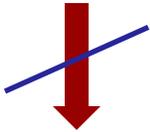
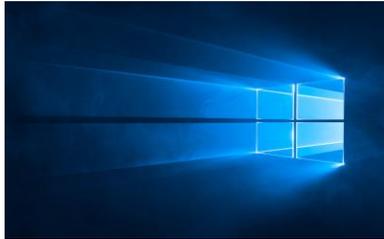


Sun City Summerlin Computer Club

Safely Staying on Windows 10 After October 14, 2025

**Tom Burt
April 30, 2025**

Agenda



- **Windows 10 Support Ending 10/14/2025**
 - <https://www.zdnet.com/article/5-ways-to-save-your-windows-10-pc-in-2025-and-most-are-free/>
- **What if you *need* to stay on Windows 10?**
 - Pay for Extended Windows 10 Support (\$30 for 1 year)
 - Keep Using Windows 10 Without Support (Risky)
 - Run Windows 10 in a Virtual Machine Under Windows 11 (Complicated and possibly frustrating)
- **A Few Possible Windows 11 Options ...**
 - Trash Your Windows 10 PC & Buy a New Windows 11 PC (Pricy)
 - Upgrade to Windows 11, Possibly Using Various Hacks (Some Learning, moderately complex)

Stay on Windows 10 Scenarios

- **Windows 10 32-bit version is installed on old hardware (rare)**
 - In-place upgrade to Windows 11 not possible (Win 11 is only 64-bit).
 - Installed apps would all be 32-bit.
- **Your Windows 10 PC still works great, but the CPU and/or TPM is incompatible.**
 - Don't feel like plunking \$\$\$ for a new Windows 11 PC.
 - Might be able to upgrade it to Windows 11 using a "hack" (see upcoming slide).
- **There are application compatibility issues**
 - Running an old, but critical app on Windows 10 that isn't compatible with Windows 11.
 - Possibly no longer have the installation media for some apps running on Windows 10.
- **There may be some device compatibility issues**
 - Possibly using an old printer, scanner, touchpad, web-cam, video capture whose drivers don't work on Windows 11.
- **You just plain hate the Windows 11 UX**
 - Settings, Desktop, Taskbar, File Explorer, Round Corners, ...
 - <https://www.zdnet.com/article/hate-windows-11-heres-how-to-make-it-work-more-like-windows-10/>
 - Maybe you want to wait for Windows 12 (Fall 2026?)
 - Maybe give up on MS and Windows entirely and convert to one of the Linux distros.

Staying With Windows 10 (1)

- The following suggestions are presented in order of importance ...
 - Become a “Standard” user (rather than an Administrator).
 - Use a third-party web browser (Google Chrome or FireFox).
 - Use third-party anti-virus software.
 - Switch to a different office suite.
 - Switch to a web mail service or use Thunderbird.

Staying With Windows 10 – Standard User

- **Most Malware can NOT infect your computer if you are not logged in as an Administrator**
- **Creating a separate Admin account is easy**
 - Go to **Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users**.
 - Click **“+ Add someone else to this PC”**.
 - Click **“I don’t have this person’s sign-in information”**. Then click **“Add a user without a Microsoft Account”**.
 - Type in a user-name and type in the password twice. Choose three security questions and enter the answers. Then click **Next** to create the new account.
 - Select the newly created account and set the Account type to **“Administrator”**.
 - Close open windows.
- **Next, change your current account’s Account type to “Standard”**
 - Log out and then log in using the newly created Administrator account.
 - Go to **Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users**. Select your regular account.
 - Select **“Change my account type”**
 - Select **“Standard”** from the dropdown. Then click **“OK”**.
 - Close open windows.
 - Log out of the Administrator account and log back in with your regular account.

