

# Lenovo + Microsoft Windows 11 Upgrade Reference Guide

Modern Lenovo devices running Microsoft Windows 11 enable IT leaders to provide next-level performance, reliability, and security for an enhanced user experience.



Lenovo recommends  
Windows 11 Pro for Business.

Smarter  
technology  
for all

Lenovo





 **Windows 11**

Lenovo recommends  
Windows 11 Pro for Business.

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# Why upgrade to Windows 11 with Lenovo?

For today's IT teams to work confidently across multiple environments, they need to deploy, secure, and manage devices from anywhere.

## 93%



of organizations are adopting a digital-first business strategy for more flexible workspaces.<sup>1</sup>

Lenovo helps IT pros simplify IT management without interruption. We're always in pursuit of smarter solutions to meet the challenges you face today, tomorrow, and beyond.

That's why we're excited about the Windows 11 operating system upgrade and want to help your teams feel just as confident.



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Windows 11 Pro for Business.



## Windows 11 is the most secure version of Windows yet.

Purposeful new features and functionality from Microsoft Teams and Microsoft Copilot help your users get things done with fewer clicks and fewer security worries. Those benefits are amplified when coupled with Lenovo devices — offering IT teams dependability and built-in protections for wherever work happens. Make the move to Windows 11 today so you don't miss out on these critical security upgrades.



HOME

**Support for Windows 10 is ending October 14, 2025.** Prepare the smarter way and pave a path towards AI-enhanced productivity and security with Windows 11 and Lenovo devices. Contact your Lenovo sales representative today to get started .

[Learn more.](#)



Lenovo ThinkPad X1 Carbon





# Lenovo + Windows 11 overview for IT pros

Moving to Windows 11 will feel more like an update than a major upgrade and will deliver an improved user experience for more productive and secure work.

All the new Microsoft OS benefits are amplified by the quality, design, and innovation of modern Lenovo devices. Here's what you need to know.



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## Windows 11 in brief

Windows 11 provides a familiar but modern and refreshed interface that helps increase productivity and enhances the collaboration experience for end users while maintaining consistent management for IT-managed devices — right from the start.



**Powerful for users.** Offers new productivity features and functionality designed to meet the challenges of on-the-go work, with a completely refreshed look and feel. In fact, organizations using Windows 11 saw a 15% increase in end-user productivity.<sup>2</sup>



**AI enhancements for all.** Copilot in Windows brings AI-powered multitasking, content creation, and videoconferencing improvements to help your users get more done with less stress.



**Consistent for IT.** Fits right into existing processes. Windows 11 is based on the same foundation as Windows 10, so it's consistent for IT and will support the same IT management tools you use today.



**End-to-end security for organizations.** Powerful built-in security including hardware-based isolation, encryption, and malware protection. Cloud configuration simply secures a Windows 11 device for curated apps and access. App compatibility and cloud management make adoption easy.



Lenovo ThinkPad X1 2-in-1

# Noteworthy benefits for modern work

Benefits of Windows 11 devices revealed by a Forrester economic impact study included:<sup>2</sup>

- ✓ **250% ROI** in three years and payback in less than six months
- ✓ **20% reduced** risk of successful security attack
- ✓ **20% increased** productivity for security and IT teams
- ✓ **80% reduced** number of help desk tickets
- ✓ **25% decreased** time for device deployment
- ✓ **Zero Trust-ready OS** to protect data and access, anywhere
- ✓ **Copilot in Windows** to get comprehensive, precise answers, find new insights, or help create content
- ✓ **Simple, powerful UX** to improve employee productivity
- ✓ **Customizable desktop, workflow automation, and snap layout** for a personalized workday that supports employee retention
- ✓ **Smarter employee collaboration** with Microsoft Teams



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# Powerful, pre-enabled protection

Security not only remains a top priority among IT leaders, it has increased in importance for funding since last year.<sup>3</sup> Security must be ever-present, but never an obstacle to getting things done. This is why security must be considered from the supply chain to the devices. The devices can then be strengthened with the built-in security of Windows 11 and the end-to-end process security of Lenovo ThinkShield.

