Moving to Windows 11

- Disclaimer
- The information contained in this presentation has been taken from znet.com and is believed to be accurate. Some of the recommendations involve making changes to your PC which, if done incorrectly, could result in loss of data or functionality.

- On October 14, 2025, Windows 10 will reach its end-of-support date.
- Microsoft has already stopped delivering feature updates to your Windows 10 PC and from that date will stop delivering security updates (unless you're willing to pay an exorbitant price to join the Extended Security Updates program).
- When a Windows version reaches its end-of-support date, the software keeps working, but the update channel grinds to a halt.

- Windows 10 users are encouraged to migrate to the latest version.
- If you have a valid copy of Windows 10 there is no cost to upgrade to Windows 11.
- Unfortunately, upgrading is not a supported option for users running Windows 10 on hardware that doesn't meet the stringent hardware compatibility requirements of Windows 11.

- If you try to upgrade to Windows 11 on a PC over a few years old, you'll be told, in no uncertain terms, that your old PC doesn't qualify, because its CPU isn't on the official list of compatible processors.
- Microsoft has made it abundantly clear that it will not revise those requirements.
- You will also hit roadblocks if your PC doesn't have a Trusted Platform Module (TPM) version 2.0 or 'secure boot'.
- Those pesky restrictions prevent you from automatically upgrading to Windows 11 using Windows Update or the Windows 11 Installation Assistant.
- If you're responsible for one or more Windows 10 PCs that fail Microsoft's Windows 11 compatibility tests, what should you do? You have five options.

1. **Ignore the end-of-support deadline completely**
- You could do nothing at all -- just continue running your unsupported operating system and hope for the best.
- That's a bad idea that exposes you to the very real possibility that you'll fall prey to a security exploit.
- It's very risky to say the least to believe that using third-party antivirus software will protect you from harm.
- **If** you **never** connect to the Internet there is probably no need to upgrade.

2. Buy a new PC
- Microsoft and its partners would like you to replace that unsupported hardware with a new PC.
- But throwing away a perfectly good computer seems wasteful, and it's not an option if you're hanging on to Windows 10 because you have mission-critical software that is incompatible with Windows 11.

3. Ditch Windows completely

- You could keep your old hardware and replace Windows 10 with the flavor of Linux you prefer.
- If you've got the technical know-how and experience to manage the transition, that option is worth considering.
- Linux Mint, for example, provides an operating environment that is similar to Windows and there a lots of applications that are like those in Windows.
- Switching to Google's free ChromeOS Flex might also be possible, although the compatibility requirements for that alternative are just as likely to get in your way.

4. Pay Microsoft for security updates

- The statement that there will be "no new security updates" after Windows 10 reaches its end-of-support date is not exactly true.
- Microsoft will indeed continue developing security updates for Windows 10, but they won't be free.
- Microsoft announced in December 2023 that it will offer Extended Security Options (ESUs) for Windows 10; these subscription-based updates will be available for up to three years.
- But they won't be cheap.

5. Upgrade your 'incompatible' hardware to Windows 11

- That pesky compatibility checker might insist that you can't upgrade your Windows 10 PC to Windows 11, but there are indeed officially supported ways to bypass those restrictions. You just have to jump through a few technical hoops.
- For PCs that were originally designed for Windows 10, you need to make one small registry edit and then make sure that your PC is configured to use Secure Boot with the Trusted Platform Module (TPM) enabled. Even an old TPM 1.2 chip will do.
- For older PCs running Windows 10, that were originally designed for Windows 7 or Windows 8.1, you might need to use a third-party tool called Rufus to bypass installation challenges. That's especially true on PCs that use a legacy BIOS instead of UEFI firmware and for those that don't have access to a TPM.

Option 1: Use this simple registry edit to bypass CPU checks and accept an older TPM

1. **Registry change**

- You need to make one small change to the Windows registry. This change tells the Windows 11 Setup program to skip the check for compatible CPUs and to allow installation on a PC with an older TPM (version 1.2).

- ***The usual warnings apply when working with the registry, of course, and it is recommended you make a complete backup before proceeding.***

- Open Registry Editor (Regedit.exe) and navigate to the following key:

- HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\Setup\MoSetup

- If the MoSetup key, doesn't exist, you need to create it. Right-click the node for HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\Setup in the left-hand navigation pane, then choose New > Key. Name it MoSetup and press Enter.

- Select the MoSetup key and then right-click in any empty space in the pane on the right. Choose the option to create a new DWORD value. (Don't choose the QWORD option!)

