



February 2016 Newsletter



As my friend Jill would say, “It’s just 46 days till Spring”. Here’s a link to help you with the countdown! Not that we’ve had a bad winter, BUT it’s nice to know that Spring is right around the corner!

<https://days.to/until/spring>



*Microsoft has announced that it’s ending support for Windows 8 this month! Ok, you don’t have to panic, because most of you probably upgraded to 8.1 when they offered the new upgrade. **Windows 8.1** will be supported up till **January 10, 2023**. If you still are trying to decide if you should install the upgrade, the answer is “Yes”! Just in case you’re interested, below is the list of **Windows Life Cycles and End of Sales**. You’ll also see the original end date as well as the extended end date. As you can see, there’s one more year of support left for the Vista Operating System.*

Windows lifecycle fact sheet

Every Windows product has a lifecycle. The lifecycle begins when a product is released and ends when it's no longer supported. Knowing key dates in this lifecycle helps you make informed decisions about when to upgrade or make other changes to your software.

End of support

End of support refers to the date when Microsoft no longer provides automatic fixes, updates, or online technical assistance. This is the time to make sure you have the latest available update or service pack installed. Without Microsoft support, you will no longer receive security updates that can help protect your PC from harmful viruses, spyware, and other malicious software that can steal your personal information.

<i>Client operating systems</i>	<i>Latest update or service pack</i>	<i>End of mainstream support</i>	<i>End of extended support</i>
Windows XP	<u>Service Pack 3</u>	April 14, 2009	<u>April 8, 2014</u>
Windows Vista	<u>Service Pack 2</u>	April 10, 2012	April 11, 2017
Windows 7 *	<u>Service Pack 1</u>	January 13, 2015	January 14, 2020
Windows 8 **	<u>Windows 8.1</u>	January 9, 2018	January 10, 2023
Windows 10, released in July 2015 ***	N/A	October 13, 2020	October 14, 2025

End of sales

End of sales refers to the date when a particular version of Windows is no longer shipped to retailers or Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs). Examples of OEMs are Dell and Toshiba—PC manufacturers who often preinstall Windows software.

This table gives end of sales dates for specific Windows operating systems.

<i>Client operating systems and updates</i>	<i>Date of general availability</i>	<i>Retail software end of sales *</i>	<i>End of sales for PCs with Windows preinstalled</i>
Windows XP	December 31, 2001	June 30, 2008	October 22, 2010
Windows Vista	January 30, 2007	October 22, 2010	October 22, 2011
Windows 7 Home Basic, Home Premium, Ultimate	October 22, 2009	October 31, 2013	October 31, 2014
Windows 7 Professional	October 22, 2009	October 31, 2013	October 31, 2016
Windows 8	October 26, 2012	October 31, 2014	June 30, 2016
Windows 8.1	October 18, 2013	September 1, 2015	October 31, 2016
Windows 10	July 29, 2015	N/A	N/A

The end of Windows 7 sales are by the end of this year!

RECALL ALERT

*Speaking of Microsoft, they had a recall this past month for the **Surface Pro tablet**. The company has announced that it's voluntarily recalling hundreds of thousands of chargers and AC power supplies due to overheating concerns. The recall is in effect for the "AC power supplies for Surface Pro, Surface Pro 2 and Surface Pro 3 models sold before July 2015." The recall is for cords that have seen heavy wear and tear, including tight wrapping, bending and more. Details for returning the power supplies aren't available yet but should be announced soon.*



*But don't think it's only Microsoft that's having its problems. Apple also announced that they're recalling **wall plug adapters**. If you own a Mac, iPad, iPhone or iPod you should check out this link. <http://www.apple.com/support/ac-wallplug-adapter/>*

*Another warning from Apple this month is about updating your Apple Products Now! If you're using a Mac, iPhone, or iPad, Apple has issued updates to its operating systems. The update for Mac is OS X version 10.11.3. That patch fixes problems such as your Mac not waking up from sleep mode, and a vulnerability that could allow hackers to execute code on your computer. **In order to update your iPhone or iPad, go to Settings>>General>>Software Update.** Apple*

users shouldn't feel too bad. Microsoft had *Six Critical Security Flaws* at the same time that needed to be updated. 😊



Now for the topper! *A Mac bug could expose the last thing you saw online - even porn!* There seems to be a serious bug that'll expose what you've been up to online if you're using Google Chrome on a Mac. An engineering student found that he wasn't so incognito when he was browsing online in Google Chrome's Incognito Mode. 😊 The student, who shared a computer with other people, had been online in Incognito Mode. Later that same day, he went back and discovered that the pornography sites that he had been visiting were visible to anyone else who used that same computer. He alerted the graphics card maker Nvidia about it, as well as Apple, two years ago. He had done some investigating and noticed the problem wasn't with Chrome's Incognito Mode, but spotted a link between the graphics card and his Mac. While this problem originally appeared to affect only *Nvidia* graphics cards, some users of *AMD* graphics cards have taken to social media to report a similar problem. As of now there is no fix for the problem.



Well, it's tax time again, and after looking around for tax information I found this article on Kim Komando's website

“Taxes 2016: How to file online for free, plus deadlines, links to forms, and more” I think it's worth checking out.

<http://www.komando.com/tips/342885/taxes-2016-how-to-file-online-for-free-plus-deadlines-links-to-forms-and-more/all>



By now you probably thought you wouldn't hear anything about Windows 10 from me this month. This week was a disaster for a client of mine who just bought a new laptop with Windows 10 on it, and I went to someone's home and helped her to remove it from her laptop. I did some research (since I am getting a lot of questions in emails and phone calls about; “what do you think I should do about upgrading!) If you really want to know, take some time to thoroughly read this article from CNET. Go all the way to the end where people have written about their experiences with this new operating system, and then ask yourself if you're ready to make the switch.

http://download.cnet.com/blog/download-blog/windows-10-six-month-report-card/?ttag=e415&ftag=TRF2961de&tag=nl.e415&s_cid=e415&ttag=e415&ftag=TRF2961de



For those of you who have upgraded, the links below are tutorials to help you with understanding and navigating through the settings.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wwc5jKc-EgE>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BT1Mz_TRXvQ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZqKyhfD7-E>

Sorry, but I don't think this is the last you're going to hear about Windows 10 from me! 😊

NETFLIX

John and I are hooked on Grey's Anatomy, and that's my way to unwind from work in the evenings. We have Netflix and have found several good series that we've watched. After reading the following article, I had no clue that there was so much available to subscribers. Did you know that they have secret codes to find hidden categories? It's the best money spent in my opinion. You'll need to sign in to see the listings. Oh! And if you haven't watched Grey's Anatomy, they have 11 seasons on Netflix and it's addicting! 😊

<http://ogres-crypt.com/public/NetFlix-Streaming-Genres.html>



Want to hear your favorite song NOW? There is no reason to wait to listen to a song you like, and there's no reason to pay for music. The site and app OnRad.io is a search engine like Google that finds radio stations that are currently playing a song. OnRad.io



"We're not getting anywhere, Mr. Johnson. May I have a word with your computer in private?"

Computer Term of the Month - Safe Mode

Safe Mode is a software mode that enables users of Windows 95, 98, ME, 2000, XP, Vista, 7, 8, and 10 to enter an altered version of Windows and correct any problems that may be preventing them from entering booting up normally. Safe Mode differs from the Normal-

operating mode in that it uses default drivers and settings upon startup, and only system required software programs are loaded upon startup.

Happy Valentines Day! Hope that the month is a good one for you. 😊

Warm Regards,



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