



Significant Bits

Journal of Brisbug PC User Group Inc.



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Meeting Timetable

Mitchelton Library Helios Parade Mitchelton

9:30am	Q&A	John Tacey
11pm	Fill in topics	Keith
	Lunch -- GM - Report to the Club	Keith
1:00pm	Linux workshop	Fred / Keith All

If you have a question that may need a bit of a look up, let me know before the meeting



Significant Bits

Journal of Brisbug PC User Group Inc.

SIGNIFICANT BITS

the Journal of
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*A Computer Club for users of
PC-type computers*
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CLUB INFORMATION LINES

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The Members' Web Page

Meeting Days

21 December 2025
19 January 2026
15 February 2026
15 March 2026
19 April 2026

Magazine

Editor
Chris Haydock

Proof-reader
John Tacey

Please use e-mail if possible

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Hi All,

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

End of year for us but we start back in January.

Best wishes to all members thanks for your support and help throughout the year. We are advancing in the quest for Linux and will continue next year.

Microsoft is not making any new friends, so our look at moving away from windows and Office may continue to gather reasons to do so.

While I have a computer with Linux on it I have not made the swap away as I find I do things that make a change that I don't know how to fix and sometimes just reinstall it and start from scratch. In addition, things "you just do this" do not work i.e. networking and adding windows fonts to Linux. Tying the advice to the actual version is definitely an issue.

This makes the Workshop a good base to learn and to troubleshoot, with others to talk it over.

The library room is confirmed and we have a home for next year, so all is well.

A reminder your renewal of membership for 2026 is now due.

See you at the meeting

Keith



**PLEASE PAY YOUR
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL VIA
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**Brisbug PC User Group
Inc**

**BSB No: 034-083
Account No: 185711**

**Remember to enter your name
and membership number in the
comment field**

Reports

Presentation and Education

9:30am : Q&A

11am : Morning Presentation : Topic of choice.

12 noon Lunch and Club Report.

1pm Afternoon Presentation : Linux and Linux Work Shop

Membership Report - Gary Woodforth

We had 9 members at the September meeting.

Treasurer's Report

November 2025

Opening Balance at 1/11/25	1961.76
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Income

Renewal Woodforth	10.00
-------------------	-------

Renewal Adamson	10.00
-----------------	-------

Total Income	20.00
---------------------	--------------

Expenses

Total Expenses	0.00
-----------------------	-------------

Month's Gain	20.00
---------------------	--------------

Balance at 30/11/25	1981.76
----------------------------	----------------

Eric Maronese

Treasurer



John's Jots

By John Tacey



Q&A - November meeting

Web page Receipt button does not work

What to do to record the transaction details?

Select All (Ctrl A) then Copy (Ctrl C)

Paste into a Text Editor or Word Processor.

or

Print screen and paste into suitable application.

or

File > Print > to PDF Printer.

Bank - Pay someone

This sending bank Flags that the account name does not match the BSB and Account Number.

True File Name

The true file name actually includes the full path.

Because there is a finite number of characters (260) permitted logical abbreviations may be needed for each component of the path (e.g. Directory or Folder).

For more information, Search "Computer File name character limit"

That is all that could be recalled from my memory.

Note: This record of the Q&A session topics relies on my biological volatile memory (a.k.a. the 'forgettory').

Gleanings from e-newsletters and other sources.

Reviews

The Tech We're Most Thankful For: The Top Products and Services of the Year

By The PCMag Editorial Team Nov 20, 2025

We've spent the past 12 months testing and reviewing hundreds of hardware and software products across 18 key technology categories. These elite picks earn our highest praise.

<https://au.pcmag.com/gallery/114285/the-best-of-the-year-the-top-tech-products-and-services-for-2025>

New Releases

Adobe Air

License: Freeware

File name: 51.2.2.6

File Size: 6.00 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Adobe Inc.

URL: <http://www.adobe.com>

Essential PIM 12.5.4

License: Free

File name: Essential PIM.exe

File Size: 48.86 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher:

URL: <https://www.essentialpim.com/pc-version>

Glary Utilities 6

License: Freeware

Release Date:

File Name: Glary_Uilities_v 6.34.0.38 .exe

File Size: 27.12 MB Platform: Windows 8, 7, 2000, XP, Vista. 32/64bit version.

