

Medical Office Systems, LLC

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Windows 10 Update

The new “Windows 10” will be available beginning July 29, 2015. If you have Windows 7 or Windows 8, you should have received the notification icon by now. Here is an update with some pertinent points to consider.

#1: Yes, it is free, but only on computers currently running licensed, legitimate copies of Windows 7, Windows 8, or Windows 8.1. If you have Windows XP, Windows Vista, or (gulp) something older, you will not get a free copy. If your computer has a pirated version, also no luck there, either.

#2: How do I get it? If your computer has a licensed copy, you should have seen a new icon in your bottom-right hand taskbar, somewhere to the left of the date and time bar. It is an all-white Windows flag logo with the four squares. If you hover over the logo with your mouse, it should say “Get Windows 10”. Click the logo, you will be presented with the free reservation box, click the “Reserve My Copy” button.

#3: Should I upgrade? OK, that is the \$64,000 question. Eventually, everyone should upgrade. How you get there is a different matter: no one-size-fits-all answer is available. Basically there are three categories, but all categories and all answers hinge on two very important points:

#1: MAKE SURE YOUR APPLICATIONS ARE WINDOWS 10 COMPATIBLE*

#2: MAKE A BACKUP BEFORE YOU START THE UPGRADE.

Category 1: If you are a home user and already have Windows 8, go right ahead. If you have Windows 7, just do some basic home stuff, get email, word processing or spreadsheets, and don't have any heavy-duty software like QuickBooks, CAD, Solid Modeling, and you are not Tom Skilling**, go right ahead.

Category 2: You use your computer(s) for business; have QuickBooks or other financial software; and no custom vertical application software (industry-specific, like Engineering, Medical, and Architectural). I advise you wait until January 2016. This will give some time for bugs to be fixed, and patches to be issued. After that, go right ahead, provided you have satisfied Points #1 and #2 above, and you are not Tom Skilling**.

Category 3: You are Tom Skilling**, or have an industry-specific vertical applications (Retail POS, Medical, 3-D CAD, Weather Modeling). I advise you wait until June 2016, unless your software vendor says “OK”. Custom vertical apps will need time to be revised, re-written, and patched prior being run on Windows 10 at all, regardless of any bugs in Windows 10 itself. Some vendors may not ever patch their vertical apps: you may be forced to purchase a new version to become Windows 10 compatible.

Notes: Compatibility* [Use this Microsoft link to check if your software is compatible.](#) **Tom Skilling**:** Chicago's legendary weatherman uses highly technical, heavy-duty weather simulation software. I am taking a wild guess that he will not be upgrading anything until his custom weather apps can be re-written.

-John Becker

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