security, along with tab preview, which allows you to hover over your open tabs and get a preview of what’s on those websites without leaving the page you’re on. Microsoft Edge now syncs your Favorites and Reading list items across devices so you can easily get back to the content you’re interested in most. And, Cortana will now notify you of the best coupons\*\* from

your favorite retailers such as Staples, Macys and Best Buy when shopping in Microsoft Edge.

And much more with improvements to Mail, Calendar, Photos, Groove, Xbox, Store, OneNote, Solitaire, and more!

\*If already running Windows 10, you will receive the November update according to your Windows Update settings. If you’re running Windows 7 or Windows 8.1, you can take advantage of the free upgrade offer and receive the November update as part of your Windows 10 upgrade.  
\*\* US only at availability”

Several of my customers have chosen to update to Windows 10 already, most of them have had a relatively trouble free upgrade, especially if their PC/laptop was less than 2 years old. It is the older PCs that have experienced problems and these have varied from simple device drivers not being available to more serious problems usually concerning their anti-virus program. In many cases the update completely removed the antivirus and needed it to be reloaded from scratch. Some cases they were able to use their existing version but many had to get updated versions from their AV supplier, the most awkward was Kaspersky followed by Avira.

It is crucial that you have prepared for the update by checking that you have the latest version of the software and any drivers for your PC, plus of course any passwords or activation codes you need to set-up and run these. You should also check that your programs (especially the older ones) are going to be compatible with Windows 10. Finally you will also need to check that your printer, webcam and other peripherals, such as your Digital Camera, have Windows 10 compatible device drivers and utility software.



Please do contact me if you need help with your upgrade and let me know your experience so that I may advise others and hopefully make it a positive experience for them. Have a really Great Christmas and thank you all for reading these articles and your kind feedback on them.

*Ross Hendry is the proprietor of Interface Consulting and Engineering, who has over 42 years experience in Communications, Computer Technology and Direct Marketing. (See advert below).*

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