Windows 11 is the most secure Windows ever, backed by layers of powerful default protection that can drop security incidents a reported 58%.<sup>4</sup>

✔ **Built-in security** ensures protections are ready without having to configure devices. Microsoft has increased the security baseline by requiring a security chip (TPM 2) and ensuring protections are built in and turned on by default to protect from malware and sophisticated attacks.

✔ **Defending your business from tomorrow's threats** requires innovative security solutions like those on Lenovo devices running Windows 11. Secure the future of work with Zero Trust-ready OS and AI endpoint protection by SentinelOne, hardware isolation, encryption, malware protection, and integrated hardware and OS safeguards. Simplified steps to deploy Windows Hello for Business (requires TPM 2 or greater) make passwordless protection easier as well.

✔ **Pre-enabled virtualization-based security (VBS) and hypervisor-enforced code integrity (HVCI)** safeguard the operating system and information stored in memory. Powerful hardware-based security built in and enabled by default led to a reported **3.1x** reduction in firmware attacks.<sup>4</sup>



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Lenovo ThinkPad® T16

## Lenovo security innovations fortify a fleet running Windows 11

### ThinkShield

Explore fully customizable hardware, software, and services solutions to secure your enterprise.

### Secure Wipe 2.0

Delete sensitive data on a drive without external tools, or removing the drive and run log reports confirming the SSD or HDD has been wiped.

### Firmware Resiliency 2.0

Expand self-healing capabilities beyond the core BIOS. Provides autonomous, non-bypassable, and immutable attestation functionality that becomes the additional hardware root of trust measure and verifies the signatures of multiple parts of the platform hardware, firmware, and configuration.

### Human presence detection

Screen lock detects when the user leaves and automatically locks the system.

### Non-soldered SSDs

Remove before servicing to secure data and keep it under IT control.

### Intelligent PC diagnostics

Use a simple smartphone app to track more precise servicing results.

## Gain more control over security

Deploy, secure, and manage devices remotely from the cloud. Simplify device delivery and save time and money with zero-touch deployment. Apply the same security policies to all devices with expanded support for group policy administrative templates in MDM solutions like **Microsoft Endpoint Manager**.\*

# Productivity from the get-go

With Windows 11 remote deployment and compliance, you can deploy remote PCs through the cloud in compliance with company policies. Expanded support for group policy administrative templates in mobile device management solutions like **Microsoft Endpoint Manager** enable you to easily apply the same security policies to on-premises and remote devices.



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Cloud-managed security updates offer additional control. Approve, schedule, and monitor any Windows Update content through the cloud, including security updates, drivers, and firmware.

 **80-90%** of all ransomware compromises originate from unmanaged devices.<sup>5</sup>

Windows 11 allows for better performance consistency — critical for IT — across device configurations with new minimum system requirements. In terms of ease of migration, Windows 11 is built on the same core as Windows 10, supporting the same IT management tools that you use today. Most software and accessories that worked with Windows 10 are expected to work with Windows 11.

Lenovo devices running Windows 11 give your users the same advanced security protections from anywhere. Windows Autopilot zero-touch deployment enables users to simply unbox their device and start working with productivity-boosting, AI-enhanced tools immediately.

AI tools, like Microsoft Copilot in Windows 11, are expected to be a part of your deployment strategy now. **86%** of companies say AI could have a positive impact on their productivity and collaboration.<sup>6</sup> In fact, **98%** of executives say AI models will play an important role in their organizations' strategies in the next 3-5 years.<sup>7</sup>

## Lenovo devices designed to make the most of Windows 11

-  **Lenovo ThinkPad® X1 Carbon**  
An ultra-powerful device, fueled by Windows 11, boasts AI enhancements, a premium user experience, and a more responsible design than ever
-  **Lenovo ThinkPad® X1 2-in-1**  
This ultra-flexible, no-compromise convertible 2-in-1 with a new redesigned 360-degree hinge and Windows 11 for an elevated user experience
-  **Lenovo ThinkPad® T16**  
The ThinkPad® T16 was built to be your long-term go-to device by being repair-friendly and upgrade-friendly — all while remaining performance-focused with Windows 11.

