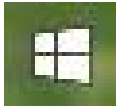


Windows 10 + Microsoft's Free offer! (for those who qualify... some who may not!)

by Ross Hendry



Have you got the "Get Windows 10 app" yet?
..this is what it looks like.

So, what is the "Get Windows 10 app"?

The Get Windows 10 App is provided to support the free upgrade, which is offered for PCs and tablets running Windows 7 Service Pack 1 (SP1) and Windows 8.1 Update. The app manages the reservation, includes information about Windows 10 and provides an Upgrade Advisor which checks to see if your device will work with Windows 10. Find it here :



Microsoft have generously offered to provide their new Windows 10 operating system to all legitimate owners of Microsoft Windows 7, 8 or 8.1. They are sending it with their recent Windows Updates and doing an integrity check, to check for unlicensed copies of the Windows operating system.

If you qualify you will see a Windows Logo beside the clock on the right hand end of your task bar beside the clock. Like this :



If you do not qualify you may receive a message telling you, "This copy of Windows is not genuine" or "You may be a victim of software counterfeiting". **Do not worry**, if you have had changes on your PC this could well be the cause of it.

In order to check your license, Microsoft verify many things including the Hard Disk, CPU, Motherboard and Manufacturer as well as update state of your Windows updates and the License Information you or the manufacturer entered when installing the operating system. If one of these has changed, replaced or has become corrupted, it can result in the "Not Genuine" message.

Since the launch of Windows 7, I have had to resolve this issue for many customers that have had lightning strikes and had to replace one or more of the components of their PCs. It is easily addressed. After checking out your PC and original licence details, I can reset the Licence codes for you, and it takes 20 to 50 minutes depending on the speed of your PC. You will then be entitled to your free copy of Windows 10.

The \$64,000 question is "Should you take this free offer?"

Through the Windows Insider Program, some 4 million people (I am one of them) have been able to test an evaluation copy. I have had a copy since January 2015, been testing it for 12 weeks or more and am impressed. I believe you should seriously consider taking it. I have found it to be fast, reliable and easy to navigate. Windows 7 users will know how to "Drive" it pretty much instantly, and it is not difficult to show someone how to find things that have moved.

Here are the details from the Microsoft Windows 10 features website www.microsoft.com/en-gb/windows/features

*Windows Offer Details

Windows 10 is a free upgrade, for a limited time, for qualified Windows 7 and Windows 8.1 devices (including devices you already own). It is our intent that most of these devices will qualify, but some hardware/software requirements apply and feature availability may vary by device. The availability of Windows 10 upgrade for Windows Phone 8.1 devices may vary by OEM, mobile operator or carrier. Devices must be connected to the internet and have Windows Update enabled. ISP fees may apply. Windows 7 SP1 and Windows 8.1 Update required. Some editions are excluded: Windows 7 Enterprise, Windows 8/8.1 Enterprise and Windows RT/RT 8.1. Active Software Assurance customers in volume licensing have the benefit to upgrade

to Windows 10 enterprise offerings outside of this offer. To check for compatibility and other important installation information, visit your device manufacturer's website and the Windows 10 Specifications page.

Duration of the Offer :

Yes. Windows 10 is a free upgrade for qualified Windows 7 SP1, Windows 8.1 Update and Windows Phone 8.1 devices. This free upgrade is offered for one year after Windows 10 is available. After you upgrade, Windows 10 is yours to enjoy.

HOWEVER, do not rush to take it immediately - you do not want to be a guinea pig! My advice for Windows 10, as with all new Operating Systems, is leave it for at least three months and see what is in the press and on the forums. During this time many bugs (program errors and omissions) will be found and resolved and if it is looking good, go for it then, if not, wait another 3 months and check again etc., The free offer is available for 1 year from the launch on 29th July 2015, so there is no rush.

Personally I will be using it both on my desktop PC and my laptop, but only after 6 months, and only after I have checked out what professional reviewers say. The benefits of having the most recent operating system include better and more relevant security, more efficient use of your hardware resources and far better integration with the internet/cloud and of course future proofing.

Here is what I know about the current versions of Windows

Client Operating Systems	Latest Update or Service Pack	End of m/stream support	End of Extended Support
Windows XP	Service Pack 3	April 14, 2009	April 8, 2014
Windows Vista	Service Pack 2	April 10, 2012	April 11, 2017
Windows 7	Service Pack 1	Jan 13, 2015	Jan 14, 2020
Windows 8	Windows 8.1	Jan 9, 2018	Jan 10, 2023

I have not found any data on the lifecycle for Windows 10 anywhere on the Web, perhaps that is to be expected as it has not been launched yet. My guess is, if it is as good as I think it is going to be, it will be supported at least until 2025.

I found that Microsoft's website answered all of my questions regarding Windows 10 (except it's lifecycle i.e. how long is it going to be supported by Microsoft) check it out here :-

The main site:

www.microsoft.com/en-gb/windows/Default.aspx

Do Not Miss - The Frequently asked questions pages:

www.microsoft.com/en-gb/windows/windows-10-faq

Do Not Miss - How to upgrade:

www.microsoft.com/en-gb/windows/windows-10-upgrade

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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