Publisher: Glarysoft Ltd

Languages: 44 Languages [Help Translate]

URL: <http://www.glaryutilities.com/>

Release Notes:

Optimized Disk Cleaner: added support for 'Corel VideoStudio Pro x9' and 'SketchUp Make 2014'

Optimized Tracks Eraser: added support for 'Corel VideoStudio Pro x9' and 'SketchUp Make 2014'

Optimized Software Update: optimized the version comparison algorithm, and increase the comparison speed by 30%

Optimized Empty Folders Finder: add folder delete validation to prevent accidentally deletion of non-empty folder

Minor GUI improvements

Minor bug fixes

Glary Utilities is a freeware with registry and disk cleaning, privacy protection, performance accelerator and amazing multifunctional tools. It can fix dogged registry errors, wipe off clutters, optimise Internet speed, safeguard confidential files and maintain maximum performance.

It is designed for both novice and professionals. User-friendly interface shows clear & detailed directions. For novice, all work can be done with just 1 or 2 clicks, while for professionals, abundant options are available.

Key features:

Optimise, clean and boost the speed of your Windows.

Protect your privacy and security.

Block spyware, trojans, adware, etc.

Fix certain application errors.

Simple, fast and user friendly interface.

For private use only.

URL: <http://www.glaryutilities.com/>

Google Chrome (32bit) 143.0.7499.41

License: Free

File name: ChromeSetup.exe

File Size: 10.25 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Google

URL: <https://www.google.com/chrome/>

Java Runtime Environment (32bit)

License: Freeware

File name: Java_Runtime_Environment_(32bit)_v8.0.4710.9.exe

File Size: 36.01 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Oracle

URL: <http://www.java.com/>

Keepass

License: Freeware

File name: Keepass-2.60-Setup.exe

File Size: 4.23 MB O/S: Linux, Windows

Publisher: Dominik Reichl

URL: <https://keepass.info/>

LibreOffice (64Bit)

License: Freeware

File name: LibreOffice_25.8.3_Win_x86.msi

File Size: 348.46 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: The Document Foundation

Comments: Contains the functions:-

Writer Document

Calc Spreadsheet

Imress Presentation

Draw Drawing

Math Formula

Base Database

URL:

https://mirror.freedif.org/TDF/libreoffice/stable/6.2.0/win/x86/LibreOffice_24.84.4_Win_x86.msi

Mozilla Firefox

License:Freeware

File name: Mozilla_Firefox_(32bit)_v145.0.2.exe

Update

File Size: 70.67 MB O/S: Windows 7 to 11

Publisher: Mozilla Corporation

Comments:-

To force a manual update:-

Menu Button > ? Button > 'About Firefox'

URL: <https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/>

Mozilla Thunderbird

License: Freeware

File name: Thunderbird Setup 145.0 (GB).exe

File Size: 70.15 MB O/S: Windows XP SP2 to 10

Publisher: Mozilla Corporation

URL: <http://www.mozilla.org/en-GB/thunderbird/>

NotePad++ (32bit)

License: Freeware

File name: NotePad_v8.8.8.exe

File Size: 6.47 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Notepad++

URL: <https://notepad-plus-plus.org/>

PDFCreator

License: Freeware

File name: PDFCreator_v6.2.0.exe

File Size: 111 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: pdfforge

URL: <https://www.pdfforge.org/>

Want more? See the New Releases list:

<http://ct.com.com/>

Tips etc.

Buggy Hardware? You Can Manually Update Your Drivers to Fix the Problem

By Whitson Gordon Nov 26, 2025

If you're dealing with a glitchy peripheral, you may need to replace its driver. Here's how to update your device's drivers in Windows.

<https://au.pcmag.com/system-utilities/95447/buggy-computer-hardware-how-to-update-your-drivers-in-windows>

Upgrade Fail? An Estimated 1 Billion PCs Are Still Running Windows 10

By Jon Martindale Dec 03, 2025

It's unclear how many Windows 10 users took advantage of Microsoft's extended support program, and how many PCs are a security nightmare waiting to happen.