# Business-grade durability and streamlined UX for modern work

The latest evolution of Windows offers a smarter way to collaborate with Microsoft Teams. Windows 11 introduces improved multi-finger touch for a more fluid tablet experience, personalized widgets, voice typing, intelligent noise canceling and blur, and Snap Groups that allows a user to “snap” together apps or create a grouping for a particular project.

According to Forrester, employee engagement fell from **41% to 37%** last year and is predicted to fall even further this year to **34%**.<sup>8</sup> This is why IT pros are more focused than ever improving the employee experience (EX), and Windows 11 doesn't disappoint. Simply improving the EX could yield **up to 50%** greater revenue.<sup>9</sup> Employee retention is also higher, further reducing security risks.

IT contributes to improving employee retention efforts and business continuity by providing a personalized computing experience with Windows 11. Partnered with a modern Lenovo device that matches even the busiest day, Lenovo keeps your workforce humming.

Lenovo smart battery management, for example, uses recent charging history to make small changes that improve long-term battery lifespan and extend the value of your IT investment. We continue to push the limits of innovation through technology to help you dominate the rigors of everyday work life.



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Lenovo ThinkPad X1 Carbon

## Lenovo performance innovations elevate Windows 11 user-focused features



**AI-enhanced**  
Gets things done more effectively and efficiently with the help of AI-powered search, content generation, and security advancements from Copilot in Windows



**Enhanced viewing**  
Select models of the ThinkPad® T14 and ThinkPad® T16 include an optional stunning OLED display



**Smart Standby**  
A unique Lenovo enhancement that allows users to manage and configure low-power states to maximize battery life



**5G and Wi-Fi 6 antenna designs**  
Newly engineered to provide epic connectivity, with Wi-Fi 7 available on some devices



**Always On/Always Connected**  
Optimizes teams' productivity and collaboration by empowering full wireless performance connectivity in any mode — even with the lid closed



**Intelligent cooling**  
With an auto mode setting



**Optimized audio**  
Dolby Voice for clearer sound in noisy environments heightening the collaboration experience on Microsoft Teams

## Streamline administrative duties

- ✓ Pin virtual apps to the taskbar and run them as if on the hard drive with Azure Virtual Desktop\*\*
- ✓ Automate tasks across applications with a low code-guided process and pre-built connectors
- ✓ Search apps, websites, Windows settings, research, databases, patient files, or personnel from one place with Microsoft Search\*\*\*



# Future-proof your fleet with a smarter Windows 11 deployment

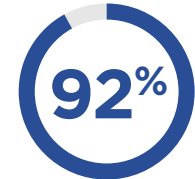
As productivity and security demands increase, your users will need devices that can adapt to continuous advancements in Windows. Lenovo has developed a future-proof solution for your deployments and evolving AI strategies.

**Lenovo TruScale Device as a Service (DaaS)** can help by taking care of everything from provisioning and deployment through end-of-life reclamation for one, predictable monthly fee.

In addition to freeing up resources (both IT and capital), Lenovo TruScale DaaS can help you equip more users for less upfront cost, adapt solutions to specific demands, and even pause when needed.

Keep users equipped with the most up-to-date hardware and software, eliminating the need to manage future upgrades and migrations.

Lenovo TruScale DaaS gives you worry-free, end-to-end lifecycle device management with flexible payment options, one point of contact, and accountability. Our experts help assess your needs and deliver a range of services to get you up and running quickly and smoothly. Talk to your **Lenovo sales representative** today and download a detailed article and checklist on future-proofing your fleet with **TruScale**.



of CIOs say they would likely consider adding new as-a-service offerings over the next two years.<sup>10</sup>



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# Find the right device for each employee

Plan, manage, and secure your fleet with confidence. Provide a premium PC experience with the following devices, all compatible with the next evolution of Windows.

For IT leaders who need a PC designed for the modern workforce, Lenovo ThinkPad® and ThinkBook products running Windows 11 provide the ultimate working experience from anywhere, without compromising performance or security. [Learn more and find expert support here.](#)



Lenovo recommends Windows 11 Pro for Business.

