

Windows 7, 8, 10

What the heck happened to Windows 9? That's a great question! In general, Microsoft's answer is that Windows 9 came and went (Windows 8.1?). The burning question is; should I replace my computer with a Windows 8.1 system, stay with Windows 7, or should I wait for Windows 10?

This might help clear up a few basic Operating System (OS) options and questions.

- Windows 7 is a very reliable and thoroughly tested OS that has been widely accepted by the business community. It has become the de facto replacement for Windows XP and will undoubtedly be around for a very long, long, long time. (At least until 2020)
- Windows 8.1 isn't unstable or unreliable and it is very fast. However, it is a very different in look and feel. In general, with some minor tutelage from your favorite local friendly computer guru (like your friends at HTS Computers), the average user can become comfortable with Windows 8.1. ALWAYS allow a Windows 8 system to upgrade to Windows 8.1
- Windows 10 promises to have some interesting changes and it will bring back our old favorite, the Start Button. It is also designed to work seamlessly with Windows Tablets and Phones. It will integrate Microsoft's intelligent voice activated personal assistant, Cortana, and will be a significant improvement for some "Gamers".
- **FREE!** The initial buzz from Microsoft is; for the first year, Windows 7 and 8.1 users will be allowed a FREE upgrade to Windows 10. Unheard of for Microsoft.

In my opinion, you should replace your computer when you need to. Waiting to replace a system that is about to fail is always a recipe for disaster. It's always better to replace a system on your schedule than to make a hurried decision in a panic because your computer melted down this morning. The OS you choose depends upon your personality type.

- Are you a Curmudgeon who hates new stuff? Windows 7 will still be available for a while yet, albeit by special order in most circumstances. Windows 7 is very similar in operation with previous versions of Windows.
- Are you OK with new stuff if someone helps you a little? Windows 8.1 is a good choice if you have a good computer support connection and don't mind burning up a few extra brain cells.
- Do you like the latest, cool new stuff? Windows 10 will be available as a FREE upgrade for the first year of its release and it will have many interesting new features to learn.

Before you decide to become a holdout for Windows 10, you have to ask yourself; "Do you really want to be the first person to try a new version Windows?"

Just some thoughts from a computer guy in the trenches.

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