

## **Techno-Tips: Windows 10**

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If you are a user of a personal computer (desktop, laptop, or notebook), tablet, or smartphone working under the Microsoft Windows environment, this article could be of interest.

Twenty years ago, Microsoft deployed Windows 95, a major breakthrough in personal computer operating systems that shortly became the most popular operating system. Now, Microsoft has launched its latest version of Windows, named Windows 10.

Windows 10 is an improved and more user-friendly operating system based off its predecessors, Windows 8 and Windows 8.1. This latest version was designed to interact with mobile computer platforms and smart devices, taking advantage of the latest technology developments such as touchscreens and wireless mobile connectivity.

Windows 10 operating system is a smart program that detects the type of device where it is installed and automatically configures to operate in the most efficient way for the device. The program detects if the device is a personal computer desktop or laptop computer, tablet, or smartphone. If you have a touchscreen display on your desktop or laptop, you can manually configure the Windows 10 environment to operate and show on the screen.

Windows 10 has simplified and streamlined the complexities of the Windows 8 and 8.1 versions. On desktops, laptops, and notebooks it looks and works similar to Windows 7 and all previous versions of Windows. Microsoft, in responding to the users' requests, has recuperated the "Start button," the "Taskbar," and the way to access the installed programs. Also, Windows 10 is more compact and user-friendly than Windows 8 and 8.1.

Windows 10 was launched on 20 June 2015, and it is being offered as a free update for a year (until 29 June 2016) for the users of Windows 7, Windows 8, and Windows 8.1.

Windows 10 is deployed (installed) as an update to the current Windows version installed on the computer, tablet, or smart phone (only Windows 7, 8, and 8.1 users). This is not an installation from scratch, it is treated as an update. This means that you can make the update on your device without losing your current installed programs and documents. However, because things can always go wrong, it is always recommended to make a back-up copy of your documents and have the installation disks of your programs at hand.

Some weeks ago, Microsoft changed the procedure for the download and installation of Windows 10. Now this pre-process is automatic. You do not receive the notification of Windows 10 availability for your computer in order to send the request for download and installation. In fact, it's likely that you have already gone through this process. This notification was available or received as a Windows icon in the lower taskbar on the desktop screen.

During this Windows 10 automatic download and installation process, without notification, your computer could:

- experience a significant slowdown in the normal operation. Especially if you are searching on the internet, sending or receiving emails, streaming videos, or have several programs open at the same time.
- be interrupted in the middle of your work to start the installation process.
- depending upon its characteristics (processor, amount of free memory, and storage space), take more than one hour for the installation and it could reboot several times.

The download of patches (corrections to fix operating system problems) in Windows 10 is also an automatic process that can interfere with or delay the work you are doing.

Microsoft has incorporated a new web browser, “EDGE,” that replaces the previous “Windows Explorer.” However, you can continue using the browser of your preference.

It is recommended that you follow the Windows 10 tutorial and become familiar with this operating system to increase your productivity.