

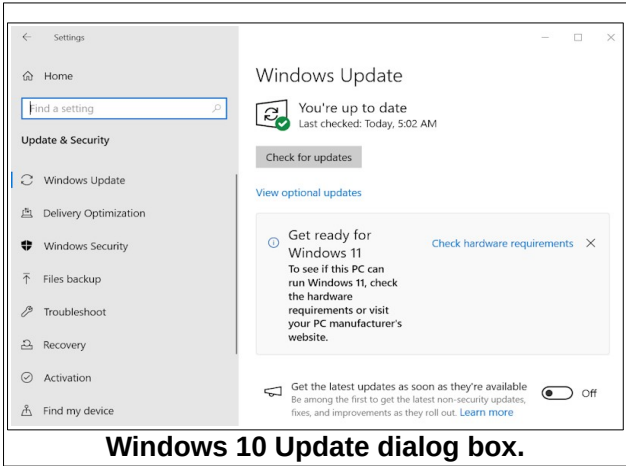


BVCC Officers
President: Daryl Fourman <daryltheman@gmail.com>
Vice President: Doug Holben <drdeholben@gmail.com>
Treasurer: Jim Craig <jecraig@gmail.com>
Secretary: Jim Boyce <boyce.jim1@gmail.com>
Newsletter Editor: Len Nasman <webmaster@bvres.org>
BVCC Email: bvcomputerclub@bvres.org

If you are reading this with a **PDF** viewer or online, you can click [Quick Index](#) to jump to the index

**Windows 10 Support is Ending...
 What to do?**

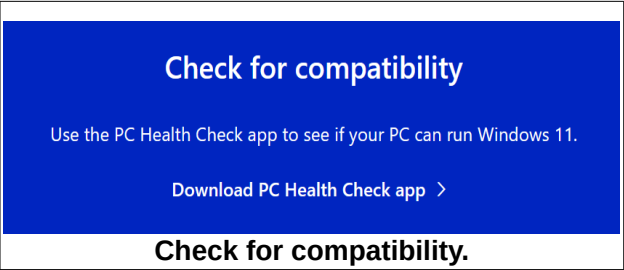
If your compute is running Windows 10 you either have heard, or have received notices from Microsoft, that support for Windows 10 is scheduled to end October 14, 2025. What should you do?



Windows 10 Update dialog box.

First, check Windows Update. Select **Start, Settings, Windows Update**. Select **Check Hardware Requirements**.

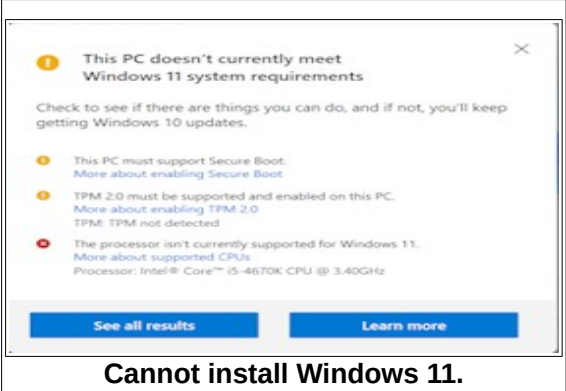
Scroll down until you see the Check for compatibility option.



Check for compatibility.

Select the Download PC Health Check app Install it, and then run the app.

If your computer has the right hardware, You can update the computer to Windows 11. Note that this process will take quite a bit of time. So only do this when you will not need to use the computer for a while.



Cannot install Windows 11.

If the system reports that it cannot update to Windows 11, it simply means that after October 14 you will not be able to receive Windows security updates. You will still be able to use the computer. However, if you use the computer to access the Internet, your computer can possibly get a virus. If you never use the computer online, don't worry about it. You can still use your apps offline. If you do use your computer to access the Internet for email or web browsing, you have to make a decision.

Options for computers that cannot run Windows 11

1. Install the free Linux operating system.

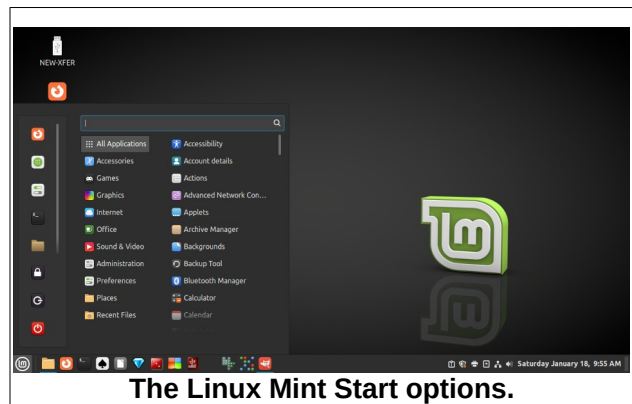
Linux is a free operating system alternative to Windows. There are a number of different versions. I prefer Linux Mint. It comes with the Firefox web browser and LibreOffice. LibreOffice is a free alternative to Microsoft Office, and can do pretty much everything that Office 365 can do. It can open nearly every Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint files. It can also open Files from Word Perfect and nearly every old word processing or spreadsheet program. There are hundreds of free game and utility apps available for Linux.

