

Windows 10 Creators Edition Update

The latest Windows 10 update, the Creators Edition was released on April 11, 2017. It will be automatically installed to all Windows 10 users over the next few months. For a website detailing some of the new features go to <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/upcoming-features>.

The Creators Edition does not have a lot of visible changes, no changes to the start menu or standard apps. Most of the changes were designed for “creators”, people who do art and design work with their computer. It also has tweaks to improve the performance of Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality. It is an attempt to lure creators away from Apple and is accompanied with a new Surface computer (Surface Studio) designed to improve creative work. If you have 3 grand you don’t know what to do with you can see an extensive video about the Surface Studio at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVt8dj0GJU> to decide if you want one.

There has also been some fine tuning done to enhance game play by allowing games a higher priority on your system. Gamers can also stream their games easily. Additionally they have provided support for 4K displays assuming your monitor and video card support it.

The most fun change you may see is Paint3D. This is in addition to the old Paint program. It allows people to work in 3D as well as 2D. It isn’t an elegant solution for high end work but it can be fun to be able to create work in 3D for students and others. There is also a 3D Builder App to allow your 3D objects to be printed on a 3D printer. If you don’t happen to have one of those lying around the house you can send the file off and the printed object will be shipped to you.

Most of the changes are minor. Here are a few of them.

There is evidence that the bluish light emitted from computers can interfere with a good night’s sleep. Creators Edition adds a new setting called Night Light. Night Light is not activated by default. When activated it will adjust your screen colors from bluish to a warmer yellowish light. It can be set to run from sunset to sunrise or for a specific time you choose. It is similar to the free app f.lux which those of you without Windows 10 can use. To activate it go to Settings > System > Display > Night Light Settings

There is now full pen support for all applications. This means those with a touch screen and a stylus can now annotate their screen.

Windows Defender will become an app rather than a program.

There have been a few modifications to the Action Center. You can now control Night Light from there. The promised brightness and volume control sliders didn’t make the final cut.

Tiled Folders in the Start Menu will allow apps to be grouped. This will allow you to create your own start menu folder and put whatever programs and apps together for ease of use.

Microsoft Maps now allow those with a touchscreen to map a route and it will tell you the distance.

There is a new screen capture feature for part of your screen. It was possible to take a screen shot of your entire Windows screen by hitting Windows and PrtScr at the same time. Now it is possible to take a screen shot of just a part of the screen. This done by using Shift + Windows key + s. This will turn your

cursor into a + which you can use to select the area of the screen you want. After selecting the desired area just release the mouse button. This will put the selected area on the clipboard and you can then paste it wherever you want. This is essentially the same as the snipping tool.

Improved Privacy settings can be accessed by going to Settings and Privacy. From here you can change many privacy settings but you still can't count on full privacy. Nevertheless this is a big improvement over what came before.

Storage Sense: Windows 10 can now automatically free up disk space, although this feature is off by default. Enable the Storage Sense feature under Settings > System > Storage and Windows will automatically erase your temporary files and empty your recycle bin of items more than 30 days old to free up space. It works automatically so you don't have to do anything but if you need to free up space immediately you can use the Clean now button under Change How We Free Up Space. Storage sense does not get rid of all unnecessary files on your computer such as older versions of Windows. For those files you will still need to run disk cleanup.

Windows 10 has always had a Virtual Keyboard but they have added a Virtual touchpad. This is only useful if you have a touch screen and your mouse or touchpad stops working. Right click the taskbar and click on show touchpad button. To get the touchpad then just tap the icon on the taskbar.

There have been a number of changes to the Edge browser. These include:

Tab previews. Use the down arrow next to tabs to see a thumbnail of all open tabs.

Epub support has been added to allow you to read eBooks in the browser.

Allows export of favorites to html and supports import from other browsers.

Now supports extensions. Extensions have long been available for other browser but they are now allowed in Edge. At the moment there are very few available but hopefully more will come.

Now that you are familiar with the Creators Edition you can start planning for the next update due in September.