<https://au.pcmag.com/migrated-15175-windows-10/114542/upgrade-fail-an-estimated-1-billion-pcs-are-still-running-windows-10>

RTX 5080 Buyer Receives Rocks Instead of Graphics Card

By Jon Martindale Dec 04, 2025

The card was shipped in its box, making it easy for scammers to spot the expensive item.

<https://au.pcmag.com/graphics-cards/114560/rtx-5080-buyer-receives-rocks-instead-of-graphics-card>

Bye-Bye Pornhub: Missouri's Age-Verification Law Kicks in This Weekend

By Jibin Joseph Nov 29, 2025

Platforms with over 33% adult content need to age-gate their users. Failure to do so will result in penalties up to \$10,000 per day, so Pornhub parent company Aylo will block its sites in the state.

<https://au.pcmag.com/security/114473/reminder-missouris-age-verification-law-for-adult-sites-kicks-in-this-weekend>

Intel Might Return As an Apple Chip Supplier in 2027

By Will McCurdy Nov 30, 2025

Apple analyst Ming-Chi Kuo thinks it could be a sign of the consumer tech giant wanting to show support for the Trump administration's 'Made in USA' policy.

<https://au.pcmag.com/macOS/114491/apple-could-return-to-using-intel-chips-in-2027>

ChatGPT Turns 3 and Faces Its First 'Code Red' Existential Crisis. Can It Stay on Top?

By Emily Forlini Dec 03, 2025

Gemini 3 has AI enthusiasts singing Google's praises. As chatbots become a dime a dozen, can OpenAI continue to stand out and make enough money to pay back its investors?

<https://au.pcmag.com/ai/114538/chatgpt-turns-3-and-faces-its-first-code-red-existential-crisis-can-it-stay-on-top>

Stop SIM Swappers Cold: 7 Ways to Protect Your Phone Number

By Lance Whitney Nov 27, 2025

With SIM-swapping attacks, scammers hijack your phone number to gain access to your accounts. These tips can help you safeguard your most private information.

<https://au.pcmag.com/mobile-phones/114440/stop-sim-swappers-cold-7-ways-to-protect-your-phone-number>

Facing Memory Shortage, Raspberry Pi Hikes Prices, Introduces 1GB Option

By Michael Kan Dec 02, 2025

Raspberry Pi will raise prices on seven models, which CEO Eben Upton attributes to AI data center

demand affecting production of LPDDR4, the SDRAM used in its low-cost custom computers.

<https://au.pcmag.com/computers-electronics/114507/facing-memory-shortage-raspberry-pi-hikes-prices-introduces-1gb-option>

Samsung's Galaxy Z TriFold Phone Flips Open Into 10-Inch Screen, Its Largest Yet

By Emily Forlini Dec 02, 2025

Is it a phone or a tablet? Why not both? Samsung's three-panel foldable promises 'cinematic viewing' when it comes to the US in early 2026.

<https://au.pcmag.com/mobile-phones/114531/samsungs-galaxy-z-trifold-phone-flips-open-into-10-inch-screen-its-largest-yet>

10 Tips for Safer Online Shopping

By Eric Griffith & Kim Key Oct 29, 2024

Follow these tips to keep criminals out of your accounts while shopping online.

<https://au.pcmag.com/security/105529/10-tips-for-safer-online-shopping>

How to Download YouTube Videos

By Eric Griffith & David Paiz-Torres Apr 16, 2025

There are dozens of different ways to download YouTube videos so you can view them offline. Here are a few of the easiest and most effective methods

<https://au.pcmag.com/how-to/28663/how-to-download-youtube-videos>

Mainstream US Publications Are Linking to Pro-Kremlin Disinformation Network

By Will McCurdy Nov 24, 2025

The Atlantic, Politico and others linked to sites created by Russia's Pravda disinformation network while treating them as legit sources. The content has also been scraped by AI chatbots.

<https://au.pcmag.com/news/114364/mainstream-us-publications-are-linking-to-pro-kremlin-disinformation-network-says-uk-think-tank>

Hackers Claim New Mega Breach As Salesforce Investigates Data Thefts

By Michael Kan Nov 22, 2025

A breach involving a Salesforce product may have allowed the hacking gang Scattered LAPUS\$ Hunters to steal data from nearly 300 organizations.

