

# Computer Tips

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## Michael's Computer Services

### Windows 10—How is it Doing?

With a month having now passed since the release to the public of Windows 10, lets examine how it has been going. Should you upgrade to Windows 10, or keep using your current version of Windows? Lets look at this.

Windows 10 was released to the public on July 29 this year. Before Windows 10, the usual process upgrading to a new version of Windows was to purchase an upgrade DVD, install it over your existing version of Windows, activate it and then download all the patches available. The other method was to purchase the full version of the new Windows, backup your personal information, format your PC's hard drive, and install the new version of Windows from scratch. Well, with Windows 10, this has all changed.

Windows 10 must be installed from the internet, as an upgrade process through Windows updates. To upgrade to Windows 10, you must have a legal and activated copy of Windows 7 or Windows 8.1 running on your PC. You will need at least 3.2GB of download allowance available to upgrade, which becomes an issue if you are on limited mobile or satellite internet plans. We are able to upgrade your PC to Windows 10 here at our office for you for a small fee, should you wish to upgrade.

Another change in Windows 10, is the actual activation process. In previous versions of Windows, you entered a product key, either from the package you purchased, or in the case of Windows 8, from the key embedded in the PC. With Windows 10, the product key is stored in the cloud, and is automatically activated during the upgrade process from Windows 7 or 8.1. This is convenient if you need to reinstall down the track, but not so if you need to reformat.

With Microsoft choosing to release Windows 10 over the internet rather than by conventional DVD methods, this has raised a furious debate over privacy issues. In order for Windows 10 to be installed on your PC, Microsoft servers and your PC must send back and forth a fair bit of information about your computer and the programs installed on it. Some folk view this exchange of information as a privacy breach, but this exchange of information is technical in nature, and necessary for the new version of Windows to prepare and install successfully.

Having said all this however, do you really need to upgrade to Windows 10? Well, in our opinion, Windows 10 is an excellent operating system, in and of itself; but we are recommending waiting until at least the end of this year before upgrading. Why, you ask? Well it is quite simple.

Windows 10 is a new operating system, and as such does have some quirky issues. While the download and upgrade process is quite smooth, some computer parts are not yet fully compatible with Windows 10. We have encountered video issues, touchpad issues, and other strange issues after customer's upgraded to Windows 10. Windows 10 will be receiving its first Service Pack upgrade in the next couple of months, so we are suggesting holding off until the wrinkles are ironed out. Windows 10 will remain free to upgrade until July 2016, so there is plenty of time yet.

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