

I use a password to log into my Windows 10 computer so if someone has possession of my computer they can't access my information – correct?

It is fairly easy to change the password, if the userid/password being used to log into the computer is a local administrator or local standard user account. It only requires knowing how to boot the computer using DVD or flash drive, having a Windows 10 install DVD/flash drive and being able to type in a few commands. This doesn't work if the userid/password is a Microsoft account.

Next Windows 10 update, called Creator's Update is due out this spring – possibly as early as March.

This will be a significant update, similar to the anniversary update. There are behind the scenes changes, changes in how some features look and work, and new features.

- New web-based privacy dashboard so you can see and control your activity data from Microsoft including location, search, browsing, and Cortana Notebook data across multiple Microsoft services. Second, new privacy set up experience, simplifying Diagnostic data levels and further reducing the data collected at the Basic level.”
- New music creation tool – Groove music maker
- Pen functionality in MS Word – requires a computer with pen support
- New tab browser feature in Edge
- Action Center getting a new look
- Accent colors – ability to set a custom color
- Desktop themes available through Windows Store
- New features in Maps
- Look of Windows Defender changing to match look of Settings screens
- People Bar for quickly sharing content with people who are listed as quick contacts
- enabling 3D creativity, mixed reality, and eSports & game broadcasting for everyone
 - Paint 3D
 - live game streams and customized eSports tournaments on Xbox Live

Check out this howtogeeks article for more information:

<https://www.howtogeek.com/278132/whats-new-in-windows-10s-creators-update/>

Windows Insider Program

Get early access to the latest features – pre-release builds of Windows 10

To become a Windows 10 Insider, all you need is a Microsoft account and a PC running Windows 10.

Disclaimers from Microsoft: Only join the preview program if you don't mind lots of updates and sudden changes, are comfortable with troubleshooting, can handle backing up and restoring an operating system, and know what an ISO is and how to use it. Microsoft also recommends only installing the preview on a PC that isn't your primary computer.

Amazon Chime – unified communication services - falls under Amazon Web Services (AWS)

Amazon Chime can be used for online meetings, video conferencing, voice calls, chat, and to share content (think Skype)

- Amazon Chime Basic allows 1:1 voice and video calls and to use chat and chat rooms, on all your devices
- Amazon Chime Plus and Amazon Chime Pro – pricing is per user per month

VHS tapes

If you have VHS tapes with family memories, consider having them converted to DVD or to digital files. There are fewer VHS players being made. VHS tapes degrade over time so don't assume that because the VHS tapes are safely tucked away and not being watched that they will be good at some future time. If you still have a working VHS player, there are devices/software that can be purchased to connect VHS player to computer. Once on the computer, there is software available to edit, rearrange, combine multiple videos and even add menus and voice over or music. Carol uses a device called Dazzle DVD Recorder by Pinnacle to capture the video to the computer. Pinnacle software can also be used to edit the files, although she uses a different program for editing. If you have a working video recorder/camcorder with component output, the Dazzle device can be used to convert those tapes also. If you have 8mm videos but no longer have a working video camera, Meier Camera Shop (downtown Midland) can copy them to DVD. They may be able to copy other tape formats also.

Microsoft Office 365/Microsoft account

Gary shared that if you have purchased a subscription to Microsoft Office 365, you have to create a Microsoft account to register the subscription. If you aren't using the Microsoft account for anything else, the password becomes invalid after approximately 360 days. When you get ready to renew the subscription, you may not be able to log into your Microsoft account. If you haven't set up a second email account to recover/reset the password, you may not be able to set a new password. If you have more than one email account, make sure to set up the recovery/reset option. And, it is probably a good idea to set a reminder to log into the Microsoft account every 6 months to keep it active. Logging into your Microsoft account for other reasons, e.g., logging onto your computer, will keep the account active.