<https://au.pcmag.com/security/114345/hackers-claim-new-mega-breach-as-salesforce-investigates-data-thefts>

New Holiday Scams Are Popping Up This Shopping Season. Follow These 4 Tips to Stay Safe

By Kim Key Nov 26, 2025

Scammers thrive during this time of year. Here are some simple, shareable suggestions to avoid getting swindled.

<https://au.pcmag.com/security/114432/new-holiday-scams-are-popping-up-this-shopping-season-follow-these-4-tips-to-stay-safe>

SpaceX Brings Its Cheapest 100Mbps Starlink Plan to Canada, Australia

By Michael Kan Nov 27, 2025

The option to switch to the 'Residential 100Mbps' plan has popped up for at least a few users in Canada and Australia, giving them a way to save on their monthly payments.

<https://au.pcmag.com/networking/114438/starlinks-cheapest-100mbps-plan-expands-to-canada-australia>

Here Endeth John's Jots

Came across this in a online report.

Microsoft Gives All Eligible PCs the Green Light for Windows 11 25H2

Following the end of support for Windows 10, Microsoft is making a concerted effort to move its vast user base onto its modern platform.

The new feature update, Windows 11, version 25H2, is now available for download and installation for all PCs that meet the necessary hardware requirements for Windows 11.

For users running Windows 10 or an earlier version of Windows 11, the upgrade can be initiated manually.

Microsoft states, “If you have an eligible Windows 10 or Windows 11 device, you can check if the update is available by selecting Settings > Windows Update and selecting Check for updates.” If your machine is ready, you will see the option to download and install Windows 11, version 25H2, directly.

A key factor in seeing the update is ensuring the “Get the latest updates as soon as they’re available” toggle is enabled in your Windows Update settings.

Automatic rollout for home users

In addition to the manual option, Microsoft has also begun a hands-off, intelligent rollout for certain users.

The company has confirmed it is using a machine learning-based approach to automatically upgrade a segment of its users. This “intelligent rollout” has

started for devices running the “Home and Pro editions of Windows 11, version 24H2 that are not managed by IT departments.”

Microsoft explains that this process will be gradual, and these devices “will automatically receive the update to Windows 11, version 25H2 when they’re ready.” Crucially, this means the update will download in the background. Users will still maintain control over the final installation, with the choice to either restart their device to apply the update or postpone it.

I have a win 11 that is now unsupported at 23H2 version so had a look to see if it will be updated.

In settings, update an initial checked just advised it was up to date.

I turned on the Get the latest as stated;

Get the latest updates as soon as they're available
Be among the first to get the latest non-security updates, f



it did not find or do any update to either 24H2 or 25H2.

I would not turn on “get the latest” as they would likely not be a release level standard and may cause damage.

I don’t know if leaving it on, as the update is locked, is good or bad, but have elected to turn it off again once I have let it find an update. And just turn it on when looking for an update. Probably does not serve any purpose but that is what I am doing.

Be interested if any members get an update.

I did do an update on a computer taking it to 25H2, but I suspect it was able to do the update any way.

Keith

APCUG ARTICLES

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10 NEW FEATURES IN WINDOWS 11 v25H2, the 2025 UPDATE

Explained via Storybook from Gemini, by Bob Gostischa, Technology Enthusiast
Access the playlist containing all the videos at:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1_9cbkt8g23Aue9PzXtjiTR-okGOLyDO&si=r5M-mfI0hXntoA7V

The playlist is all about the New Features in Windows 11 v 25H2. The creator also shared some interesting details about how the videos were made using Storybook from Gemini.

DON'T GET TRICKED BY FAKE AMAZON REVIEWS. HERE'S HOW JASON COHEN, PCMAG SENIOR EDITOR, SPOTS THE REAL ONES

— Now that tools like Fakespot are gone, he uses the tips in this article to identify untrustworthy reviews and avoid wasting his money. As wonderful as the internet can be, he feels like it lies to us every day. Fake reviews—seemingly legitimate assessments created by a seller or someone paid by them—are becoming harder to spot. The online shopping boom has made them a big business, but they can end up costing you serious money. Is there anything any of us can do about it anymore? Read how at [Don't Get Tricked by Fake Amazon Reviews. Here's How I Spot the Real Ones | PCMag](#)

