

Windows 10 News

Windows 10 version 2004 (the “April 2020 Update”) reaches end of life on December 14, 2021. Press the Start key and type “winver” to check what you have now.

As of November 16, Microsoft began to push out Windows 10 version **21H2**, which is the least interesting update, ever. It consists of three new features:

- WPA3 H2E standards support for enhanced Wi-Fi security
- Windows Hello for Business: introduction of cloud trust, a new deployment method to support simplified, passwordless deployments and achieve a deploy-to-run state within a few minutes
- GPU compute support in the Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) and Azure IoT Edge for Linux on Windows (EFLOW) deployments, for machine learning and other compute-intensive workflows

There is no urgency to install 21H2. Wait at least a few weeks while any bugs are discovered and resolved.

After waiting for a while, go ahead and install it to stay within the Windows 18-month lifecycle.

Note that beginning with 21H2, Microsoft is switching from twice-a-year updates to annual updates. Read more about it here: [Microsoft moves Windows 10 to annual updates](#) (ZDNet)

Windows 10 is your best bet for a stable, reliable platform. Microsoft has committed to supporting Windows 10 with updates, upgrades, and security patches at least through October 14, 2025.

Windows 11 is not an essential upgrade yet. As it is today, you would probably notice that it is lacking some popular Windows 10 features, and that many of the new features don't seem to be working properly or are incomplete. [Good overview of what's new, what's buggy.](#) (ars technica)

[Microsoft Support's](#) new advice on finding and fixing system files that may be corrupted:

1. Open an elevated command prompt (following commands must be made with administrator privileges)
2. Type the following command and then press Enter:

```
DISM.exe /Online /Cleanup-image /Restorehealth
```

3. After the DISM command completes, type the following command and then press Enter:

```
sfc /scannow
```

This procedure can fix most missing or corrupt system file problems unless the problem is caused by the Windows Update process.

If the problem is in Windows Update, the article goes on to explain how to repair Windows from installation media.

What software actually requires TPM 2.0, and what software can run perfectly well on TPM 1.2?

| | TPM 1.2 support | TPM 2.0 support |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| BitLocker | ✓ | ✓ |
| Certificate Storage | ✓ | ✓ |
| Credential Guard | ✓ | ✓ |
| Device Health Attestation | ✓ | ✓ |
| Measured Boot | ✓ | ✓ |
| TPM Crypto/Key Storage Provider | ✓ | ✓ |
| UEFI Secure Boot | ✓ | ✓ |
| Virtual Smart Card | ✓ | ✓ |
| Windows Defender Application Control | ✓ | ✓ |
| Windows Hello | ✓ | ✓ |
| Ciphers: 160-bit SHA-1 & HMAC, 1024 & 2048-bit RSA | ✓ | ✓ |
| Ciphers: 256-bit SHA-2, HMAC-256, and other ciphers | ✗ | ✓ |
| Autopilot | ✗ | ✓ |
| SecureBIO | ✗ | ✓ |
| Windows Defender System Guard | ✗ | ✓ |

- **Windows Autopilot** can be used to deploy hundreds of Windows PCs or HoloLens 2 devices. So no big loss there if individuals and small businesses don't have TPM 2.0.
- **SecureBIO** is an enterprise-targeted biometric identity system. As an alternative, Windows Hello works just fine with only TPM 1.2.
- **Windows Defender System Guard** is a post-boot integrity verifier that works with TPM 2.0 to verify that the operating system wasn't compromised during the boot. No one outside of a huge enterprise is likely to use this.
- **TPM 2.0 adds several 256-bit encryption ciphers**, but since TPM 2.0 is backward-compatible with TPM 1.2, software could simply continue using the TPM 1.2 functions on platforms having either TPM standard.

The above chart and comments are from Brian Livingston in the AskWoody newsletter

Additional reading material and interesting topics:

[New features in standalone Office 2021](#) (MyChoice)

[Office 2021 Edition Comparison Chart](#) (MyChoice)

New Logitech keyboard that can be used to control multiple computers ([Logitech](#)),
([ars technica review](#))

Microsoft Authenticator app to [Autofill Web Forms](#) (Microsoft Blog)

[11 Worst Features of Windows 11 and How to Fix Them](#) (Tom's Hardware)

[No end in sight for chip shortage as supply chain problems pile up](#) (ars technica)

[Intel announces 12th-gen Alder Lake CPUs](#) (ars technica)

[Brave and Firefox to intercept links that force-open in Microsoft Edge](#) (Ctrl blog)

[Apple Launches Self Service Repair, Allowing Users to Fix Their Gadgets](#)
(Tom's Hardware)