- Replace the default name for that key by typing the text AllowUpgradesWithUnsupportedTPMOrCPU and then press Enter. Then double-click the new value and change the "Value data" box to 1. The result should look like this:
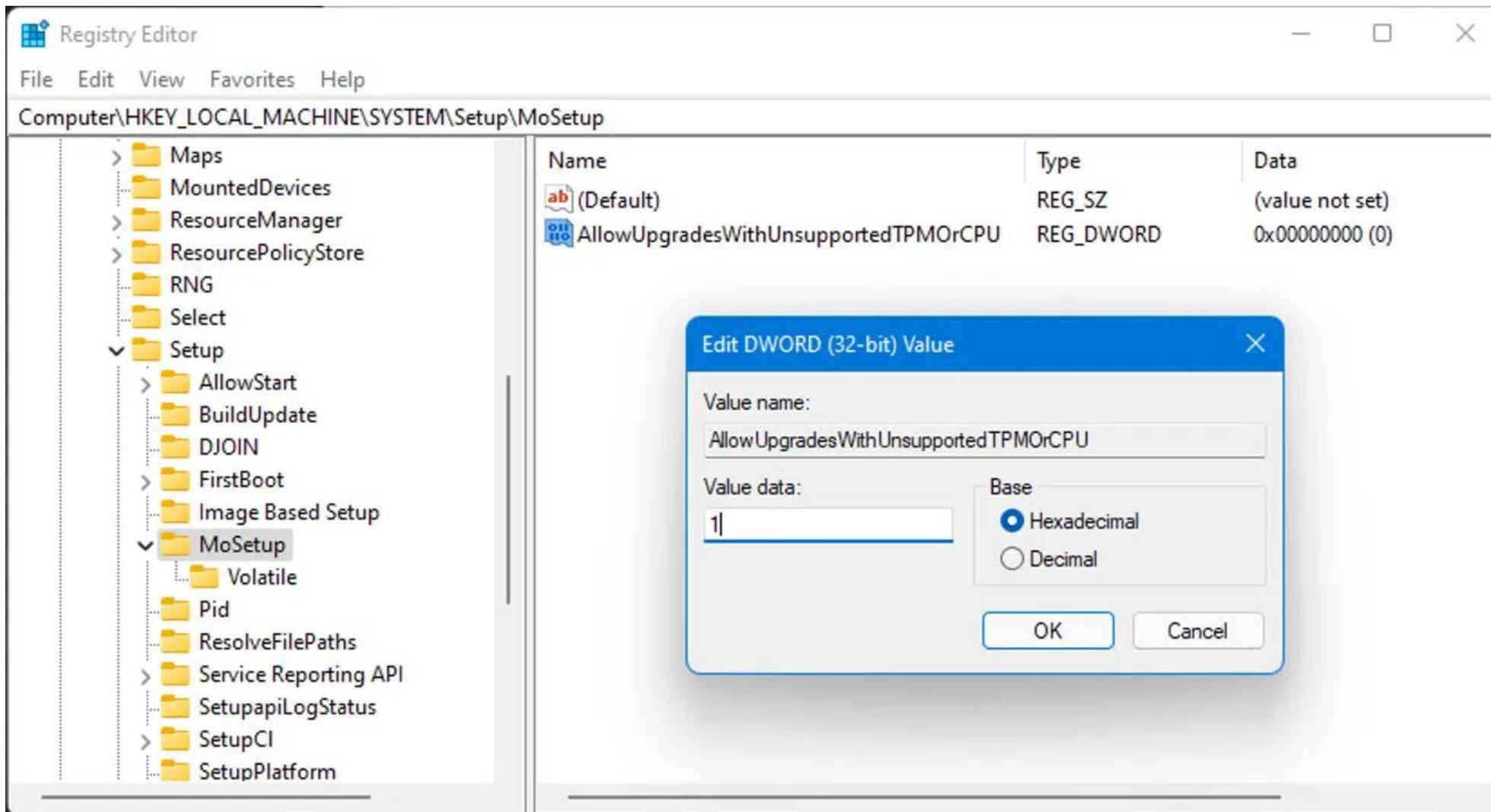
Click OK to save your change, and then restart your PC.

2. Download the Windows 11 ISO

On the PC you want to upgrade, go to the Windows 11 Download page and choose the option at the bottom of the page, "Download Windows 11 Disk Image (ISO) for x64 devices." Save the ISO file in your Downloads folder.

Note that this is a big file. Depending on the speed of your internet connection, the download could take a while.

3. Mount the ISO file in File Explorer

After the download completes, open File Explorer and double-click the ISO file. Doing so mounts the file as a virtual DVD drive in its own folder.

4. Run Windows Setup

In File Explorer, find the Setup.exe file in the virtual drive and double-click it to begin the upgrade. You'll see a stern warning about compatibility issues, but after you click OK on that dialog box, your upgrade should proceed without any serious issues.

You'll have three options: you can keep your apps, settings, and files (Full Upgrade); keep your data files but start fresh with apps and settings (Keep Data Only); or start completely fresh (Clean Install).

