

THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 221: You Might As Well Upgrade

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If you are using Windows 7, 8 or 8.1, you might as well upgrade to Windows 10. "Why should I do that?" you might ask.

First, it is free. At least it is free to the end of July ... July 29th 2016, to be exact. So you don't need to lay out any funds, if you do it by then. After that date, it will cost you well over \$100.

Second, Windows 10 is not a bad operating system. Indeed, it is quite good. It is much more stable and generally better than XP or Win7 or Win 8. Oh yes, there are lots of leaks of personal information that will occur if you install it. However, there are also lots of programs to thwart those leaks of info. The programs to plug the leaks are free and can be seen at, compared and one chosen and downloaded from our old friend, <http://www.majorgeeks.com>. So the issue is a little like someone offering you a brand new Lexus as an even trade for your old beater. A no-brainer.

Third, it is relatively painless to upgrade. About the only danger is loss of some of your time. The upgrade software will check if you have enough memory, space and speed in your old computer, and it will not start the upgrade if you don't have those. If all is OK but something else causes the upgrade to fail during installation, it will roll back the upgrade and replace your old system. I have had that actually happen, and the roll back worked perfectly. So it seems that there is nothing to fear.

Must you upgrade? No. While Microsoft long ago quit developing Win7 as an operating system (between 9Apr2015 for Service Packs and 13Jan2015 for main support), it will continue Extended Support through mid-January 2020. That Extended Support means your copy will download and install security updates just fine and it will make available information on your copy in the Microsoft Knowledge Base and Support sites, all through mid-Jan 2020. So you are not "stuck" with upgrading now or loosing support in 2016. You can keep old 7 going all the way to 2020 if you want to. But it makes more sense to upgrade, if you can, as noted above.

So why not do it? Or switch over to Linux. Happy Computing!