

COMPUTER GURU

by Don Benjamin

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Windows 11 and Mac OS Monterey

Microsoft and Apple will update their operating systems this fall. Windows 11 has a spiffy new interface; Mac OS Monterey looks like Big Sur, but adds several nifty features. Both updates will be free.

Windows 11

Microsoft will release Windows 11 this fall—the first significant update to its operating system since Windows 10 hit the streets in 2015.

I've been playing with a beta version of Windows 11 and think it looks pretty slick.

The basic Windows operations aren't changing, so you should be comfortable with the update. However, the look and feel are decidedly different. For example, application windows have rounded corners, and menu icons are clearer. It looks like Microsoft lifted some style cues from Mac OS.

New features include 1. "Widgets" you can add to your home screen to show things like the weather, stocks, and so on, 2. Better window arrangement controls, and 3. An integrated chat feature.

Microsoft will continue to support Windows 10 through October 2025, so you don't have to upgrade for a while.

Mac OS 12, "Monterey"

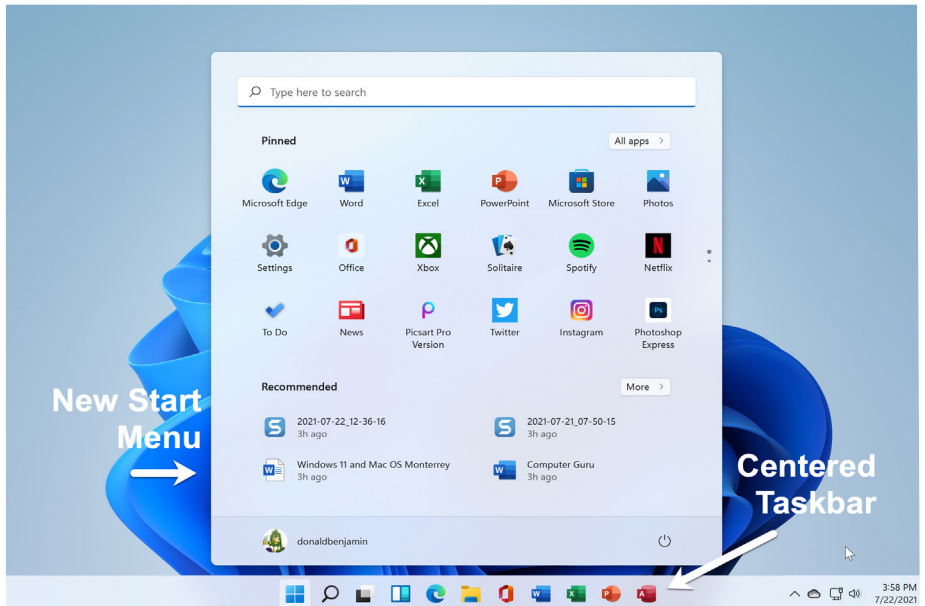
Apple's new OS looks the same but adds several dandy features, such as 1. The ability to use your Mac keyboard on your iPad, 2. "Tiled" multi-participant FaceTime calls (à la Zoom), 3. New "shortcuts" that work like macros to make repetitive tasks easier, 4. Improved Safari tabs, and 5. "Spatial" audio that enhances voices on Facetime and music playback.

Should You Upgrade?

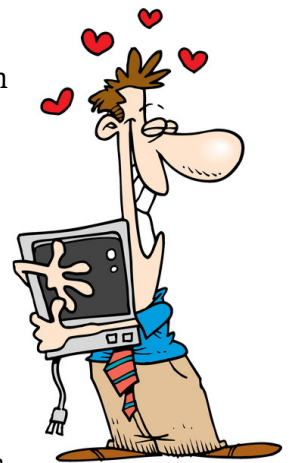
We always recommend keeping your operating system (and applications) up to date. Not only do these new operating systems offer better cybersecurity, their new features should make using your computer easier.

Thousands of "beta" testers (I'm one) are using Windows 11 and Mac OS Monterey, so when it's time to upgrade, these operating systems should work reliably.

If you have questions about Windows or Mac OS, just mosey on over to the PSRC website, click the Tech Request button, and we'll be in touch. (Tech Request Form: princetonior.org/psrc-tech-resources/.)



Windows 11 has a spiffy new look.



Clyde really likes Windows 11, but I think he's getting a bit carried away.