Linux Mint looks and feels like Windows 7 and most Windows users have very little trouble adapting to

Linux Mint. If all you do with your computer is email, Internet searching, basic word processing, or playing solitaire consider switching to Linux. I can help you install Linux and keep your old computer running the Linux alternate to Windows.



First of all, since Linux is what is known as 'open source software' it is free. Most versions of Linux come with a web browser (typically Firefox, but other browsers are available). Linux also includes the free LibreOffice suite of applications, which is very similar to Microsoft Office. Also, there is a large variety of application software available for Linux. You can find VLC (a media player that can play most audio and video files), Gimp (a popular paint and image manipulation program), and dozens of versions of solitaire and other games.



The bvcc computer room has some computers running Linux Mint for members to explore.

2. Buy a new computer.

If your computer is more than 6 years old, it is probably time for a new computer. You can choose either a laptop or a desktop. As of this writing, new laptop PC's start at around \$400.

If portability is not necessary, you can get more for your money with a new mini computer. A number of BV residents are happy with their new mini computers. You can get a new very powerful PC mini running Windows 11 along with a nice 24 inch monitor for not much more than \$300.



3. Forget buying a computer and use the BVCC computer room.

The computer room is available whenever the Activity Center is open and provides computers with high speed Internet connection along with printing, scanning, and other useful services.

Bvcc welcomes Doug Holben as the new club Vice President.

Doug has agreed to serve... thanks Doug.

Comments from Jim Boyce, the bvcc Secretary

Kroger Shoppers Card

If you shop at Kroger, even occasionally, you may want to have a Kroger Card. These are available free online (also called digital account) and are NOT a credit card but a reward card.

They can be pretty handy for saving money, in store instant savings, using digital coupons, getting fuel discounts, and even ordering groceries on line and having them delivered to you car in the parking lot. They also can help your favorite charity (like the BV Foundation).

If you need help getting one or setting it up please stop by the Computer Room and we will give you a hand.

Len's YouTube suggestions for the month

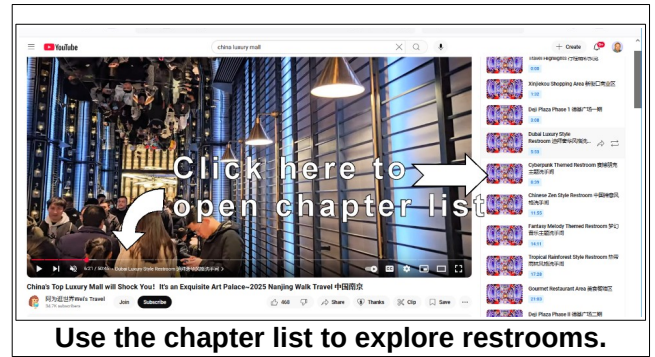
Here are some fun YouTube videos.



If this is what you imagine shopping in China, is like, think again.

Here is a 50 minute video of a shopping mall in Nanjing.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_LpPxpvOKa0



If you open the YouTube chapter list, you can jump around the video. Exploring the different restrooms in this mall is interesting. The Art Museum also looks interesting. It looks like you need a ticket to enter.

If that does not impress you, try this shopping mall in Wuhan.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzI-2dCVCQE>

The Perplexity Search Engine

By Len

Perplexity is a free [AI-powered search engine](#) designed to revolutionize information discovery. It uses large language models to generate precise, conversational answers to user queries by searching the internet in real-time and providing results with inline citations from reliable sources. Key features of Perplexity include:

- Real-time web searching
- Conversational answers with source citations
- Ability to explore topics in-depth
- Summarizing search results instead of just listing links
- Powered by multiple large language models like GPT-4 and Claude 3

Founded in 2022 by engineers with backgrounds in AI and tech (including a former OpenAI researcher), Perplexity aims to be more than a traditional search engine. It acts as an "answer engine" that understands user intent and provides comprehensive, verifiable information from trusted sources like news outlets, academic papers, and established blogs. Users can use Perplexity for various purposes such as:

- Academic and market research
- Trip and event planning
- Catching up on news
- Getting help with complex questions
- Exploring new topics

Perplexity describes itself as a "Swiss Army Knife for information discovery and curiosity" that empowers users to learn and explore more efficiently.

Try it out... click on this link, then enter some search terms.

<https://www.perplexity.ai/>

I tried a vanity search on both Google and Perplexity. The difference was interesting. Google simply provided a listing of web sites where my name appears. Perplexity produced a conversational style analysis of my background. In part...

'Len Nasman is a retired engineer, educator, and author with a diverse professional background. He was the president of Microcomputer Education Systems Inc. in Waverly, Ohio, and has an extensive career spanning engineering, education, and technical writing.'

Perplexity uses AI to produce search results. AI is big in the news these days. Here is a link to some information about AI.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artificial_intelligence

Quick Index

Use this index to jump to articles in this issue.

Index for this issue

Windows 10 Support is Ending... What to do?..... 1

Options for computers that cannot run Windows 11.....2

1. Install the free Linux operating system.. 2
2. Buy a new computer.....2
3. Forget buying a computer and use the BVCC computer room.....2

Bvcc welcomes Doug Holben as the new club Vice President.....3

Comments from Jim Boyce, the bvcc Secretary.....3

- Kroger Shoppers Card.....3

Len's YouTube suggestions for the month.....3

The Perplexity Search Engine.....3