Option 2: Use the free Rufus utility to bypass compatibility checks completely

- On older PCs without a TPM and on PCs that don't support Secure Boot, you can use the free, open-source Rufus utility to make a USB drive.
- To get started, you'll need to download the Windows 11 ISO from: https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windows11 onto a USB flash drive at least 16 GB in size. You will reformat this drive as part of the process, so back up any data on that drive first.
- Download Rufus https://rufus.ie/en/ or from the Microsoft Store and run the app.
- Choose the USB drive and then choose the "Disk or ISO image" option.
- Click the Select button, choose the Windows 11 ISO you downloaded earlier, and then click Start.
- In the Windows User Experience dialog, select the first checkbox to remove hardware requirements, as shown in the screenshot below.
- Click OK to begin creating the drive.
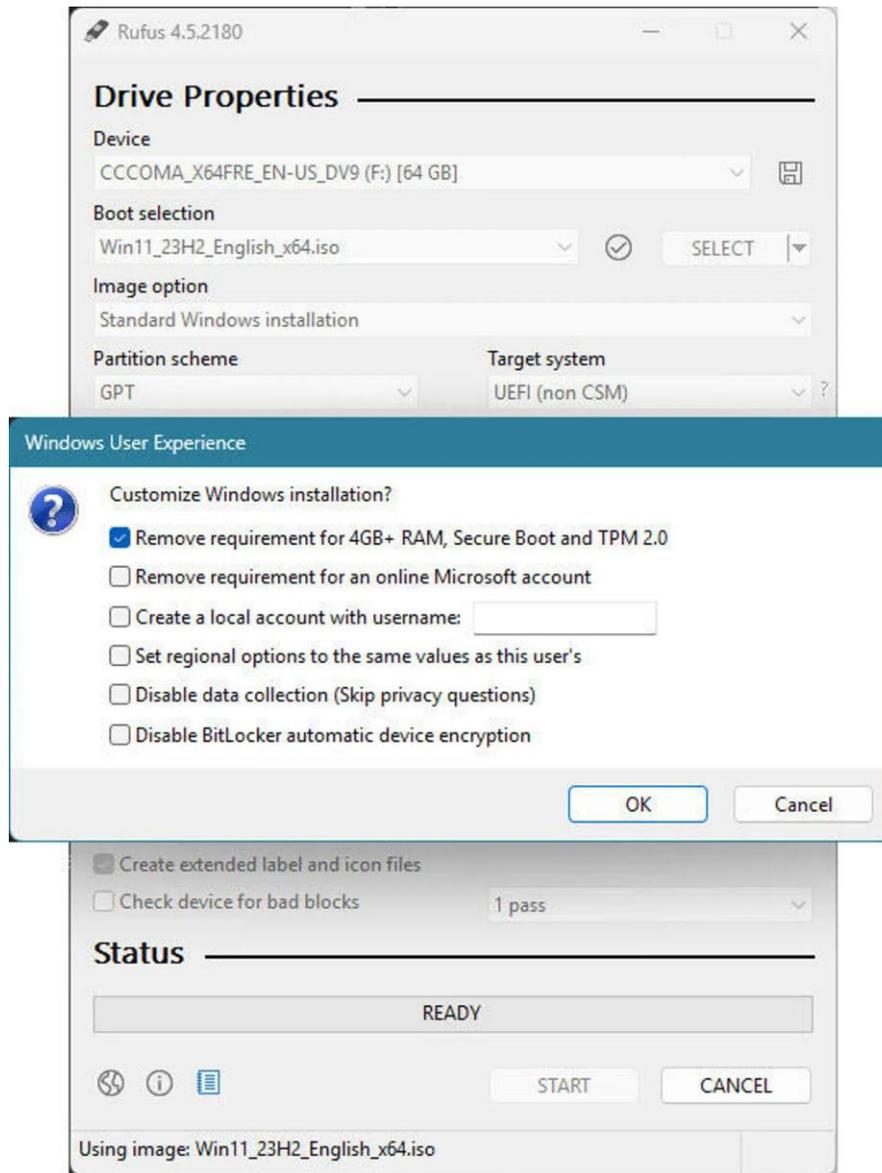
3. Install and set up Windows 11
For an upgrade, open the USB drive in File Explorer and double-click the EXE file for Windows 11.
On a clean PC, boot from the USB drive to install a free copy of Windows 11.
Run through the Windows setup screens. The setup should pass with flying colors, even though Windows 11 may not support your hardware.

4. Sign into Windows 11
After the setup is complete, you'll be taken to the Windows 11 desktop.
If you upgraded from Windows 10, make sure that all your apps, files, and settings are intact so you can begin using the new version.
If you're starting fresh with Windows 11, you can now install the apps you need and tweak the settings as you see fit.