

Should You Wait on Windows 8?

The world of the personal computer is changing. PCs now come in all different styles and sizes, from a tiny netbook to a traditional desktop. Tablet PCs have become increasingly popular for people on the go, and smartphones have evolved into mini computers. In response to the changing face of the PC, Microsoft is changing the Windows experience in the upcoming Windows 8.

The New Face of the PC

Windows 8 is unlike any other version of Windows that came before it. The traditional Windows desktop and start button have been replaced by a “start screen.” Desktop shortcuts have been replaced by “apps,” which are “pinned” to the start screen. Windows 8’s new design makes the PC feel more like a smartphone or tablet, making it easy for those with touch screens to “swipe” and “tap” through their files and apps. While it works just as well with a good old fashioned mouse and keyboard, Windows 8 is optimized for touch screens and compatible with many varieties of PCs.

Bringing the Web to You

Windows 8 is streamlined, fast, and built to integrate the online world with your desktop, making connecting and sharing easier than ever. Files and settings are saved on a “cloud,” so you can login and access them from any device. The redesigned Internet Explorer 10 follows the same design as Windows 8, with a start screen displaying pinned web sites, instead of the traditional “favorites” list. It’s designed to provide an “add-on free experience,” so it is not compatible with traditional plugins and toolbars.

A Tough Transition

Over the years, most Windows users have become used to the classic desktop and start button design used in every version of Windows since Windows 95, so making the transition to the drastically different design of Windows 8 may be difficult. That’s why it’s important to start training on Windows 8 now, so you can be ready for its release, and what could be the future of the PC.

Windows 8 Release Preview

With Microsoft’s [Windows 8 Release Preview](#), you can test drive Windows 8 on your PC, and provide feedback which will help Microsoft improve it before it’s officially released. You can either upgrade from a previous version of Windows, or install it on a new PC. It’s a great way to explore Windows 8’s new design in preparation for its upcoming release. At the Release Preview web page, you can watch videos demonstrating the new features of Windows 8, and find information to help you navigate the new layout. The FAQ answers all of your questions about installing and using Windows 8 Release Preview, and the forum lets you get advice from other users.

Microsoft recommends that only experienced users try Windows 8 Release Preview, and that you read up on all of the latest information before you install it. If you upgrade from a previous version of Windows, you will not be able to downgrade back to your original version, so make sure you have your installation or recovery disc handy, in case of any problems.

Don’t Wait

Windows 8 is changing the face of the PC from the traditional desktop and start button to a streamlined app-based design. It integrates the web into your desktop with cloud-based technology and easy sharing on social networks. Internet Explorer 10 brings a similar design to your web browsing experience, and doesn’t work with traditional add-ons.

The future of the PC is drastically different from what Windows users have grown accustomed to over the last 17 years. So don’t wait on Windows 8. Try Release Preview, and start training now.