I SWITCHED TO A MINI PC—BUT I'M THANKFUL I KNEW THESE 5 THINGS FIRST, Dominic Bayley, Australian Editor, PCWorld. Knowing these five things before buying a mini-PC made all the difference. You might think all mini-PCs are the same, or there's not really much of a difference between a mini-PC and a desktop computer. But there are a few points about mini-PCs that

I'm glad I knew before taking the plunge. Reading this article will help you with your research. [I switched to a mini PC—but I'm thankful I knew these 5 things first | PCWorld](#)

MICROSOFT NEEDS TO STOP PHASING OUT CONTROL

PANEL. Kazim Alvi, XDA, excels at simplifying complex topics, making them accessible to tech enthusiasts and general readers alike. Control Panel has been around since the days of Windows 95, allowing us to configure every tiny aspect of Windows (intuitively with easy muscle memory—Judy). However, in the last decade, especially since the release of Windows 11, Microsoft has been migrating functions such as network settings, date and time, and more to the Settings app. Read more at [Microsoft needs to stop phasing out Control Panel](#)

6 SIMPLE TRICKS I'VE LEARNED THAT MAKE MY WINDOWS PC BOOT FASTER — Does Windows take a long time to start up? Don't wait forever! Check out this PC Mag article to see if these six tips work for you. [6 Simple Tricks I've Learned That Make My Windows PC Boot Faster | PCMag](#)

How to Keep Using Windows 10 Safely after Support Ends by Leo A. Notenboom, <https://askleo.com/>

Making Technology Work For Everyone Yes, it can be done.

Worried about Windows 10 after support ends? Don't be. I'll show you the simple steps -- good habits and reliable security software -- that will allow you to keep using your Windows 10 computer safely.

Question: You keep saying we can keep using Windows 10 safely after support ends. How is that even possible? I know it's a controversial position that not everyone agrees with, but I believe it's quite possible to keep using Windows 10 safely after Microsoft

ends its official support of the operating system

There are two things you need to do. Both are things you should be doing already.

First, practice safe computing

This is the single most important thing you need to do to keep using Windows 10 safely. In fact, it's something you should already be doing and should represent no additional work on your part. Windows 10 end of support is simply a reminder not to drop your guard.

What does that mean? From my most important article: • Use good security software. (More on this below.)

- Keep your other software up-to-date.
- Secure your online accounts.
- Educate yourself.
- Secure your home and mobile connections. • Remember physical security.
- Back up.

I'll go one step further and say that your actions are much more important than anything Microsoft might fix in the operating system, regardless of the version of Windows. Why? More people are compromised by skimping on those things than they are by some random unpatched vulnerabilities.

In fact, most unpatched vulnerabilities require that malware make it past you to be exploited. In other words, if there is something that Microsoft doesn't patch, your good habits are what protect you.

Second, use good security software

I continue to recommend Windows Security (aka Windows Defender) as a solid security solution built right into Windows. It's already there, and you may already be using it. Microsoft has stated that they will continue to provide security definition updates for Windows Security until at least 2028. Thus, even on Windows 10, where Windows itself will not be updated after the end-of-support

date, the security software will remain current. There are also several other good security suites that you can switch to (Windows Security will step out of the way when you install them) that will continue to provide protection long after Windows 10's end of support.

Two-step protection

The result is what I'll refer to as two-step protection:

1. Your good habits will prevent malware from reaching your machine.
2. Up-to-date security software will detect and thwart most everything else that might make it through.

Extended Security Updates (ESU)

If you intend to continue to use Windows 10 past its end-of-support date, consider signing up for Extended Security Updates. The ESU program is nothing more than an extension of the end-of support deadline for one year. After that year is up, you'll simply continue as above, relying on yourself and your security software once again.

But aren't operating system updates critical?

Keeping all your software as up to date as possible has always been important, and that hasn't changed. However, "important" doesn't mean "can't live without". Security — all security — is about playing the odds and stacking the deck in your favor.

There's no such thing as perfection, even with Windows security updates. Looking at it a different way, all these things have to be true for something bad to happen to your computer:

1. There must be a bug in Windows.
2. That bug must represent a security vulnerability of some sort.
3. Hackers need to know about the bug.

