Installation Requirements

Objectives:

At the end of this episode, I will be able to:

1. Describe the minimum requirements to install macOS 11 Big Sur.
2. Determine if a system meets the minimum requirements for macOS 11.
3. Describe the steps you should take prior to upgrading.

> Additional resources used during the episode can be obtained using the download link on the overview episode.

- Available on Apple's website (https://www.apple.com/macos/big-sur-preview/)
- Supported Platforms

    - MacBook (2015 and later)
    - MacBook Air (2013 and later)
    - MacBook Pro (late 2013 and later)
    - Mac mini (2014 and later)
    - iMac (2014 and later)
    - iMac Pro (2017 and later)
    - Mac Pro (2013 and later)

- General Requirements

    - OS X 10.8 or later, already installed
    - 2 GB or more of memory
    - 12.5 GB or more of available disk space

- System Information displays hardware/software information

    - `/Applications/Utilities/System Information`
    - You may need to widen the window for proper display
    - Click on `Hardware` for the Hardware Overview
    - Click on `Software` for the Software Overview

- Upgrade Checklist

    1. Check for updates

        - Software
        - Firmware

    2. Check applications for compatibility

        - Apple software will generally be fine
        - Check with 3rd-party software vendors for their apps
        - Incompatible software will be moved to a separate folder by the installer if detected

    3. Backup files

        - Time Machine, iCloud or other services

    4. Backup settings

        - Most settings will be imported without issue
        - Better safe than sorry
        - Examples

            - Network settings
            - UI customizations
            - 3rd party app preferences

- Firmware Updates

    - The macOS Installer will attempt to download them for you

        - Not ideal for off-line installs

    - Can be downloaded from [Apple Support (https://support.apple.com/downloads/firmware)](https://support.apple.com/downloads/firmware)
    - You will need to know your model number which can be confusing

        - `Apple Menu` -> `About This Mac`
        - Example: *MacBook Pro (Retina, 13-inch, Late 2013)*

    - Step-by-step

        1. Browse to [Apple Support (https://support.apple.com/downloads/firmware)](https://support.apple.com/downloads/firmware)
        2. Click `Browse by Product` button at top right
        3. Click `Mac notebooks` or `Mac desktops`
        4. Filter with your specific model if necessary

External Resources:

During this episode, you can reference the following external resources for supplementary tools and information:

[Apple's Big Sur Website (https://www.apple.com/macos/big-sur-preview/)](https://www.apple.com/macos/big-sur-preview/)
[Apple Support (https://support.apple.com/downloads/firmware)](https://support.apple.com/downloads/firmware)