Staying With Windows 10 – Web Browser

- **Microsoft's Edge Browser Will No Longer Receive Security Updates**
- **The Google Chrome web browser is expected to continue receiving security updates on Windows 10.**
 - <https://www.google.com/chrome/>
 - **Download the Chrome setup to your PC using the above link.**
 - **Run the setup file to install Chrome.**
 - **Launch Chrome and use the “import” function to import your Edge bookmarks/favorites.**
- **The Mozilla FireFox web browser will continue to receive security updates on Windows 10 through the end of 2029!**
 - <https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/download/thanks/>
 - **Download the FireFox setup to your PC using the above link.**
 - **Run the setup file to install FireFox.**
 - **Launch FireFox and use the “import” function to import your Edge bookmarks/favorites.**
- **Extensions to Chrome and FireFox should also still to function on Windows 10.**

Staying With Windows 10 – AntiVirus

- Windows Defender will no longer receive security updates after 10/14/2025.
- Several free third-party antivirus options are available:
 - https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-free-antivirus-protection?test_uuid=01nEKitrPAQmw6jRcSPVArQ&test_variant=B
 - **Avast One Basic Antivirus:** <https://www.avast.com/en-us/avast-one#pc>
 - **AVG Antivirus Free:** <https://www.avg.com/en-us/free-antivirus-download#pc>
 - **Avira Security Free:** <https://www.avira.com/en/free-antivirus-windows>
- The above say they will continue to support Windows 10 after 10/14/2025. But it's uncertain how long that support will continue.
- May want to choose a paid AV like MalwareBytes.
- Some of the above may consume more PC resources than Windows Defender

Staying With Windows 10 – MS Office

- On Windows 10, Microsoft Office, including Microsoft 365, will *not* receive security updates after 10/14/2025.
 - No logical reason for this – just MS coercing customers to move to Windows 11.
- What can you do?:
 - Just keep using the Office version you have installed (Somewhat risky).
 - Use the free online versions of the Office programs via your Microsoft Account.
 - Cancel your Microsoft 365 account (why pay for support you're not getting).
- You may want to switch to the free LibreOffice suite
 - <https://www.libreoffice.org/download/download-libreoffice/>
 - Complete suite of tools: Word Processor, Spreadsheet, Presentations, Drawing, others.
 - Very high compatibility with MS Office documents.
 - Different enough that it will take some learning to become a skilled user.

