

Medical Office Systems, LLC

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OK, Go Ahead! (for most of you)

Many readers have asked about when to install the Windows 10 Upgrade, as the little pop-up notices keep well, popping up, and are becoming annoying. As you recall, in the early days of Windows 10 availability, I tested doing the upgrade on three of my machines with poor results. At that time I said “wait awhile”.

Now that some time has passed, and due in part to Microsoft’s rapid update schedule, I believe the upgrade is now safe to install for most users. I have had experience converting several more computers of various configurations and all have been successful. Therefore, I am giving the official “Go Ahead” for home users. The risk of a problem is low, and there is a “rollback” option to go back to the old Windows if you have to.

Two Important Points:

1. Un-install your anti-virus software; it could cause a problem during the upgrade
 - You can re-install it after the upgrade is complete
2. When the upgrade begins, **do not skip** the “Check for latest Updates” step

Caveat: Business users take note: check all your software and devices for compatibility prior to starting. If you have what are called “vertical applications” such as Medical Software, Computer Aided Design (CAD), 3-D Modeling, or other highly specialized software, don’t start until you get the OK from the publisher. Likewise, if you connect any specialized devices such as Credit Card readers, Bar Code readers, X-Ray scanners, Dental cameras and the like, you need to check them out too. A good backup prior to beginning is also a good precaution in case the upgrade fails.

Speaking of Upgrades... Apple’s OS-X “El Capitan”

I don’t want to leave Apple Mac users out of the loop: the new “El Capitan” version of OS-X is also available, just go ahead and install it. No waiting necessary. El Capitan has just a few new features (side by side windows snap), but is mostly a re-do and fix-up of the previous “Yosemite” version. Yosemite was notorious for many WiFi issues, some of which (but not all) were fixed this past February, and it also was known for being “slow”.

I can tell you after upgrading my Mac Mini and my wife’s MacBook Pro, the El Capitan version does indeed feel quite a bit faster than Yosemite, and more than a few quirks have been fixed. My printers actually print all the time now (but with a curious pause), and my wireless connection stays connected. Microsoft Office 2013 seems to work a bit faster, but Outlook still crashes a lot. I don’t know if that is a Microsoft problem or an Apple problem, sigh. Overall, even with the Outlook issue, a very worthwhile upgrade.

You can download the upgrade through the Apple Store any time (it’s free). Timewise, it takes about 5 minutes to download and about 20 minutes to install. Go For It!

-John Becker

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