



## IN OTHER NEWS: WINDOWS 11

Sorry, no Spinal Tap «goes to 11» puns here. That's mostly because Windows 11 feels more like Windows 10.5 than a generational leap - not that there's really anything wrong with it. An operating system, whether it's MacOS on your MacBook or Google's Wear OS on your smartwatch, gets better the more transparent it is to the end user. And that end user is you, sitting in front of a laptop keyboard or tapping on a phone screen.

But maybe the shift from Windows 10 to Windows 11 feels subtle because the jump from Windows 8 to Windows 10 was so gigantic. Big enough for Microsoft to skip an entire version number, even. That generation was all about righting a ship that had gone somewhat off-course, leaning too far into tablet territory, trying to convince everyone that Windows laptops and tablets were as cool as iPads. They're not, and that's OK: I work on a Windows machine, I do plenty of PC gaming on one, but when I flip through news headlines in bed at night, it's on an iPad.

Windows 10 started out with favorable reviews and has remained in everyone's good graces precisely because it got out of the way of whatever you were doing instead of trying to force its ideas on you. But more importantly, it was free – which includes an asterisk to indicate it was generally available as a no-cost upgrade to anyone with a non-ancient PC.



# Windows 11

Before 2015, Windows upgrades either cost some money, or if you bought a new laptop or desktop, the latest OS just came preinstalled. Apple's OS X moved to a similar free-to-upgrade model around the same time. Except for system builders, the idea of paying separately for a computer operating system is basically extinct. That's a big change from when you had to hand over \$120 to Microsoft for the privilege of upgrading from Windows 7 to Windows 8.

The list of compatible PCs is frankly a little narrower than I would have expected. The base requirements are a 64-bit processor, 4GB of memory, 64GB of storage, UEFI secure boot and TPM (trusted platform module) 2.0. It's that last one that gets tricky for some people, especially on cheaper laptops. If you've got a CPU older than a 7th-gen Intel Core series (we're up to 11th-gen now), you might be in trouble. If you want to check, use the Microsoft PC Health Check app. There are workarounds for installing Windows 11 anyway, but proceed with those at your own risk.

If there's one thing that immediately stands out about Windows 11, it's this: The start menu and taskbar are now centered on the bottom of the screen, rather than aligned to the left by default. Yes, that's the single biggest visual and interface change you're going to see on day one. Sure, there's plenty more going on underneath, but it feels like this UI shift is there mainly to let you know there's something new and different going on under the surface.

And there is a good deal going on in Windows 11. For casual or mainstream users, you're unlikely to notice much of it, though there are some standout upgrades worth noting.

One of the big selling points of Chromebooks, which run Google's ChromeOS, is that most Chromebooks can run just about any Android app, from phone-centric favorites like Instagram to mobile games. That breaks Chromebooks out from being restricted to just cloud-based apps and frankly adds a lot of functionality to your \$300 or so Chromebook.

Microsoft is adding similar functionality to Windows 11, both to compete with Chromebooks and to forge greater bonds between Windows PC users and Android phone users, just as Macs and iPhones are inexorably bound.



But the fact that a company of Facebook's size and resources has been offline for over three hours suggests there is no quick fix for the issue.

[illegible]

- ◆ CPU: Core 2 Duo 2.2 GHz/Athlon X2 4400+ or better
- ◆ CPU SPEED: Core 2 Duo 2.2 GHz/Athlon X2 4400+ or better
- ◆ RAM: 2 GB
- ◆ OS: Windows XP/Vista/7
- ◆ VIDEO CARD: Supported chipsets NVIDIA GeForce 8800 GTS with 640MB RAM or similar.
- ◆ PIXEL SHADERS: 3.0
- ◆ VERTEX SHADERS: 3.0
- ◆ 3D: Yes
- ◆ HARDWARE T&L: Yes
- ◆ DIRECTX VERSION: 9.0c (included)
- ◆ SOUND CARD: Yes
- ◆ CD-ROM: 8X speed DVD-ROM. This game contains technology intended to prevent copying that may conflict with some DVD-ROM, DVD-RW and virtual drives.
- ◆ DVD-ROM: 8X speed DVD-ROM.



## FACEBOOK OUTAGE

Roland Dobbins, principal engineer at digital security firm Netscout, said Facebook will likely work to gradually restore service, and that it could take some time for routed internet traffic «to be received and propagated worldwide.»

The outage came the morning after «60 Minutes» aired a segment in which Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen claimed the company is aware of how its platforms are used to spread hate, violence and misinformation. Facebook has pushed back on those claims.

