In this lesson, we are going to talk about Windows Home. Now, Windows Home is a basic addition of the Windows operating system. This allows you to have multiple user accounts to separate files and data from other family members, but it is not designed to be used in a business environment. Because Windows Home was designed for use in and around the home, it has a lot of features related to gaming, video and things like that, but it does leave out a lot of the things that a company or business would like to see inside of their operating system. To get those additional business features, you would have to upgrade your operating system to either the Windows Pro Edition or the Windows Enterprise Edition. Now, when it comes to Windows Home, what are some of the key things that you're going to be missing inside of Windows Home that you're going to get from other versions of Windows? When it comes to Windows Home, some of the features they've removed includes things like storage device encryption. With a lot of the other additions of Windows, there is a tool known as BitLocker, and BitLocker provides you with full disk encryption for either your hard disk drive or solid-state drive inside of your desktop or laptop, but in the Windows Home Edition, this was removed by Microsoft, and it only exists in the higher editions of Windows. In addition to this, Windows Home also does not provide support for the Windows Information Protection, known as the WIP, and this actually is used to help identify data leaks and data exfiltration from a system. Again, this tends to be more of a corporate feature, so Microsoft has removed this from the Windows Home Edition. Similarly, you'll see that Windows Home also doesn't have any of the business management features, things like mobile device management, support for connecting to domains, or support for active directory. Now, because of these missing features, this makes Windows Home Edition the least expensive version, and it usually retails for around $139 in the United States. Windows 10 Home Edition also comes in two different versions, 32-bit and 64-bit. The 32-bit version of Windows Home Edition only requires one gigabyte of memory to operate, while the 64-bit version requires at least two gigabytes of memory. Now, both of these versions do require at least 20 gigabytes of storage space on your hard disk drive or solid-state device in order to install the operating system. When it comes to your processor, you're going to need at least a one gigahertz or faster processor that's based on either x86 if you're using the 32-bit version of Windows, or the x64 processor if you're using the 64-bit version. Now, the latest version of Windows, known as Windows 11, also has a Home Edition too. The Windows 11 Home Edition is only offered in a 64-bit version, and this requires four gigabytes of memory and at least 64 gigabytes of storage space in order to install the operating system. Like Windows 10 Home Edition, you also need a processor that's at least one gigahertz or more in speed, but Windows 11 does require that that processor have at least two cores in order to allow the installation to occur. Now, because Windows Home Edition is one of the most limited versions of Windows, it does not support the use of multiple physical CPUs or processors, but instead, it does support multi-core processors, which are common in most desktops and laptops these days. If you remember from your Core 1 studies, a multi-core processor has two, four, six, eight, or even up to 64 cores in a single physical CPU. These processors tend to be very fast and efficient, and they're supported by all the different versions of Windows. On the other hand, some workstations and servers actually use multiple physical processors that connect to two or more sockets on the system's motherboard. Because Windows Home is a stripped-down version of Windows, it does not support multiple processors. So, if your system has multiple processors, you'll want to look at moving into one of the higher additions of Windows, because some of those will support multiple processors where Windows Home Edition will not. The Windows Home Edition does, however, support hyper-threading, so if you're going to be using the system for virtualization, you can turn on hyper-threading and it will be supported by the Windows operating system. In addition to this, if you're using the 64-bit Windows Home Edition, you can support large amounts of memory, up to a total of 128 gigabytes of memory. If you need support for more than 128 gigabytes of memory though, you are going to have to upgrade to the Pro or Enterprise Editions instead. Now, the final thing we need to talk about in this lesson is how you license the Home Edition of Windows. There's really two variants that you need to be aware of. These are known as OEM and Retail. The OEM License is going to be used by the original equipment manufacturers when they're building a new desktop or laptop. For example, let's say you went to the store and bought a new laptop. It might already include Windows Home Edition installed on it by default. This would be installed using the OEM licensing model. Now, this allows the original equipment manufacturer to buy a bunch of these licenses and then install one on each piece of hardware that they build. Now, this gives them a lower overall price, but it does put some restrictions onto that license. For example, when you're using the OEM licensing model, that license is only going to be valid for use on the hardware that the operating system was originally installed on by that original equipment manufacturer. This means I can't take the OEM license key off of my Dell laptop and install it onto my HP desktop. It won't work. But, if you use the second type of license, which is known as a Retail License, you can actually do that. If you go to the store and you buy a copy of Windows Home Edition and you want to install it on your system, this is going to be sold to you under a Retail License. This Retail License is going to be valid for the installation on any hardware you want, whether that's a laptop, a desktop, a Dell, or an HP model, it really doesn't matter. The idea here is that you have a license and you can install it on any piece of hardware you want, but there is a limitation. You can only install it on one piece of hardware at a time, so you can use it on your desktop or your laptop, but not both with that single licensing key. Now, when it comes time to upgrade later on, you can move up from Windows 10 to Windows 11 using the same edition. For example, if you have Windows 10 Home Edition installed on your laptop, you can upgrade to Windows 11 Home Edition at no additional cost. This was a nice thing that Microsoft has done over the years that allows you to move to the latest version of the operating system with no additional cost or relicensing involved. This means you can have the latest version of Windows, which tends to be more secure, without having to go and buy another license in order for you to upgrade that system.