



## in the HOOP

YOUR MONTHLY DOSE OF  
TECH TIPS & HOOP5 NEWS

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### A note from Mandy....

Have you ever wondered why hackers do what they do? Is it for notoriety? Do they feel that it's just harmless fun? Are they just bored/curious?

The answer might be a combination of all of the above, but nowadays being a hacker (the criminal kind) can also be quite the profitable profession. Yes, you read that right, being a malicious hacker is actually a job!

And you might think to yourself, "I don't need to worry about that, my business is too small". And boy do we wish you were right. It would certainly make all of our lives easier, but unfortunately, that's not the case.

If you have a computer, you have processing power and data; both of which cyber-criminals need in order to obtain their goals. Whether to use your machine as a "zombie" device or to encrypt your data to finance their operations, everyone is a potential target.

This is why we are so serious about making sure that all of our clients have proper cyber-security protections in place, it's our job to reduce the possibility of being the next target.



If you have any questions on how we can help protect you from the bad-guys on the internet, gives us a call and we'll be happy to provide you with some answers (and peace of mind).

Until then, stay safe!  
**Mandy Irvine, CEO**



02

## End of Support for Windows Server 2012

On October 10, 2023, Microsoft will end support for the Windows Server 2012 and Windows Server 2012 R2 operating systems.

### What Does It Mean?

Windows Server 2012 (W2012) and Windows Server 2012 R2 (W2012 r2) will not suddenly stop working on 10/10/2023. Basically, there are two phases to the support lifecycle of a Microsoft operating system: First, End of Mainstream Support and then End of Extended Support. Mainstream support for Windows Server 2012 actually ended in 2018. Meaning, that's when Microsoft stopped selling and developing new stuff specifically for W2012 and W2012 R2. But in 2023, all support ends for those legacy server operating systems. This means no more security updates, bug fixes, patches and the tools that manage the operating systems will no longer be supported. In other words, running W2012 or W2012 R2 will become a business risk.

### Putting it in Perspective

You may be thinking, "Why is Microsoft doing this to me?" Well, let's step back for a moment. Microsoft released Windows Server 2012 10 years ago on October 30, 2012 and Windows Server 2012 R2 was released 9 years ago on November 25, 2013. That's an eternity in the IT world! The way we worked, server hardware, and the challenges/opportunities in 2012 were completely different than what we face now. The IT security challenges for businesses were very different compared to what they are now.

This isn't just a move that Microsoft is making for marketing purposes; even the US Department of Homeland Security's Computer Emergency Readiness Team will issue alerts to migrate off of unsupported Operating Systems. The core issue here is the potential vulnerability and your future in-ability to protect yourself. End of support is inevitable. It happens with every product.

Now it is time to make the move to a newer version of Windows Server. The question is what will you upgrade to?

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## Upgrade Options

Install a newer Operating System on existing server hardware	Upgrade server hardware with the latest Operating System	Migrate some (or all) server functions to the Azure cloud
<p>Pros: Investment- Minimal cost &amp; fairly easy</p> <p>Cons: Poorer productivity- Aged server running resource intensive OS could seriously impact business</p> <p>Hardware risk- Older servers have increased hardware failure rates - especially with the added load of a new OS</p> <p>Reinstall problems- Every rebuild comes with a risk of failure and extensive internal resource usage</p>	<p>Pros: Future proof- Support &amp; security updates available until 2031</p> <p>Cons: Investment- Potentially large CAPEX investment for new hardware</p> <p>Maintenance- Server hardware requires warranty/support, power, cooling, etc.</p>	<p>Pros: Working Remote- Access server, applications, documents, etc. via a web browser from any device (PC, laptop, tablet, smartphone).</p> <p>CAPEX to OPEX- When your network is in the cloud, all you pay is a monthly fee for the computing power you use, just like a utility.</p> <p>Greater flexibility- If you need more users, space or features, you add them. If you need to dial it back, you can do that too.</p> <p>Less Downtime- Systems in the cloud run on a powerful and reliable infrastructure that include layers of redundancy, giving greater reliability.</p> <p>Cons: Mindset change- Moving business infrastructure operations to the cloud may require operational changes.</p>

### So what should you do?

Yes, we're probably biased... but we do recommend asking for help. As Microsoft Silver Partners, Hoop5 is here to assist our customers with determining their IT strategy and help them implement the solutions that make the most sense for their unique needs.

**Call us today, for a free no obligation server migration consultation!**

**619-259-5549 or [info@hoop5.net](mailto:info@hoop5.net)**

### DID YOU KNOW?



Before becoming the web's video giant, the plan for YouTube was to be a video dating service.





03

## Updating From Windows 10 to 11 Is It Worth It?

**Getting used to Windows 11 shouldn't be too challenging. On the contrary, the OS comes with several intuitive features to enhance productivity.**

Microsoft recently introduced Windows 11 as the company's latest operating system. And compared to Windows 10, this OS has various features that can increase your productivity and provide a better user experience.

As soon as you start using Windows 11, you'll see a marked improvement over its predecessors.

For example, it has refined several household features, such as video conferencing and video management. You also get enhanced note-taking, data input, and a user-friendly interface that should help you complete your duties more efficiently.

Many other features can help boost your productivity, and this article will talk about them in detail. We'll also look at some features Microsoft didn't include in the new version.

