

COMPUTER GURU — by Don Benjamin

The Donald and Nancy Light Technology and Literacy Lab Programs
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Windows 11 and Mac OS Monterey – Six-month Review

Here are my thoughts about Windows 11 and MacOS Monterey after using both for the last six months. Neither are revolutionary; both bring nice features. And both are more secure.

Windows 11

I really like Windows 11's beautiful desktop, with its rounded window corners and beautiful colors. The enhanced desktop widgets feature displays weather, stocks, and calendar, but doesn't offer enough options. The new Snap Groups and Snap Layout make positioning windows on the screen easier. When you click the maximize icon, you'll see a choice of layouts for the windows on your desktop. Really nice for those of us who run more than one application at a time.

The most un-noticeable change is increased security. Windows 11 requires the computer to have a Trusted Platform Module (TPM) chip that protects the operating system and the "firmware" (that's the built-in software that starts Windows when you start your computer.) In other words, Windows 11 makes it harder for malware to mess up your computer.

Should you Upgrade?

Sure—mostly for the better security features. But that said, Windows 10 is quite secure, and Microsoft will continue to support Windows 10 through October 2025. And some older computers that don't have the TPM chip may not be able to run Windows 11. Bottom line: upgrade if you can, but don't lose sleep if you can't or don't want to.

Mac OS 12, "Monterey"

Apple's Monterey is the doppelgänger of its former versions (Big Sur, Catalina, Mojave, et al), but adds several features, such as

1. Universal Control that lets you use your keyboard, trackpad, and mouse with a nearby iPad or second Mac,
2. The "quick note" feature for quickly adding a note to your Notebook.
3. A "focus" mode for managing notifications during the day.

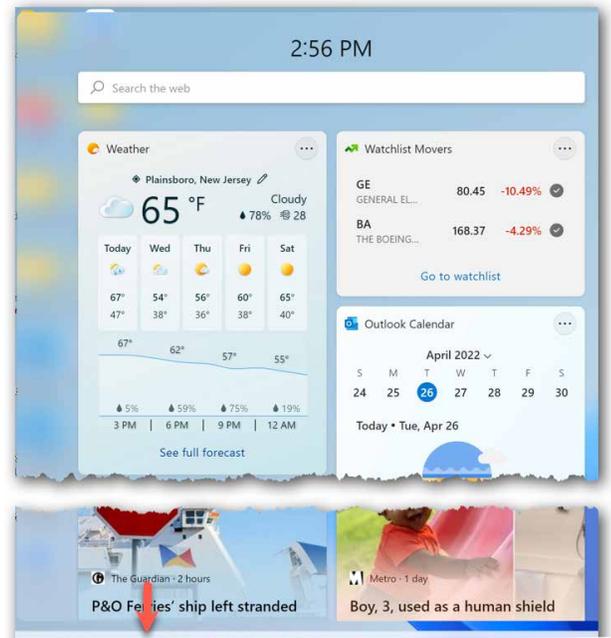
Monterey continues Apple's emphasis on security. For example, adding software like Zoom or TeamViewer will ask you for permission to use your camera, microphone, or file system.

Monterey already offers lots of desktop widgets if you're so inclined, and there are several third-party apps that let you arrange your windows like the new Snap Groups and Snap Layout feature in Windows 11.

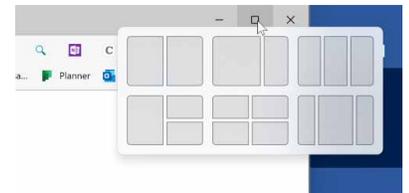
Should You Upgrade?

Yes, if for no other reason that MacOS updates always include security enhancements.

If you have questions about Windows or Mac OS, just mosey on over to the PSRC website at <https://www.princetonsenior.org/technology-lab/>, fill out a request form, and we'll be in touch.



Windows 11 widgets afford a quick glance at news, weather, and your calendar.



Snap Groups and Layout make window positioning effortless in Windows 11.