

Sort I.T. Computer Services Newsletter

Issue 6 – June 2015

Welcome

Hope you are all well and coping with the cooler weather that winter is bringing. I for one am pleased to have only seen one morning of snow in Alexandra so far, my youngest daughter had the joy of having her first snowball fight, and the snow was gone by the afternoon...perfect!

A warm welcome any new subscribers to this newsletter and don't forget to advise any friends and family to also sign up so that the information and education about computing grows.

Windows 10



You may have heard already that Microsoft is due to launch their new Operating System; Windows 10. Will it be any good? Do you need it? And when should you upgrade?

Whatever happened to Windows 9?

Windows 8 was a radical departure from the traditional Windows interface we've been accustomed to since Windows 95's launch back in – you guessed it – 1995. Windows 8 was modern, mobile, touch-screen enabled and precisely the sort of bold move we've come *not* to expect from a large software company.

The changes startled some users. The tile-based, touchscreen-enabled interface was largely welcomed (and has become Microsoft's standard across its operating systems for phones,

tablets, laptops, desktops and even the XboxOne), but the removal of the Start button was seen by many as a backwards step. Windows 8.1 met many key user demands, but there is still work to be done. Windows 10 will continue to build on its strengths and will include some important new features such as a brand-new browser – Spartan – to replace Internet Explorer, and a new, voice-enabled digital assistant – Cortana.

Windows 9? Microsoft hasn't explicitly said why it skipped a number, though the dads and dad-joke-makers in I.T. say the reason is clear: because (Windows) seven ate nine ...!

What is in Windows 10?

Boot up a PC running the Windows 10, and you'll be dropped off at the oh-so-familiar desktop. The Taskbar and its icons sit on the bottom, and the recycle bin sits in the upper-left corner. It looks, at first blush, like Windows 8 all over again.

But press the Start button, and you'll be greeted by the return of the Start menu. It's a proper Start menu, too, with your most frequently used apps are stacked in a column. Press the All Apps button and you'll find the endless column of nested folders we've all been scrolling through since Windows 95, though they're now grouped alphabetically. Sitting alongside that column are Windows 8's animated Live Tiles, endlessly serving up news bites and social-network updates.

The menu has evolved since the early builds. The Live Tiles can be arranged into separate groups, and those can be labeled (just like in Windows 8). You can also press the maximize button to get a full-screen version of the Start menu.

Windows 10 enables your apps to look and work great in all modes, on all devices. On 2-in-1 devices, your screen can be optimised to work with touch or keyboard and mouse.

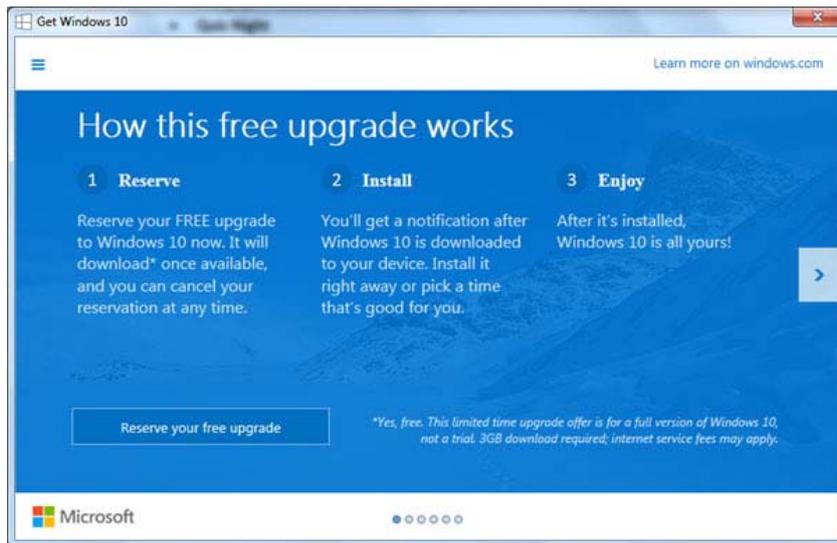
Do you need it?

Yes. But maybe not right away. Like all software companies, Microsoft would like all users to migrate to its new products. In the case of Windows 10, new software is being designed to take advantage of its new features and new interface style. It's fully backwards-compatible, so your existing software will still work just fine, but over time you'll find that if you're sticking with an older version of the operating system, you'll be missing out on some great features and capabilities.

At this time it looks like Microsoft will be launching Windows 10 at the end of July, you may have already noticed a new icon appearing on your taskbar:



Click on the icon, it will bring up a Get Windows 10 window:



If you click on the "Reserve your free upgrade" tab, you can enter an email address that will notify you that when it is ready, your upgrade will be available for download. The download is 3GB in size and will take some time to download, however once downloaded you can hold onto it, until you are ready for the upgrade.

Here's the fine print from the Windows 10 page on Microsoft's site:

"It is our intent that most of these devices will qualify, but some hardware/software requirements apply and feature availability may vary by device. Devices must be connected to the internet and have Windows Update enabled. ISP fees may apply. Windows 7 SP1 and Windows 8.1 Update required. Some editions are excluded: Windows 7 Enterprise, Windows 8/8.1 Enterprise, and Windows RT/RT 8.1. Active Software Assurance customers in volume licensing have the benefit to upgrade to Windows 10 Enterprise outside of this offer. We will be sharing more information and additional offer terms in coming months."

We have reserved our copy already and will be upgrading as soon as it is ready. A full review of the upgrade process and what we feel are the pros and cons of the upgrade will be in our next newsletter.

If you would like additional information or have any other questions, please contact us at contact@sortitcomputers.com.