Staying With Windows 10 – Email

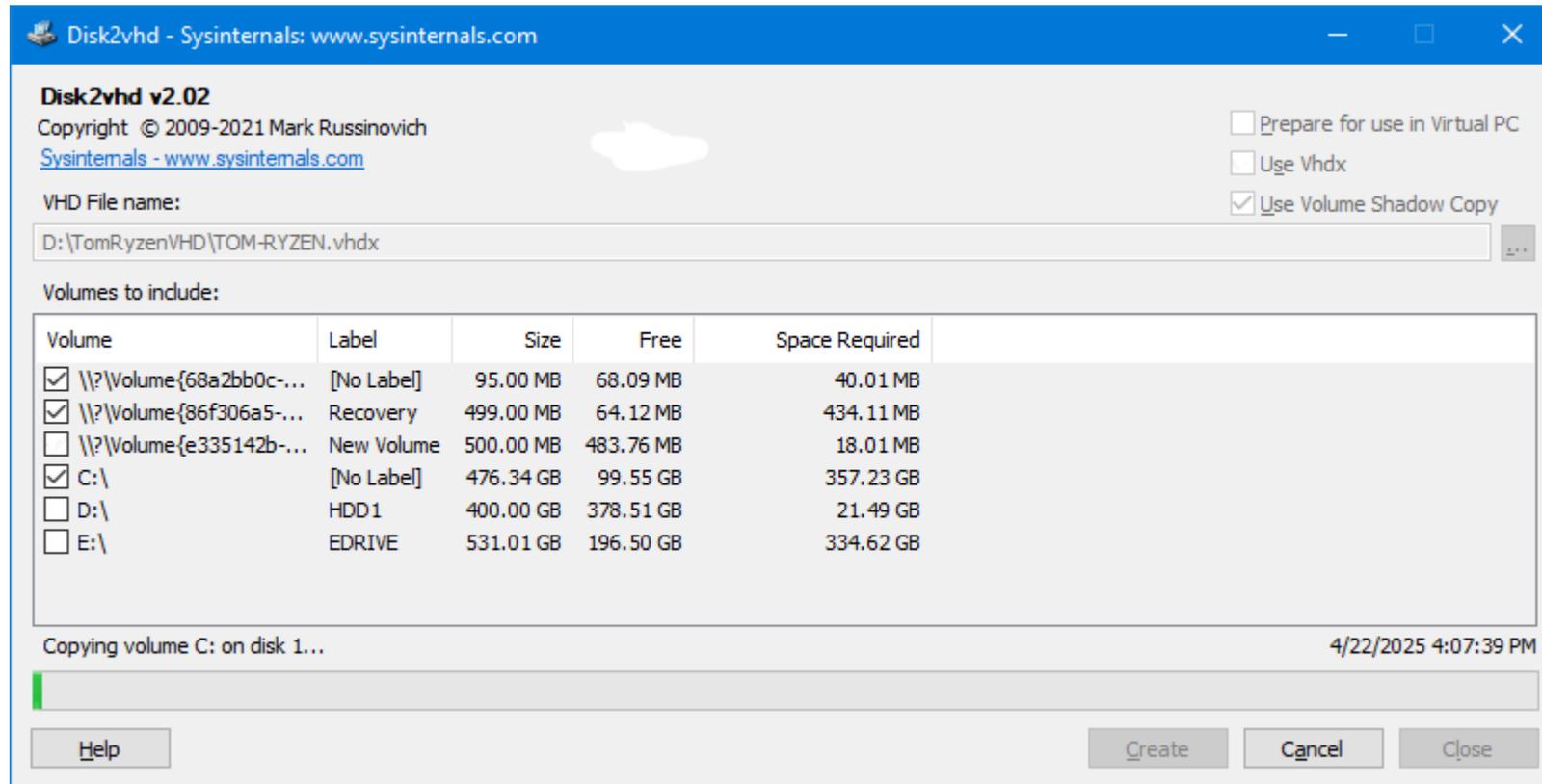
- On Windows 10, Microsoft Outlook (classic), which is part of many MS Office configurations, will not receive security updates after 10/14/2025. Probably also true for Outlook (New).
- You can switch to one of the popular free web-based email services:
 - Gmail.com - <https://mail.google.com>
 - Outlook.com - <https://outlook.live.com/mail> (replaced Hotmail)
 - Yahoo.com - <https://mail.yahoo.com>
 - Each of the above require some learning to become a skilled user.
- You can install the free Thunderbird email client to replace Outlook.
 - <https://www.thunderbird.net/en-US/download/>
 - Complete suite of open-source tools: Email, calendar, address book, tasks, ...
 - Different enough that it will take some learning to become a skilled user.

Hybrid of Windows 11 and Windows 10

- Buy a new Windows 11 PC (or upgrade Windows 10 to Windows 11) but also create a virtual machine on Windows 11 to run Windows 10 for key apps.
- You can “clone” your Windows 10 boot drive into a virtual hard drive (.vhd) file.
- You can then set up virtual machine that is connected to that .vhd file as its boot drive.
- The “cloning” tool is **Disk2VHD** and can be downloaded from Microsoft’s SysInternals website: <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/downloads/disk2vhd>.
 - Directions for running disk2vhd are at the same location.
 - No setup is needed, just run the program and tell it which partitions it should clone to the .vhd file.
 - Once the .vhd file is written, if needed, copy it to your Windows 11 PC.
- You may need to install a virtual machine manager:
 - Oracle Virtual Box or VMWare are excellent free third party VM managers.
 - If on Windows 11 Pro, you can use the built-in, free Hyper-V VM manager (must be enabled).
<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/enable-virtualization-on-windows-c5578302-6e43-4b4b-a449-8ced115f58e1>
- Set up a new virtual machine and point its virtual hard drive to the “cloned” .vhd file.