Windows 10 future

Bill K. was wondering if anyone thought Microsoft would make Windows 10 a subscription service, similar to Office 365. While we can't predict what Microsoft might do, the general opinion was that probably wasn't going to happen. Although businesses pay for licensing to use Microsoft products, including the Windows 10 operating system, it didn't seem like that would be a good thing to do for personal users as that would alienate a lot of people. While Windows 10 is supposed to be the last Windows operating system and Microsoft indicates it will just continue to offer updates, there will still be people purchasing new computers. As technology improves, the hardware requirements will change so eventually, computers that are easily able to run the current versions of Windows 10 may not work as well a few years from now so people will need to upgrade their computers.

Can you hear me?

Larry mentioned a warning regarding a phishing scam where someone calls and the first thing they say is "Can you hear me?" According to published reports, if you respond yes to that question, the scammers are recording your voice and they can use that recording to authorize

charges. According to Snopes, while this has been much reported, there are no documented instances of unauthorized charges. <http://www.snopes.com/can-you-hear-me-scam/>

Unwanted phone calls

Roger mentioned there seems to be an increase in unwanted phone calls. When he answers the phone and there is a pause, he hangs up before the caller starts talking. He also hangs up if he recognizes the call as a sales pitch, or if the call is supposedly from his grandson, except the caller doesn't know the grandson's name. Others, who have Caller ID, said they didn't answer the call when they didn't recognize the number.

The Do Not Call registry was mentioned. According to their websites, having your phone number registered does not block all calls.

If I register my number, will ALL unwanted calls stop?

No, the Do Not Call Registry prohibits **sales** calls. You still may receive political calls, charitable calls, debt collection calls, informational calls, and telephone survey calls. In addition, companies may still call if you've recently done business with the company, or if you've given the company written permission to call you. However, if you ask a company not to call you again, it must honor your request. Record the date of your request.

Carol mentioned reading that if the call was made from within the State you reside in, it was exempt from the Do No Call registry but that was apparently old information. Originally the regulation only applied to interstate calls but there was an amendment in June, 2003 to include intrastate calls.

While legitimate businesses try to comply with the guidelines, the scammer do not and with the ability to spoof caller id so it looks like the call is coming from a different phone number and the use of disposable phones and multiple numbers, the Registry is often unsuccessful in following up on complaints.

Check these sites for more information.

<http://www.ncdoj.gov/getdoc/95cfaf8b-b535-4de1-9370-fcc9966e8267/Do-Not-Call.aspx>

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0108-national-do-not-call-registry>

Pop-ups - scams

Roger mentioned he was using a popular tax preparation software program a couple years ago and near the end of the process received a pop-up message about purchasing additional software that was a scam.

Roger wasn't sure if he purchased the software on a disk or online, but, as a reminder – when purchasing software online, make sure you are on the official company site. This is harder than it seems because it is easy for someone to create a site using information, images, etc. that look identical to the valid site and then use a website address that is only one letter different, or is a slightly longer name than the valid site.

Carol recently clicked on a post in Facebook and several pop-up messages appeared and there was no way to get out of them. Larry mentioned a similar incident. When this happens, one option is to hold down the power button on the computer until it shuts down and often, when restarting the computer, the problem will be gone. However, in Larry's case, the problem was

still there but he was able to use Ctrl + Alt + Del (press all three keys at the same time and release) and go into Task Manager to stop the program that is running.

Windows 10 – how long to start up

Bill K asked how long it takes Windows 10 to start up because it is taking a lot longer for his Windows 10 computer to start up than it did for his previous computer.

One reason could be a Windows or other software update and the update has to finish installing when the computer restarts. Some updates affect the entire system and others are user specific so there might be an additional delay after logging into your user account while the update completes. Another reason for slow startup could be the number of programs starting when Windows starts.

Gary uses Ccleaner to check for startup programs. Before disabling any startup program, make sure you know what the program is. Just because a program has a strange name or you don't recognize the manufacturer, don't assume it doesn't need to run at startup.

When all else fails

Lynn has a computer that had been infected with a virus. After running a program to clean the virus, he was unable to access the internet and some other programs weren't working. Lynn had decided the best course of action was to re-install Windows 10 but he brought the computer to the meeting to see if anyone could recommend another solution. After some troubleshooting, the consensus was that it would be best to do the reinstall.