

Article about Windows 10, 10S and 11 - An Opinion

Windows 10 S is a lightweight version of Windows 10 and has severe limitations . I wouldn't use it as it is too restrictive.

Windows 10 S, announced in 2017, is a "walled garden" version of **Windows 10** -- it offers a faster, more secure experience by only allowing users to install software from the official **Windows** App store, and by requiring use of the **Microsoft** Edge browser.

- it's more secure because it only allows Apps to be installed from the Windows App Store;
- It's streamlined to eliminate RAM and CPU use; and
- Everything a user does in it is automatically saved to OneDrive to free up local storage.

I have looked at **Windows 11** and it too has problems for it will only run on computers less than 4 years old.

Here are some typical comments:-

There's a new Microsoft App Store (probably sporting rounded corners and new icons). Internet Explorer and Cortana (Microsoft's failed attempt at imitating Siri and Google Assistant) are both banished from Windows 11.

But here's the catch. Even though Windows 11 claims to "unlock the full potential of your system's hardware," it won't work on many PCs happily running Windows 10.

Windows 11 requires 4 GB of RAM memory and 64 GB of disk storage. Almost any PC, less than 10 years old, will have those specs. But only "newer" CPUs running on 64-bit computers will be supported. (Windows 10 runs on older 32-bit machines.)

As of today, you'll need an Intel 8th Generation, AMD Zen 2, or a Qualcomm 7 or 8 series CPU to run Windows 11. Microsoft says this is needed to support the enhanced security features but

they are checking to see if 7th Generation Intel and AMD Zen 1 chips will cut the mustard. Anything older will probably NOT make the grade.

But there's another hurdle. A required hardware security feature called Trusted Platform Module or TPM. Microsoft says you need a TPM version 2.0 chip to run Windows 11. Millions of PCs only have a TPM 1.2 chip but those can't be upgraded.

And to add to the confusion, you might have a TPM 2.0 chip that's disabled (turned off) in the BIOS settings.

My main desktop is a 5-year-old Dell OptiPlex, has a 64-bit quad-core processor and 8 GB of RAM. It runs Windows 10 like a dream but the advanced compatibility checker that I tried says it fails four tests for Windows 11 compatibility.

My Intel i5-6500 CPU is too old, the TPM chip is missing or disabled, it does not have "Secure Boot" enabled, and does not use the GPT method of disk partitioning.

I'm not going to spend money to upgrade my CPU and there's no way I want to mess with the disk partitioning.

Who knows what might happen if I tweaked the BIOS settings to enable TPM and Secure Boot?

I'll have to live without the rounded corners and spiffy new icons in Windows 11. So it's a good thing that support for Windows 10 extends at least through to May 2025. By then, I'll probably have a new computer or we'll all be assimilated into the Borg.

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