## Lenovo ThinkPad® and Windows 11

The ThinkPad® family has a premium device for every work style, in every workplace, backed by the quality of Lenovo solutions and the performance of Windows 11. [Explore them all here.](#)

### Lenovo ThinkPad® X1 Carbon

Ideal for power-efficient, sustained AI that boosts everyday productivity, the ThinkPad X1 Carbon delivers significantly higher performance while lowering power consumption and raising security and manageability.

### Lenovo ThinkPad® X1 2-in-1

This ultra-flexible, no-compromise convertible 2-in-1 with a new redesigned 360-degree hinge and Windows 11 for an elevated user experience.

### Lenovo ThinkPad® T16

The ThinkPad® T16 delivers a best-in-class UX plus next-level repairability with extensive Customer Replaceable Units (CRUs) that are fast and easy to replace.

## Lenovo ThinkBooks and Windows 11

Lenovo ThinkBook products with Windows 11 are designed for the flexibility of modern work. Their smart features ensure you have all the technology you need to do your job seamlessly. [See the full list here.](#)

### Lenovo ThinkBook 16

Deliver a perfect balance of power, style, and stamina. The ThinkBook 16 is ultra-portable with the power of Windows 11.

### Lenovo ThinkBook 16p

This ThinkBook offers higher performance capability with dedicated graphics support and AI features from Microsoft Copilot for demanding tasks.



Lenovo ThinkBook 16p





Lenovo ThinkPad T16

# Six steps for migrating to Windows 11

Lenovo and Windows 11 are hybrid work's dynamic duo. Planning your company's upgrade today is a smart IT strategy.



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**1 Enlist an expert.** As a trusted Microsoft partner with certified global expertise, Lenovo can help deploy, configure, and support the latest solutions so you can unlock all the benefits of Windows 11.

**2 Learn the system requirements.** Review the **basic and features specific requirements** for installing Windows 11 on a PC.

**3 Inventory your fleet's compatibility.** Determine which devices in your network meet the minimum system requirements. Organizations will be able to move eligible PCs directly to Windows 11 using Windows Update for Business.

**4 Confirm with partners and check accessories.** Most software (including third-party ISV security solutions) and accessories that work with Windows 10 are expected to work with Windows 11. Check with your software publisher or accessory manufacturer for specific details on your products.

**5 Validate business-critical applications.** App compatibility is a core design tenet of Windows 11. For peace of mind, use **Test Base for Microsoft 365** to test your applications in preview. If any compatibility issues arise, Microsoft App Assure will remediate them.

**6 Develop a rollout schedule.** Keep the Windows 10 support deadline top of mind so you don't risk running an unsupported OS. Start getting ready for Windows 11 as soon as you can and plan to complete your migration well before **October 14, 2025**. **Lenovo Asset Recovery Services** can help you realize potential value from your old technology assets, meet your corporate and environmental responsibilities, and comply with your internal business security protocols.



# Frequently asked questions

### Are the Lenovo devices in my current fleet upgradable?

If your existing Lenovo PC is running the current version of Windows 10 and meets the minimum hardware specifications to run Windows 11, it will be able to upgrade. Specific timing will vary by device. Windows will send a notification once an eligible PC has been tested and validated for the free upgrade.

### Which Lenovo devices that I buy now will be upgradable to Windows 11?

We offer a wide selection with Windows 11 pre-loaded or upgradable. Your Lenovo representative can help you confirm a particular device. Or refer to our [complete list](#) of compatible devices.

### What is an update versus an upgrade?

An update is a change within a version of a Windows product — for example, moving from Windows 10, version 2004 (the Windows 10 May 2020 update) to Windows 10, version 20H2 (the Windows 10 October 2020 update). An upgrade is when you change OS versions — for example, moving from Windows 10 to Windows 11, or when you upgrade to a higher edition within the same OS version (e.g., Windows 10 Home to Windows 10 Pro).

### What are the basics of the free upgrade offer for Windows 11?

The upgrade to Windows 11 is available for devices running Windows 10, version 20H1 or newer, on eligible hardware. Please view the [full minimum hardware requirements and specs](#).