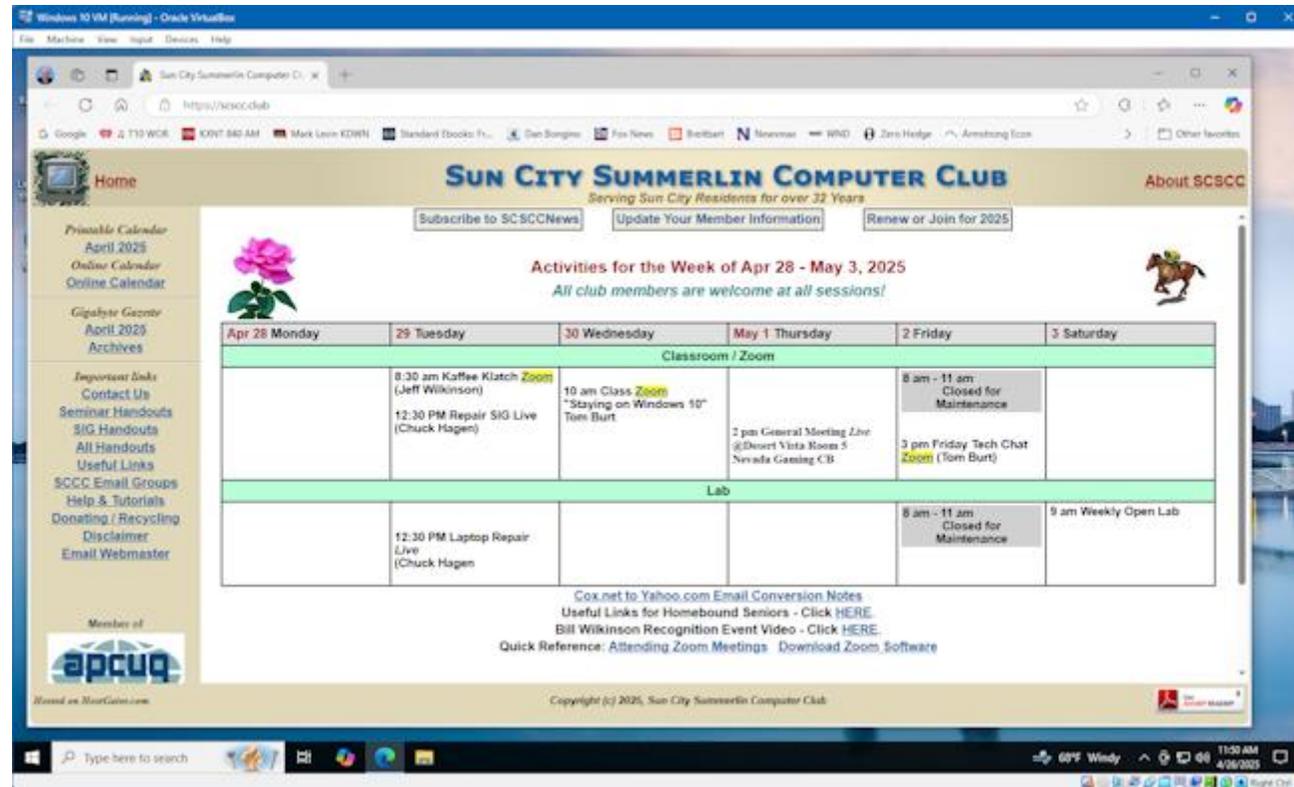
Disk2HVD Screen Shot

- **Disk2VHD Creates a virtual hard drive (VHD) file incorporating the partitions of a real hard drive. Alas, it's rather buggy and often doesn't handle the EFI partition correctly.**



Demo - Virtual Box Running Windows 10

- Once a VM is created, you can right-click and create a desktop shortcut. Then you can run the VM just like any other app. The VM shown was built with a clean install of Windows 10. It works, but it's rather sluggish. VMWare *might* be a better choice.



The screenshot shows a Windows 10 virtual machine window titled "Windows 10 VM (Running) - Oracle VM VirtualBox". The browser displays the Sun City Summerlin Computer Club website. The website features a navigation menu on the left, a main content area with a calendar of activities for the week of April 28 to May 3, 2025, and a footer with contact information and links.

SUN CITY SUMMERLIN COMPUTER CLUB
Serving Sun City Residents for over 32 Years

Activities for the Week of Apr 28 - May 3, 2025
All club members are welcome at all sessions!