The interview followed weeks of reporting about and criticism of Facebook after Haugen released thousands of pages of internal documents to regulators and the Wall Street Journal. Haugen is set to testify before a Senate subcommittee on Tuesday.

Shares of Facebook were down more than 5% in midday trading Monday, putting it on pace for its worst trading day in nearly a year.

The private and personal information of over 1.5 billion Facebook users is being sold on a popular hacking-related forum, potentially enabling cybercriminals and unscrupulous advertisers to target Internet users globally.



This constitutes the biggest and most significant Facebook data dump to date.

It is seemingly unrelated to an earlier 2021 Facebook data dump, where 500 million users were affected.

In late September 2021, a user of a known hacker forum posted an announcement claiming to possess the personal data of more than 1.5 billion Facebook users. The data is currently up for sale on the respective forum platform, with potential buyers having the opportunity to purchase all the data at once or in smaller quantities.

One prospective buyer claims to have been quoted \$5,000 for the data of 1 million Facebook user accounts.

The traders claim to have obtained the data by scraping rather than hacking or compromising individual users' accounts. Scraping is a process of web data extraction or harvesting where publicly available data is accessed and organized into lists and databases.

While technically, no accounts have been compromised, this is little solace to those whose data may now end up in the hands of unscrupulous internet marketers.

Unethical marketers may utilize this data to bombard specific individuals or groups of individuals with unsolicited advertising.

The fact that phone numbers, real-life location, and users' full names are included in the data is especially concerning. In addition, SMS and Push notification spam are becoming increasingly more prevalent even though most countries made these practices illegal many years ago.

For example, hackers can use the scraped data to conduct sophisticated phishing attacks or social engineering attacks.

Identifying individual users' phone numbers makes it possible for cybercriminals to send fake SMS messages to affected users pretending to be various entities such as Facebook itself or even banks.

Users will then be invited to click on a link to either claim a prize, update their security settings, change their passwords, or do something similar.

After accessing the link, they will be redirected to a cloned version of the website. Then, if the user enters their password, the cybercriminals hijack the affected account.







## FACEBOOK DATA LEAK?

This is how Facebook accounts and even online banking logins are sold on the dark web for as cheap as just \$10.

Scraping is the process of automatically collecting publicly available and accessible data online with the help of computer programs.

The majority of such data is obtained from simply scrapping Facebook profiles that have been set to "Public" by their owners. Unfortunately, the vast majority of personal information is freely shared and made available to the general public by Facebook users themselves.

Another popular – but illegal – method of data scraping is through fake Facebook surveys or quizzes.

Every Facebook user has seen a post such as "Find out your Game of Thrones Lookalike with this Survey" or "Take this Quiz to Find out When you Will Get Married," etc. Usually, these are schemes to obtain users' personal data.

Every time someone enters one of these surveys or quizzes, they permit the creators of these games to view their personal Facebook information such as name, email, location, gender.



It's generally not recommended for Facebook users to set their accounts to be fully public.

Similarly, one should never enter random quizzes, surveys, or games on Facebook unless offered by a known and verified publisher. Almost always, these are, sadly, schemes used for data mining and scraping.

Facebook has seen its share price plummet following a social media blackout this evening.

The social media giant went down across the world, causing issues for millions of users.

Along with Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp were also part of the social media blackout as they also went down at the same time.

From this, Facebook has seen a fall in its share price by 5.76 percent.

The company's share price has already dropped since September, with the stock now dropping by a further 5 percent.

Since September, the company is estimated to have lost around 15 percent in share price.

Many Twitter users were quick to tweet about how much Mark's wealth had plummeted.

Nkanyezi, a musician, had been tweeting regularly about the social media giants being down.

When the social media sites originally went down, Nkanyezi tweeted: "Wtf? is whatsapp, facebook and instagram down?"

In relation to Mr Zuckerberg's personal wealth, Nkanyezi tweeted: "Since whatsapp, facebook & Instagram are down. Mark Zuckerberg lost \$50 billion in value today."

Following Mr Zuckerberg's personal wealth being reduced by an estimated \$7billion, this has had an impact on the list of the richest billionaires in the world.

According to Forbes, Mr Zuckerberg has now fallen to 6 in the Forbes list of billionaires.

Top of the list remains founder of e-commerce giants Amazon, Jeff Bezos.

Facebook released a recent update about the site being down.

The update reads: «Sincere apologies to everyone impacted by outages of Facebook powered services right now.

We are experiencing networking issues and teams are working as fast as possible to debug and restore as fast as possible"