Windows 11: In-Place Upgrade Guide

When to Use?

This guide covers upgrading your computer from Windows 10 to Windows 11 using the in-place upgrade method. This method allows for a seamless transition, installing Windows 11 directly over your existing Windows 10 setup. It preserves your files, settings, and applications, making it ideal for users who prefer a straightforward upgrade without extensive technical intervention. In-place upgrades can be completed remotely, but for the fastest Windows 11 upgrade, we recommend using a wired connection while on campus. Any upgrade has the chance of data loss if interrupted or an error occurs. ITS recommends backing up any critical data before you upgrade. To learn more about backing up data and good data hygiene, please review this knowledge document: **Windows 11: Pre-Upgrade Information**.

Estimated Upgrade Duration

The upgrade process can take a considerable amount of time (1 to 3 hours depending on your location (on-site or off-site) and the speed of your Internet connection. It is advised that you start your upgrade at the end of your workday so it can be finished by the time you start work the next day.

Procedure

1. Select Start ⊞ and then select Settings ⚙ > Update & Security > Windows Update .
2. In the Windows Update window that opens, select the Check for updates button.
   Note: If there are updates available for the current version of Windows, the Windows 11 upgrade might not be made available until those updates are installed. Install any updates for the current version of Windows, restart the device, and then try checking for the Windows 11 upgrade again.
3. If Windows 11 is ready to be installed on the device, a message is displayed in the Windows Update window showing that Windows 11 is ready.
4. To proceed with the upgrade to Windows 11, select the Download and install button.

5. The progress bar will stay on the screen until the required operations have finished. After the preliminary installation has been completed, you will be notified the system is going to restart. Click the Restart Now button to restart the computer.
6. After restarting you will see a screen saying it's working on updates with a percentage complete. Please keep your computer on. Your computer may restart several times as it applies the updates.
7. After updates are installed, it should return to the sign-in screen.
8. After signing in, there will be another pop-up window letting you know the upgrade process is complete and the computer will need to restart a final time. Click the OK button to restart your computer and finish the upgrade.