### WINDOWS 11 – WHAT'S NEW?

#### FEATURE #1. NEW TASKBAR

Previous Windows versions feature an iconic taskbar, but it can sometimes get clunky. Windows 11 deals with the clutter and provides a streamlined solution.

The new taskbar is perfect for expediting work, as it can contain a list of recent cloud and local files. You can also pin various apps to improve access and utilize a search bar that allows for convenient web browsing.

Another highlight of the taskbar is clean lines and widgets that display essential information (e.g., weather, photos, and news).

This should be a tremendous upgrade from the busy display of Windows 10.

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## FEATURE #2. WINDOWS GROUPING AND SNAPPING

The enhanced Snap Group and Snap Layout features allow you to resize and manage windows more easily. You also get to keep essential apps grouped to maintain high productivity.

Using the feature is relatively straightforward: Just hover the mouse over the maximize button on the desired app to reveal your layout options. You can choose between several arrangements, such as four-app grids and side-by-side layouts.

And if your team needs to perform basic window management, they can still grab and pull windows to the edge of their screen.

This feature improves desktop organization, which is especially useful for people working with two or more monitors. They can reduce clutter rapidly, enabling them to focus on their tasks.

## FEATURE #3. IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS



[Image Source](#)

Windows 11 follows in the footsteps of many smartphones to simplify setting changes and make them easily accessible. Pulling up your control panel now only requires one tap or click in the taskbar corner, replicating Apple's Control Centre.

Furthermore, Windows 11 apps feature aesthetic, curved corners, and your Settings incorporate more options you can tweak. For instance, blind or vision impaired users can take advantage of cutting-edge audio cues. There are also desktop themes to help reduce eye strain, which is essential if you work long hours.

On top of that, the new operating system has revamped voice typing. You can activate this with a simple keyboard shortcut. This feature supports most major languages, including English, German, Italian, French, Spanish, Simplified Chinese, and Portuguese.

Windows 11's better accessibility means your team will no longer have to keep relying on your IT service provider to set things up for them

## FEATURE #4. BETTER APP STORE

Many apps can enhance workplace productivity, but you'll first need to find them on your PC's app store. Fortunately, Windows 11 came up with an organized and coherent platform to make the search easier.

Besides universal apps, you can check out the applications compatible with your devices. The platform can also handle programs from third-party stores and manage app installation on the internet.

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## FEATURE #5. SMOOTH NOTETAKING

If you're using a touchscreen device, taking notes in Windows 11 should now be highly satisfying. This feature offers haptic feedback to generate physical sensations when drawing lines on the screen or checking boxes with your pen.

Moreover, the Ink Workspace allows you to add preferred apps instead of using the standard snipping tool and Whiteboard. It gives you easy access to creativity tools the moment you pull out your pen.

## WHICH FEATURES WERE LEFT BEHIND?

Overall, Windows 11 should work great for your business. But bear in mind that Microsoft left out some features that were a staple in previous versions:

### EXCLUDED FEATURE #1. TASKBAR CUSTOMIZATION

Windows 10 users can move their taskbar from the horizontal position to the left, right, or upper part of their screen. In contrast, the Windows 11 taskbar is fixed at the bottom of the display, and you can't customize the dimensions.

The taskbar customization feature would have been helpful because it would let you use space more efficiently.

Another significant change is that you can no longer move the Time and Date on your taskbar. Windows 10 didn't have this problem since you could toggle off the Clock feature in your Settings.

The default taskbar layout might be fine, but some users prefer more options than what Windows 11 offers.

### EXCLUDED FEATURE #2. DRAG-AND-DROP FEATURES

Windows 10 and some earlier versions allowed you to drag several items to change their position. For example, you could drag a Word document onto your Word icon on the taskbar to open it.

This function is disabled in Windows 11. There's no way to drag and drop or save any program or file onto your taskbar.

### EXCLUDED FEATURE #3. CORTANA

Cortana is a voice assistant counterpart of Siri, Alexa, and Google Assistant. Many people are used to it and may be disappointed to hear that it's not a part of the Windows 11 system setup. You can't even locate it in your start menu.

The good news is that the Cortana application can still be found - it's just hidden away. And you can enable it by visiting Settings and navigating to Apps & Features.

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## A WISE INVESTMENT

While Windows 11 isn't perfect since it removed many valuable features, it's still an excellent platform to help increase your productivity.

Whether you need to organize your desktop more conveniently or take enjoyable notes, the OS won't let you down. Plus, you get a revamped taskbar and powerful Voice Typing compatible with most major languages.

Overall, Windows 11 can be a terrific asset for your business.

If you want to find out more about incorporating this new OS to boost productivity in your organization, contact us today. We can have a 10-15-minute chat to help you address key productivity issues in your company with the help of Windows 11.

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04

## Tech Tip of the Month TIPS TO IMPROVE DATA SECURITY

- Focus on protecting the wall around the data and not just the perimeter.
- Visualize the internal and external threats and create a plan.
- Encrypt all the devices.
- Conduct a security audit twice a month and encourage employees to change their passwords.
- Remove redundant data and focus only on sensitive information.
- Invest in your IT infrastructure and integrate effective tools for cybersecurity.
- Revise your password policies and regularize complex passwords.
- Regularly update your applications and programs.
- Regularly back up your data to multiple locations.
- Restrict your employees by providing them access to the relevant data only.



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