Apr 28 Monday	29 Tuesday	30 Wednesday	May 1 Thursday	2 Friday	3 Saturday
Classroom / Zoom					
	8:30 am Koffee Klatch Zoom (Jeff Wilkinson) 12:30 PM Repair SIG Live (Chuck Hagen)	10 am Class Zoom "Staying on Windows 10" Tom Burt	2 pm General Meeting Live @Desert Vista Room 5 Nevada Gaming CB	8 am - 11 am Closed for Maintenance 3 pm Friday Tech Chat Zoom (Tom Burt)	
Lab					
	12:30 PM Laptop Repair Live (Chuck Hagen)			8 am - 11 am Closed for Maintenance	9 am Weekly Open Lab

Member of **apcuq**

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Safely Staying on Windows 10

Windows 11 Hardware Requirements

- A PC that runs Windows 10 may not be able to *officially* run Windows 11.
 - Key requirement is support for TPM 2.0 (Intel CPUs) or PSP 11.0 (AMD CPUs)
 - <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-11-specifications>
- Windows 11 *requires* a 64-bit capable CPU (no 32-bit version) with Intel VT-x or AMD-V.
CPU must be on the Microsoft “supported” list.
- Tom’s *Recommended* Configuration:
 - 2.5 GHz or faster dual (or more) core 64-bit CPU, 8 GB of RAM or more.
 - TPM 2.0 (Intel) or PSP 11.0 (AMD) on CPU or add-on card or in UEFI BIOS.
 - DirectX 12 Graphics Card / Chip with WDDM 2.0 driver.
 - 60 GB free hard disk space on a 256 GB (or more) drive.
 - Solid State Drive for the system drive.
- There are few application compatibility issues
 - Most Windows 10 – compatible applications should run fine on a Windows 11 PC.
- There may be some device compatibility issues
 - Most 64-bit Windows 10 – compatible device drivers (printers, scanners, web-cams, ...) should run on Windows 11.

Windows 11 Pricing

- **Retail PC Versions and Prices:**

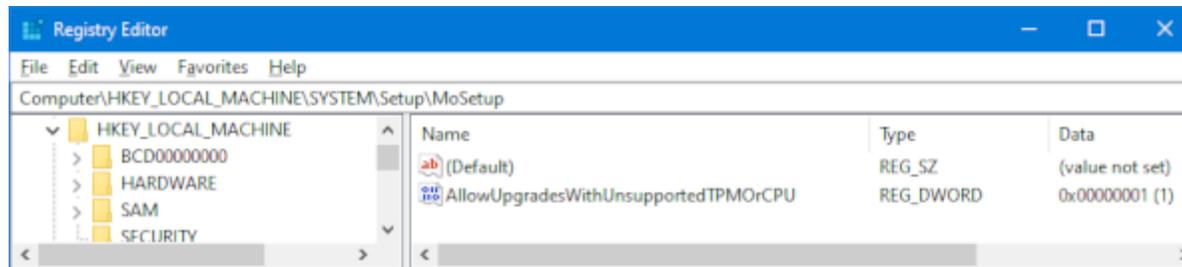
	OEM Product Key
– Windows 11 Home <i>Built-in on most new retail PCs</i>	\$139 at MS
– Windows 11 Professional <i>Upgrade from Win 11 Home</i>	\$199 at MS \$99 at MS
– Windows 365 (subscription)	\$45/mo per seat
- **Big Discounts via Groupon.com or Kinguin.com and others.**
 - Legal Windows 11 Pro license – about \$12 via Groupon
- **Upgrade Price – FREE**
 - *To owners of Windows 10*
 - *To participants in the “Windows 11 Insider” Program.*
 - *An “in-place” upgrade is available via Windows Update only to systems running Windows 10.*
 - *Others can do a “clean install” upgrade using a downloaded setup image (Media Creation Tool) (burned to a dual-layer DVD or bootable flash drive).*
- ***You can no longer activate a clean Win 10 or 11 install with a Win 7, 8, 8.1 or 10 activation key.***

To Upgrade or Not?

