
June 2024

This is another informative newsletter to help keep you up to date about various computer and technology related trends and topics.

Windows 11 Version 24H2 Release

Microsoft Windows 11 version 24H2 is speculated to be released in September 2024 with artificial intelligence being a major feature of the release. Higher hardware system requirements are expected, so if you can't currently upgrade to Windows 11 then this update won't be available to you either. Many speculated this release would be Windows 12, however, Microsoft have now confirmed that it won't be. This will be a free automatic upgrade.

Microsoft OneDrive Cloud Backup Notification

If you receive a notification from Microsoft OneDrive to back up your data on your computer, please know that if you accept this, your data will be moved off your computer and into Microsoft OneDrive online cloud storage. Backing up your data is something you want to do, but this is causing problems for many people, not knowing what they're accepting and what it's doing.

If you have a large amount of data on your computer, with internet upload speeds being very slow, data can take forever to upload to OneDrive which will slow your internet speed until complete. I suggest turning OneDrive off completely, if you have no need for it, so your data stays on your computer. If you have an external Hard Disk Drive with Windows File History auto backup turned on, you have a backup in place already. If you have any problems with OneDrive and want it turned off properly, please let me know.

Intel CORE CPU Series Rebrand

Intel has and will continue to rebrand all CORE processors with their new naming scheme throughout 2024. The "i" affix at the start of all processor models (CORE i5, i7 and i9) has been removed and replaced with the word **Ultra**. Look for Intel CORE Ultra 5, 7 and 9 processors if making a computer purchase later this year.

Intel CORE Ultra 200 CPU Series Q4 Launch

Intel is set to release their new CORE Ultra 200 desktop CPU series in Q4 later this year. CORE Ultra 5, 7 and 9 desktop CPUs paired with new 800 series LGA1851 based mainboards will be available. The gaming 'K' CPU models will release first alongside the Z890 chipset mainboards. The mainstream CPU (non-K) models will follow in Q1 2025 alongside the B860 chipset mainboards. Laptops based on this technology is coming soon also.

AMD RYZEN 9000 CPU Series July Launch

AMD is set to release their new RYZEN 9000 desktop CPU series in July. RYZEN 5, 7 and 9 desktop CPUs paired with new 800 series AM5 based mainboards will be available. Not to be confused with Intel's 800 series, AMD will release X870E, X870, B850 and B840 chipset mainboards. Both gaming and mainstream CPU models will be released at the same time. Laptops based on this technology is coming soon also.

Malwarebytes – New Version with Updated User Interface

Malwarebytes has had a makeover with a brand-new user interface, changing the look and location of various features. The **Scan** icon is now located at the top instead of the bottom. It still functions the same as it did before and my maintenance guide still applies to this new version.

CCleaner – New Version with Registry Scanner Moved

CCleaner has had a small change made to its user interface, changing the location of the Registry scanner. It's now located on the left under the new Tools section, so simply click **Tools** first then **Registry** and go from there. It still functions the same as it did before and my maintenance guide still applies to this new version.

Norton 360 – New Version with Updated User Interface & Discontinued Physical Copies

Norton will be releasing an updated version of their internet security suite soon. It's a total redesign of the user interface which combines the 2 previous separate user interfaces together into one fresh new look. Most information will be displayed and accessed via the new home section. It's a free upgrade to all existing users and will install via Norton automatic updates when released.

Norton may not be selling physical in-store copies of their software anymore. This is not totally unexpected as most software companies are moving to a digital only model. You'll have 2 options to purchase Norton 360 moving forward if this happens. **Option 1:** You can either buy Norton 360 digitally online from a retail store (like JB Hi-Fi or Officeworks) and receive the product key on your invoice and/or emailed to you so you can activate Norton 360 manually. **Option 2:** You can simply turn on the Norton AutoPay feature, add your credit card or PayPal to your Norton account and have the money automatically withdrawn from your account every year by Norton without fuss. I still have some physical copies left until I sell out. We'll see what happens.

Microsoft Windows 10 and Microsoft Office 2016 Support Ends in 2025

Anyone still using Microsoft Windows 10 as their main operating system and/or Microsoft Office 2016 as their main productivity suite should plan their upgrade path over the next year or so. Upgrading to Windows 11 (if your hardware is supported) and/or Microsoft 365 (yearly subscription) will be recommended. All support for both Windows 10 and Office 2016 will end on **14 October 2025**. Using such outdated software beyond that time will quickly become a major security risk as monthly updates will no longer be available.

Mechanical Hard Disk Drive Upgrade

If your computer has a slow clunky mechanical hard disk drive installed as the main Windows boot drive, then consider replacing it with a faster solid-state drive. This will increase your computer speed tremendously for all tasks you perform. A hard disk drive is too slow for even the most basics tasks today. Software and games are designed to utilise the full speed benefits a solid-state drive offers. Hard disk drives are great for data storage only.

Refurbished Computers for Sale

I constantly have older refurbished desktop and laptop computers for sale if you want a better one than you currently own, but don't want to spend big bucks on a brand-new one. Refurbished computers have been partly rebuilt with brand new components and all software reloaded from scratch. Prices vary depending on the age of the technology and the new hardware installed. Let me know if you're interested.

Restart Your Computer/Device First

Please restart (or turn off) your computer/device first before contacting anyone about any problem you have. It's the first thing you should always do to troubleshoot any basic problem. Make sure to leave any computer/device turned off for at least 3 minutes before turning it back on. The same also applies to internet or email connection problems. If restarting or turning off your modem router doesn't work, contact your internet service provider first, as it's common for internet and email servers to be down for various technical reasons.

Computer Service & Maintenance

I generally recommended that you have your computer serviced, checked, and updated every 3 to 6 months to keep it running well. Computer software and hardware drivers are updated regularly to improve performance, fix problems, and/or add new features for your computer to utilise.

Also, as a constant reminder to everyone, make sure to back up your data regularly onto an external hard disk drive, USB thumb drive or to the cloud. Hardware failure is very common, so keep your data stored on at least 2 devices minimum. Refer to my website for handy hints, FAQ's, downloads, and other information.

Business Hours & Contact Information

My contact details are located above, with business hours being between **9am-5:30pm Monday-Friday** and **9:30am-3:30pm Saturday**. My mobile will usually be turned off outside of these hours, but please leave a message and I'll get back to you asap. If you prefer to email, please do so and I'll reply to you asap. If you require anything, please don't hesitate to contact me. I hope that you find this information useful.