### Retiring older equipment as you transition to Windows 11.

With support for Windows 10 ending by **October 14, 2025**, now is the perfect time to get market value out of old assets. Lenovo Asset Recovery Services is an alternative that lets you capture the remaining value of older devices – a single-source solution to responsibly dispose of them and get fair market value. Lenovo also offers a trade-in program to help with fleet refresh.



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# Frequently asked questions, continued

## Will my current Windows 10 applications, devices, and accessories work with Windows 11?

Most applications, devices, and accessories that worked with Windows 10 will be compatible with Windows 11. In fact, Windows 11 has a **99.7%** app compatibility.<sup>11</sup> Check with your software, device, or accessory manufacturer to confirm your applications are compatible.

## Will all my third-party Windows 11 security solutions continue to work across Windows 10 and Windows 11?

Check with your software publisher or accessory manufacturer to make sure you are on the current version that supports Windows 11.

## What edition of Windows 11 will I get when I upgrade?

This will depend on your Microsoft enterprise agreement. Consult your Microsoft representative to confirm the edition to expect.

## What is the upgrade path from Windows 10 to Windows 11? My company still has some Windows 7 devices. If they meet the hardware floor, can these be upgraded directly to Windows 11?

Most devices available for purchase now will be upgradable to Windows 11. You will have the option to upgrade, clean install, or reimage Windows 10 devices to move to Windows 11. For Windows 7 devices that meet hardware requirements, you will need to clean install or reimage to go directly to Windows 11. Please view [the full minimum hardware requirements and specs](#).

## What is the activation and provisioning process for my remote users? Is it the same as Windows 10?

Windows 11 has been built on the same core as Windows 10, so you'll continue with the same experience you're accustomed to.

## I use Windows Autopilot to provision devices for end users. Will Windows Autopilot be available for Windows 11?

Yes, you will be able to use Windows Autopilot for Windows 11 devices.

## As an IT pro, can I manage or remove certain new features in Windows 11 that I may not want in my install base or to expose to my users?

Similar to previous versions of Windows, IT will have control over certain policies that will effectively manage or remove certain features. Windows 11 has been built on the same core as Windows 10, so you will continue with the same experience you're accustomed to.

## Can I run both Windows 11 and Windows 10 in parallel? If so, do I use the same process and tools to manage both?

Yes, Windows 11 is based on the same foundation as Windows 10, so they can coexist, and the same processes and tools are used to manage them. However, migrating to Windows 11 by October 2025 is still crucial to avoid any gaps in security.

## Who do I contact if I have issues in upgrading to Windows 11 or general support questions?

Visit [Microsoft Support](#) and contact your Lenovo sales representative.



## Additional resources

### Microsoft support

- [Hardware requirements and specs](#)
- [Windows 11 Pro information](#)
- [Windows 11 Enterprise information](#)
- [General upgrade support](#)
- [Windows 11 learning modules](#)
- [PC Health Check app for compatibility](#)

## Lenovo services and solutions

- [Lenovo Managed Services](#)
- [Lenovo Asset Recovery Services](#)
- [Lenovo DaaS](#)
- [Lenovo Premier Support](#)



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# Get ready for Windows 11 with Lenovo.

Keep your business humming regardless of where teams are working. Lenovo has the devices and solutions to reduce risk and downtime dramatically, and our experts make device deployments and updates secure and simple.

We can free up your IT team and deliver a smooth transition to Windows 11. **Speak with your Lenovo representative today.**

**Sources**

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- 5 Microsoft, "Microsoft Digital Defense Report 2023," October 2023
- 6 Foundry, "AI Priorities Study 2023," October 2023
- 7 Accenture, "Technology Vision 2023," September 2023
- 8 Forrester, "Predictions 2024: An EX Recession And An AI Revolution Reshape The Future Of Work," October 2023
- 9 Salesforce, "The Value of Employee Experience, Quantified," January 2022
- 10 Lenovo, "The Resilient CIO: Lenovo Global Study of CIOs 2023," June 2023
- 11 App Assure program data

- \* Active Directory and internet connection required.
- \*\* Azure Virtual Desktop license required.
- \*\*\* Microsoft 365 required.

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