- Windows 11 Home ships pre-installed on most new PCs.
 - \$600 to \$1000 buys a very nice desktop or laptop PC (maybe more with tariffs).
 - For a desktop, recommend you have a 24" wide-screen flat panel.
 - Most new laptops have 1600 x 900 or higher screens, many with touch.
 - Biggest issue is transferring apps, settings and data from an old PC to the new one.
- Windows 10 will be supported until 10/14/2025. After that, no security updates for Windows 10 or for installed MS Office apps.
- If you're already on Windows 10, Windows 11 isn't very different and should be an easy upgrade *if your hardware is compatible*. Windows update should offer this upgrade automatically.
- If you decide to upgrade ... before starting, make a full image backup of your PC's drives to an external backup drive. Here are two excellent free backup tools ...
 - Macrium Reflect 8 Free: https://www.majorgeeks.com/files/details/macrium_reflect_free_edition.html
 - EaseUS Todo Free: <https://www.easeus.com/backup-software/tb-free.html>

Upgrading an Incompatible Windows 10 PC (1)

- ZDNet Article (Ed Bott – 04/15/2025) Offers Two Approaches ...
 - <https://www.zdnet.com/article/how-to-upgrade-your-incompatible-windows-10-pc-to-windows-11-two-options/>
- Official Windows Registry Key Hack (still works) – Use Regedit.exe
 - Go to or Create: HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\Setup\MoSetup
 - Create: AllowUpgradesWithUnsupportedTPMOrCPU REG_DWORD 1



- Download the latest Windows 11 Setup as an .iso file:
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windows11>
- Now run the Windows 11 Setup.exe and it will install over the existing Windows 10.
- Existing Data, Settings and Installed Apps will be preserved.

Safely Staying on Windows 10

Upgrading an Incompatible Windows 10 PC (2)

- Use the Free Rufus Utility to Create a Special Windows 11 Setup.
 - This is best for older PCs with *NO hardware or software TPM*.
 - Download and install Rufus 4.7: <https://rufus.ie/en/>
(Note ... Setup media made with earlier versions of Rufus won't work with Windows 11 24H2)
 - Download the latest Windows 11 Setup as an .iso file:
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windows11>
 - Provide a 16GB flash drive for Rufus to write the bootable Setup image.
 - Launch Rufus, select the downloaded Windows 11 .iso and the flash drive.
 - In the “Windows User Experience” options, check the box to remove the hardware requirements.
 - Click OK to create the bootable flash drive.
- Now run the Windows 11 Setup.exe from that flash drive and it will install over the existing Windows 10.
- Existing Data, Settings and Installed Apps will be preserved.

Upgrading an Incompatible Windows 10 PC (3)

- **Run the Windows 11 Setup in “/Product Server” Mode**
This method came from Cyber CPU Tech (See last slide)
 - This is best for older PCs with *NO hardware or software TPM*.
 - Create the bootable Windows 11 setup media (Dual-layer DVD or flash drive)
 - Insert the flash drive or mount the DVD, note the assigned drive letter (e.g. X:)
 - Start the command prompt – Win-key + R > “cmd.exe”
 - Change to the setup drive by typing in its drive letter (e.g. X:)
 - Enter the command: “setup.exe /Product server”
- The setup will run, saying it is installing Windows Server, but when it is finished, it will actually have installed Windows 11 24H2 Home or Pro
- Existing Data, Settings and Installed Apps will be preserved

Windows 11 – Web Links

- **Tech Republic Article: What's New in Windows 11 24H2**
<https://www.techrepublic.com/article/microsoft-windows-11-2024-update-24h2/>
- **TechRadar Article:** <https://www.techradar.com/news/windows-11-home-and-pro>
- **Microsoft's Windows Site:** <http://windows.com>
- **Cyber CPU Tech – Windows 11 Upgrade on Unsupported PCs**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ug_CVQQQsc
- **Linus Tech Tips - Windows 11 Upgrade Hacks:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NivpAih-s0>
- **ZD-Net: [Windows 11 | ZDNet](#)**
 - <https://www.zdnet.com/article/hate-windows-11-heres-how-to-make-it-work-more-like-windows-10/>

Questions And Answers