### BACKWARD COMPATIBILITY

**[Compatible](https://www.webopedia.com/TERM/C/compatible.html)** with earlier models or versions of the same product. A new version of a program is said to be backward compatible if it can use files and data created with an older version of the same program. A computer is said to be backward compatible if it can run the same software as the previous model of the computer.

Backward compatibility is important because it eliminates the need to start over when you upgrade to a newer product.