4. Hackers need to devise a way to exploit the bug for malicious purposes.
 5. There must be a way for hackers to get that exploit to you — typically as malware.
 6. You have to “allow” the malware onto your machine, usually through a download of some sort, including attachments.
 7. Your security software must miss the fact that malware has been downloaded to your machine.
 8. You have to “run” the malware, meaning you run a download or open an attachment.
 9. Your security software must miss the fact that malware is running on your machine.
- Thwarting any of those items means that the malicious vulnerability will not affect you.

Ongoing security updates deal only with #1, and even then, only if #2 is deemed “important enough”. Malware still has many hoops to jump through before it impacts you. Your job: keep your guard up for the steps you control. That means not allowing malware onto your machine to begin with and using good security software.

The objection

There are two primary objections to what I suggest.

- There is a theory that hackers have already discovered one or more vulnerabilities but are holding on to that knowledge until after the end-of-support date. After that date, they’ll release malware exploiting the vulnerabilities and wreak havoc.
- Some people think that Windows vulnerabilities are found so frequently that it’s inevitable that something will be discovered after the end-of-support date, and hackers will exploit the vulnerability and wreak havoc. I don’t think hackers are disciplined enough for the first to have any merit.

Windows 7’s end of support faced the same fear, and nothing came of it. In a way, it’s merely a subset of the second point. As for the

second, I don’t buy it. Sure, there’s a constant stream of bug fixes to Windows — we see it every “patch Tuesday” — but by and large, those a) aren’t security issues, and b) those that are rarely affect broad swaths of Windows users.

On top of that, most bugs are introduced as software is changed. Windows 10 isn’t changing anymore. The rate at which Windows 10 vulnerabilities are being introduced should be at a near standstill. The only potential concern would be vulnerabilities that have gone undetected for a long time, which by definition should be nearly none.

We have experience

As I’ve said in a few places, we’ve been here before. We have experience with exactly this scenario in two interesting and different ways. First, when Windows 7’s support ended, there were dire predictions of both of the objections above: a previously known vulnerability to be unleashed after the end of support, and dire consequences to follow. Neither materialized.

Just as there are people who want to stick with Windows 10 today, some folks kept on using Windows 7 safely after its end of support. How? By following the two-step protection I outlined above.

Some are still using Windows 7 today! Second, some people have been running Windows 10 without updates for some time already.

For various reasons — often the perception that Windows Updates are more disruptive than they’re worth — individuals disable updates. That means no updates at all, security or otherwise. They’re apparently happy with their result.

I also hear from others looking forward to the cessation of Windows 10 updates for that very reason.

Microsoft only benefits from your fear

I'm not one to jump onto conspiracy theories, and while I don't think this is intentional, it's worth pointing out. It's in Microsoft's best interest to let all the FUD (fear, uncertainty, and doubt) about Windows 10's end of support go unchallenged. The more people feel they must update to Windows 11, even if that means getting a new machine, the better Microsoft (and PC manufacturers) make out. That you can keep using Windows 10 safely isn't a message you're going to hear from Microsoft.

The wildcard: third-party software

One fly in the Windows 10 ointment might not be Microsoft at all. At some point, the software you use from other sources may stop supporting Windows 10. This is another path we've been down previously.

After Windows 7 support ended, most software from other sources kept right on working. In fact, many continue to work and be updated on Windows 7 to this day. But not all. At various points in the years since, some software vendors have decided to stop supporting Windows 7.

In most cases, though, it was several years after Microsoft's Windows 7 support ended. There's every reason that the same will happen to Windows 10. In fact, I've heard reports of at least one software package already requiring Windows 11 for future versions. There's little you can do about that other than move to Windows 11, find an alternative that still supports Windows 10, or keep using the last version that still supports it.

Do this

Upgrade to Windows 11 if it makes sense for you.

That means both you and your hardware are compatible with Windows 11. If that's not you, however, you can keep using Windows 10 safely by following the two-step process I

outlined above. Those two steps should already be what you're doing, anyway.

Subscribe to Confident Computing! Less frustration and more confidence, solutions, answers, and tips in your inbox every week.

<https://askleo.com/how-to-keep-using-windows-10-safely-aftersupport-ends/>