

Windows 10 Release Advisory

The new “Windows 10” will be available beginning July 29, 2015. If you have reserved your copy via the “White Flag” notification icon, great. If not, don’t worry, there is no rush. This may take awhile. I’ll have to back-pedal my earlier recommendations a bit. Yeah, yeah, I jumped the gun. Let me explain:

Starting in January, I began using the beta (testing) releases of Windows 10: it all worked pretty well. But (and there’s always a “but”) I was testing a “Clean Install” only – meaning starting from a brand-new, empty disk. The in-place “Upgrade” (install over an existing Windows version) was not tested, because it was not ready at the time. **Let The Backpedaling Begin:**

I cannot recommend doing an “in-place” upgrade, especially if the computer you are intending to upgrade has Windows 7. (Note: “Clean Installs” are OK, but you’ll have to backup your data, and re-install most of your programs) **I advise everyone to wait a few months before considering it. Like October 2015.**

Here’s why: **The upgrade method does not work properly.** I obtained a pre-release copy and tried an in-place upgrade of my Windows 7 laptop over last weekend. As usual there is Good News and Bad News, but **ultimately I had to restore Windows 7 from the backup I made before starting the upgrade** (hint, hint).

Good News: The upgrade is totally and completely automatic. Once you click “OK”, just walk away and come back 45 minutes later, it will be finished. Smoothest upgrade ever. I was pretty happy with the initial boot-up, but the happy went away quickly...

Bad News: Bugs. Lots of Bugs. Here are a few:

1. My Office 2013 would not work – after boot up, I could not start Word, Excel, Powerpoint or Outlook. The computer reported that these were unlicensed. Wrong-o, I had legitimate licenses. I could not do a repair install, and had to completely uninstall it and then re-install it. After that, OK.
2. My Sophos Anti-Virus went into limbo – I could tell it was running, but there were no icons, no menus, and it would not update. This was compounded by the fact that I could not un-install and re-install like I did with Office. There apparently is no fix yet for this, and ultimately this was the major reason I went back to Win 7.
3. My CD/DVD Drive did not work. Windows 10 apparently does not include drivers for devices older than 5 years – my laptop is 6 years old. I faked it out by installing a driver for a newer CD/DVD drive from the same manufacturer, and then it worked. But you shouldn’t have to do that.
4. All my shared folders went away – I had shortcuts and mapped drives to my home server, these all were removed for me. I didn’t ask for that to happen, it just did... Me not like that. I put them back.

Bottom Line: as it has been since time began and despite many promises, Microsoft has not perfected the in-place upgrade (shocking!). The best (but most time-consuming) route is the “clean install” method.

-John Becker